



AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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On the Cover:

Griff and Grandma Allen at the Griffiths' family home in Jermyn, Texas – 1914

Photo from the collection of AGS Member Glenda Lassiter

The Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly is published once per quarter of the year (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter) by the Austin Genealogical Society (AGS). Deadlines for submissions are the 3rd Saturday of the second month of the quarter. The AGS Editor reserves the right to edit all contributed materials for style, grammar, and length. Contributors are solely responsible for the accuracy and proper citation of consulted sources. In addition, contributors are responsible for adhering to all applicable copyright law in their works. AGS assumes no responsibility for the content of submitted material.

AGS Members and the public are encouraged to submit material for publication to:

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FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings AGS Members,

It is officially summertime in Texas!

This time of year brings about fond memories of spending quality time with my family and friends. School was out, and the summer was filled with fun activities like tubing on the Comal River in New Braunfels, Texas, and taking the occasional road trip up north to family reunions in Indiana. We liked to go camping at Paleface/Pace Bend and jump off the cliffs into the lake and spent A LOT of time at the movies. We enjoyed cold watermelon, sno-cones, and listening for the ice-cream truck turning on to our street. My parents also liked to pack us kids up and drive to Port Arthur, "Port-A," Texas, to spend a weekend at the coast. Wherever we went, there HAD to be water or something cold involved.

What ways do you find to beat the summer heat? Do you escape to your local pool or brave a dip in chilly Barton Springs? Do you take a drive to the Texas Hill Country to Krause Springs, Jacob's Well, or Hamilton Pool? (Make sure to make those reservations before you go!) Does your family plan a road trip every summer?

This issue, we will read stories about Texas families who lived in the time before modern conveniences like central AC. They hailed from Webberville, Manor, Manchaca, Jermyn, and our very own Austin, Texas. I often wonder how they did it.

Stay cool and enjoy your summer!

As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions on our quarterly publication. Let us know what you think and happy reading!



Angela Doetsch
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THE WOOD FAMILY OF TRAVIS COUNTY

By AGS Member Alyssa Helen Behr



Martha Ellen Glover (1837–1911) and James Francis Wood (1831–1921).

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*

JAMES FRANCIS WOOD – “OLD GUARD” OF WEBBERVILLE, TEXAS

“**J**ames Wood is one of the few remaining members of the “Old Guard” who have through many years of storm and sunshine cultivated the rich fields about Webberville. They have watched the little town grow from a single house and store to a thriving trading point, doing more

business than even the capital city, but lost its prestige on account of being snubbed by the railroad.”¹ James Francis Wood is a son of William Granbury Wood (1785–1850) and Nancy “Betsy” Simms (1792-1849). “This family have been tillers of the soil for many generations.”²

¹ Article and book pages sources: “The Lone Star State, History of Texas” together with a biographical history of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1893. p. 313-314. From “The Portal to Texas History” <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph29785/>.

² *Ibid.*

The father [William Wood] was born and raised in Georgia and after marriage settled in Madison County, Alabama, where his children were also raised.³

Mr. William and Mrs. Nancy Wood raised the following family:

- Andrew Jackson Wood (1819-1878), married Ann M. Ruby (1821-).
- William A. Wood (1821-1877), married Louisa "Lu" Glover (1828-1900) who is the older sister of Martha Ellen.
- Thomas Wood (1825-).
- Elizabeth E. "Betty" Wood (1826-), married John Cobb (1825-1870).
- Catherine "Kitty" Wood (1829-).
- Samantha Jane Wood (1830-1906), married Benjamin Branum.
- James Francis Wood, Sr. (1831-1921), married Martha Ellen Glover (1837-1911).
- Mary Jane "Polly" Wood (1833-).
- Nancy Ann Wood (1835-).

The eldest son, Andrew Jackson Wood, was named after the famous president, who in his "fighting" days often stopped at the Wood home.

The mother of these children died in Alabama in 1849, and afterward, the father embarked on a trip to our subject's home in Texas, but died at Houston, while en route.

James Francis Wood (1831–1921) was born in Madison County, Alabama, on Christmas Day, 1831.

At the age of eighteen, in the company of his brother William and several neighbor boys, he started overland to Texas. The party had but one wagon, which was heavily loaded, and it was necessary for all but the driver to walk; thus Mr. Wood literally walked to Texas. On 7 November 1849, he landed at Webber's Prairie, and Mr. Wood immediately rented the twenty-five acres now forming the southeastern corner of his farm, where he made his first crop, receiving fifty bushels of corn to the acre. He continued to rent land for a number of years, but as success attended his efforts, he purchased property, eventually owning 510 acres making one of the finest farms in the Colorado Valley. He had 250 acres of his place under a good state of cultivation, and his residence was built on the bluff overlooking the entire valley, presenting one of the finest views in Texas.

James Francis Wood was married 26 April 1854, near the place where he lived, to Martha Ellen Glover (1837–1911), daughter of Silas and Jane (Craft) Glover. "The two families were intimately acquainted in Alabama, and the fathers were both engaged in splitting rails.

³ *Ibid.*

They were able to split about 800 a day while working together.”⁴

James and his wife had eight children, namely:

- George Washington Wood Sr. (1855-1934), who resided four miles south from his father in Bastrop County, married Mary "Mollie" Price Stewart.
- James Francis Wood Jr. (1856-1923), married Mattie Manor, and was engaged in farming near his father.
- William Monroe Wood (1860-1929), married Mattie Poe and resided in the same locality.
- Mary Ellen "Mollie" Wood (1862-1936), married Spence Poe, a farmer of Travis County.
- Henry Edwin Wood (1866-1896), married Mary Americus Amanda Poe.
- Lee Edgar Wood (1870-1945), married Beulah Jones Busby.
- Mattie Lou Wood (1872-1943), married Ed Burlison, a merchant of Webberville, Texas.
- Walter Wallace Wood (1875-1894).

“Politically, Mr. Wood votes with the Democratic Party; socially, is a Master Mason; and religiously both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.”⁵

James Francis Wood served in the Civil War:

21st Regiment Infantry
Name: Griffin's Battalion,
Side: Confederate
Company: A
Soldier's Rank_In: Private
Soldier's Rank_Out: Corporal



Grave of James Francis Wood and Martha Ellen Glover.

Wood Cemetery, Webberville, Travis County, Texas.

USA Find A Grave Memorial# 6905607
Latitude Longitude USGS Map 30.1331N -097.3046W

Griffin's Infantry Battalion was assembled during the early summer of 1862 with six companies. The unit served in the Trans-Mississippi Department along the Texas coast and at Galveston, then in November 1864, merged into the 21st Texas Infantry Regiment. The field officers were Lieutenant Colonel William H. Griffin and Major H. A. Hamner.

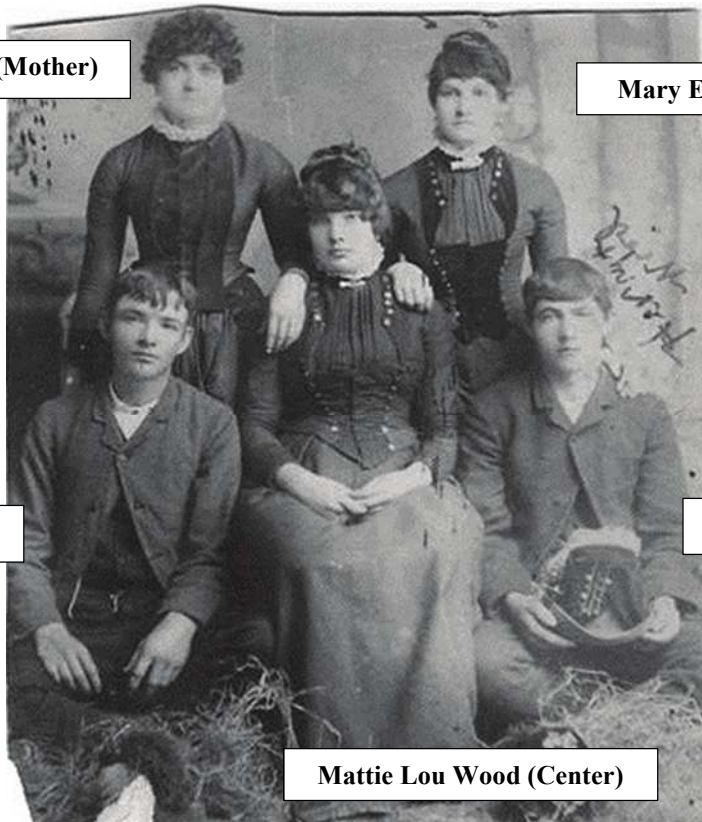
⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

MYSTERY WOOD FAMILY PHOTO: WHO'S WHO?

Martha Ellen Glover Wood (Mother)

Mary Ellen Wood



Lee Edgar Wood

Henry Edwin Wood

Mattie Lou Wood (Center)

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*

I found this photo at *FindAGrave.com* for Henry Edwin Wood (1866-1896) that was added by Eric Wood. It's a Wood family photo of five, the one person identified is Henry Wood with his name written next to him on the right of the photo.

Eric Wood's caption for photo – "I speculate that this is a photo of George Washington Wood's younger siblings: Mary Ellen Wood (1862-1936), Henry Edwin Wood (1866-

1896) (man on right), Lee Edgar Wood (1870-1945), Mattie Lou Wood (1872-1943), and their mother, Martha Ellen Glover Wood (1837-1911)."⁶

From Eric Wood's list of family members that he believes to be in this photo, I have labeled it accordingly.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16353598/henry-edwin-wood>

Based on other identified photos of the two Wood sisters, Mary and Mattie, and their mother, Martha Ellen Glover Wood, the mother could be the older woman in the top left of the mystery photo. She resembles the known photo of Martha (shown below).



