

# AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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## Austin Genealogical Society

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Deadlines for submissions are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the second month of the quarter. AGS Members and the public are encouraged to submit material for publication to:

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings AGS Members,

I hope that 2017 has been a fruitful one – filled with new discoveries in your personal genealogy journey! I hope that along the way we have been able to give you some pointers and maybe even helped some of you break down those pesky “brick walls.”

I hope you enjoy this final issue of the AGS Quarterly for 2017. The articles are rich and filled with wonderful stories and family traditions of our people from all over the world. We read about an ancestor's immigration to America and the regulations that often added up along with them. We take a journey to ancestral lands dating back to colonial Virginia, and we get to know about a soldier who turned out to be not quite how he seemed. We pick up on a new chapter of Griff (with chapters 1-7 previously published in past issues of our AGS Quarterly). I don't know about you, but I feel like I have gotten to know him through his stories. I get hungry every time he whips up something in the kitchen, and it reminds me of home. We travel far and wide to search for our German ancestors, and we get to learn more about the families that helped shape the history of our very own town, Austin, Texas.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who makes this publication possible, and I hope to read even more of your amazing discoveries in 2018!

I hope you all had a safe and Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year!



**Angela Doetsch**  
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## A JOURNEY TO WHITE MARSH

By AGS Member James E. Bridges

**W**hite Marsh is the name bestowed by Colonel Joseph Bridger, my 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, upon his newly acquired plantation in the county of Worrosquoyackes, named for a tribe of native Americans who lived in that part of the Virginia Colony. The year was approximately 1652. Colonel Bridger had been in Maryland with Governor William Berkeley and they both moved south to Virginia at this time. Colonel Bridger became the head of the militia for three counties as well as the Admiral for the small navy that was called upon to fight off several Dutch attempts to take over the English colonies. Very soon after Colonel Bridger moved south, the name of the county was changed to Isle of Wight, named after an island very near Southampton in England.

Family tradition, as well as the will of Colonel Bridger, tell us he built the largest plantation home in Virginia, some 12,000 square feet. In addition, he owned many acres of arable lands where tobacco was grown for export to England. Today none of that remains. The other lands were sold off over the years by his descendants and his magnificent home burned down. The home was rebuilt by his son, but that home also burned and nothing has been erected in that location for 200 years. There are some bricks that remain above ground and the area has been dug by amateur archaeologists several times. A few artifacts have been preserved from those digs. Colonel Bridger was buried on the plantation but even his grave was dug up and moved in 1894. His remains and his tombstone now rest in St Luke's Church a few miles to the north of the old plantation.

We do have some records from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to assist in reconstructing the properties, the customs and conditions of the people when Colonel Bridger was living. In spite of the best efforts of the Union Army during the Civil War, the records of this county in Virginia were saved. That effort is for another story or you can read about it in *A Brief History of Isle of Wight County, Virginia* by Colonel E. M. Morrison (1908).

In 2017, the Bridger Family Association (BFA) decided to purchase the property where White Marsh once stood. The then owner of the property had passed away and the whole farm was for sale. The BFA persuaded the seller to allow them to carve out approximately ten acres for purchase. This allowed the BFA to avoid having to lease out acreage for planting, etc. After a bit of paperwork the sale was finally closed and the old plantation home was back in Bridger hands. The rest of the property was purchased by a young man and his family and it was soon discovered that they too were Bridger descendants. As of October 2017, they are busy renovating the current farmhouse and will move in soon. It is important for the BFA to have people present at the new dig to prevent looters and this family is the ideal candidate for this.

After closing on the property, the BFA needed to hire professional archaeologists to do a proper dig. The intention is to establish the correct outline of the old home (actually both of them), and locate any outbuildings, artifacts, etc. and date them into proper layers of time. The large BFA has, as members and cousins, Alain Outlaw and his wife Merry. Merry Outlaw is the curator of Jamestown and Alain is a professor of Archaeology at a nearby college. Voila, the BFA has its professional! Alain was hired and now has his team busy at the dig.

I requested the privilege of observing the geophysical survey and Alain agreed to allow me on the site during this process. He notified me a few weeks ahead and I made plans as soon as I was confident the weather was going to be suitable for the scheduled survey.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, I went by American Airlines from Austin, Texas, to Newport News, Virginia, rented a car and drove to Smithfield Station in Smithfield, Isle of Wight, Virginia. I wanted to be a bit traditional on this journey, so I had elected to stay at the Smithfield Station, a vintage hotel and excellent restaurant. I was very pleased with the excellent accommodations and the fact that my room was just upstairs from the famous restaurant. The hotel features a free delicious breakfast with a large choice of omelet or scrambled eggs prepared to order with Smithfield Ham or bacon, as well as cereal, waffles, yogurt, cinnamon rolls and a choice of fruit juices, etc.

After stuffing myself the next morning, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, I drove to the old plantation and met the crew of Matthew Tuttle and Melanie Perritt who were busy troweling and screening the area of one of the previous digs. In spite of the poor work done before, they were finding important information as well as several artifacts, including a clay pipe dating back to the mid-1600s from Bristol, England. They graciously allowed me to look over their shoulders as they worked.

On the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, I arrived and met the man who was doing the scientific surveys. Timothy J. Horsley, Ph.D. was using his magnetometer to establish metallic deposits in the area. I learned that bricks, when fired,

develop magnetic patterns in their molecules and can be traced. The old plantation house had been made of bricks, at least the foundation was, hence this method of tracing foundation outlines. The next day Dr. Horsley used his Ground Penetrating Radar over the same area so that he would be able to provide a more thorough survey. After several weeks of analysis, his reports will be available to guide the next steps of the archaeological work. We expect this total work to take several years.

In addition to the old house, there are several graves on the property which date to the late 1700s and are probably later Bridgers since the property was in the family for about 200 years. A button from one of those graves was dated to 1780–1800. More work remains to be done on the cemetery area.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to White Marsh. I particularly enjoyed my conversation with cousin Alain Outlaw as well as Tim Horsley, originally from Essex, United Kingdom, now an adjunct assistant professor at Northern Illinois University. The crew (Matt and Mel) working away at the dig site were cheerful and enthusiastic about the accuracy and professional work they were doing. Being a bit of a nerd, I was very glad I went to see this early stage of the tedious work to be done. The average person might compare it to watching paint dry, but that is their loss and none of my concern.

I returned to Austin, Texas, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, quite physically tired from the journey but mentally refreshed from the experience.

# GIVE ME YOUR POOR: THE TUKE COMMITTEE AND EMIGRATION OF THE CARDUFF FAMILY

By AGS Member Nancy R. Stevens

In the spring of 1880, James H. Tuke visited western Ireland to evaluate reports of economic distress. Tuke was familiar with the region from his role in relief efforts for the Society of Friends during the Irish Famine in 1846-1847. He returned from the 1880 trip with a number of recommendations, including assisted emigration for the poorest families. The Tuke Committee was established in 1882 and oversaw the emigration of thousands of families from western Ireland to the United States and Canada between 1882 and 1884.<sup>1</sup>

Emigrants were provided clothing, passage to their final destinations, and money to get started in their new homes. Selection criteria for families to receive assistance were based on three goals: maximize the long-term success of emigrating families, provide economic relief for families who remained behind, and minimize concerns of critics in the receiving countries. James and Ann (Timlin) Carduff emigrated from County Mayo, Ireland, to Girardville, Pennsylvania, in 1883 with the assistance of the Tuke Committee.

## Healthy Families

Since the emigration was intended to be a permanent move, the committee preferred that entire families emigrate. James and Ann Carduff emigrated with nine children ranging in age from one to 19. Eight-year-old Michael suffered from asthma once he reached his early 20s, but the disease may have developed after he started working in the Pennsylvania coal mines.<sup>2</sup>

## Landowners

The Tuke Committee wanted to address the situation of Irish farmers whose land holdings were too small to support a family. Emigrants were required to sign their land over to a neighbor, improving the long-term economic viability of a family who did not leave. The Carduffs were landowners in Ireland and transferred their land to neighbor John M'Grath when they emigrated.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information about James Tuke and the assisted emigration scheme is found in the following sources: *Irish Distress and Its Remedies* by James H. Tuke (London: W. Ridgway, 1880). *Wikipedia* (en.wikipedia.org: accessed 26 August 2017), "James Hack Tuke." Gerard Moran, "Emigration from Connemara," paper delivered at Uncovering Our Connemara Roots conference held in Clifden on 30 May - 1 June 2012, online at clifdenheritage.org. *Emigration From Ireland; Being the Second Report of the Committee "Mr. Tuke's Fund."* (1883), online at archive.org.

<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 75137 (1914), Michael Cardiff.

<sup>3</sup> *Emigration From Ireland; Being the Second Report of the Committee "Mr. Tuke's Fund."* p. 36.

### **Relatives in the United States**

The Tuke Committee required evidence that those emigrating to the United States would be welcomed and assisted by family. Emigrants who could not provide this evidence were sent to Canada. There were already Carduffs in Girardville who may have been related to James. Another possibility is that James moved earlier and the assisted emigration scheme allowed his family to join him. James Carduff's name does not appear in the Tuke Committee report or on the passenger list of the ship that brought Ann and the children to Boston.<sup>4</sup>

### **English speakers**

At least one member of the emigrating family had to speak English. By 1900, everyone in the Carduff family spoke English.<sup>5</sup>

### **Genealogical Summary:**

James Carduff, son of John and Catherine (Gannon) Carduff, was born in March 1840, in Ireland and died 24 August 1905, in Connerton, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>7</sup> James married Ann M. Timlin in about 1863, in Ireland.<sup>8</sup> Ann, daughter of David and Mary (O'Boyle) Timlin, was born in July 1844, in Ireland and died 15 February 1917, in Butler Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Emigration From Ireland; Being the Second Report of the Committee "Mr. Tuke's Fund."* p. 36. Manifest, *Waldensian*, 5 July 1883, Anne Corduff family.

<sup>5</sup> 1900 United States census, Butler Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania., ED 128, p. 132, 134; New York, New York County, New York, ED 608, sheet 5B.

<sup>6</sup> Manifest, *Waldensian*, 5 July 1883, Anne Corduff family.

<sup>7</sup> "Necrology Reports of This and Other County Towns," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 24 August 1905, p. 4, col. 3.

<sup>8</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Butler Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, ED 128, p. 132. "Corduff of RosSPORT Family Tree" constructed by Micheal Corduff. Ireland. General Register Office, Quarterly returns of births in Ireland, 1864-1955, Bridget Curduff (1864), Bangor, County Mayo, Ireland; [FHL 101,083].

<sup>9</sup> Pennsylvania Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate 13920 (1917), Anna Cardiff. "Death of Pioneer Resident," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 16 February 1917, p. 2, col. 4.



**Genealogical Summary (cont.):**

*Children of James and Ann (Timlin) Carduff:*

- i. Bridget Carduff was born 24 January 1864, in Bangor, County Mayo, Ireland,<sup>10</sup> and died 2 June 1941 in Connerton.<sup>11</sup> Bridget married Patrick Joseph Tallett in about 1887.<sup>12</sup> Patrick, son of Dominic and Mary (Barrett) Tallett, was born March 1859, in Ireland and died 30 April 1930, in Butler Township.<sup>13</sup>
- ii. John R. Carduff was born 22 January 1866, in Bangor and died 21 July 1934, in North Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>14</sup>
- iii. Mary Carduff was born in January 1873, in Ireland<sup>15</sup> and died after 1940.<sup>16</sup> Mary married Frederick Rose 25 June 1899, in New York City, New York County, New York.<sup>17</sup> Frederick, son of Frederick Charles and Louisa (Gouton) Rose, was born 29 September 1877, in New York<sup>18</sup> and died 25 June 1937, in New York City, New York.<sup>19</sup>
- iv. Honor Carduff was born in December 1873, in Ireland<sup>20</sup> and died 25 October 1941, in Connerton.<sup>21</sup> Honor married Harry Eye 13 September 1900, in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>22</sup> Harry, son of Henry and Helen (Shoppel) Eye, was born 16 September 1875, in Girardville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania,<sup>23</sup> and died 17 May 1925, in Girardville.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ireland. General Register Office, Quarterly returns of births in Ireland, 1864-1955, Bridget Curduff (1864), Bangor, County Mayo, Ireland; [FHL 101,083].

<sup>11</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 59114 (1941), Bridget Tallett.

<sup>12</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 59114 (1941), Bridget Tallett. 1910 United States census, Connerton, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, ED 10, sheet 2B.

<sup>13</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 42376 (1930), Patrick Joseph Tallett. "Deaths and Funerals," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 1 May 1930, p. 10, col. 4.

<sup>14</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 70353 (1934), John Curduff. "John Carduff, Connerton, Dies of Short Illness," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 23 July 1934, p. 4, col. 8. "Deaths and Funerals," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*.) *Evening Herald*, 24 July 1934, p. 4, col. 2.

<sup>15</sup> 1900 United States census, New York, New York County, New York, ED 608, sheet 5B.

<sup>16</sup> 1940 United States census, Queens, Queens County, New York, ED 41-576, p. 6358.

<sup>17</sup> "New York Marriages, 1686-1980," online database at FamilySearch.org, entry for Frederick A. Rose and Mary Carduff (1899).

<sup>18</sup> "New York Marriages, 1686-1980," online database at FamilySearch.org, entry for Frederick A. Rose and Mary Carduff (1899). World War I Draft Registration Card, Frederick Charles Rose, New York, New York County, New York. 1920 United States census, New York, New York County, New York, ED 950, sheet 15B.

