

## **THE COSTS OF WAR**

By Edwin Eugene Ott

20170323

Probably no family in Laurens County supported the Civil War more and paid a higher price than that of Robert and Rachael Gilliland Stewart. Robert and Rachael were natives of the Bethany community in eastern Laurens County north of the City of Clinton. In 1844, Robert and Rachael moved their family of thirteen children to a growing community in Laurens County near the City of Fountain Inn. They joined the New Harmony Presbyterian Church on September 14, 1844 as the fourteenth and fifteenth members. On March 25, 1845 Robert Stewart died. Rachael Gilliland Stewart was a strong woman. She remained a widow and raised her large family of nine boys and 4 girls.

When the Civil War erupted, eight of the Stewart brothers went to war in the service of the Confederate States. One brother, James Preston, had a crippled foot and walked with a limp. He remained with his mother and four sisters to maintain the home. By the end of 1863, five of the brothers were dead: Robert Gilliland Stewart (1826 - 1862), John Stewart (1838 - 1863), David Taylor Stewart (1840 - 1863), Joseph Warren Stewart (1841 - 1862), and Benjamin Franklin Stewart (1841 - 1862). William Stewart, Walter Clark Stewart, and Samuel Turner Stewart survived and returned to Laurens County. Rachel Gilliland Stewart died on September 26, 1867.

-----  
Source: Walter Stewart Clan, House of Robert, <http://walterstewart.org/histrobert.html>.