Martha Ellen Glover Wood

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*



Mattie Lou Wood

*Photo from the collection of Margispoppa
(FindAGrave.com)
Used with permission*

Mattie Lou Wood could be the girl in the center of the photo as she appears to be around 13 years of age. She also resembles the known photo of Mattie shown at the top right of the page.

Mary Ellen Wood closely resembles woman who is kneeling in the photo to the right, only with lighter hair.

Lee Edgar Wood is on the left, which means Henry Edwin Wood would be on the right.

Again, I am only guessing as to who's who.



James Francis Wood with his children.

**Standing: George Washington Wood Sr., Mattie Lou Wood,
Sitting: Mary Ellen "Mollie" Wood, James Francis Wood Sr.,
Lee Edgar Wood.**

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*

GEORGE WASHINGTON WOOD-FARMER, STOCK-RAISER AND GINNER

“George W. Wood, a farmer, stock-raiser and ginner of Bastrop county, was born in Travis county, Texas, February 12, 1855, a son of James and Martha (Glover) Wood, natives of Alabama. The parents were married in this State in 1849, and located in Travis county, where the father still resides. During the late war he was detailed by the Government as freighter and beef driver. Since locating in Travis county he has occupied two different farms, and still owns a fine place near

Webberville.”⁷ George and Mollie (Stewart) Wood were the parents of ten children.

“George W.(Washington) Wood, the subject of this sketch, remained at home until twenty-five years of age, and was engaged in farming at the old homestead until 1887. In that year he bought his present farm, consisting of 600 acres in the Colorado river valley, 250 acres of which is cultivated. Mr. Wood is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He is also



The children of George W. Wood, abt 1925, Webberville, Texas, USA.

(l to r): Ernest Marion Wood, Cecil Stewart Wood, Jessie Pearl Wood, Eulalia Helen Wood, Ethel Floy Wood, Dixie Dot “Dottie” Wood, Vera Myrtle Wood, unknown woman (could be Alta Juanita Wood), Norman Nugent “Bud” Wood.

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*

⁷ Article and book pages Sources: “The Lone Star State, History of Texas” together with a biographical history of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1893. p. 733. From “The Portal to Texas History” <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph29785/>.

half owner in two steam-power gins, which are furnished with all modern improvements.

“In 1877, our subject was united in marriage with Miss (Mary) Molly P. (Price) Stewart, who was born in Missouri in 1862.”⁸

Mollie’s parents were Matthew Pendleton Stewart and Margaret Ann Wagoner.

“Her father who held the rank of Colonel, was killed in the Confederate Army. His widow married a Mr. (Marcus) Martin, and with her family, came to Texas in 1871.”⁹



George Washington Wood family homestead: Webberville, Texas - about 1895.

Aunt Dottie says: “This is the old house where we were all born, located between Webberville and Bastrop, Texas. In the picture you will see standing under the tree:

1st Cecil Wood, 2nd Vera Myrtle Wood, 3rd Ernest Marion Wood.

Then on the porch: Beulah Ellen Wood, George Washington Wood, Eulalia Helen Wood, Mollie Price Wood. Standing on the steps are Jessie Pearl Wood and Ethel Floy Wood.”

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

Children of Matthew and Margaret (Wagoner) Stewart:

- Thomas Wilson "Thos" Stewart (1849-1886), married Carrie Hemphill (1854-).
- Nancy Henrietta "Bettie" Stewart (1853-1940), wife of W.P. Burns, Justice of the Peace of Elgin.
- Virgal Alexander Stewart (1856-1929), a farmer of Bastrop County, married Louisa M. Osborn.
- Robert F. Stewart (1858-1888).
- Mary "Mollie" Price Stewart (1862-1901), married George W. Wood.

Children of Marcus and Margaret (Wagoner) Martin:

- Fannie Martin (1870-1953), wife of Arthur Fanville.

George W. Wood "takes an active interest in everything for the advancement of his community, is identified with the Democratic party, and is a member of the Knights of Honor. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church."¹⁰

Children of George and Mollie Wood:

- Beulah Ellen Wood (1879-1896), died at age 17.
- Ernest Marion Wood (1881-1945), married Camilla Eugenia Adair (1881-1928).
- Jessie Pearl Wood (1884-1979), married William Haywood Haynes (1878-1954).

- Ethel Floy Wood (1886-1966), married David Augustus Adair (1876-1951).
- Vera Myrtle Wood (1888-1972), married Hubert Vescie Johnson (1884-1962).
- Cecil Stewart Wood (1892-1955), married Stella Ruth "Pim" Edwards (1893-1985).
- Eulalia Helen Wood (1893-1976), married 1st George Belton Holland (1890-1968), 2nd W. C. Wilkins (- 1930), 3rd Henry Clay Miles (1879-1939), 4th Isaac Octave Sauberan (1875-1952).
- Dixie Dot "Dottie" Wood (1895-1999), married Bonnie Burke Dyess (1893-1967).
- Norman Nugent "Bud" Wood (1897-1925), married Alma Collins Brennan (1900-1935).
- Forrest McKinley Wood (1900-1901).

One year and seven months after the birth of her last child, Forrest, both Mary "Mollie" Price Stewart and Forrest died of smallpox. George W. Wood re-married to Sallie Ann Carpenter on 16 November 1904.

Children of George and Sallie Wood:

- Alta Juanita Wood (1906-1995), married James Malcolm Jackson (1904-1986).
- George Washington Wood Jr. (1912-2003), married Mildred Pauline Singleton (1914-1990).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*



George Washington Wood

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*



George Washington Wood and family: Webberville, Texas – about 1918.

This Wood Family photo was not labeled but the author can identify the two men sitting:

Left: George Washington Wood

Right: James Francis Wood

Standing: George Washington Wood's children with spouses and grandchildren.

*Photo from the collection of Joe Ratliff
Used with permission*

EULALIA HELEN WOOD – OWNER OF RENTAL PROPERTIES



**1st and 3rd photos are from Eulalia's 2nd marriage to W.C. Wilkins, 10 August 1922.
The center photo is of Eulalia Helen Wood at the age of 18 months.**

Photos from the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr

Eulalia Helen Wood was the daughter of George Washington Wood Sr., and Mary "Mollie" Price Stewart. She was one of ten children. Eulalia's mother died of smallpox when she was eight. I remember visiting Grandma Miles with my mom and dad many times. She loved to sit out in her azalea garden. She died in 1976 when I was thirteen.

I was told by my aunt, Patricia, that her Grandma Eulalia was a hard-nosed businesswoman. Eulalia was a very smart woman who knew how to make money. Patricia remembered her uncle, George Curtis Holland, her father, Howard Weldon Holland's only brother, saying one time after

Patricia was grown, that his mother was "smarter than any 25 men put together!" She knew how to turn a profit with the 17 (or more) rental properties she owned. My Aunt Patricia remembers going along as a child with her grandma collecting the monthly rents. Each rental had its own envelope that was placed in a box. Patricia held the box while grandma drove to each of the rentals.

Aunt Patricia also remembers at the age of seven when she and her two siblings were picked up from school by her Grandma Eulalia, being told they would be living with grandma from then on.

Sometime after aunt Patricia's mother, Jessie Mae "Julie" Blair, divorced her father Howard, her mother, Julie (Eulalia's daughter-in-law), realized she was not able to work and take care of three young children. Julia knew her ex-mother-in-law was "well off" and lived in a big house off of Enfield Road. She knew her children would be taken care of with their grandma. One morning after taking her children to school, she went over to Eulalia's house and made arrangements for the children to live with her.

In 1947, Eulalia filed for custody of her son Howard Weldon Holland's three young children – Patricia Dawn Holland, George Lee Holland and Helen Joan Holland.

Eulalia Helen Wood's first marriage was to George Belton Holland on 16 July 1909. At the age of sixteen, Eulalia met George Belton Holland through two of her older siblings,



Standing beside the family car are Grandma Miles' two sons: Howard Weldon Holland (1914-1992) and George Curtis Holland (1916-2008).

Photo from the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr



Eulalia Helen Wood 1950's.

*Photo from the collection of Patricia Dawn Rivera
Used with permission*

Ethel Floy Wood and Ernest Marion Wood. They in turn, married two of George's cousins – David Augustus Adair and Camilla Eugenia Adair. Eulalia's marriage to George Belton Holland only lasted nine years. They had two sons – Howard Weldon Holland (1914-1992) and George Curtis Holland (1916-2008). Eulalia's second marriage was to W.C. Wilkins on 10 August 1922. From the 1930 United States Census, it looks like Eulalia owned rental property in Temple, Texas during the 1920s. Census information:

Occupation: Proprietor
Industry: Apartment H
Class of Worker: Working on own account.

Eulalia's third marriage was in about 1932 to Henry Clay Miles, while still living in Temple. They moved to Austin, Texas soon after their marriage. Their home address was 1508 Enfield Road, on the corner of Enfield Road and Marshall Lane. Eulalia became widowed around 1939.