<sup>19</sup> "New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949," online database at FamilySearch.org, entry for Frederick Rose (1937).

<sup>20</sup> 1900 United States census, Butler Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, ED 128, p. 132.

<sup>21</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 92783 (1941), Nora Eye.

<sup>22</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 9: F1005, Eye-Curduff, 1900.

<sup>23</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 9: F1005, Eye-Curduff, 1900. World War I Draft Registration Cards, Harry Joseph Eye, Ashland, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>24</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 51879 (1925), Harry Eye. 9. "Dropped Dead on Mountain," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 18 May 1925, p. 8, col. 3. "Deaths and Funerals: Funeral of Harry Eye," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 20 May 1925, p. 8, col. 3.

- v. Michael Carduff was born in March 1875, in Ireland and died 7 August 1914, in Butler Township.<sup>25</sup>
- vi. James B. Carduff was born 15 September 1876, in Ireland<sup>26</sup> and died 25 December 1936, in Connerton.<sup>27</sup> James married Catharine Carduff 28 October 1911, in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.<sup>28</sup> Catharine, daughter of Michael and Sarah (Morrissey) Carduff, was born 5 January 1889, in Connerton and died 1 November 1949, in Butler Township.<sup>29</sup>
- vii. Thomas Jerome Carduff was born 18 September 1879, in Rosspport, County Mayo, Ireland,<sup>30</sup> and died 22 November 1940, in Connerton.<sup>31</sup> Thomas married Margaret Dougherty 12 February 1907, in Wayne Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>32</sup> Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Annie (Mulligan) Dougherty, was born 10 November 1884, in East Butler Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania,<sup>33</sup> and died 14 September 1925, in Girardville.<sup>34</sup>
- viii. Anna Magdalen Carduff was born about 1880 in Ireland and died 22 December 1964, in Lost Creek, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>35</sup> Anna married Hugh Joseph Rowan 30 April 1913, in Girardville.<sup>36</sup> Hugh, son of William M. and Ann (Dean) Rowan, was born 10 March 1879, in Lost Creek and died 5 January 1940, in Lost Creek.<sup>37</sup>
- ix. David Laurence Carduff was born about 1882 in Ireland and died 17 December 1955, in Girardville.<sup>38</sup> David married Mary Agnes Sullivan 31 January 1923, in Girardville.<sup>39</sup> Mary, daughter of Cornelius and Maria (Donahue) Sullivan, was born in September 1886 in Girardville<sup>40</sup> and died 8 February 1953 in Girardville.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> 1900 United States census, Butler Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, ED 128, p. 132. Pennsylvania death certificate 75137 (1914), Michael Carduff.

<sup>26</sup> World War I Draft Registration Card, James B. Carduff, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

<sup>27</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 116288 (1936), James Carduff.

<sup>28</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, Carduff-Carduff, 1911: 305.

<sup>29</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, Carduff-Carduff, 1911: 305. Pennsylvania death certificate 98645 (1949), Kathryn Carduff.

<sup>30</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Declarations of Intention, 17: 349, Thomas Jarome Carduff, No. 8149, 1919.

<sup>31</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 104135 (1936), Thomas Carduff. "Obituaries: Thomas Carduff," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 23 November 1904, p. 4, col. 5. "Funerals of a Day: Thomas Carduff," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 26 November 1940, p. 4, col. 4.

<sup>32</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 16: 230, Carduff-Douogherty, 1907.

<sup>33</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 16: 230, Carduff-Douogherty, 1907. Pennsylvania death certificate 89137 (1925), Margaret Carduff.

<sup>34</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 89137 (1925), Margaret Carduff. "Death of Mrs. Curduff," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 14 September 1925, p. 8, col. 5. "Funeral of Mrs. Carduff," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 17 September 1925, p. 3, col. 6.

<sup>35</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 122496-64 (1964), Anna Rowan.

<sup>36</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 22: 371, Rowan-Carduff, 1913.

<sup>37</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 9345 (1940), Hugh J. Rowan. "Obituaries: Hugh Joseph Rowan," (*Shenandoah, Pennsylvania*) *Evening Herald*, 5 January 1940, p. 4, col. 3.

<sup>38</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 111817 (1955), David L. Carduff.

<sup>39</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 51: 69, Carduff-Sullivan, 1923.

<sup>40</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Dockets, 51: 69, Carduff-Sullivan, 1923. 1900 United States census, Girardville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, ED 221, sheet 10B.

<sup>41</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate 19259 (1953), Mary Agnes Carduff.

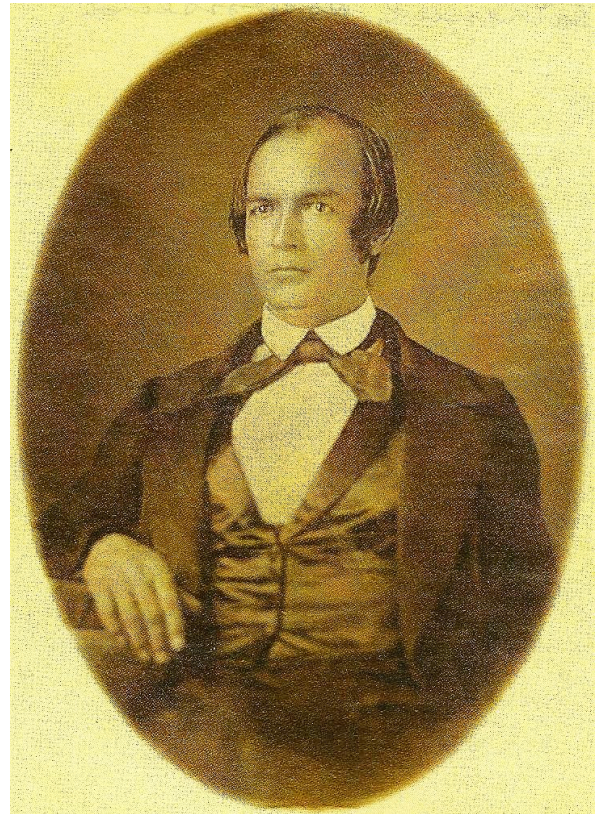
# THE TOWNSEND AND ROBERTSON FAMILIES

## *Neighbors in Life and Death*

By AGS Member Phoebe Allen

Several of Oakwood Cemetery's families were neighbors in life as well as in death, as Oakwood Cemetery (located in Austin, Texas) was a popular final destination for Austin's early citizens. Two families who lived in the Judges Hill neighborhood in the 1800s were linked to one another in several ways. Judges Hill was one of the first neighborhoods in Austin, Texas, just outside the one-square-mile grid laid out by Edwin Waller in 1839, with Waller Creek as the eastern boundary and Shoal Creek on the west – a boundary that was also that of Comanche Territory until about 1880. Judges Hill, named for the many judges who lived there within walking distance of the Capitol and the courts, extends from 15<sup>th</sup> Street to Martin Luther King (MLK) Boulevard, and from Lamar Boulevard, just west of Shoal Creek, to West Avenue.

Each block or outlot in the grid is numbered. Judges Hill includes Outlots 9-18. In the mid-1800s, each of these outlots was owned by a single family. The dwelling place was usually accompanied by carriage houses, barns and other outbuildings, orchards, gardens and animal pens. The 1887 Bird's Eye View map of the city has tiny, detailed drawings of the buildings. The excerpt from the map on the next page shows the Townsend House just below the word "Magnolia" with three outbuildings; Anna Townsend Blackburn's home is on the same block, south of the Townsend House. The J.W. Robertson home is in the block to the west, on the south half of the block, with several



**Nathaniel Townsend**

*Photo courtesy of the Townsend family*

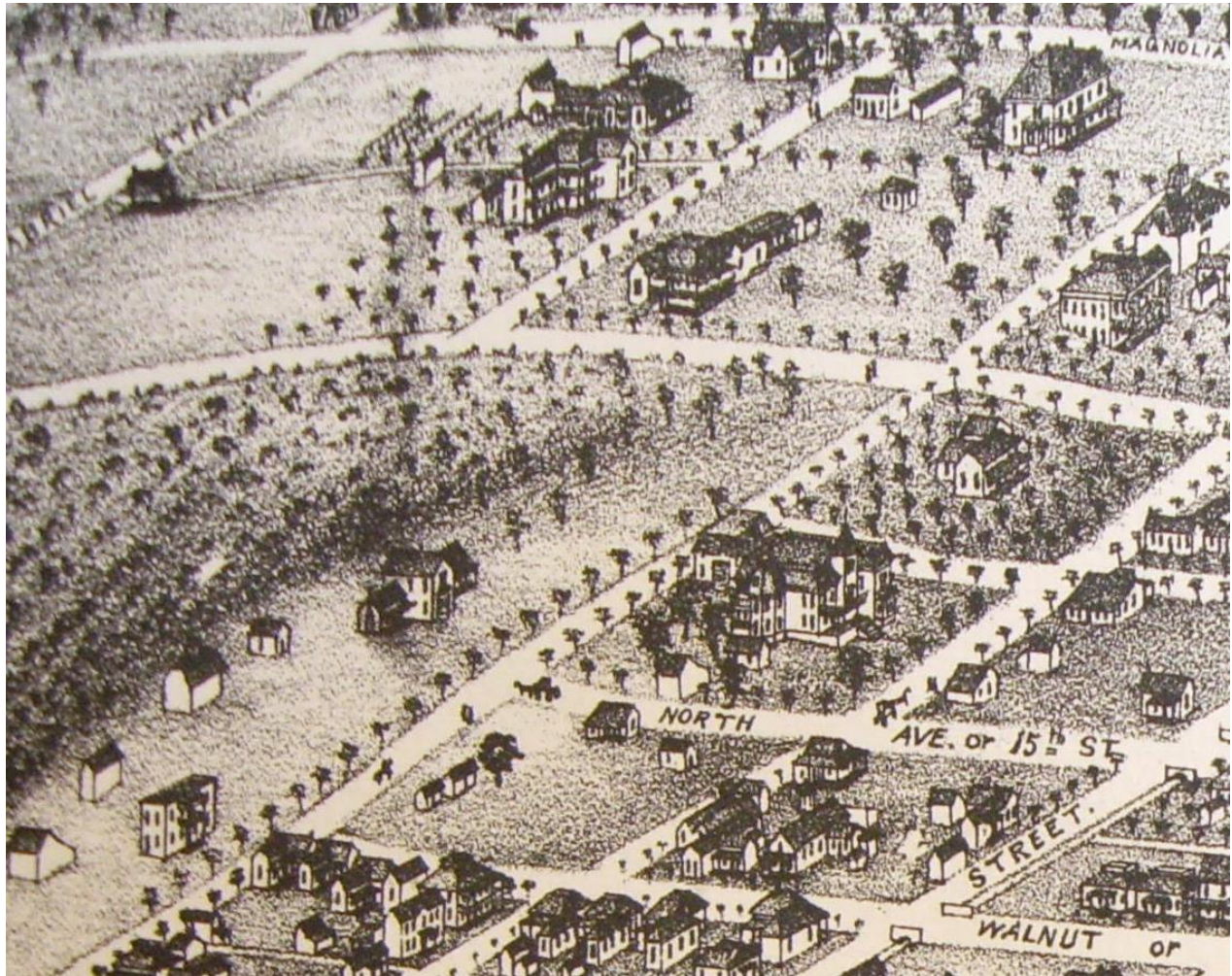
outbuildings on the north half of the block. Shoal Creek is seen in the western slope.<sup>1</sup>

### THE TOWNSEND FAMILY

Nathaniel Townsend, the patriarch of Austin's Townsend family, was born 24 June 1804, in Oneida County, New York, the youngest of seven siblings. His parents, Nathan and Dorcas (Gardner) Townsend, lived on a thousand-acre tract of beautiful land about 12 miles north of Utica, New York. Nathaniel developed tuberculosis<sup>2</sup> at the age of 24, so his parents sent

<sup>1</sup> 1887 Bird's Eye View of Austin; MAP L-21, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library; used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Culbertson, Pauline. "Mrs. Nathaniel Townsend." *Pioneer Women in Texas*, Steck. 1929, page 343.



**1887 Bird's Eye View Map of Austin**

*MAP L-21, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library*

him to Natchez, Mississippi, to live with his oldest brother, Halsey, a lawyer. In 1829, Nathaniel married Maria Roach, the sister of his brother's wife. The sisters were both born and raised on a Mississippi plantation.

In 1834, while his two oldest sons, Nathaniel Jr. and Halsey, were toddlers, Nathaniel traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, where he met Stephen F. Austin and became interested in Texas. Not long after an exploratory trip, Townsend packed a wagon with his wife and the two boys, along with \$9,000 worth of merchandise for a general store, and made the journey with Austin's Second Expedition to San Felipe, Texas, on the Brazos River.

In March of 1836, following the disastrous battle of the Alamo, Sam Houston learned that Mexican troops were heading to San Felipe. Houston ordered Townsend to burn his store in order to keep Santa Anna from getting the supplies. Santa Anna arrived the next day and burned the town. In 1837, General Houston appointed Townsend as Consul for the Republic of Texas at New Orleans, a post he held for two years. Two more children, Benjamin and Anna Maria, were born there.

In 1839, Nathaniel returned to Austin, Texas, which had been selected as the Republic's capital, and in 1841 bought two lots on the west side of Congress Avenue between Seventh and Eighth Streets to build a frame store. There he

brought the first real bill of merchandise ever to come to Austin: drugs, dry goods, groceries, hardware, boots and shoes, books, harnesses and plows.