Eulalia's fourth marriage was in about 1941 to Isaac Octave Sauberan. The census shows his

occupation as a painter. Their marriage lasted only a few years, ending in divorce. The year following the divorce, Sauberan married his third wife, Eunice Julia Deason, who was the mother of Eulalia's ex-daughter-in-law, Jessie Mae Blair. In the divorce settlement, Sauberan received one or both boardinghouses on the corner of Congress Avenue and 15th Street, owned by Eulalia.



Grandma Miles' three grandchildren who she raised.

**Top right: Patrica Dawn Holland born 1940;
Center: Helen Joan Holland (1942-1989);
Left is the author's Dad: George Lee Holland (1941-2004).**

Photo from the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr

EULALIA'S AUSTIN, TEXAS HOME/RENTAL PROPERTIES:

In the early 1930s, Eulalia began purchasing rental properties such as houses, duplexes, boardinghouses, apartments, and family-rumored flophouses in Austin, Texas. She liked to buy houses in clusters of three or four on the same street, so she wouldn't have to drive everywhere to collect the rent. The residence at 1508 Enfield Road, was the house

she purchased with her third husband, Henry Clay Miles, when she first moved to Austin in 1932. It was her home until her death in 1976. In the 1960s she divided it into four apartments. She built a one-bedroom brick building in the backyard, with many windows, so she could be closer to her azalea gardens.

OTHER AUSTIN RENTAL PROPERTIES:



Grandma Miles sitting beside her azalea gardens on 1508 Enfield Road.

From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr

- 102 East 15th Street (boardinghouse) on the corner of 15th Street and Congress Avenue (Lost in the divorce settlement to Sauberan).
- 1501 North Congress Avenue (boardinghouse) on the corner of 15th Street facing Congress Avenue.
- 1701 North Congress Avenue (a wedding gift to her son Howard, my Dad's childhood home up to the age of six).
- 2106 Newfield Lane (a wedding gift to George).
- 2108 Newfield Lane (a wedding gift to Pat).

- 2104 Newfield Lane (a wedding gift to Joan).
- 2200 Newfield Lane (a wedding gift to her son Curtis).
- 552 Harris Avenue (duplex).
- 550 Harris Avenue (duplex).
- 555 Harris Avenue (duplex).
- 1818 West 38th Street (duplex).
- 1816 West 38th Street (duplex).
- 1810 West 38th Street (duplex).
- 1812 West 38th Street (duplex).
- 1703 West 34th Street (house).
- 1701 West 34th Street (house).
- 3310 Jefferson Street (house).
- 3308 Jefferson Street (house).

FLOPHOUSE/BOARDINGHOUSES

I have two relatives that can confirm that Eulalia owned a flophouse/boardinghouse, east of Congress Avenue on East 3rd or 4th Street (the exact address is unknown).

In the 1930s, this area of Austin, Texas was near the railroad tracks and was considered “undesirable.”



Eulalia Helen Wood's rental house, 2106 Newfield Lane, was purchased in the 1930s. This rental property was given as a wedding gift to her grandson George Lee Holland.

Photo from the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr

First confirmation:

My grandmother, Julie Norris, was telling me stories about her ex-mother-in-law, who owned flophouses/boardinghouses.

Second confirmation:

Aunt Judy Petri told me that when my Grandpa Petri found out that his daughter Nancy Petri was going to marry George Lee Holland, the grandson of Eulalia, he wanted to know more about George's family. He found out that Eulalia owned some flophouses/boardinghouses back in the 1930s.

They were located east of Congress Avenue on 3rd or 4th Street, a street that dipped down where there were some rundown houses, close to the railroad tracks.

I asked my Aunt Patricia if she knew anything about Grandma Miles owning flophouses. She said she didn't recall anything about her owning a flophouse. Patricia thinks it might have been another boardinghouse just run down a bit. I am thinking that Grandma Miles must have sold those properties long before her three grandchildren moved in to live with her.



Eulalia Helen Wood's rental house, 2108 Newfield Lane was purchased in the 1930s. This rental property was given as a wedding gift to her granddaughter Patricia Dawn Holland.

*Photo from the collection of Patricia Dawn Rivera
Used with permission*

SEARCHING FOR JOHN CRAWFORD

By AGS Member Kay Dunlap Boyd

Recently I received a research request stating:

“I am researching my family. My great grandfather was born and died in Manor, Texas. I would like to find out where he and my great grandmother are buried. His name was John Crawford and his wife was Fannie Black (Crawford) who lived in Manor.”

I usually don't take on broad research requests like “I am looking for my family” but instead prefer to answer specific questions. But, I began looking to see what I could find, knowing that the old country cemeteries are not well maintained and have no burial records. I had reservations that I could even find anything.

I started with the death certificates on the website *familysearch.org* and then visited *findagrave.com*. There, I found a name that matched in Evergreen Cemetery, an African-American burial ground located in Austin, Texas on East 12th Street. The inventory listing was posted from the burial information done by Austin Genealogical Society (AGS) member Robert Sage. It stated the burial date only with no tombstone.

By going back to Robert's work, I located other family members buried with John Crawford in lot A-247. Listed here were his wife Fannie, and daughters; Mable, Beatrice and May Bell. These records were confirmed with parents and dates by the death certificates on *familysearch.org*.

Not only was I able to identify their children, but the Austin City Directories on *HeritageQuest*, also gave their addresses. The census on this site listed the birth month, year, occupations and who lived in the home. I also found a woman who I believe from existing information was John's mother, Manda, whom he lived with in 1880.

John Crawford was born 24 April 1855/1858, in Texas and died 18 December 1944, in Austin, Travis County, Texas. John's mother, Manda Crofford [Crawford], was born in Alabama in about 1832. John married Fannie Black on 18 December 1877. Fannie was born on 4 January 1860/1866, in Virginia, the daughter of Sam Black and Mary Jane. She died 14 April 1929, in Austin, Travis County, Texas. They are both buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

The 1900 United States Census states Fannie had 12 children. There are three children/infants in the Oakwood Cemetery (also located in Austin, Texas) database who could be children of John and Fannie but hasn't been proved. I also found a black

female who was born in Alabama named Amanda Crawford, who died of consumption and was buried on 28 July 1894. This might be John's mother as she is not found in the 1900 census and is not listed in the city directory after 1893.

Children of JOHN CRAWFORD and FANNIE BLACK are:

- Samuel, born 1879 in Travis County, Texas.
- Kate, born February 1880, Travis County, Texas; died 29 February 1940, Austin, Travis County, Texas, (married Green).
- Louis Crawford, born 14 August 1885, Travis County, Texas; died 26 December 1953, Los Angeles, California.
- Beatrice Crawford, born 7 June 1891, Travis County, Texas; died 14 May 1968, Austin, Travis County, Texas, (married Collins).
- Maude Crawford, born 22 November 1893; died 22 February 1976, Austin, Travis County, Texas, (married Ollie Wilson by 1920).
- John William Crawford Jr., born 25 November 1896, Austin, Travis County, Texas; died 29 November 1976, Los Angeles, California.
- Mabel Crawford, born June 1899, Travis County, Texas; died 1 February 1944, Austin, Travis County, Texas, (married Williams after 1930).
- May Bell Crawford, born 1904, Austin, Travis County, Texas; died 2 October 1942, Austin, Travis County, Texas, (married Mishael Hayden).

Digging further, I found a photo of John along with his slave narrative (as told by John Crawford himself) which gave his mother's name and told about his life and where he lived in the Manor area.¹

John Crawford, 81, was born a slave on Judge Thompson Rector's plantation at Manor, Texas. After emancipation, John was a share-cropper. He has always lived in Travis County and is now cared for by a daughter (sic) at Austin.



John Crawford

<http://genealogytrails.com/tex/state/slavenarra19.htm>

¹ <http://genealogytrails.com/tex/state/slavenarra19.htm>; Originally sourced from: Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narrative Project, Vol. 16, Texas, Part 1, Adams-Duhon. 1936. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mesn161/>.

"John Crawford am me. It am eighty-one years since I's borned and dat's on de old Rector plantation where Manor am now. It wasn't dere den. I knowed the man it was named after.

"Ma's name was Viney Rector and the old judge brung her from Alabama. She milked all the cows two times a day and I had to turn out all de calves. Sometimes dey'd git purty rough and go right to dere mammies.

"Pap's name was Tom Townes, 'cause he 'longed on de Townes place. He was my step-pap and when I's growed I tooken my own pap's name, what was Crawford. I never seed him, though, and didn't know nothin' much 'bout him. He's sold away 'fore I's borned.

"Pap Townes could make most everythin'. He made turnin' plows and hossshoe nails and a good lot of furniture. He was purty good to me, 'siderin' he wasn't my own pap. I didn't have no hard time, noway. I had plenty bacon and side-meat and 'lasses. Every Sunday mornin' the jedge give us our rations for de week. He wasn't short with dem, neither.

"Many was de time Injuns come to Jedge Rector's place. Dem Injuns beg for somethin' and the jedge allus give dem somethin'. They wasn't mean Injuns, jes' allus beggin'.

"I can't read and write to this day. Nobody ever larnt me my A B C's and I didn't git no chance at school.

"On Christmas mornin' Massa Rector come out and give each man and woman a big, red pocket handkerchief and a bottle of liquor. He buyed dat liquor by de barrel and liked it hisself. Dat why he allus had it on de place.

"One mornin' the jedge done send word down by de cook for nobody to go to de fields dat day. We all want up to de big house and de jedge git up to make de speech, but am too choke up to talk. He hated to lose he slaves, I reckon. So his son-in-law has to say, 'You folks am now free and can go where you wants to go. You can stay here and pick cotton and git fifty cents de hunerd.' But only two families stayed. De rest pulled out.

"After freedom we rented land on de halves. Some niggers soon got ahead and rented on de third or fourth. When you rent that-a-way you git three bales and de boss git one. But you has to buy you own teams and seed and all on dat plan.

"Its a fac' we was told we'd git forty acres and a mule. Dat de talk den, but we never did git it.

"De Ku Klux made a lot of devilment round-
about dat county. Dey allus chasin' some
nigger and beatin' him up. But some dem
niggers sho' 'serve it. When dey gits free, dey
gits wild. Dey won't work or do nothin' and
thinks dey don't have to. We didn't have no
trouble, 'cause we stays on de farm and works
and don't have no truck with dem wild niggers.

"In 1877 I marries Fannie Black at de town of
Sprinkle. It wasn't sech a town, jes' a li'l place.

Me and her stayed married fifty-two years and
four months. She died and left me eight year
ago. We had seven chillen and they is all livin'.
Four is here in Austin and two in California
and one in Ohio.

"I gits a li'l pension, \$9.00 de month, and my
gal, Susie, takes care of me. I ain't got long to
go now 'fore de Lawd gwine call me."

SOURCES: *(all free)*

<http://genealogytrails.com/tex/state/slavenarra19.htm>

<http://library.austintexas.gov/database/heritagequest-online>

<http://www.austinlibrary.com/ahc/oakwood.htm>

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/mesn.161/?sp=4>

www.austintxgensoc.org/cemeteries

www.familysearch.org

www.findagrave.com

GRIFF

Pictures from Griff's Life

By AGS Member Glenda Lassiter

In 1990, when Griff was 82 years old, he recorded the story of his life on audio tapes. He left the tapes to his daughter, Glenda Lassiter, asking her to write his memoir from them.

Griff (Gordon Oscar Griffitts) was born in 1908 near Jermyn, Texas (founded 1902) in Jack County. When he was six and after his father's death from appendicitis in 1914, Griff's mother, Cora, raised her four children with the help of 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 State Teachers College in Denton, Texas (now The University of North Texas), for a two-year program to earn a teaching certificate. These hopes seemed smashed when he underwent an emergency appendectomy only six weeks before exams; However, as soon as Griff had recovered from the surgery, the Dean of Students allowed him to take his exams – eventually securing his State of Texas Teaching Certificate.

Chapters 1-9 are serialized in the Austin Genealogical Society Quarterly:

Chapter 1 – "Sand" (December 2015 Vol. 56 No. 4)

Chapter 2 – "A Child in Texas" (June 2016 Vol. 57 No. 2)

Chapter 3 – "Graduation" (September 2016 Vol. 57 No. 3)

Chapter 4 – "Leaving Home" (December 2016 Vol. 57 No. 4)

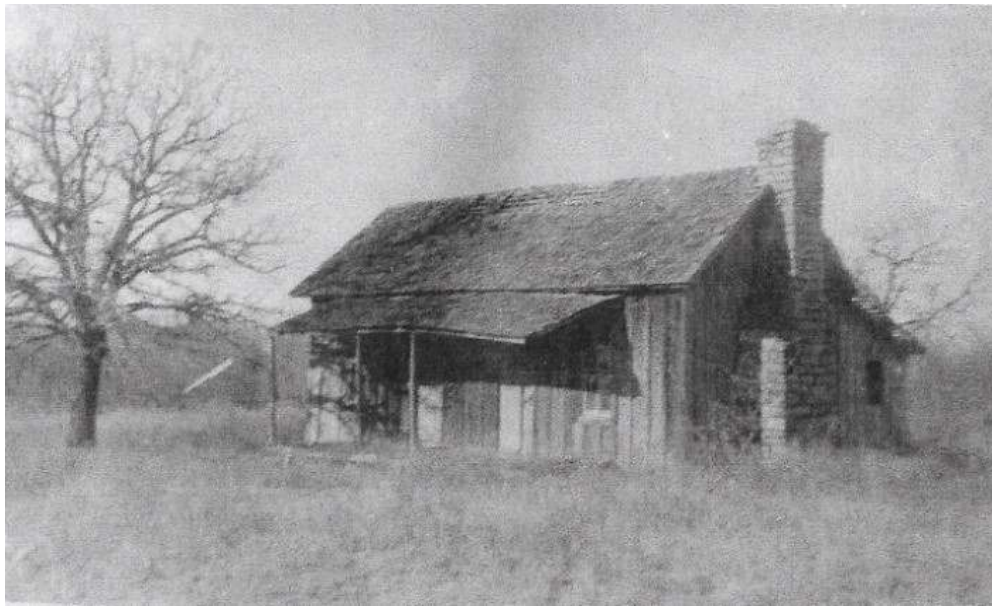
Chapter 5 – "Denton" (March 2017 Vol. 58 No. 1)

Chapter 6 – "College" (June 2017 Vol. 58 No. 2)

Chapter 7 - "The Deal" (September 2017 Vol. 58 No. 3)

Chapter 8 – "Last Year of College" (December 2017 Vol. 58 No. 4)

Chapter 9 – "Exams" (Spring 2018 Vol. 59 No. 1)

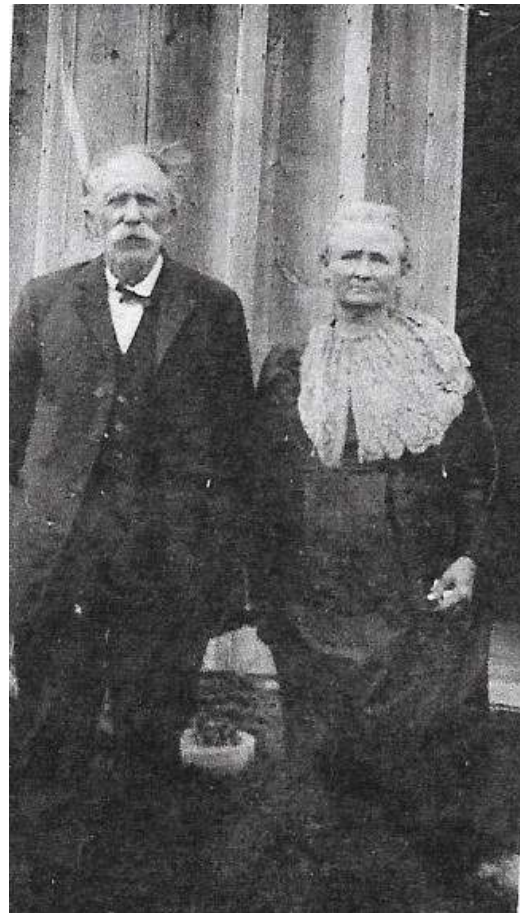


**Griff's birthplace home
Jack County, Texas**

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

The house pictured above is the birthplace of Gordon Oscar Griffitts who was born here on 21 June 1908. The house was constructed between 1900-1902, two and a half miles southeast of Vineyard, Texas in Jack County on an 80-acre farm. It was built by Oscar L. and Cora Margaret Allen Griffitts. The picture was developed in 1970.

The picture to the right is of Griff's grandparents, Sarah Ann Allen and John M. Allen, taken about 1900. John M. Allen lived until 1902. Sarah Ann Allen, lived with Cora after Griff's father, Oscar Griffitts, died in 1914. Grandma Allen helped with the four children, teaching Griff how to read before he even started school.



**John M. and Sarah Ann Allen –
about 1900**

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

Pictured to the right is the gravestone of John M. Allen,

Private; Company A, 5th
Regiment Tennessee Cavalry
Confederate States Army.

John Allen was seriously injured in the war and received a pension and a promissory note for 20 acres of land in Texas. The pension helped support Griff's family after his own father died in 1914.