His business was profitable for a couple of years until his wife's health suddenly began to fail. In 1843, he rushed Maria back to New Orleans, where she died. The following year he sent their four children to attend school and live with his brothers in New York and Massachusetts. Nathaniel visited his children in 1846. Among his cousins, one struck his fancy – Angeline Louise Townsend, the granddaughter of his father's brother. Angeline's father died when she was quite young. Her uncle (also named Nathaniel Townsend), and his wife, Cynthia Marsh, had adopted Angeline, and she grew up with their four children, including three boys she called her foster-brothers.

On 11 September 1847, Nathaniel married this petite, five-foot-two, 26-year-old cousin who had been educated and trained to cook, sew, spin and weave at Miss Emma Willard's School for Young Ladies in Troy, New York. Texas had become a state in December of 1845, but Nathaniel chose to take his new bride to New Orleans for a few years. Their first child, Anthony, was born in 1849 but died that fall while en route to see the family in Massachusetts. Grieving and pregnant, Angeline remained with her family in Massachusetts while Nathaniel headed to Austin, Texas, where he selected two outlots northwest of the State Capitol and began construction of a frame house for his family with the help of his 16-year-old son, Halsey Palmer Townsend (and most likely his slaves for whom he built cabins on the property).

A second child, named after her mother and called Anna, was born to Angeline in July of 1850 in Massachusetts. A cousin, Caroline Townsend, joined Angeline and baby Anna on the trip to Austin, Texas, and found work as a



**Angeline Townsend**

*Family photo courtesy of Jim Ross*

teacher. Three more children were born in Austin – Susie in August of 1852, Pauline in 1854, and James Wanton in 1857.

The family visited Massachusetts and New York several times, usually traveling by boat from New Orleans or Natchez up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and then via the Erie Canal to Utica, New York, near the family home in Holland Patent, and then from Albany, New York, on the Hudson River to Manhattan or Massachusetts. One could alternately travel the Ohio River to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and on to points in the north and east. Shipping was also well established from Galveston, Texas, and New Orleans to New York.

The store in Austin, Texas, was profitable. Nathaniel also served on a school board. Angeline had what may have been the first sewing machine in the town. Nathaniel's son Halsey died in Austin in 1859, at age 26, probably of tuberculosis. He was the first

Townsend to be buried in Oakwood Cemetery, in Austin, Texas. Soon after his son's death, Nathaniel's own lungs worsened. He wished to see his brother in New York one last time; So, in 1860 amid rumblings of the impending Civil War, the family took a stagecoach to the Mississippi River and boarded a boat bound for New York. The 1860 Austin census lists their children as A. (Anna) born 1850, S. (Susie) born 1852, P. (Pauline) born 1854, and W. (Wanton) born 1857. The couple's youngest child, Palmer Gardner Townsend, was born in New Jersey in 1860.

While he was in the north, Nathaniel Townsend was declared an enemy alien of the Confederacy, and in 1863, his property was sold

at a public auction<sup>3</sup>. His home in Austin, Texas, was used as a Confederate hospital. Nathaniel's eldest son, Nathaniel Townsend Jr. (a colonel in the Union army), was killed in 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg. Nathaniel died the next year and was buried at Holland Patent beside his daughter, leaving Angeline a widow with five young children to feed, clothe and school during the Civil War.

In 1868, Angeline returned to Austin to recover Nathaniel's property for his children. A southern family had bought the house after its wartime confiscation. Angeline filed suit for possession and won, but the house was run-down by then and too small for her family. One of her foster brothers, Martin I. Townsend, came



**The Townsend House**

*PICH 01404, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library*

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<sup>3</sup> Townsend biographical file at the Austin History Center: A file note states that Nathaniel Townsend was declared an alien enemy and his property (including lots 7 and 8 in block 127) sold at a public auction in 1863.

down from New York to help her. She built a new stone house for her five children on the same site as the first house and called it Prospect Hill. The west gallery, part of the original plan, was not added until the late 1870s.

In November of 1875, Nathaniel and Angeline's eldest daughter Anna married attorney William A. Blackburn of Paris, Illinois, at Prospect Hill. Anna and her husband inherited the west half of Outlot 17.<sup>4</sup> They lived with her mother for a time before they built a house on the northeast corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Pearl Street [razed]. Anna and members of her family are buried near the far southeast corner of Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

In 1877, Nathaniel Townsend's mercantile property on Congress Avenue passed into Angeline's hands from his estate, which included over 42,000 acres of land in 14 Texas counties. Benjamin "Ben" Townsend, a child from Nathaniel's first marriage, inherited lands in Austin, Texas (near today's Montopolis Bridge), where he farmed extensive gardens. Two of Ben's children are buried at Oakwood – Katie and Nathaniel. (Ben and his wife divorced and he moved to Washington State, where he died).

The Townsend's first Austin, Texas-born daughter, Susie Marsh Townsend, married

James Harvey "Jim" Robertson in 1877. Jim lived with his brother a block away.

In 1888, Angeline's daughter, Pauline Townsend, married William Culbertson, also of Paris, Illinois, like Blackburn. Pauline's great-granddaughter, Megan Spencer, still has her grandmother's clock which was featured in an episode of *Antiques Roadshow*, a television show on PBS. It is not known where Pauline is buried, though, by 1890, she owned most of Outlot 18 and lived in Austin, Texas, in the teens and twenties.

The Townsend family traveled to Connecticut and Massachusetts for the summers. Angeline lived in the family home until her death in 1889.<sup>5</sup> In that year, the Congress Avenue property passed from James Townsend, Anna and W.A. Blackburn, Susie and James H. Robertson, and Pauline T. and William J. Culbertson<sup>6</sup> to their brother Palmer G. Townsend.

Several important people lived on Prospect Hill after Angeline's 1889 death.<sup>7</sup> Edward Mandell (E.M.) House, son of a wealthy entrepreneur and Houston, Texas, mayor lived in the home before his own shingle-style house was built next door in 1891 on former Townsend property.

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<sup>4</sup> 1890 and 1909 City Lot Registers: Anna Blackburn owned the west half of Outlot 17, valued at \$3800 in 1890 and \$6000 in 1909, indicating that a house was probably added in the intervening years.

<sup>5</sup> In 1879-1880 CD, A. W. Townsend, assistant patenting clerk, Land Commissioner's office, resides on the west side of West Avenue between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets. Albert W. Townsend is listed in the home of Mrs. N. Townsend (no street) in 1881-1882. Angeline is listed at 1802 West Avenue in 1883 and 1885 together with her with her youngest son Palmer (born in 1860). In 1887, she is listed with her son Palmer at 108 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1889 (the year she died), she is listed at the home of her daughter Anna (Mrs. Wm. A. Blackburn), with Angeline's son Palmer, but is not listed in 1881 (unless as Mrs. N. Townsend) or in 1872; However, this address was outside the city limits at that time.

<sup>6</sup> The 1890 City Lot Register shows that P.T. Culbertson owns Outlot 18 less the NE corner 46x25 at a value of \$8500.

<sup>7</sup> In 1879-1880 CD, A. W. Townsend, assistant patenting clerk, Land Commissioner's office, resided on the west side of West Avenue between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets. Albert W. Townsend is listed in the home of Mrs. N. Townsend (no street) in 1881-1882. Angeline is at 1802 West Avenue in 1883 and 1885 together with her with her youngest son Palmer. In 1887 she is listed with her son Palmer at 108 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1889, the year she died, she and Palmer are listed at the home of her daughter Anna, (Mrs. Wm. A. Blackburn). She is not listed in the first directory of 1872, but the address was outside the city limits at that time.

The home of E.M. House was one of the most architecturally and historically significant in all of Austin, Texas. House, known as the “king maker,” managed successful campaigns of four Texas governors: Hogg, Culberson, Sayers, and Lanham. Commonly known as “Colonel” House (a title given to him by Governor Hogg), he had no military experience but had enormous personal influence with President Wilson as his foreign policy advisor until 1919. House was even provided living quarters within the White House, and in 1912, managed Woodrow Wilson’s presidential bid, gaining him enormous personal influence as Wilson’s foreign policy advisor. Many political leaders, including William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson, visited House.

President Wilson called House his “alter-ego” and stated, “House...is my second personality; he is my independent self. His thoughts and mine are one.” Some of the premises in a novel House authored were considered a blueprint for the New Deal. He participated in international negotiations during and after World War I, including Versailles. According to historian Barbara Tuchman, his negotiations with the Germans between 1914 and 1918, literally kept the United States out of World War I for four years. House moved to New York City and sold his home for a pittance of its cost in 1914.<sup>8</sup> It housed two state officials and several fraternities until suspected arson in 1967. The new owner seized on the minor fire as an excuse to demolish the house. A condo took its place. House Park, a high school football stadium in Austin, Texas, now stands on House’s former horse pasture.

E.M. House arranged for the family of William Jennings Bryan<sup>9</sup> to live in the Townsend house

for five months at the turn of the century while the Bryans’ daughter recuperated from an illness.

From 1903 until 1924, Thaddeus “Thad” Thomson (1853-1927) resided in the old Townsend house. One of three Thomson brothers who lived in Judges Hill, Thad was educated at Salado College and the Texas Military Institute. He was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1881. In 1912, Thad was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Woodrow Wilson appointed him as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Columbia (1913-1916). He was a signer of the Thomson-Urrutia Treaty in 1914 and a life member of the Navy League. (The story of the “Three Thomson Brothers of Judges Hill,” can be found in the September 2016 issue of the *Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly*.)

Of note, Thad Thomson also purchased the Townsend property on Congress Avenue in 1911 from Cynthia B. Townsend (presumably Palmer’s wife or daughter). Thad’s wife was an Anderson, one of three sisters married to prominent Austin families: Louise Aldridge Anderson married Lewis Hancock and the third sister married a Bremond. The Townsend-Thomson Building, a two-story Victorian-Italianate stone structure, is listed today as a National Register property and City of Austin Landmark. It served for many years as the location for Congress Avenue Booksellers and currently serves as a bar, The Townsend.

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<sup>8</sup> Gilliland, M. *The E.M. House House; Austin, Texas, Frank Freeman, NY, NY as Architect*. UT student paper, 1974. A728.09767, Architectural Archives.

<sup>9</sup> Orum, Anthony M. *Power, Money & the People: The Making of Modern Austin*, Texas Monthly Press, 1987, Austin, Texas.





**Watercolor painting of Townsend House by Bessie Liedtke**

Laura Johns and Alfred Smith owned the Townsend house from 1929 to 1949. After Alfred Smith's death, his wife rented the upstairs to university students, including Walter Cronkite. One of Laura's children, Bessie Liedtke<sup>10</sup> of Houston, Texas, has her family's watercolor paintings of the house. The Townsend house became the Theta Chi fraternity house by 1955. The Townsend house was demolished in the 1960s and replaced by condos. The University of Texas architectural library has measured drawings of the house.

### **THE ROBERTSON FAMILY**

The Robertson's were close neighbors of the Townsends. The Robertson patriarch, James Register Robertson (1810-1861), a Tennessee physician, died at the age of 51, leaving seven children to be raised by their mother, Mary Ann Hunt Robertson (1814-1894), who eventually made her way to Texas and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas, with five of her children. Her stone has only the letters "M.A.R." Three of her sons became distinguished Texas lawyers; two lived in Judges Hill.

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<sup>10</sup> Her husband, William Liedtke, was a law student at the University of Texas (UT) who became involved in the oil business in Midland, Texas, and together with his brother bought the company, Penzoil. He was associated with George Bush Sr. while in Midland.

You will recall that James “Jim” Harvey Robertson (1853-1912) married Townsend’s daughter Susie. Jim met Susie while reading law with his older brother, John Wesley Robertson (1840-1892), in the Robertson home near the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Pearl Streets, now occupied by the historic Horace Thomson home.

John Wesley Robertson was the first of the Robertson family to come to Texas. Born in Tennessee, he graduated from Hiwassee College in 1861 and joined the Confederate Army, becoming a colonel of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Regiment. After the war, Wesley moved to Huntsville, Missouri, to teach school, and in March of 1866, he married Sophronia M. Austin (1842-1921), a relative of Moses and Stephen F. Austin. The newlyweds returned to Tennessee, and in October of 1867, moved to Bryan, Texas, where he was elected to the 14<sup>th</sup> State Legislature. Following his legislative term, Colonel Robertson made his home in Austin, Texas, and served a short term as District Judge of the Austin District.

In 1872, he bought the east half of Outlot 16, where he and Sophronia built their home. John Wesley Robertson served three terms as Mayor of Austin (1884-1887) before returning to his law practice. He was Mayor at the time of a tragic series of murders in Austin, Texas.<sup>11</sup>

John Wesley’s brother Jim secured a license to practice law in 1875 and moved to Round Rock, Texas. Jim married Susie Townsend in 1877, and in 1882 was elected to represent Williamson County in the Texas Legislature. The couple moved back to Austin, Texas, in the early 1880s, eventually purchasing Judge Sheek’s house at 610 West Lynn and Sixth Street. Jim was elected District Attorney of Travis and Williamson counties until 1891 when Governor

Hogg appointed him as the first judge of the newly created 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court (1892-1895). In 1895, Jim formed a law partnership with Governor Hogg. He practiced alone from 1902 until his death. He is known for the enactment of the 1907 Robertson Insurance Law, the foundation of the \$5 billion Texas insurance industry, passed during his fourth term in the Texas House.

Susie Townsend and Jim Robertson had six children - five of whom are buried in the Townsend-Robertson plot. All three children of their son Ben, including two infants, are also buried here. Mary Hunt Robertson’s youngest son, William F. Robertson, came to Texas about 1883, taught school in Leander, Texas, for two years, and entered UT’s law school, graduating in 1886. In 1889, he married Annie Dowling, daughter of a civil war hero. William established a law practice at Taylor, where he served as city attorney (1892-1894) and as County Judge of Williamson County (1896-1900). He represented the county in the Texas Legislature from 1900 to 1904. After serving as a judge on the Travis County District Court (1931-1937) he moved to Washington D.C., then New York, and later Dallas, Texas. William and Annie are buried in the Robertson plot at Oakwood in Austin, Texas, as is a fourth brother, Joseph Warren Robertson, who lived in Georgetown, Texas.

Also buried here is their sister, Nancy “Nannie” Elizabeth Robertson (1856-1924), and her husband, Daniel Moody, of Taylor, Texas. Nannie was the mother of Governor Dan Moody, who is buried in the State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

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<sup>11</sup> Hollandsworth, Skip. “The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America’s First Serial Killer,” 2015, Henry Holt & Co.

**TOWNSEND FAMILY TREE** – *Compiled by Phoebe Allen*

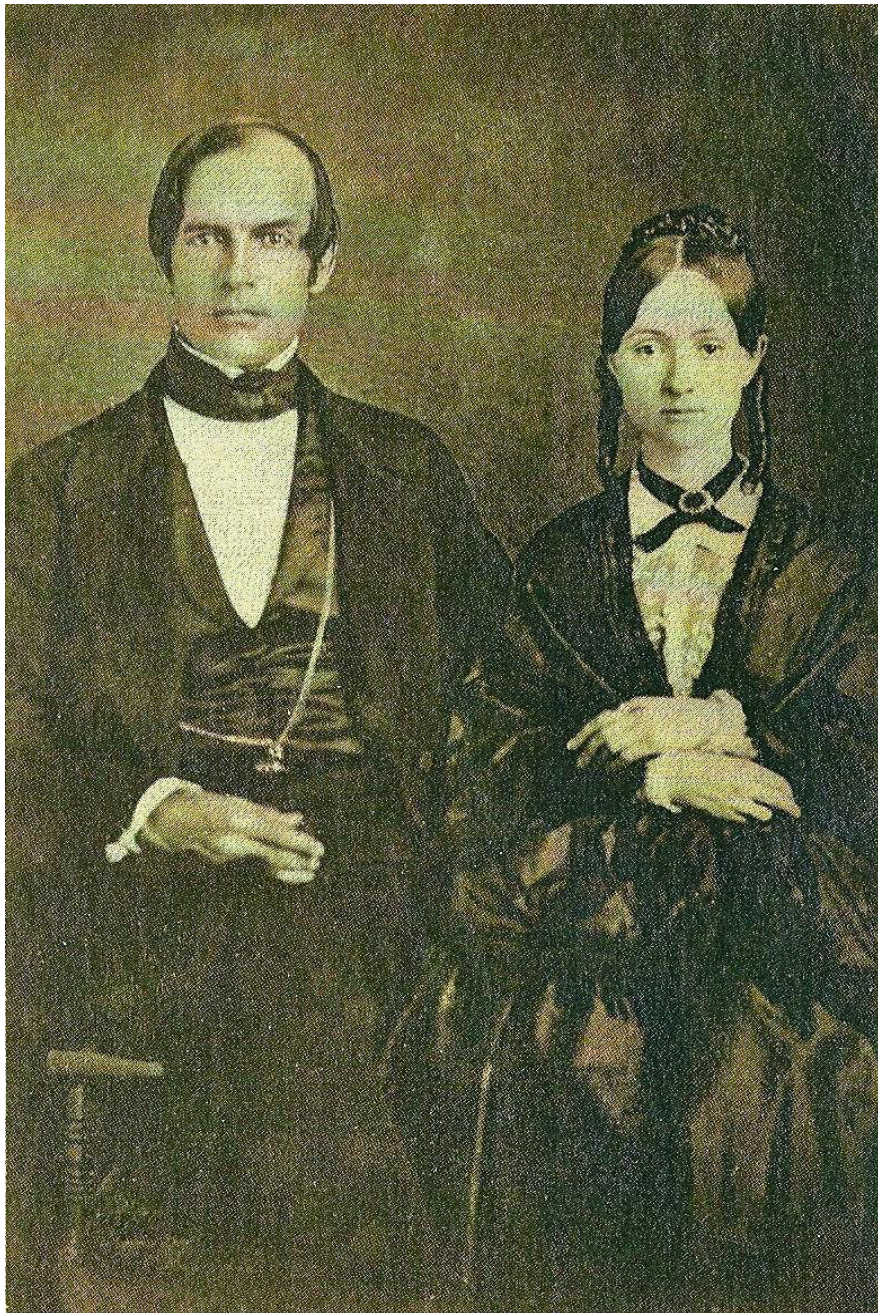
(Based on information from Townsend family members, Jim Ross and Megan Spencer, sources at the Austin History Center in Austin, Texas, and *Ancestry.com*. Names in bold are buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas).

Nathaniel Townsend (1804-1864) married (1829) Maria Roach of Natchez Mississippi  
(1<sup>st</sup> wife - died in 1843 in New Orleans; she was a sister of Nathaniel's brother Halsey's wife)

1. Nathaniel Townsend Jr. (c1830-1863) died in Gettysburg
2. **Halsey Palmer Townsend** (c1833-1859, in Austin, Texas)
3. Benjamin R. Townsend (c1839, Union Colonel) married Alice Merriman →
  - A. **Katie M. Townsend** (1866-1867)
  - B. Fred P. Townsend (1869-)
  - C. Edward B. Townsend (1869-)
  - D. **Nathaniel Townsend** (1872-1874)
  - E. Alice (1878-)
4. Anna Maria (c1842-1858)

Nathaniel Townsend married **Angeline Townsend** (25 Jan 1821- 6 June 1889) of Williamstown Massachusetts (2<sup>nd</sup> cousins) in 1847

1. Anthony (1849 - died in infancy en route from New Orleans to Massachusetts)
2. **Angeline L. "Anna" Townsend** (7 July 1850-1911) married (1875) attorney **William Blackburn** (1847-1909) of Paris, Illinois →
  - A. **Anna Louise Blackburn** (8 October 1876-1894) – age 18 at death
  - B. **William D. Blackburn** (1878-1951)
  - C. **Nathaniel Townsend Blackburn** (1881-1967)
  - D. **Henry Paul Blackburn** (1884-1949)
  - E. Helen Elizabeth Blackburn (1890-)
  - F. **Alexander Louis Blackburn** (1893-1935)
3. **Susie Marsh Townsend** (1852-1930) born in Austin, Texas, died in San Antonio, Texas, married (1877) **James "Jim" Harvey Robertson** (1853-1912)
  - A. **Warren Townsend Robertson** (1878-1954)
  - B. **Mary Louise Robertson** (1879-1880)
  - C. **John Benjamin Robertson** (Austin 1882-1976) married **Julia McGehee Young** (Mississippi 1884-1962)
    1. **Frances Townsend Robertson** (29 March-15 May 1915)
    2. **James Young Robertson** (18 January-20 March 1917)
    3. **Stark Young Robertson** (named for uncle Stark Young, a University of Texas professor)
  - D. **James Harvey Robertson Jr.** (1884-1902)
  - E. **Margaret Robertson** (Austin, Texas, 1886-1972)
  - F. Sue Robertson (1891-1959) married Zeno Carl Ross of Ft. Worth, Texas
    1. Sue Ross (1914-) married Alexander Pope Jr. → Alex + Margaret Warren + Alexander Pope III
    2. Zeno Carl Ross Jr. (1915-) married Betty Brush
4. Pauline S. Townsend (1854-c1927) married William J. Culbertson of Paris, Illinois [Pauline lived in Denver, Colorado, at the time of the 1920 census] →
  - A. Angeline Louise Culbertson (1889-1966) married Edwin R. Spencer Carlton
  - B. William James Culbertson, engineer, (1892-) married Caroline H. Culbertson
5. James Wanton Townsend (1857-) married Mattie Vandever of New Orleans
6. Palmer Gardner Townsend (born. New Jersey 1860-)



**Nathaniel and Angeline Townsend as a young couple**

*Family photo courtesy of Jim Ross*

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## PHOTOS

- 1887 Bird's Eye View Map of Austin. Excerpt from map shows the Townsend House just below the word "Magnolia" with three outbuildings; Anna Townsend Blackburn's home is on the same block, south of the Townsend House. The J.W. Robertson home is in the block to the west, on the south half of the block, with several outbuildings on the north half of the block. Shoal Creek is seen in the western slope.
- Angeline Townsend. Family photo from Jim Ross.
- Nathaniel and Angeline Townsend as a young couple. Family photo from Jim Ross.
- Watercolor painting of Townsend House. Property of Bessie Liedtke of Houston.
- Angeline Townsend House PICH 01404, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

## PROVING A FAMILY TRADITION

By AGS Member Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks

*A special thank you to Wolfram Von-Maszewski for the translation of documents from German to English.*

**M**y family's tradition or family story for my ancestor, Carl Ludwig Nitschke (1813-1888), was that he was asked to leave Germany due to his democratic views. I didn't give this much thought, as in the past, I have been led down the "wrong garden path" from other family stories.

While shelving at the Clayton Library, I saw a book titled, *German Revolutionists of 1848: Among Whom Many Immigrants to America*, written by Clifford Neal Smith.<sup>1</sup> Of course I had to look inside for my ancestor's surname, "Nitschke." Much to my surprise, listed on page 99 of "Part 3: Surnames L-R" was an entry for, "Karl Ludwig Nitschke, cabinet maker, Lunzenau/Sachsen (Kingdom of Saxony) 48/5469." I knew from a Nitschke family bible, that his marriage and the birth of three of his children had been in Lunzenau, Germany. I also knew from the *City Directory of Austin* (Texas) that he was a cabinet and furniture maker. The reference had to be him.

The book I found at the Clayton Library stated one should check for American Civil War

service records if an ancestor was listed. I already knew that Carl Ludwig Nitschke had fought in the war while in Travis County, Texas. There was also a reference to an LDS (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) microfilm<sup>2</sup> titled *Revolutionsteilnehmer 1848-1849 A-Z*, and according to the film notes, the original records were located at the Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe in Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany. Using a translation service, I was able to write a letter in German to the archives with a copy of the Karl Ludwig Nitschke reference from the LDS microfilm. I received an email back which said:

"We only accept wire-transfers for payment, send 25 euros (about \$26.25)," and they would send the records I suggest you shop around for wire transfer fees, as Chase Bank charges \$50 on top of the amount no matter what the actual amount being sent is.

The archives emailed back 14 pages of information. Since the records were in German script, I had to have them translated. Here is what I found in proving my family tradition:

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<sup>1</sup> Smith, Clifford Neal. *German Revolutionists of 1848: Among Whom Many Immigrants to America*, Westland Publications. ISSN0094-7806 (Clayton Library- United States Section, Gen 943 S644).

<sup>2</sup> Microfilm (1180368); *Revolutionsteilnehmer 1848-1849 A-Z*.

Ministry on Foreign Affairs of the Grand-Duchy  
Karlsruhe  
Criminal Matters

Foreigners who participated in the revolt in the Grand-Duchy Baden in May and July 1849.

To the Ministry of Baden  
Division of Foreign Affairs  
Karlsruhe

The merchant Moritz Hugo Guß from Lunzenau, Saxony, is associated in these parts with a highly treasonous handbill dated Heidelberg the 28 May. This handbill was distributed in the Grand Duchy of Baden by refugees from Saxony. Guß was certainly present there during the revolt. He was taken in by the royal justice court of Saxony for questioning because of such a handbill. He denied any participation in the revolt as well as any connection to the handbill and acknowledged only to have had contact with some of the revolutionists. He stated that during his ten to thirteen days stay in Heidelberg, from the end of May into June of this year, he lived in the same *Gasthof* “*Zum Falken*” [At the Hawk] in Heidelberg as did the **cabinetmaker Carl Ludwig Nitschke from Lunzenau** who is wanted by the Courts. Later they resided at the same time in the *Gasthof* “*Zur Stadt Straesburg*” [The City of Strasburg] at Karlsruhe.

The undersigned ministry asks assistance for information to establish details of the activities by Guß while in the Duchy of Baden. Along with this request we are also seeking information on those persons from Saxony who participated in the revolt in Baden

This Ministry thanks you in advance.  
This dated 11 August 1849  
Royal Ministry on Foreign Affairs of Saxony.

Apparently, Carl Ludwig Nitschke was only passing out handbills, but the record says he was wanted by the Courts (in Saxony?). Lunzenau is on the east side of Germany, not in Baden which is on the west side of Germany near France.

Did he leave His wife and three young children in Lunzenau to protest the Prussians?

I now had even more questions. However, I do believe I was able to prove and document a part of the Nitschke family story.

Dear Mrs. Nitschke-Hicks,

We have a database with more than 38,000 participants in the revolution in 1848/49 in the state of Baden. The name Karl Ludwig Nitschke does not appear in it. This database is certainly not absolutely entire, but considers the most important archival records.

Nevertheless, you can of course instruct a research-service provider. I add a list with addresses (please contact Dr. Stingl for a list of researchers).