John M. Allen's gravestone

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

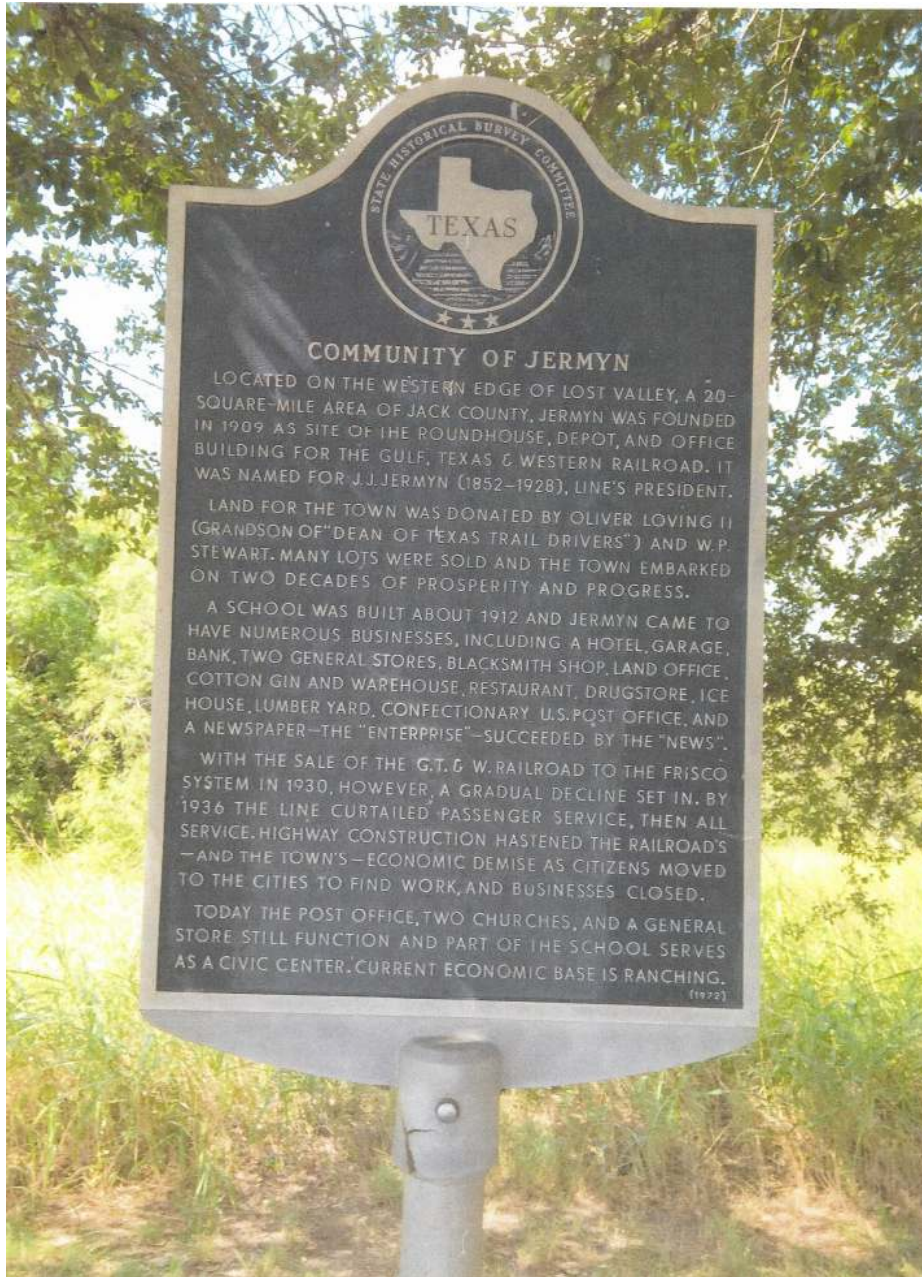


**Griff and Grandma Allen at the Griffiths' family home
Jermyn, Texas 1914**

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

The picture above was taken in 1914 of the Griffiths' house in Jermyn, Texas that Griff's father built in 1912. In the doorway you can see a young Griff in overalls with his hand to his mouth.

This was the year that Griff's father Oscar died. The ladies standing beside the house are: Grandma Allen (Sarah Ann Elton Bloodworth Allen) and two nieces.



**This picture of the historic marker in Jermyn, Texas was taken in 2017.
Texas State Historical Marker - Community of Jermyn, Texas**

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter



Cora Allen Griffitts – 1932

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

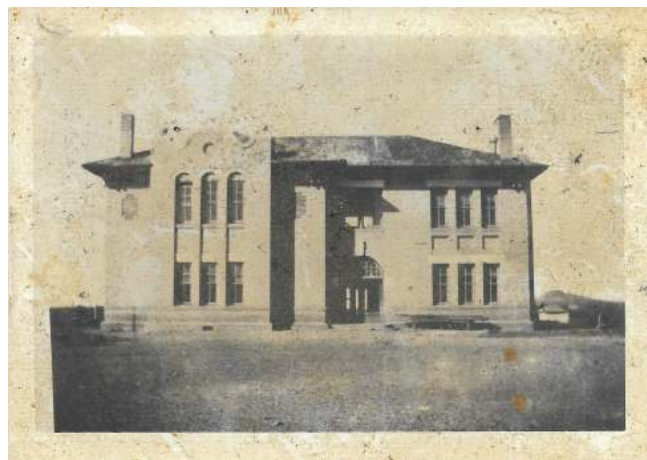
This photo is of Griff's mother, Cora Allen Griffitts, taken in 1932.



Gordon Oscar Griffitts "Griff" – 1932

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

In this picture taken in 1924-25, Griff's is 16-years-old, and is in his first year at North Texas State Teachers College (NTSTC) in Denton, Texas.



Griff's school in Jermyn, Texas

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

Pictured to the left is the school Griff attended in Jermyn, Texas. He graduated in 1924 at the age of 15.

An avid cigarette smoker from the age of 12, Griff is pictured in the foreground with his best friend Dutch Lorenz (on the left) and Desda Stubblefield (on the right) in 1925.

Pictured below is Griff's yearbook picture from NTSTC in 1926 – the year of his graduation after a traumatic emergency appendectomy and facing his final exams unprepared.



Dutch, Desda and Griff – 1925

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter



Griff's NTSTC yearbook picture – 1926

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

At the top of the next page are two pictures of Griff and Desda on the NTSTC campus in 1926. Both were taken on Sunday mornings and both all dressed up to go to church



Griff and Desda dressed up for church – 1926

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter



Griff and Desda pose on a Sunday morning in on the NTSTC campus in front of her boarding house - 1926

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

Griff wore his hat at a jaunty angle. Here he is at the right of the picture posing with Dutch on the far left and another friend in the center.



Dutch, unknown friend, and Griff – 1926

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

Below is a candid picture of Desda Eloise Stubblefield. Desda was from Cisco, Texas. This picture was taken at NTSTC in 1925-26 during her first year of college.



Desda Eloise Stubblefield – 1926-1926

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter



Desda and Lanelle – 1926

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

Here we find two pictures of Desda and her best friend Lanelle Calloway posing in front of their boarding house at NTSTC in 1926.



Desda's yearbook photo

Photo from the collection of Glenda Lassiter

Acknowledgment: Thanks to my friend Carla Penny for scanning these pictures.

Griff Chapter 10 will continue soon...

THE WILLIAM A. AND RITHA ANN TOWNSLEY FAMILY OF BEAR CREEK

Pioneers of Travis County, Texas

By Diane Townsley Hardy, Debbie Townsley Schuessler, Donna Townsley Bonner, and Denise Townsley Johnson

WILLIAM A. TOWNSLEY

William A. Townsley was born in 1821 in Tennessee and died 3 February 1875, in Travis County, Texas.

Ritha Ann Townsley (nee Ragsdale) was born in 1829 in Alabama, and died November 1856, in Travis County, Texas.

In or around 1856, William A. Townsley and his wife Rita Ann (nee Ragsdale) Townsley, came to Travis County, Texas with their children. This is verified by the following documentation:

- William A. Townsley's first land transaction – recorded on 5 April 1856, from Walker Wilson and wife, in Book

K, Page 363, of Travis County Deed Records. Description: Walker Wilson League #2. 89 ½ acres on south bank of Bear Creek.¹

- Ritha Ann's *Schedule of Separate Property* was filed on 11 March 1856, in Volume K, Pages 295-296, of Travis County Deed Records.²
- Ritha Ann died intestate in November 1856. Her husband, William A. Townsley, provided a *Release of her Schedule of Separate Property* to their children on 27 June 1857 – Recorded on 11 August 1857, in Volume L, Page 522, of Travis County Deed Records.³
- The document, *Mary A. Ruby, et al to Affidavit – Public*, provides details on

¹ Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Reverse Index to Deeds 1842-1893 S-Z (transcript), book, 1842/1893; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph864834/m1/324/?q=%22Townsley%22:accessed May 10, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

² Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Reverse Index to Deeds 1842-1893 S-Z (transcript), book, 1842/1893; texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph864834/m1/321/?q=Townsley: accessed May 10, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

³ *Ibid.*

the children of (a) William A. Townsley and Ritha Ann (nee Ragsdale), and (b) William A. Townsley and Susan E. (nee Ragsdale) Townsley, who married 28 December 1856, in Travis County, Texas. The affidavit details who had an interest in the 135 ½ acres of land out of the Walker Wilson League in Travis County. The affidavit was filed on 30 December 1899, and recorded 8 January 1900, in Volume 159, Pages 454-455, of Travis County Deed Records.⁴

The 1850 United States Census⁵ shows William A. (W.A.) and Ritha Ann Townsley in Cass County, Texas farming next to Ritha Ann's father, W. R. Ragsdale, step-mother, and brothers and sisters. William A. and Ritha Ann had two daughters at the time – Susan Ann and Martha Jane – ages two and one, respectively. Although Ritha died before the 1860 United States census, William's *Release of Ritha Ann Townsley's Separate Property* on 27 June 1857, provides the identity of the rest of their children – John W. Townsley, Jefferson W. Townsley, and James W.

Townsley. Ritha Ann and Susan Elizabeth Ragsdale's mother was Mary Birdwell. They came from Alabama. These statements are verified by Susan Elizabeth Ragsdale Townsley's death certificate (shown at the top of the next page).

The Affidavit of January 1900 provides a summary as to whom W. A. Townsley married and when, the subsequent children from each wife, and that W. A. Townsley died on 3 February 1875. Finally, the Affidavit states the heirs, save and except, Jefferson W. Townsley (who had previously conveyed all of his interest to Mrs. Susan E. Townsley), conveyed their interest in the tract of 135 ½ acres of land out of the Walker Wilson League in Travis County, Texas to H. F. Townsley. William A. Townsley married Susan Elizabeth Ragsdale on 28 December 1856, in Travis County, Texas and of said marriage the following children were born – D. W. Townsley, Mary A. Townsley, George W. Townsley, R. Lee Townsley, Lucy L. Townsley, H. F. Townsley, R. L. Townsley, and E. C. Townsley.

⁴ Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 159, book, 1898-11/1900-04;(texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph975493/m1/460/: accessed May 10, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

⁵ <https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8054/4191103-00333/6839445?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/55642667/person/13850830089/facts/citation/120280738920/edit/record>.