Yours sincerely,  
Martin Stingl

## WILLIAM TARPLEY FRYER, CONFEDERATE SOLDIER?

By AGS Member Dianne L.K. Holley

Not long after the Civil War had ended, the United States Congress began to address recognition of those who had given their lives. In 1879, the first act was passed addressing headstones on the graves of Union soldiers.<sup>1</sup> Several more acts were passed addressing locations, types, styles and embellishments. The Act of March 9, 1906, authorized the government to furnish headstones for Confederate soldiers who died "...primarily in Union prison camps and were buried in federal cemeteries."<sup>2</sup> A subsequent act in 1929 authorized headstones be furnished even for those buried in private cemeteries, and on 26 May 1930, the War Department implemented regulations allowing the Confederate Cross of Honor to be inscribed "...in a small circle on the front face of the stone above the standard inscription of the soldier's name, rank, company and regiment."<sup>3</sup>

Such a headstone stands in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas, above the grave of William Tarpley Fryer. Below the Confederate Cross of Honor, it reads,

1 LIEUT.  
WILLIAM T. FRYER  
CO. A.  
5 KY. MTD. INF.  
C.S.A.  
1838-1883

On 6 August 1930, slightly more than two months following the announcement of the new regulations, Mrs. Harvey Turner completed a headstone application.<sup>4</sup>



William T. Fryer Confederate Soldier headstone

<sup>1</sup> United States Congress, Annals of Congress, 45<sup>th</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> session (1879), 281, "An act authorizing the Secretary of War to erect headstones over the graves of Union soldiers who have been interred in private, village, or city cemeteries"; image copy, Library of Congress, Law Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/45th-congress/session-3/c45s3ch44.pdf>: accessed 3 November 2017).

<sup>2</sup> "History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers," National Cemetery Administration, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, (<http://www.cem.va.gov/history/hmhist.asp>: accessed 5 April 2016).

<sup>3</sup> "History of Government Furnished Headstones..." Department of Veterans Affairs.

<sup>4</sup> "Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," [Ancestry.com, database on-line]. (<https://www.ancestry.com>: downloaded 18 October 2015); Applications for Headstones, compiled 01/01/1925 - 06/30/1970, documenting the period ca. 1776-1970 ARC; Microfilm publication M1916, 134 rolls. ARC ID: 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. National Archives at Washington, D.C.; 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.



Who was Mrs. Harvey Turner, what was her relationship to William Tarpley Fryer, and what informed the application she submitted?<sup>5</sup>

The application was dated almost 50 years after William Tarpley Fryer's death.<sup>6</sup> William's rank and regiment were ultimately incorrect on his headstone inscription. They were not, however, the only pieces of incorrect information that would stand above his grave.

The application provided these typed details: "Name: William Fryer, Rank: Pvt," and across the blanks for both Company and U.S. Regiment, State Organization or Vessel was typed: "Kentucky Vol. C S A," with Date of Death listed as 29 December 1883.<sup>7</sup> Mrs. Turner's information was partially correct. According to the 1890 Soldiers and Sailors Census listing his name along with his wife Nancy's as a military pensioner, he was a Private in Company A of the 13<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry Regiment.<sup>8</sup>

Someone, however, made changes to the application after its initial completion. Overwritten in a heavy red scrawl on the application is, "one William R Fryer, 3 Lt (and 1 Lt), Company a, 5 Ky Mtd Inf." Then, written

by his name in that same scrawl "+ R" [as if to correct or add a middle initial]. Additionally, an arrow in pencil points to his typed surname and written above it [in much finer hand, yet still in red ink] is a capital "T." Apparently, there was disagreement somewhere in the application process as for which William Fryer this headstone was intended. The application was stamped [for receipt] "AUG 11 1930", and in the "DO NOT WRITE HERE" section, there is a stamped shipping date of "DEC 11 1930."<sup>9</sup>

Arguably the most significant error was made by every hand that touched the application. William Tarpley Fryer was, in fact, a soldier in the service of the Union army who fought for the North during the Civil War. His Union Army Discharge Certificate and his widow's pension application attest to his having been wounded at the Battle of Shiloh.<sup>10</sup>

Did Mrs. Turner know the veteran, or was she a member of a group or organization focused on remembering fallen Civil War soldiers? What other reason might she have had to make this request?

The year of the headstone request, Harvey A. and Ida F. Turner (both at age 62) lived at 3113 Horsley Street.<sup>11</sup> At this same time, E.T.

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<sup>5</sup> Researcher Carol Coley Taylor in Greenville, Hunt, Texas, was able to locate no information on Mrs. Turner relevant to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or any other affiliations through which Mrs. Turner might have obtained information as to the changes in Acts of Congress or rules modifications which affected them.

<sup>6</sup> Find A Grave, database and images (<http://findagrave.com>: accessed 4 April 2016), memorial page for William T. Fryer (1838-1883) Find A Grave Memorial no. 10,487,922, citing Forest Park Cemetery, Greenville, Hunt County, Texas.

<sup>7</sup> "Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," [Ancestry.com, database on-line].

<sup>8</sup> "United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-1-16948-68644-85?cc=1877095>: accessed 10 June 2015), Hunt County, Texas, Family No. 216, Nancy Friar and William Friar, image 1 of 33; citing NARA microfilm publication M123 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>9</sup> "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," application for William Fryer. database online with images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 4 February 2016); citing "Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941," Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General 1884-1985, National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M1916.

<sup>10</sup> "Kentucky Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F8NR-RRT>: accessed 4 April 2016), William T Friar, 1861; from "Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Kentucky," Fold3.com; citing military unit Thirteenth Infantry, Cu-G, NARA microfilm publication M397, roll 264, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

<sup>11</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Hunt County, Texas, population schedule, Greenville, Enumeration District (ED) 0004, sheet 4B, dwelling 106, family 107, E. T. Fryer; digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 15 October 2015), citing National Archives microfilm publication T626, roll: 2359; Image: 697, FHL microfilm: 2342093.

(Emmett Turner) Fryer, son of William Tarpley, and spouse Cora Fryer (he at age 61, she at 56) lived at 3308 Caddo Street.<sup>12</sup> Based on a current map, the residences are within blocks of each other, but this information does not determine that there was a relationship.<sup>13</sup>

In the 1900 and 1910 Censuses for Greenville, Mrs. Turner's husband appears under two different names: Harvey in 1900 and Allan H. in 1910, but with the same named spouse, Ida. Children listed for 1900 were Marvin L. Turner, Chandler A. Turner, and Willie A. Turner. Daughter Nina J. Turner joined the family in 1907 and appears on the 1910 Allan H. Turner census along with her three brothers.<sup>14</sup> The 1900 and 1910 census records, along with his death certificate are consistent in identifying A.

H./Allan H./Harvey A. Turner and his spouse, Ida.<sup>15</sup>

On *Findagrave.com*, there is a memorial to Chandler A. Turner with a photograph of his death certificate. The death certificate shows his father was A. H. Turner and his mother was Ida (née) Fryer.<sup>16</sup> Chandler's sister, Nina Turner signed the death certificate as the informant, providing both primary and direct evidence as to his parental relationship and his mother's maiden name.<sup>17</sup> His mother, Ida F. Fryer was also Mrs. Harvey Turner.

Ida F. Fryer appeared in the household of father William T. Fryer on both the 1870 census at age three and the 1880 census as "daughter" at age

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<sup>12</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Green County, Kentucky, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-11687-113694-42?cc=1438024>: accessed 21 May 2015), Lower Bush Creek District, dwelling 177, family 171, Wm. T. Friar; p 25 (hw), p 499 (stamped), image 25 of 40; citing NARA microfilm publication M593, (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.). 1880 U.S. Census, Bell County, Texas, database with images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>: downloaded 18 October 2015), Justice Precinct 6, dwelling 87, family 88, William T. Fryer, p 10 (hw); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls; Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. The 1870 census record does not state the relationships within the family, however, the names and ages of those listed on both census records are sufficiently consistent to cast no doubt that these families are one and the same. 1930 U.S. census, Hunt County, Texas, population schedule, Greenville, Enumeration District (ED) 0004, sheet 4B, dwelling 106, family 107, E. T. Fryer; digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 15 October 2015), citing National Archives microfilm publication T626, roll: 2359; Image: 697, FHL microfilm: 2342093.

<sup>13</sup> Google, digital images, Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com>), current map of downtown area of Greenville, Texas, showing proximity of Caddo and Horsley streets.

<sup>14</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Hunt, Texas, population schedule, Greenville Ward 02, ED 122, sheet 17A (penned), page 110 (stamped), dwelling 339, family 345, Harvey Turner, database with images online, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 03 November 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1647. also 1910 U. S. census, Hunt County, Texas, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-25137-48021-63?cc=1727033>: accessed 4 April 2016), population schedule, Greenville Ward 2, ED 116, Sheet 12B, dwelling 246, family 251, Allan H. Turner; citing NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, also "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982" database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>: downloaded 4 April 2016), Chandler A. Turner death certificate no. 23517, registered no. 215; citing Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982, Texas Department of State Health Services. While his death certificate lists him as "A.H.," it is not unusual for someone to switch first and middle names throughout a lifetime. It is certain that he had both names "Harvey" and "Allan" and chose to go by "Allan" or "A.H." in later years.

<sup>16</sup> Find A Grave, database and images (<http://findagrave.com>: accessed 3 November 2017), memorial page for Chandler Turner (1894-1921), Find A Grave memorial no. 18,803,037, citing Forest Park Cemetery, Hunt County, gravesite photographs and Texas Death Certificate Reg. 23517-45 copy provided by John Armstrong, Find A Grave member no. 46,567,031.

<sup>17</sup> "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982" database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>: downloaded 4 April 2016), Chandler A. Turner death certificate no. 23517, registered no. 215; citing Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982, Texas Department of State Health Services. While his death certificate lists him as "A.H.," it is not unusual for someone to switch first and middle names throughout a lifetime. It is certain that he had both names "Harvey" and "Allan" and chose to go by "Allan" or "A.H." in later years."

13.<sup>18</sup> Mrs. Harvey Turner (Ida) was William Tarpley Fryer's daughter, and it was as his daughter that she requested the headstone.

As to why Ida specified "CSA" when it is now known that her father fought for the Union, one can only speculate. In the history of the War Between the States, terrible acts were perpetrated by both sides against their opponents. In Gainesville, Texas, at the beginning of the war, Confederate sympathizers hanged 41 men suspected of being Unionists.<sup>19</sup> Knowing what happened to other Union sympathizers in another Texas city only 12

years before, and with the State's anti-North reputation, did the family keep their Union affiliation secret? Living in a State that still strongly identified with the South, did Ida perpetuate the Confederate myth, or did she just not remember or had never known for which side her father fought?

Whatever the reason for this misrepresentation, almost fifty years after his death, Ida F. Fryer Turner sought to help the world remember her father, a man, a farmer, who was grievously wounded fighting for his beliefs during one of the bloodiest battles in American history.

*Post Script:*

This report was requested by the 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandson of William Tarpley Fryer. At our first meeting, he was passionate and proud of what he knew about his grandfather and was understanding and accepting of his role as a Confederate soldier. This writer, with great trepidation, prepared to share this new-found information with her client. Upon learning that his 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather had fought for the North, with a broad grin and a slap of his knee, he responded, "I can't wait to tell my cousin!"

**ORIGINAL**  
**APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE**  
(PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
O. G. M. G. Form No. 623  
Approved Aug. 12, 1913  
Revised July 15, 1929

7095

|   |   |  |   |                               |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Name<br><i>one of William R Fryer's 2nd</i><br>FRYER, William T | Rank<br><i>Private</i><br>Pvt             | Company<br><i>5th Kentucky</i><br>Kentucky Vol. Inf. 5th | U. S. Regiment,<br>State Organization,<br>or Vessel | Date of Death<br>Dec 29, 1863 |
| Name of Cemetery<br>Forrest Park                                | Located in or near—<br>City<br>Greenville |  | If World War Veteran—<br>State<br>Texas             |                               |
| Emblem<br>Christian   |   |  |   |                               |

TO BE SHIPPED TO *Mrs. Harvey Turner* at *Greenville, Texas*  
(Name of consignee) (Give town, county, and State)

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE *Greenville, Texas*  
AUG 11 1930

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Verified *TATE, GEORGIA OCT 4 1930*

Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

From *DEC 11 1930*

Shipped \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave.

This application is for the UNMARKED\* grave of at \_\_\_\_\_ It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.

237215 *Mrs Harvey Turner, Applicant.*

Address *Greenville, Texas* Date *Aug. 6, 1930*

\*Stones must not be requested for any grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected.  
†State whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc.

3-5654

Headstone application for William T. Fryer

<sup>18</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Green County, Kentucky, database with images, Lower Bush Creek District, Wm. T. Friar household.

1880 U.S. Census, Bell County, Texas, Justice Precinct 6, William T. Fryer household.

<sup>19</sup> Handbook of Texas, "Great Hanging at Gainesville," (<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jig01>).

## *Chapter VIII: The Last Year of College*

**By AGS Member Glenda Lassiter**

*Griff (Gordon Oscar Griffiths) was born in 1908 in Jermyn, Texas (founded 1902), in Jack County. When he was six and after his father's death in 1914, Griff's mother raised her four children on her mother's Civil War Widow's Pension and by working in a dry goods store and farming. After graduating from Jermyn High School at age 15, Griff was given the unexpected opportunity to attend North Texas Normal College in Denton, Texas (now The University of North Texas), for two years.*

*In 1991, when Griff was 82 years old (the year before he died), he recorded the story of his life on audio tapes. He left the tapes to his daughter, Glenda Lassiter, who promised to write his memoir from them.*

*Chapters 1-7 were previously printed in issues of the Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly beginning in December 2015.*

*Griff's story continues here.*

**J**ust think. After this school year, we'll be out on our own," Griff commented to Dutch as Mrs. Jones drove the boys into Denton on a warm and very sunny Labor Day. Even though they had moved from the Jones' boarding house last school year, the transportation arrangement was quite amiable, and Griff and Dutch still rode with the Joneses whenever they traveled to and from Jermyn.

"Yeah! We'll be out on our own and looking for jobs," Dutch replied, rolling his eyes. He did not look happy about that prospect.

"I know it will work out. We can even apply for jobs with the people who come to the campus from school districts to hire teachers."

Griff was determined to keep his outlook positive. He was starting classes in the fall semester of 1925, knowing that passing all his courses this school year to earn a teaching certificate was the only key to a life outside of Jermyn and the failing farm. His mother was not shy about reminding him that she did not have enough money to keep him in college after this school year. He must finish this year.

Even though he had passed all his courses the previous year, he had a strange foreboding that finishing the rest of his courses by the end of the spring semester was not going to be easy. He told himself that his fears stemmed from this being such a "now or never" proposition and that he was imagining things.

Except for the pressure of finishing the remaining course requirements on time, life felt full of joy for him. He had been eager to return to the campus from summer in Jermyn where he had helped his mother with the house and what was left of their farm. He knew that Desda would be returning for her second year as well, and he felt he simply could not wait to see her.

They had written letters during the summer, and he knew she would already be back at school. As soon as Mrs. Jones dropped the boys off at the Bishop rooming house, Griff hurried in. Dutch did not have to ask him where he was going so fast. Griff put the clothes and linens he had brought from Jermyn in their room and ran up the street to the boarding house where Desda stayed.

And there she was. Just looking at her touched something in Griff, and took his breath away. To

him, she was even prettier than he had remembered. They sat together on the front steps of her boarding house and smiled at each other. They talked about what they had been doing all summer and about enrollment tomorrow, but mainly they just smiled at each other. They could hear a radio crackling through the open windows of the boarding house playing "Ain't She Sweet."

Suddenly it seemed that radios were playing everywhere they went. America was entering the Golden Age of Radio. This was the year that the National Broadcasting Company would begin regular broadcasting using telephone links between New York and other cities. KRLD from Dallas was going on the air for six hours each day, except on Wednesdays when the station closed down to make repairs and recharge the batteries. The call sign came from the founding owner and his company, Kiest's Radio Laboratories of Dallas. KRLD carried network programming including dramas, comedies, game shows, soap operas, and big band music. They were on the Texas State Network which provided stations around the state with news, sports, and weather information.

The advent of radio technology changed information delivery in America. Before this, all newsworthy events were reported the next day in newspapers, the prevailing purveyor of current events. Now with radio, news became immediate.

On 22 February 1925, Calvin Coolidge was the first President of the United States to have his inauguration broadcast on the radio. Also broadcast beginning that May 1925, were updated reports of the Scopes trial, commonly known as the "Monkey Trial." Scopes was a substitute teacher in Dayton, Tennessee, found guilty of violating the Butler Act of 1925 for teaching about evolution. Griff and Desda were both surprised at the public attention this trial aroused. In Texas, Ma Ferguson, the first female

governor, serving from 1925 until 1927, had prohibited the use of any textbook in a public school that contained the theory of evolution. To these two youngsters who were devout Baptists, any explanation of creation other than the biblical one seemed outrageous. Their only exposure to the theory was when a pastor chose to point out the evil of evolution as the subject of his sermon.

And church activities were a great part of the couple's social life. As a reaction to the "modernism" of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, churches in Texas were enjoying a renewed popularity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The First Baptist Church of Denton had been founded in 1858. When their white frame church burned down in 1917, it was replaced in the next year by an imposing brick structure with a broad stairway leading to a wide porch with elegant Grecian columns.

In addition to the usual Sunday school and the Baptist Training Union on Sundays, Desda and Griff attended many of the fellowship activities for college-aged young people. They would stand shoulder to shoulder in the sanctuary during worship services singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "In the Garden." At such times Griff would reflect on their possible future together. He dreamed of getting a job when he finished college this year and perhaps planning a lifetime with Desda.

That fall Griff and Dutch decided not to go to Jermyn for the long Thanksgiving weekend since both had class projects due before Christmas. Desda was going home to Cisco to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with her family so the boys were on their own.

Dutch was sleeping late on the Thanksgiving holiday morning. "What in the Sam Hill are you doing in there?" he called out when he was awakened by the clanking of pans and the most amazing aromas coming from the kitchen. He went to the kitchen door and saw Griff peeling sweet potatoes over the sink. He had a dish towel tied around him for an apron and a

Chesterfield cigarette dangling from his lips while his hands were employed with the sweet potatoes.

Dutch pulled a Chesterfield out of the pack and lit it with a kitchen match. He was still providing them with cigarettes from his trips home to Jermyn. Even the 20 cents a pack was more than the boys wanted to take out of their food budget. Chesterfield was the most popular brand now with the college students. "Twenty for twenty," their ads touted. Chesterfield had also published a controversial billboard that year showing a man and woman posed romantically on a rock. The text said: "Blow some my way." The company was breaking a social taboo to even hint that women would smoke. Of course, many of the thoroughly modern Flappers did. Desda was not one of them, and Griff was glad.

"Well, buddy, it's Thanksgiving, and we're cooking Thanksgiving dinner," Griff answered. "Here are some onions and stalks of celery. I want you to cut them up in little bitty pieces. One cup of onions and one cup of celery."

"What's this for?"

"We're making cornbread dressing to go with the turkey."

Griff had been cooking a 14-pound turkey in the oven for several hours, which accounted for the delightful fragrance rising from the oven.

"I'm catching the drippings from the turkey. We'll need to skim the grease from the stock to make gravy, and the stock will all go into the dressing."

"Do you have this all written down somewhere?"

"Nope. It's just in my head. I've been helping Grandma Allen cook since I was about four. No need to write things down," Griff chuckled shyly.

He pulled the big iron skillet full of cornbread off the counter saying he had cooked the

cornbread this morning before the turkey went into the oven.

Griff said, "The turkey ought to be done by now." He pulled the golden turkey from the oven and moved it to a big serving plate. Dutch's nostrils were filled with the warm fragrance of freshly cooked turkey.

Griff proceeded to crumble the cornbread into the big turkey roasting pan, saying, "You have to cook the dressing in the roasting pan the turkey cooked in. What's left of the drippings and the crust from the turkey make the dressing real tasty." Griff loved to talk, even when he was cooking. He was using a coffee cup to skim the grease off the drippings.

"You sure do have a lot of rules for someone who never writes recipes down," Dutch joked.

"Well, I just know how I want things to taste," Griff smiled wryly.

Griff continued, "Now mix three raw eggs, onions, celery, a big teaspoon of poultry seasoning and a little less salt into the cornbread. Then pour this stock in and enough water to make it real soupy. It's late enough now that we can put the dressing the oven. It will cook for an hour, but you'll need to keep adding enough water to keep it soupy. That's what makes the dressing moist. Mr. Bishop and two of the guys who didn't go home for Thanksgiving are coming at noon." Dutch had never gotten to cook at home, and he admired Griff's enthusiasm for cooking so much that he was learning to enjoy it himself.

It was a beautiful clear Texas Thanksgiving. Sunlight was glinting off the clean windows and warming the day. A pleasant breeze blew into the dining room of the Bishop house through open windows, ruffling the Italian lace curtains that Mrs. Bishop had hung long ago. Griff and Dutch got the Bishop's tablecloth and napkins that had been stored in the big china cabinet for years.

Dutch set the table in the dining room with dishes and silverware. Then Griff brought in the serving dishes. The table was heaped with the huge golden turkey, a steaming bowl of dressing, giblet gravy, sweet potatoes with toasted marshmallows, green beans from their garden, cooked with onions glistening with butter, Brussels sprouts and bacon, homemade biscuits, and a pumpkin pie on the sideboard to be served with whipped cream. When Mr. Bishop and the two other tenants walked into the room they gasped in unison at the sight of the Thanksgiving table and the amazing aromas that greeted them. Griff was pleased with his work. He smiled with a sigh of satisfaction. To him, it was a perfect autumn day, and everything felt just right. He thought of his life and believed that nothing could go wrong.

All five of them were talkative and animated in anticipation of the dinner they were about to enjoy. They were seated with Griff and Mr. Bishop at each end of the table. Griff said, "Let's have a prayer." All bowed their heads. Griff prayed, "Dear Heavenly Father, Bless this food to the nourishment of our bodies. Thank you for our friends who are here to celebrate with us. Bless our families and thank you for their love. Be with us every day. In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen."

They all smiled at each other and began to enjoy the meal and their friendship. A feeling of immense contentment and well-being filled the room.

The rest of the school year seemed to pass quickly. Griff spent the two-week Christmas vacation in Jermyn helping his mother with chores. Aunts, uncles, and cousins brought covered dishes for Christmas day. Griff enjoyed being home, but he was so glad to be back at school in January of 1926. He had desperately missed being with Desda over that two-week holiday.

Griff and Desda were growing closer and closer. As this last semester began, Griff felt just moments away from beginning his journey through life. In his thoughts, after he got his teaching certificate and a job, he and Desda could begin their journey together.

A sudden spring rainstorm had exploded on the morning when the pain hit at the beginning of April. Griff was just leaving for class when he suddenly felt such a violent stabbing pain in his right abdomen that he fell to his knees on the front porch. Mr. Bishop heard him cry out and came to see what had happened. Griff was doubled up with pain, and he felt feverish to the touch.

"What's wrong," Mr. Bishop asked.

Griff could only cry out in pain.

"Dutch!" Mr. Bishop called out. "Come and help me. Griff is very sick, and we have to get him to the infirmary." He knew from an earlier experience when one of his student tenants had had an attack of appendicitis that Griff was having an attack. He also knew that Griff would need medical attention immediately.

Dutch rushed out the front door. He was shocked to see Griff, who was usually so calm and in control, struggling with the pain. Griff had complained of a stomach ache the day before. "I'll get the castor oil," Dutch said, turning back toward the door.

"No!" Mr. Bishop shouted. "That's the worst thing we can do."

Mr. Bishop might well have saved Griff's life by keeping Dutch from giving him castor oil. Giving him a purgative could have caused his appendix to rupture and peritonitis could have set in.

Dutch stopped in his tracks. "You know, that's what his daddy died of when Griff was only six years old."

Even more agitated, Mr. Bishop said, "You stay with him, and I'll get the car."

"I'll get him inside," Dutch said.

"Dutch, you just need to keep him where he is. He must lie perfectly still. We'll get him to the infirmary. Pills can get help."

"Pills" was the nickname the students had given the young man who ran the campus infirmary. He had been a nurse in World War I, and, after the war, had accepted the job of running the infirmary at the college. There was no doctor on staff.

Mr. Bishop rather frantically drove his old Model T to the curb in front of the rooming house through the driving rain. Between the two of them, they managed to gently move Griff from the porch to the car. They drove along the side of the campus the three blocks to the infirmary on the other side of the sports complex.

Griff moaned in pain, "Dutch, I dropped my books on the porch back at the house. They might get wet."

"Don't worry. Everything is going to be all right. I'll take care of your books."

Dutch ran into the infirmary yelling for Pills, who came out to the car with him and, through the violent thunderstorm, Dutch, Pills, and Mr. Bishop carried Griff into an examination room in the infirmary.

By the time Griff was settled on a gurney, his fever had risen to 104 degrees. He kept insisting that he didn't want to have his appendix removed, remembering the train from Dallas years ago bringing his father's remains from Baylor Hospital after they had tried to remove his appendix.

Pills said he would call the doctor who lived near the campus and came to the infirmary for emergencies. The doctor arrived in a few

minutes and, after examining Griff, said that he must remove the appendix immediately. Griff relented and agreed to have his appendix removed. He was given 100% nitrous oxide, oxygen, and ether to anesthetize him for the surgery. The doctor had to give the maximum dosage in order to render Griff unconscious.

Just as the doctor was making an incision in Griff's abdomen, an enormous crash of lightning knocked the electricity out, not only in the infirmary but all over that part of Denton.

Left in the dark examination room with a patient whose abdomen he had just opened, the doctor instructed Pills to call a taxi cab and tell them to bring flashlights for emergency surgery. The cab came barreling through the driving rain and the crashing lightning in what seemed like an eternity to the small group in the infirmary but was only a few minutes.

The driver rushed in with four flashlights which he, Pills, Mr. Bishop, and Dutch held over the doctor's steady hands as he removed Griff's appendix.

Because of the amount of anesthetic Griff had been given, the doctor could not awaken Griff after the surgery.

When he finally opened his eyes the next morning, Griff was amazed to see his mother standing beside the bed. This was the first time she had ever been to Denton. She had been driven over by Mr. Jones while Griff was unconscious. The first thing she said when Griff woke was, "Oh, Gordon. I have to ask you something. Do you want to be buried in Jermyn or up in Willow Point where your daddy is buried?"

Griff managed to smile looking into her eyes, "Mama. I'm alive."

*(To be continued) ...*



# MY SEARCH FOR JOHAN CHRISTOPH DOETSCH

## *Breaking the Brick Wall: From Bavaria to Indiana*

By AGS Member Angela Doetsch

Every three years, we hold a Doetsch Family Reunion – the next slated for July of 2018 in San Antonio, Texas. Every reunion is held around the weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup> and consists of a Saturday night banquet and Sunday morning golf or church service outing, followed by an afternoon picnic. The reunion is always centered around the families of our “Doetsch Eight.” One of the Doetsch Eight was my grandfather, Robert Maximillian Doetsch. There is usually a collection of photos shared on a slide-show or tacked to post boards, but never much about the origins of our family. This prompted me to pick up on my research from this family line – one of my most dreaded “brick-walls.”