LIVE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD where stillborn is given as cause of Death, file Birth Certificate. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

1 PLACE OF DEATH		TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		Registrar's No. <u>2487</u>	
State of Texas		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		Standard Certificate of Death.	
COUNTY OF <u>Dallas</u>		CITY OR PRECINCT <u>Dallas</u>		No. <u>6139</u>	Street <u>La Vista Drive</u>
FULL NAME OF DECEASED <u>Susan Elizabeth Townsley</u>		Residence <u>6139</u>		Street <u>La Vista Drive</u>	
Length of residence in city where death occurred <u>20</u> yrs. <u></u> mos. <u></u> days		How long in U. S. <u></u> yrs. <u></u> mos. <u></u> days		<u>47795</u>	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL PARTICULARS		
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word) <u>widowed</u>	16. DATE OF DEATH <u>October 11</u> 19 <u>30</u>		
3a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of <u>William A. Townsley</u> (or) WIFE of <u></u>			17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>October 8</u> , 19 <u>30</u> , to <u>October 11</u> , 19 <u>30</u>		
6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, and year) <u>September 8-1892</u>			that I last saw her alive on <u>October 11</u> , 19 <u>30</u>		
7. AGE	Yrs. <u>98</u>	Months <u>1</u>	Days <u>2</u>	and that death occurred on the date stated above, at <u>10 a.m.</u>	
OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <u>Retired Housewife</u>			The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Fracture of right hip accidental fall</u>		
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u></u>			duration <u></u> yrs. <u>8</u> ds.		
9. BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Alabama</u>			CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) <u>Shock</u>		
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>William Ragsdale</u>			18. Where was disease contracted <u>Dallas</u>		
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Alabama</u>			if not at place of death? <u>No</u>		
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mary Birdwell</u>			Did an operation precede death? <u>No</u> Date of <u></u>		
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Alabama</u>			Was there an autopsy? <u>No</u>		
14. Signature of informant <u>Mrs. E. M. Clark</u>			What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>Clinical</u>		
Address <u>Dallas, Tex.</u>			(Signed) <u>J. Marshall</u> M. D.		
15. FILED <u>Oct 11</u> 19 <u>30</u>			19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Austin, Texas</u>		
20. UNDERTAKER <u>R. A. Brewer</u>			DATE OF BURIAL <u>10/11 1930</u>		
By <u>J. Marshall</u>			ADDRESS <u>Dallas</u>		

Susan Elizabeth Ragsdale Townsley's death certificate.

We have found that H. Forrest (H.F.) and Robert L. (R.L.) were Texas Rangers in 1892.⁶ Daniel Webster (D.W.) was a minister. D.W. and his mother, Susan, died within a day of each other and were buried on the same day in October 1930. They and a number of others in this family are buried in the Live Oak Cemetery in Manchaca, Texas.

William A. Townsley served as Justice of the Peace in Travis County, Texas Precinct 3, in 1858, 1860-1861, 1862, and 1867.⁷ This information comes from the Travis County Archives. However, as provided by the *Constitution of the Republic of Texas*⁸ and the

⁶https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/service/index.php?formType=name&lastname=Townsley&firstname=&searchType=beginLike&organization_code=&call_no=&dosearch=Search+Now

⁷ <https://www.traviscountyhistory.org/current-and-former-elected-officials-1840-present/>

⁸ <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mhc01>

constitutions of 1845 and 1861,⁹ two justices of the peace were elected biennially.¹⁰ The main duties of the justice of the peace is to preside over the justice court and to act as

coroner; He may also conduct marriage ceremonies.¹¹

Taylor Sam ^l . C. (Cor.)	16
Tenill A. W. (N.P.)	26
Thompson Ja ^s . H. (D.C. & C.K.)	58
Townsley W. A. (J.P.)	84
Same (J.P.)	140
Same (J.P.)	192
Same (J.P.)	300
J. H. Tullis (Toryman)	433
Shawton, William (dep. Shff)	480
Todd, D. A. (J. P. Dr. 1/2 S. bond)	482
Todd, D. A. (Special bond)	483
Taylor A. D. J.P. 13-2-97	

W.A. Townsley (J.P.) Bond Oaths
Index to Bond and Oath Records, Volume 1,
Travis County, Texas.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph713033/>

COUNTY OFFICERS.

263

Hilliard; Surveyor, Geo. Gibson; Coroner, A. A. Hilliard; Notaries Public, Saml. T. Robb, T. D. Withe; Justices of the Peace, John W. Hamilton, Saml. Rich, J. L. Spivey, Wilson N. Brown, Richard H. Wormack, Jefferson Ponder, Absolem Perry, J. N. Kellers, W. D. Wood, J. O. Hesless, J. D. Foster.
TRAVIS COUNTY.—Judge, James W. Smith; County Clerk, Aug. F. Otto; District Clerk, Frank Brown; Assessor and Collector, A. R. Morris; Sheriff, Radcliff Platt; County Commissioners, Wayman F. Wells, T. W. Nolen, Spencer Hardwell, A. O. Horne, Sen.; Treasurer, Leander Brown; Surveyor, John E. Campbell; Notaries Public, Albert Brown, Lawson W. Collins, Ed. Wood, Wilkinson, R. W. Sutor, W. D. Scott, Elbridge Perry; Justices of the Peace, W. A. Townsley, W. D. Scott; County Attorney, Edward T. Moore.
TITUS COUNTY.—Judge, William G. Suggs; County Clerk, Moses J. Giles; District Clerk, Isham Cherry; Sheriff, W. T. White; Assessor and Collector, Joel Arrington; County Commissioners, Alfred Lewellen, R. J. German, James B. Sparks; Treasurer, John H. King; Surveyor, Elam Riddle; Notaries Public, B. F. Wood, John L. Riddle, Humphrey White, Thomas Balin, Edwin G. Rodgers; Justices of the Peace, E. W. Naramore, John H. Carson, Geo. F. Yates, John Stanley, Joseph W. Delifield, James Smith, Alex. Glass, J. B. Proctor, H. P. White, E. B. Rodgers, B. F. Wood, Isaac A. Deaton, James A. Russell, A. Blevins, John W. Cason.

W.A. Townsley Justice of the Peace
The Texas Almanac for 1869 and Emigrant's Guide to Texas.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph123774/m1/195/>

⁹ “*qqv*” means that each item in the preceding series is represented by an article” in The Handbook of Texas Online. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/help/editorial-notes/cross-references>.

¹⁰ <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jqj01>; BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Guide to Texas Laws for County Officials* (Austin: Texas Department of Community Affairs, 1988). Dick Smith, *The Development of Local Government in Texas* (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1938).

¹¹ *Ibid.*

Marriages Conducted by William A. Townsley, Justice of the Peace, Travis County, Texas, Precinct 3					
Date	Groom	Bride	Minister/Official	Book	Page
1867					
12 March	Sneed, George (C)	Nichols, Esther (C)	W.A. Townsley ¹²	2	320
28 July	Finley, G.W.	Gray, Mary Eliza	Justice W.A. Townsley ¹³	2	346
28 August	Waldrup, Onesinus	Ragsdale, Mrs. Mary Jane	Justice W.A. Townsley ¹⁴	2	350
1868					
11 November	Antony, Otto W.	Brown, Nancy Isabella	W.A. Townsley ¹⁵	2	467
1869					
17 March	Nichols, Will	Hughs, Francis	Wm. A. Townsley ¹⁶	2	502
27 March	Rose, Jerry	Wallace, Lucy	Wm. A. Townsley ¹⁷	2	506

Some of the marriages William conducted while Justice of the Peace are listed in the chart above.

William A. Townsley and his family were probably typical of the earliest settlers in the Bear Creek and Manchaca area. Townsley hailed from Tennessee but moved to Texas by 1847 where he married his wife, Susan (a native of Alabama). All of the couples' seven

children were born in Texas. In about 1856, the family moved to Bear Creek where they lived on several hundred acres of land. They put about 15 acres of land in cultivation and the rest was used for pasture or left wooded.

The survey map at the top of the next page shows where W.A. Townsley settled in southern Travis County, Texas on the Walker Wilson, John G. McGehee, and S. F. Slaughter

¹² <http://www.austingensoc.org/records/travis-county-marriages-1846-1882> (Submitted by Robert Sage at the Austin Genealogical Society).

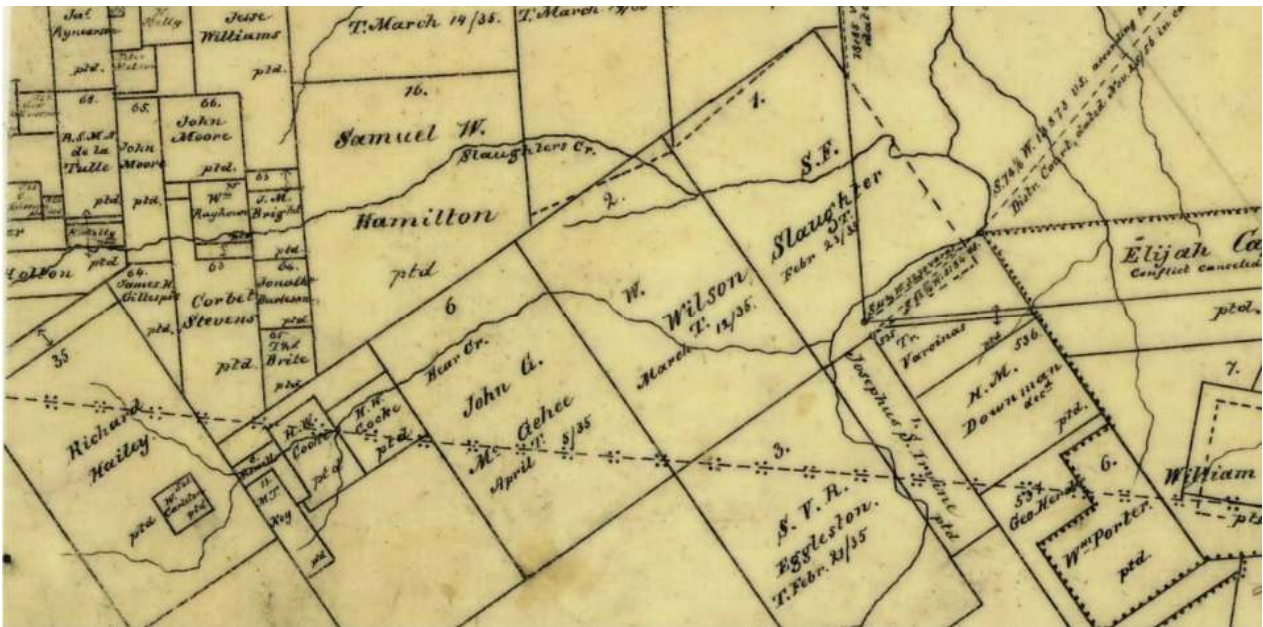
¹³ <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph841235/m1/162/>.

¹⁴ <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph841235/m1/163/>.

¹⁵ <http://www.austingensoc.org/records/travis-county-marriages-1846-1882> (Submitted by Robert Sage at the Austin Genealogical Society).

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*



Travis County survey map of W. Wilson Land Tract re: Townsley between Bear & Slaughter Creeks

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph89017/>

Leagues. Some surveys border and others cross into Hays County. The Townsleys were subsistence farmers who grew corn and garden vegetables for their own use and raised a few head of cattle and about 20 hogs (U.S. Agricultural Census, 1860).

Townsley probably hunted wild game to augment the family diet. The family owned no slaves, so Susan and the older children most likely worked alongside William on the farm. Even so, the three oldest children attended school in 1860.¹⁸

William filed his brand of what appears to be “JT” on 23 May 1866, in Book 1 of the Marks and Brands Record #48, on Page 412.

A chart of land transactions that show William A. Townsley as Grantee in Travis County Deed Records (1856-1874) is shown on the next page.

William and his family were active in the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. This information was provided by the Austin Genealogical Society (AGS) in the second

¹⁸ <http://www.austingensoc.org/records/travis-county-marriages-1846-1882> (Submitted by Robert Sage at the Austin Genealogical Society).

Travis County Deed Records					
Researched and compiled by Diane Townsley Hardy and Donna Townsley Bonner					
Date Filed	Type	Grantor	Grantee	Book/Page	Description
5 April 1856	Deed	Walker Wilson and wife	William A. Townsley	K/363	W. Wilson Survey #2. 89 ½ acres so bank of E \$268
14 November 1870	Deed	William Dickson and wife	W.A. Townsley	49/609	8 acres part of the S.F. Slaughter League – N bank of Onion Creek \$100
4 December 1873	Deed	W.C. Mullins, et.al. (Edward Burleson)	W.A. Townsley	Z/232	238 acres for total of \$720 John G. McGehee League also filed in San Marcos, TX – 2 ac for school and church purposes to W.A.T., W.O. Hutchison, T.J. Elsan, G.H. Ward, Trustees *see promissory note info filed same date
16 January 1874	Deed	C.L. & L.L. Robertson	W.A. Townsley	Z/262	460 acres \$320 in Hays Co, TX
25 April 1874	T. Deed	W.A. Townsley	Wheeler, T.B., Trustee	26/408	Trustee Deed w/24% per annum – Rec'd \$300 from J.C. Harris; due PIF: 3/16/1875. Trustee Deed cancelled. (1) 460 acres in Hays County & (2) 238 acres a portion of the John G. McGehee League in Hays & Travis Counties. Blks 16,17, 18, 20, & 23 and north ½ Blks of 21 & 22.

edition of the 1969 Quarterly, *Christianity in the Wilderness*.¹⁹

William is listed as a member and was the church clerk in 1867. It is recorded that he died in 1875. It also mentions that Susan died but does not give a date. His son, Daniel Webster (D.W.) is listed as the Pastor from 1920-1922 and again from 1927-1929.²⁰

When William was 42-years-old and had a houseful of children to feed, the Civil War broke out. Townsley joined Carter's (sic) Company, a cavalry unit, and served as a private in the Confederate Army.²¹ William A. Townsley served in Captain Cater's Company under Colonel Ford's Command from 1 September 1862, until the end of the war.

¹⁹ <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/1969.2.pdf>

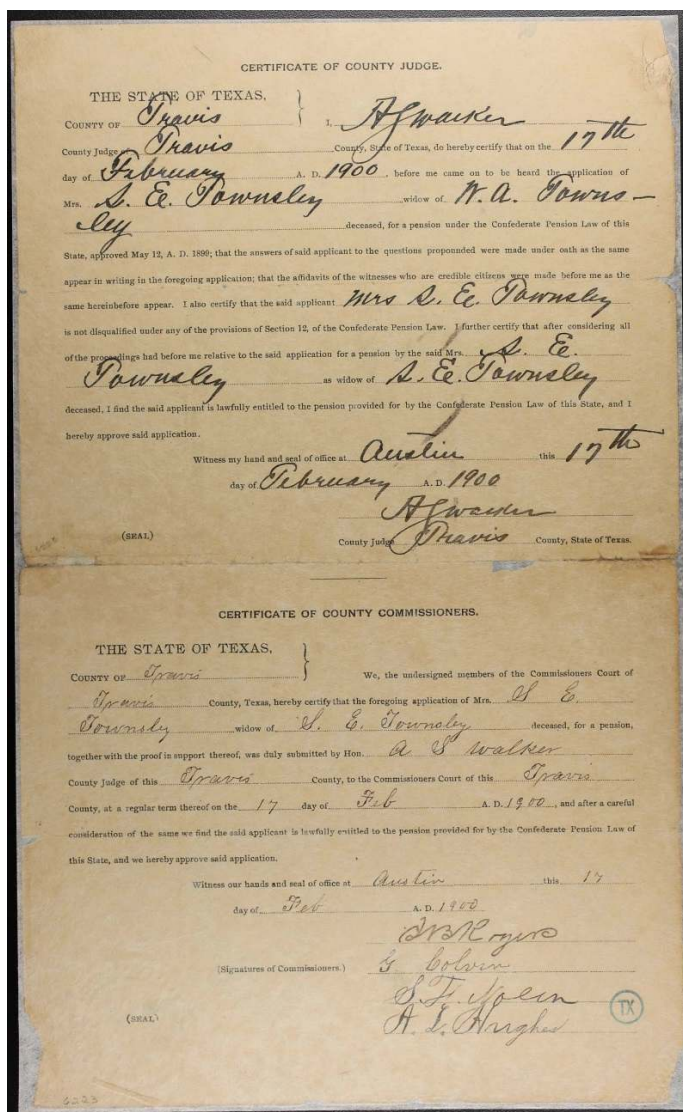
²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/images/historical_commission/Doc/Historical_Reports/sw-tc-fullreportnoapps.pdf (pg. 17/20)

He returned home, went back to farming and was re-elected as Justice of the Peace. He died on 3 February 1875. This is verified by Susan Elizabeth Townsley's pension application of indigent widow of Soldier or Sailor of the late Confederacy under the Act of May 12, 1899, dated 10 August 1899.

Townsley's grave on Bob Johnson Road in Travis County, Texas (Site 36) is the only physical evidence of his life in the Bear Creek area.²² Early settlers often buried their dead on their own property and most of those have been lost to history. An exception is the Townsley burial. A single grave is defined by a rectangular stone wall about 3' in height. It lies within sight of the busy FM 1626 in what is now Manchaca, Texas.²³

After her husband's death in 1875, Susan Townsley remained in her homestead on Bear Creek, about two miles west of present Manchaca, where she ran a small store and donated several acres of land for a local school. The store doubled as a polling place

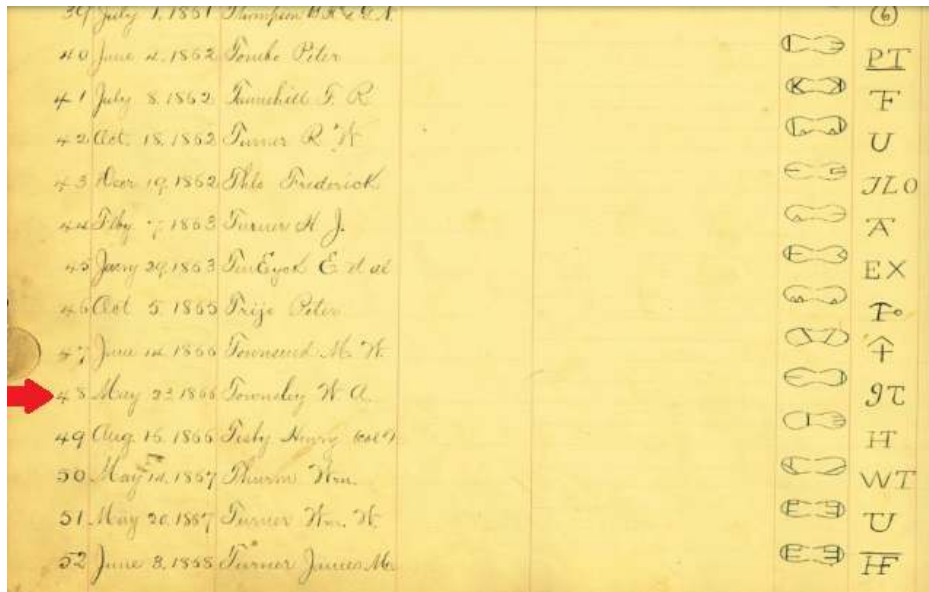


Susan Elizabeth (S.E.) Townsley's application for pension - Austin, Travis County, Texas.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Alabama Department of Archives and History. Alabama, Texas and Virginia, Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*



William A. Townsley's Brand

Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Clerk Records: Marks and Brands Record 1, book, 1840/1893; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metpth834158/; accessed May 6, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office.

for elections.²⁴ The location was fortuitous for Mrs. Townsley as a major community road was forged along her property line in the early 1870s.²⁵ As the towns rose in importance, some of the old community's like that at the Townsley place on Bear Creek, fell by the wayside.²⁶

We believe that Ritha Ann and R. Lee Townsley are buried in the larger area of the rock enclosure.