There is very little I know about my family beyond my grandfather. My great-grandfather, Bernard (Bernhardt) “Ben” Doetsch, was the first Doetsch to be born in the United States. His father, Johan Christoph “John” Doetsch, was born in Bavaria, Germany. About all the information I had of John was a picture of him and his wife, Anna Elizabeth (Gross) Doetsch, and that he was a cobbler by trade in Germany. I had done a bit of research early on, but couldn’t break through to records before their arrival in the United States and eventually set the research aside until this year.

I started with what genealogy professional, Thomas MacEntee, describes as a “Genealogy Do-Over” and hit the reset button on my Doetsch ancestry research.<sup>1</sup> I didn’t have much to lose by starting over since I didn’t have much to begin with anyway. I was also hoping that in



**John Christoph and Elizabeth (Gross) Doetsch**  
*Family photo courtesy of Angela Doetsch*

the few years since I researched this line, that maybe I picked up a few tricks along the way. I started as any seasoned genealogist would suggest...with me. Thankfully, I had recently filed for a pioneer certificate and had hard copies of birth, marriage, and death records through my Doetsch grandparents; Now on to the “new stuff.”

My next step in my research was to start where my grandfather was born, South Bend, Indiana, to find out more about his parents.

<sup>1</sup> <https://hidefgen.com/presentations/genealogy-dooover-year-learning-mistakes/>.

I first turned to online repositories for cited vital records. I had already located my grandfather's birth certificate as filed by the Indiana State Board of Health. This confirmed details that I already "knew" – that my grandfather was born in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana, on 5 May 1918, to parents Benjamin Doetsch and Hazel Robinson. The certificate gave me a few more leads on where to go next and also opened up a few more questions (surprise, surprise?!). I now had a potential residence ("417 ½ N. St. Peter St."), and a potential occupation for his father ("Machinist").

For residence verification, I turned to the South Bend, Indiana, city directories for 1918, and the 1920 United States Federal Census.

The Doetsch family is listed on the 1920 United States Census for South Bend, St Joseph County, Indiana, living on North St. Peter Street. The head of household is John C Doetsch, and Bernhardt (Ben) is listed as his son and married. We know that Ben and Hazel and Ben lived in a secondary/additional dwelling on the same property (417 ½). Other members of the household included John's wife, Elizabeth, and their daughters Johanna (also married) and Ernestine (single). A brother-in-law, John Gross, is also living with them. We can assume at this point that John is Elizabeth's sister.

The 1920 United States Census provided some additional details to further the later steps of research: John and Elizabeth Doetsch's potential immigration years 1883 and 1890. John Doetsch's naturalization date is also listed as 1919. The record also lists that they were born in Germany.

I learned that South Bend, Indiana, began regularly printing city directories in 1867.<sup>2</sup> No

directories were printed in 1918 (the year of my grandfather's birth). The next city directory was in 1921. John & Elizabeth Doetsch are listed in this directory as living at 417 N. St. Peter. There is no mention of Ben or Hazel. Since they lived in a secondary/additional dwelling on the same property (417 ½) they may have been missed. They are listed on the 1921 South Bend City Directory at this address and Bernard is listed as a machinist (check).

Now, I needed to learn more about my great-grandparents, Ben and Hazel; when and where they were born, their marriage and their children, and when they died.

I once again turned to online repositories for birth information for Ben Doetsch. I already knew that Ben was listed at 26 years of age on the 1920 census. This would place his date of birth around 1894. I know that some states did not require birth certificates before the year 1900, but I had never done research this far back for the state of Indiana. I had my fingers crossed. Sadly, this is also true for the state of Indiana. The office of Vital Records did not start recording births until 1907.<sup>3</sup>

I looked at a few online repositories for marriage records and finally found not only the marriage license but both marriage license applications for Hazel Robinson and Benjamine[sic] Doetsch. The marriage license showed they were married on 27 November 1913, in St. Joseph County, Indiana. The marriage applications listed more information than what I found on the actual marriage license, and for that I am thankful. Both applications listed their dates and place of birth, the full surnames and maiden names of both of their parents, and where their parents were born.

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<sup>2</sup> "South Bend City Directories Tell the Story," The History Museum; <http://historymuseumsb.org/south-bend-city-directories-tell-the-story/>.

<sup>3</sup> Indiana State Department of Health, Vital Records, Birth Information; <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26794.htm>; accessed 17 December 2017.

Multiple records showed that Ben Doetsch was born on 25 December 1894.

Ben and Hazel would go on to have eight children in their 38 years of marriage. They would all go on to have families of their own and would later become known as the “Doetsch Eight.”

Hazel (Robinson) Doetsch would die on 31 May 1951, in South Bend, Indiana. She was 56. She was buried at Highland Cemetery. Ben Doetsch would later remarry and would live to be 85. He died on 20 September 1980 and was laid to rest next to his first wife, Hazel.

Since I had such amazing luck finding Ben and Hazel’s marriage records, I turned to locate his parents John’s and Elizabeth’s records in the same online repositories. I had no luck. Could they have been married in Germany? I turned to census records for John and Elizabeth as some list how many years they have been married.

I cross-checked all other available census records in South Bend, Indiana, for John and Elizabeth to gather and compare data starting with the 1920 census I had already located for them. It did not list years of marriage information. The 1910 census listed them as married for 21 years. This would place their

marriage sometime around 1889, after their proposed immigration dates. The 1900 census lists 12 years of marriage for the couple, placing their marriage around 1888. As most genealogists already know, the 1890 United States Federal Census almost completely burned in a fire,<sup>4</sup> with only a few sections salvaged...none of it remained from the state of Indiana. I checked the 1880 census and did not find John or Elizabeth listed. It is looking like John and Elizabeth married after their arrival to the United States. It also is looking more like they immigrated to the United States after 1880. The discovered census records also had listed conflicting immigration years of 1880, 1883, and 1887.

I also looked forward and found John listed in only one more record, the 1930 census. Elizabeth is listed on the 1940 census as widowed, confirming that John has died sometime between the 1930 and 1940 census.

I paid close attention to all the names of their neighbors. On many of the records, there is another Doetsch listed by the name of Christian Doetsch. After a little research, Christian appears to have been John’s brother. Since I had no luck with marriage records for John and Elizabeth, I turned to their deaths in hopes I would find an obituary with more information

|    |     |    |    |             |          |   |  |   |   |    |    |            |            |
|----|-----|----|----|-------------|----------|---|--|---|---|----|----|------------|------------|
| 78 |     |    |    | Learyene    | Wife     |   |  | F | W | 36 | M  |            |            |
| 79 | 417 | 19 | 19 | Doetsch     | John     | 0 |  | F | M | W  | 60 | M          | 1888/12/19 |
| 80 |     |    |    | Elizabeth   | Wife     |   |  | F | W | 55 | M  | 1890/12/19 |            |
| 81 |     |    |    | - Johanna   | Daughter |   |  | F | W | 29 | M  |            |            |
| 82 |     |    |    | - Benhardt  | Son      |   |  | M | W | 26 | M  |            |            |
| 83 |     |    |    | - Ernestine | Daughter |   |  | F | W | 13 | S  |            |            |
| 84 |     |    |    | Gross       | John     |   |  | M | W | 51 | S  | 1933/11/22 |            |

Doetsch Family as listed on the 1920 United States Federal Census Record  
South Bend, Indiana

Year: 1920; Census Place: South Bend Ward 4, St Joseph, Indiana; Roll: T625\_464; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 245; ancestry.com.

<sup>4</sup> “On January 10, 1921, a fire in the Commerce Department building, Washington, DC, resulted in the destruction of most of the 1890 census, to the woe of researchers ever since. For more detailed information, see Kellee Blake, “First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census,” Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 64-81 (Spring 1996), Part 1 and Part 2.” <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1890/1890.html>.

on their origins and to find their final resting places.

I was able to locate a death certificate for John filed with the Indiana State Board of Health on *ancestry.com*.<sup>5</sup> The certificate listed the date of death as 1 March 1936. It listed his date of birth on 15 July 1859 (which also matched the information listed on his son's marriage application), and that he was born in Bavaria, Germany. No parents names were listed. At the bottom, it made a note that burial would be in City Cemetery, in South Bend, Indiana.

I turned to the website, *findagrave.com*, to see if I could confirm John was buried in City Cemetery – success! I also found the burial place of his wife, Elizabeth.

I decided to search online for obituaries next.

I turned to *newspapers.com* and The Hoosier State Chronicles: Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program<sup>6</sup> to see if I could locate the obituaries for either John or Elizabeth Doetsch. Both searches turned up empty.

The path to my Doetsch brick-wall appeared to be going in the same direction as before.

I decided to turn to my extended family to see if they had any information or stories their parents passed on to them. I am surprised that in all this time researching my Doetsch ancestors, I never thought to enlist my family for help. Most of them even still live in the South Bend, Indiana area! My cousin had recently developed a Doetsch Family Reunion page on a social media outlet so we could keep in contact about the upcoming reunion. I sent the feelers out. Here is an excerpt from that message:

“...Best I know is Christoph was born 15 Jul 1859 in Bavaria. According to a story from my grandmother, Frances, ‘...he was a cobbler by trade and a musician by desire. He played the accordion for dances, weddings and celebrations. It was at one of these dances he met Anna Elizabeth Gross.’ I believe he came to America through Castle Garden at the port of New Jersey/New York in 1880, 1883, or 1887 (based on info gathered from the US Census). After he arrived in America, he went to South Bend/Mishawaka Indiana. He worked in various factories (according to city directories), but as far as I know, never gained employment as a cobbler or a musician in America.”

I also posted copies of the records I had already found. One cousin provided some interesting notes:

“When I lived in Germany we visited a cousin in Artzburg[sic] near the border of Russia...The family was in the marble business and lived in an older castle that was renovated for apartments. Grampa (Bernard) Doetsch asked me to look them up. That was in the 70's.”

I asked her if she ever found anything, but sadly she could not remember and didn't write anything down. Still, I had a place to start research in.

I searched online for a place in Germany named Artzburg[sic] and found some hopeful information on the Wikipedia page for the town of Arzberg, Bavaria, Germany – it is a sister city to South Bend, Indiana! It was beginning to look like the Doetsch's came from this area. I wanted to know more.

I searched online for anything and everything I could about Arzberg. One of the most

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<sup>5</sup> Indiana State Board of Health. Death Certificates, 1900–2011. Microfilm. Indiana Archives and Records Administration, Indianapolis, Indiana. *Death Certificates*; Year: 1936; Roll: 04; *ancestry.com*; accessed 10 October 2017.

<sup>6</sup> <https://newspapers.library.in.gov/>.

interesting links I found was for a website created by a local of South Bend, Indiana, named Gabrielle Robinson. She is a current professor at the University of South Bend and literally wrote the book on the German immigration wave to South Bend, Indiana. I immediately ordered a copy of her book, *German Settlers of South Bend*.<sup>7</sup> I also sent her a private message and an email to connect with her for advice on researching in Arzberg and Germany in general.

I patiently waited for a response.

I joined the South Bend Genealogical Society.<sup>8</sup> I sent in a “brick-wall” inquiry for printing in their next publication and searched through their past quarterly issues for any information that might give me more leads. It remains to be seen if I make any connections there.

At around the same time, I also made contact with the local library, St. Joseph County Public Library (SJCPL), in South Bend, Indiana, for research assistance. They connected me with their Local and Family History department. I contacted them and gave them the little information I had. They responded back and said the department has access to obituaries, marriage records and applications, and some church records, among other things. They

agreed to pull some research together for me with anything they could find in their library archives for a nominal fee to their research department and gave me some pointers on other places I could turn to for information while I waited to hear back.

I was directed to their website where they have a St. Joseph County Obituary Index.<sup>9</sup> I searched for any and all “Doetsch” names in the index and received hits for John Christophe[sic], Bernard J., Mrs. Bernard (Hazel), Elizabeth (Mrs. John), and a few of the “Doetsch Eight.” All obituaries were printed in either the *South Bend Tribune* or the *South Bend Weekly Tribune*. I quickly learned the papers have not been digitized, but hopefully, the library researchers would be able to provide copies. I did gather from the index dates of birth and death, places of residence, and other notes transcribed from the obituaries that I could cross-reference with what I already found.

The SJCPL also gave me a contact at one of the local German churches, Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church. If John and Elizabeth were married in South Bend, Indiana, this was the most likely place. I emailed the contact and quickly received a response back. The archivist was only able to find one record for the names I provided – a baptismal record for my great-

5' - Johann Bernhard Doetsch, Sohn von Christoph Doetsch u. Johanna Galtner, geboren am 25. December 1879 in South Bend, Ind., getauft am 17. März 1880. Taufzeugen: Bernhard Hoehler.

Mr. Goffney, Pastor

1895 Baptismal record for Johann Bernhard Doetsch  
*Zion's Record Book 1, entry 5, page 49*

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.gabriellerobinson.com/books/german-settlers-south-bend>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.sbags.org/main.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www2.sjcpl.org/db/obits/search>.

grandfather, Johann Bernard Doetsch. It is in German, but it is quite easy to pick out the names.

Although the church did not lead me to a marriage record for John and Elizabeth, it did open up an amazing connection.