**William A. Townsley's headstone (1821-1875)
Townsley Cemetery, off of FM 1626,
Manchaca, Texas.**

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family

²⁴ https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/images/historical_commission/Doc/Historical_Reports/sw-tc-fullreportnoapps.pdf (pg. 19/22)

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*



Townsley Cemetery - Manchaca, Texas.

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family



**William A. Townsley's headstone (1821-1875),
Townsley Cemetery - Manchaca, Texas.**

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family



Townsley Cemetery sign - FM 1626, Manchaca, Texas.

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family



Bear Creek subdivision sign - FM 1626, Manchaca, Texas.

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family

JEFFERSON “FEE” WINFIELD TOWNSLEY

Jefferson “Fee” Winfield Townsley was born in 1854 in Texas. He died in 1900 and is buried in the Old Bee Caves Road Cemetery (also known as Dittmar-Bell-Springs-Bassford Cemetery), in Oak Hill, Texas. He married Mary Elizabeth Cantrell Bingham Holder on 16 January 1889, in Austin, Travis County, Texas. She was born 20 December 1858, in Fannin, Goliad County, Texas, and died 1 December 1939. She is buried in Fiskville Cemetery, in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

After Fee passed away, Mary and their two youngest children, Lizzie and Milas, were living in Smithwick, Burnet County, Texas, with her son, Jess Holder, and his family in 1910.²⁷

Jefferson “Fee” Winfield Townsley and Mary Elizabeth Cantrell Bingham Holder Townsley’s Children are:

- William Edward Alvin Townsley, born 27 August 1891, Austin, Travis County, Texas; died about 1945. His burial location is unknown to us.



L-R: Mary Cantrell Bingham Holder Townsley, Jefferson Winfield Townsley, Martha Jane Townsley Garrard.

Photo taken in about 1900, Travis County, Texas.

Unknown Photographer



Milas Scott Townsley with his mother, Mary Cantrell Bingham Holder Townsley.

Photo taken in about 1904.

Unknown Photographer

²⁷ https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7884/4449924_01100/123301610?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/55642667/person/13850635776/facts/citation/46999488745/edit/record.



**Jefferson Winfield (J.W.) Townsley's headstone
(1854-1900),
Dittmar-Bell-Springs-Bassford Cemetery -
Oak Hill, Travis County, Texas.**

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family



**Detail on Jefferson Winfield (J.W.) Townsley's
Headstone.**

*Photo taken by Ken Herman, Austin-American
Statesman, 23 January 2018 issue.*

- Ritha Ann E Townsley, born 18 October 1892, Austin, Travis County, Texas; died 26 April 1966, Austin, Travis County, Texas, buried at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Austin, Travis County, Texas.
- Miles Scott Townsley, born 1 December 1898, Austin, Travis County, Texas; died 9 October 1971, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, buried at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Austin, Travis County, Texas.²⁸

Mary's children from previous marriages:

- James Riley Bingham, born 1878; died 1933, Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas, buried in Pond Springs Cemetery, Jollyville, Williamson County, Texas.
- Jesse Holder, born 1879; died 19 October 1927, in Austin, Travis County, Texas, buried in Fiskville Cemetery, Travis County, Texas.

²⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43334650>

Miles Scott Townsley married Hattie Mae Evans in about 1920. She was born on 2 December 1897, in Grayson County, Texas, died 1963, buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Austin, Texas. They had seven children, four boys and three girls:

- Miles Raymond (1921-1993), married Ethel “Callie” Marie Smiley (1923-1998).
- Charles Alvin (1925-1926), Austin Travis, Texas.
- James Monroe (1927-2016), married Lelia Louise Yett (1931-2017).
- Betty Louise (1930-1988), married James Leonard Pogue Jr. (1922-1977).
- Mary Margaret (1932-1999), married Kenneth Wayne Pogue (1930-1999).
- Mildred Ann (1936-1993), married John Leroy Campbell (1932-1996).
- Johnny Scott (1939-1990), married Marjorie Nell Starks (1942-2015).



**Mary Townsley’s headstone,
20 December 1858 to 1 December 1939,
Fiskville Cemetery - Austin, Texas.**

Photo from the collection of the Townsley Family



**Miles Scott Townsley and Hattie Mae Evans
Townsley. Photo taken in about 1920.**

Unknown Photographer

The Townsley Family

This article about the William A. and Ritha Ann (nee Ragsdale) Townsley Family was researched and written by: Diane Townsley Hardy, Debbie Townsley Schuessler, Donna Townsley Bonner, and Denise Townsley Johnson. For further information, please contact either: Diane Hardy at jchardy7@yahoo.com or Donna Bonner at donnabonner1@att.net.



**James Monroe Townsley and Lelia Louise Yett. Photo taken in September 1947,
Austin, Texas.**

Unknown Photographer

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM A. AND RITHA ANN RAGSDALE TOWNSLEY

Travis County, Texas Pioneer Certification

Compiled and verified by AGS Member Kay Dunlap Boyd

Proven to be in Travis County from Tennessee and Alabama by 1856.
Certificates #18-110, #18-111, #18-112

Generation No. 1

1. WILLIAM A.¹ TOWNSLEY was born in 1820 in Tennessee and died 3 February 1875, in Travis County, Texas. He married RITHA ANN RAGSDALE in 1846 in Texas. She was born in 1829 in Alabama, and died in 1856 in Travis County, Texas. William is buried in the Townsley Cemetery on Bob Johnson Road in Travis County, Texas.

Child of WILLIAM TOWNSLEY and RITHA RAGSDALE is:

2. i. JEFFERSON WINFIELD² TOWNSLEY, born in 1854, Travis and died in 1900 in Travis County, Texas.

Generation No. 2

2. JEFFERSON WINFIELD² "J.W." TOWNSLEY (*WILLIAM A.¹*) was born 1854 in Travis County, Texas and died in 1900 in Travis County, Texas. He married MARY ELIZABETH CANTRELL in 1889 in Travis County, Texas. She was born in 1858 in Texas and died 1 December 1939, in Austin, Travis, Texas. J.W. is buried in the Dittmar-Bell Springs-Bassford Cemetery (also known as Old Bee Caves Cemetery), on Old Bee Caves Road. Mary is buried in Fiskville Cemetery in Austin, Texas. Both cemeteries are in Travis County.

Child of JEFFERSON TOWNSLEY and MARY CANTRELL is:

3. i. MILAS SCOTT³ TOWNSLEY, born 1 December 1899, in Caldwell, Texas and died 9 October 1971, in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.

Generation No. 3

3. MILAS SCOTT³ TOWNSLEY (*JEFFERSON WINFIELD², WILLIAM A.¹*) was born 1 December 1899, in Caldwell County, Texas, and died 9 October 1971, in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas. He married HATTIE MAE EVANS. She was born in 1897 in Grayson County, Texas and died 9 April 1963, in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas. They are buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Child of MILAS TOWNSLEY and HATTIE EVANS is:

4. i. JAMES MONROE⁴ TOWNSLEY, born 27 December 1927, in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 6 September 2016, Round Rock, Williamson, Texas.

Generation No. 4

4. JAMES MONROE⁴ TOWNSLEY (*MILAS SCOTT³, JEFFERSON WINFIELD², WILLIAM A.¹*) was born 27 December 1927, in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 6 September 2016, in Round Rock, Williamson, Texas. He married LELIA LOUISE YETT on 11 October 1947, in Austin, Travis, Texas. She was born 6 December 1931 in Blanco County, Texas and died 6 December 2017, in Georgetown, Williamson, Texas. They are buried in the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, in Bell County, Texas.

Children of JAMES TOWNSLEY and LELIA YETT are:

- i. DIANE LOUISE⁵ TOWNSLEY.
ii. DONNA CAROL TOWNSLEY.
iii. DENISE CLAIR TOWNSLEY.

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.

Austin Genealogical Society
Travis County Texas
Pioneer Families Certificate

This is to Certify that

_____ is a descendant of _____

_____ who was living in Travis County, Texas before the close of _____

Certificate No. _____	President _____
Date _____	Pioneer Families Chairman _____
	Registrar _____

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