A few days after the email from Zion Church, I received a second email from another person involved with the parish. She had mentioned that the archivist had forwarded my email to her in hopes she could further my research. It turns out we share a familiar surname in our ancestry...you guessed it – Doetsch! Her great-grandmother was named Margaretha Doetsch. Margaretha was from Rodenbach, Germany, and was born 2 May 1849 and died 4 December 1922. She married a man named Valentine Koehler, who was born in Lentenhorst[sic], Germany, 26 October 1850, and was a founding member of Zion church, then called "Deutsche Evangelical Zion Kirche."<sup>10</sup> She didn't have much information on the Doetsch family, but did mention that Margaretha had two brothers, but she never knew their names...until now! It turns out that Margaretha is the older sister of John and Christian Doetsch. Now, I had another Doetsch name to add to my family tree. I also had another place in Germany to begin research for my ancestor – Rodenbach.

Through a single email, I had gained a new Doetsch cousin...but this wasn't all. She provided me with a scanned copy of a picture of Margaretha from the front porch of her Indiana home, something I will forever cherish.

Things were starting to pick up the pace, and for once, there seemed to be a crack in that wall.



**Margaretha Doetsch**

*Family photo courtesy of Beth Hobbs*

The very next week, I received my copy of *German Settlers of South Bend* in the mail. I spent a few days reading through the pages and skimming for any surnames that stood out. I did not find any references to Doetsch, but I did find a few mentions of the surname Gross – John Doetsch's wife Elizabeth's maiden name. It turns out her father, Adam Gross, suffered a tragic end and it affected the community so greatly that it was well documented in the local newspapers and in oral histories. I scanned through his obituary in hopes I would glean some information on my search, but nothing stood out.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> <http://zionsb.org/history.html>.

<sup>11</sup> I highly recommend the book *German Settlers of South Bend* by Gabrielle Robinson for anyone interested in the local history of the South Bend/Mishawaka, Indiana, area.

While waiting to hear back from the SJCPL, I moved on to my next task – immigration. Through previous research, I remembered that New York was the primary port of arrival for Germans immigrating to the United States. I knew I needed to look at immigration records from 1880-1887. This led me to the online database for Castle Garden as Ellis Island did not open its doors until 1892.<sup>12</sup> My search turned up 45 Doetsch records. I scanned for first names for any that matched. The closest hits in the date range I was looking in were for “Chr. Doetsch”<sup>13</sup> who arrived on 23 March 1881, and “Christian Doetsch” who arrived on 17 July 1882. In the end, these both turned out to be my family.

The record for “Chr. Doetsch” is more than likely the immigration record for John Doetsch, whose given name was Christoph. He is listed as a 23-year-old shoemaker (check), making his

date of birth around 1858 (check) and last known residence is listed as Bavaria, Germany (check). The ship he traveled on was called the SS Weser and departed from the port of Bremen. I turned to the emigration records from Bremen as they often contained passport applications with greater detail, but no emigration record would be found to compare to the immigration record. “Unfortunately, all lists from 1875 - 1908 older than 3 years were destroyed due to lack of space in the Bremen Archives.”<sup>14</sup>

I received an email back from Gabrielle Robinson (the professor at the University of Indiana, and author of the book, *German Settlers of South Bend*). She provided me with a few names from the files she had gathered during her research, but I did not recognize any of them. This isn’t to say they aren’t related somehow, it just remains another piece of the puzzle to put together.



1881 passenger list of the SS Weser for John Doetsch

New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957

[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYM237\\_434-0399\\_2](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYM237_434-0399_2).

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.castlegarden.org/>.

<sup>13</sup> Record index for “Chr. Doetsch” from the ship manifest for the Weser that arrived at Castle Garden on 23 March 1881. [http://www.castlegarden.org/quick\\_search\\_detail.php?p\\_id=6047736](http://www.castlegarden.org/quick_search_detail.php?p_id=6047736).

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.passengerlists.de/>.

A few days later I received an email from the SJCPL saying they had completed their research and were mailing the copies out within the week. They also sent a few memorials their field volunteers created on *findagrave.com* of my Gross ancestors – one step closer in my future research on another line!

I checked the mail every day. A week later, I received the packet. Here is an excerpt from the cover letter I was sent:

“...For John Christoph Doetsch and Anna Elizabeth Gross: I enclose a civil and a Lutheran marriage record...In looking at the celebrant’s name, he was the pastor of St. Paul’s, so we looked for the record there and found it.”

John and Elizabeth were married on 13 October 1888 at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Bend, Indiana. It turns out that Zion Evangelical Church was not finished being built until 1888. It seems that they switched parishes when it was completed.

Thanks to the SJCPL, I now have the marriage records for John and Elizabeth! They included baptismal records for all of their children and obituaries for both. They also provided information on Elizabeth’s parents, and the sad demise of her father, Adam, including a contact at the St. Joseph County Coroner’s Office where I can obtain a coroner’s report. They included a

slew of other indices that mention the name Doetsch and Gross for me to expand my research. I also learned that John was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows Fraternal Organization (IOOF)...just another clue into the life of my ancestor.

John Christoph Doetsch and Anna Elizabeth Gross would go on to have six children in their 48 years of marriage before John’s death in 1936. Through the records found through the SJCPL, I learned only three survived to adulthood. It turns out they lost three young daughters to a scarlet fever outbreak in 1896. I can’t fathom how hard that must have been for the family.

Although I was looking at Arzberg, Bavaria, as a place of birth for John Doetsch, it now seems that he may have been from Röthenbach. This would seem to mirror what my new cousin said about where John’s sister, Margaretha was from – Rodenbach, which seems to be a misspelling of the same place. I am still keeping the Arzberg connection as a possibility – as Röthenbach is located nearby.

I am now one step closer to breaking down my “brick-wall” thanks to the help of many along the way. I can now continue my research for my Doetsch family roots in Röthenbach, Germany, and hopefully, find John’s parents by our 2018 reunion!

| No. | Aufgebot. | Zeitung.         | Namen, Stand und Wohnort des Bräutigams.                  | Namen und Wohnort der Braut.                    | Bemerkungen.                               | Datum.     |
|-----|-----------|------------------|---|---|--|------------|
| X   |           | 13. October 1888 | Johann Christoph Doetsch<br>Suburban, South Bend,<br>Ind. | Johanne Elisabeth<br>Gross, South Bend,<br>Ind. | Christoph Doetsch<br>St. Paul's<br>Church. | 13. 10. 88 |

13 October 1888 Lutheran marriage record for John and Elizabeth Doetsch

Parish Register for St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church; CRIMP roll, number 284, item 2; copies provided by the St. Joseph County Public Library.



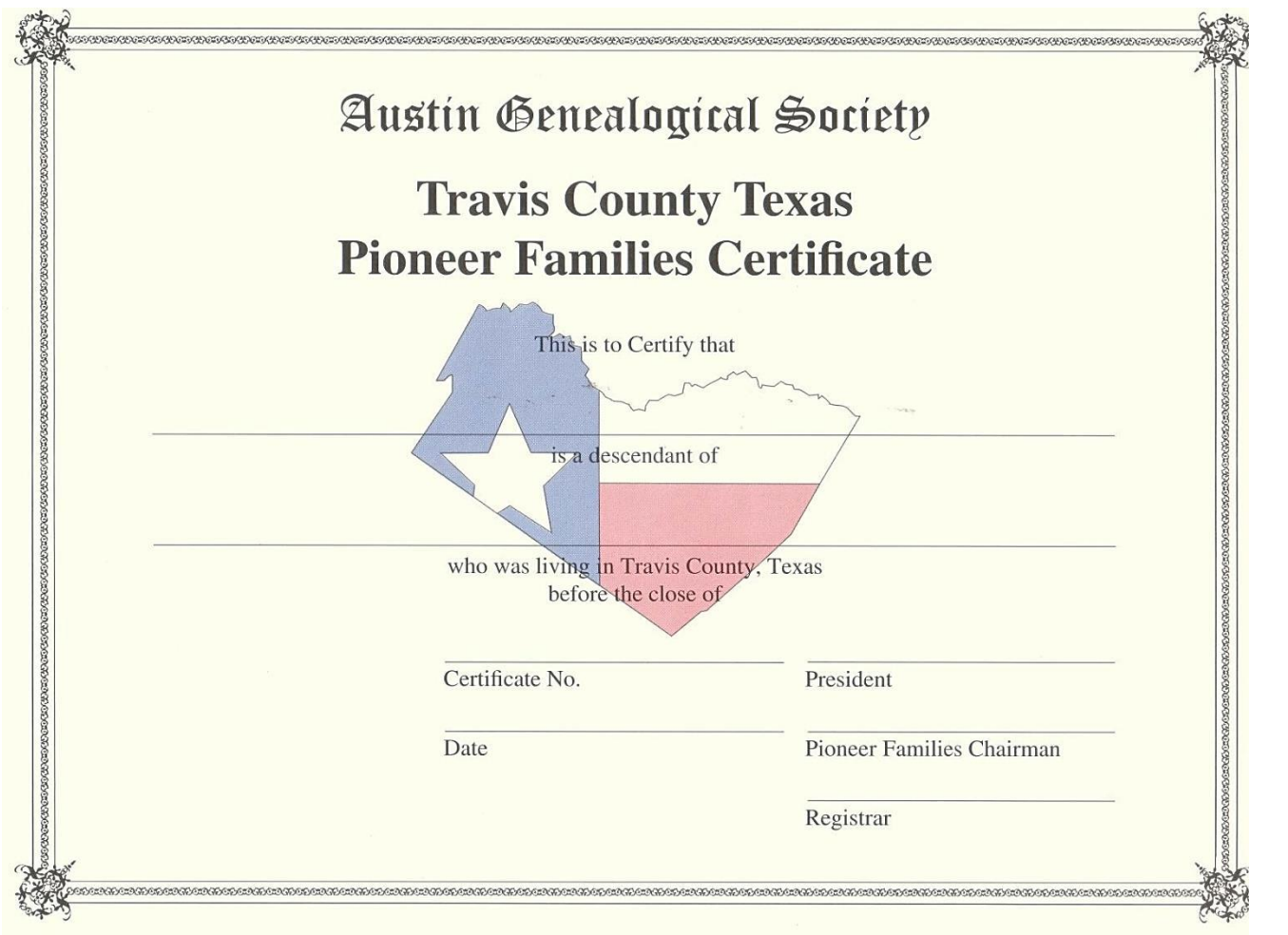
# PIONEER FAMILIES OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Austin Genealogical Society will issue a pioneer certificate to those who can prove their ancestors lived in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. To qualify for the certificate, you must be a direct descendant of people who lived here on or before 31 December 1880, proved with birth, death and marriage certificates; probate, census and military records; and obituaries and Bible records.

Applications for Pioneer Families of Travis County can be found at:

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/pioneers/> or  
from Kay Dunlap Boyd, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010.

Each application is \$20, and the certificates make nice gifts. You don't have to be a Travis County resident or a member of Austin Genealogical Society, although membership in the Society is another fine bargain at \$20 a year.



# THE BLUMBERG-ELLEY-KAISER-KOEPSSEL REUNION

By AGS Member **Andrea M. Burkhart**

The Blumberg-Elley-Kaiser-Koepsel (B-E-K-K) Reunion is to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, in McQueeney, Texas.

It is for the descendants of Carl F. Blumberg and Catherine (Ruff) Blumberg and their six children (one remained in Germany) who landed at Indianola, Texas in the 1850s. They settled in Seguin, McQueeney, New Braunfels, Fredericksburg and other small towns in Texas.

1. Julius F. Blumberg (spouse: Caroline Hartung) – who went to New Orleans and then to the San Francisco, California, area and then to Santa Ana.
2. Albertine "Bertha" (Blumberg) Kaiser (spouse: Carl Kaiser) – Guadalupe and Comal Counties, Texas.
3. August Blumberg (spouse: Bertha Runde) remained in Hannover, Germany.
4. Henriette (Blumberg) Elley (spouse: Reverend Gus Elley (von Elterlein) – Guadalupe and Comal Counties, Texas.
5. Fritz A. Blumberg (spouse: Emma Rosa Weisbach) Seguin, Guadalupe and Comal Counties, Texas.
6. Ernest Blumberg (spouse: Margarete Zipp) – Seguin/New Braunfels area, Guadalupe and Comal Counties, Texas.
7. Hulda (Blumberg) Koepsel (Michel Koepsel) – Seguin, McQueeney, New Braunfels area, Texas.

We are trying to update the *1938 Carl F. Blumberg Klan/Ancestry Book* which listed all the Blumberg descendants at the time. Nearly every one of the descendants now was born in 1938 or after! It is quite an undertaking. We are asking each descendant to fill out a "Family Group form" and return it to me, Andrea M. Burkhart, so I can add them to the tree!

An interesting fact is that one of our German cousins from the von Elterlein (Elley) branch is coming for the B-E-K-K Reunion. He lives in Brandenburg, Germany, and we are so excited that he is coming to Texas for the reunion.

# Blumberg



**Kaiser Elley Koepsel**

## *Family Reunion*

### Save the Date

**Saturday, April 21st  
&  
Sunday, April 22nd**

### Location

**Lions Club  
3211 Farm to Market 78  
McQueeney, Texas**



**Contact: Shenda Bacus for registration information  
(210) 835-7317 [Kreschendalyn@hotmail.com](mailto:Kreschendalyn@hotmail.com)**

**Contact: Andrea Burkhart for updating ancestry book  
(512) 453-6430 [Amb122@aol.com](mailto:Amb122@aol.com)**

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**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1839373346384661/>**

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**Fröhliche Weihnachten.**

Art and Picture Collection, The New York Public Library. "Fröhliche Weihnachten." The New York Public Library Digital Collections. ca. 191-. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e3-4acb-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

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