

The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Randle T. Moore Center, 3101 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA.

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/join.htm> for details.

Statement of Publication: *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at thegenie.editor@gmail.com. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

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President's Message

Contributed by Glenda Bernard

2017 has surely been a busy year for our Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. We hope that you have benefitted from the efforts of so many of our members! Looking back through the calendar, Program Chairman, Jim Johnson, and his committee have invited excellent speakers who have volunteered their time in presenting interesting information. Whether the topic highlighted writing our obituaries and family memoirs, researching genealogy and quilt making, discovering how photography enhanced the history of Shreveport, researching Cajuns and Creole ancestors, taking a deep look into a family's genealogy, looking at a history of Red River plantations, or understanding the fundamentals of DNA, members of all levels of genealogy research could relate to each topic. At least that is what we have been hearing! <grin>

Two major seminars were scheduled in the "A" months, April and August. Caroline Pointer led the way in inspiring us to learn better ways to research and introduced top tech tools to help us in that endeavor. The entire St. Jude experience with Caroline was just that, an experience! In August Cari Taplin met with us at Broadmoor United Methodist Church and capitalized on the rewards of using lists and maps, among other topics, to target areas of research. Both seminars were very well attended and challenged us to grow in our various research projects.

The "Artifacts Show and Tell" presentation cannot be left out! This program was a little-of-everything genealogy. It was nostalgic, personal, and great fun. We brought artifacts and heirloom pieces from our collections to share with everyone. What fun!

In October, Thad Pardue charmed us with the careful and deep-seated research of the Sanderlin family. He reminded us of the benefits of the census records and how following the sequence of a family can reveal a great deal more than first thought. Our Horn Book sessions have been invaluable! Sonja Webb took us through a step-by-step approach to "Planning a Trip to the Cemetery." This was quite a treat to learn all of the items needed in our "kit" to have a successful day of canvassing ancestor's tombstones.

Our November program was totally about genetic genealogy. James Jones discussed DNA and genealogy from "A to Z." We listened carefully to his thorough explanation and competent answers to questions. He may return next year to present information about DNA readouts. He began at the beginning in describing the four types of DNA tests which can be taken. He mentioned that to use the DNA test successfully, one must understand the differences in the tests, understand unique inheritance patterns, and understand who should be tested to get the most from the test results.

The last program of the year, which included electing two new trustees, Sonja Webb's Horn Book presentation entitled "How to Label Pictures," our fun Jeopardy-Family Feud event, and our Christmas meal will be detailed (with pictures) in the 2018 first quarter of *The Genie*. Be on the lookout for it!

This look back at 2017 with the activities of our organization would not be complete without mention of our two days with the Claiborne Parish Library in Homer, Louisiana. Our Board of Directors decided to reach out to regional libraries with genealogical departments to see if we might be of help to them in any way. This Homer library, under the direction of Ms. Pam Suggs, welcomed us in May to help sort through numerous boxes of donated materials from several Homer area genealogists. She then invited us back during early November to present a workshop for her patrons. (There is an article in this issue of *The Genie* which describes the workshop more thoroughly.) We are hopeful to offer aid during the upcoming year to another regional library which would like to organize or develop a genealogy department. If you would like to recommend a favorite library in the Ark-La-Tex for us to contact, please let us know.

We strive to improve on the ways we try to help your genealogical research. If you have tips or strategies that you would like to share with our members or topics which you would like to hear discussed in a Horn Book session, please get back with us. Perhaps you would like to see more articles on a particular subject in *The Genie*. Our editor would be happy to work on this. (Better yet, you are welcome to send us an article of your findings on this topic!) We welcome your suggestions, as always!

We extend many thanks to all of you who share your family stories, pictures, and research with us through *The Genie*. Also, we appreciate the many members who support us in so many ways! You are always positive about what we do, give us great ideas, and often volunteer to serve without being asked. Please consider joining one of our committees or offering to speak at one of our meetings. We will accept you with open arms!



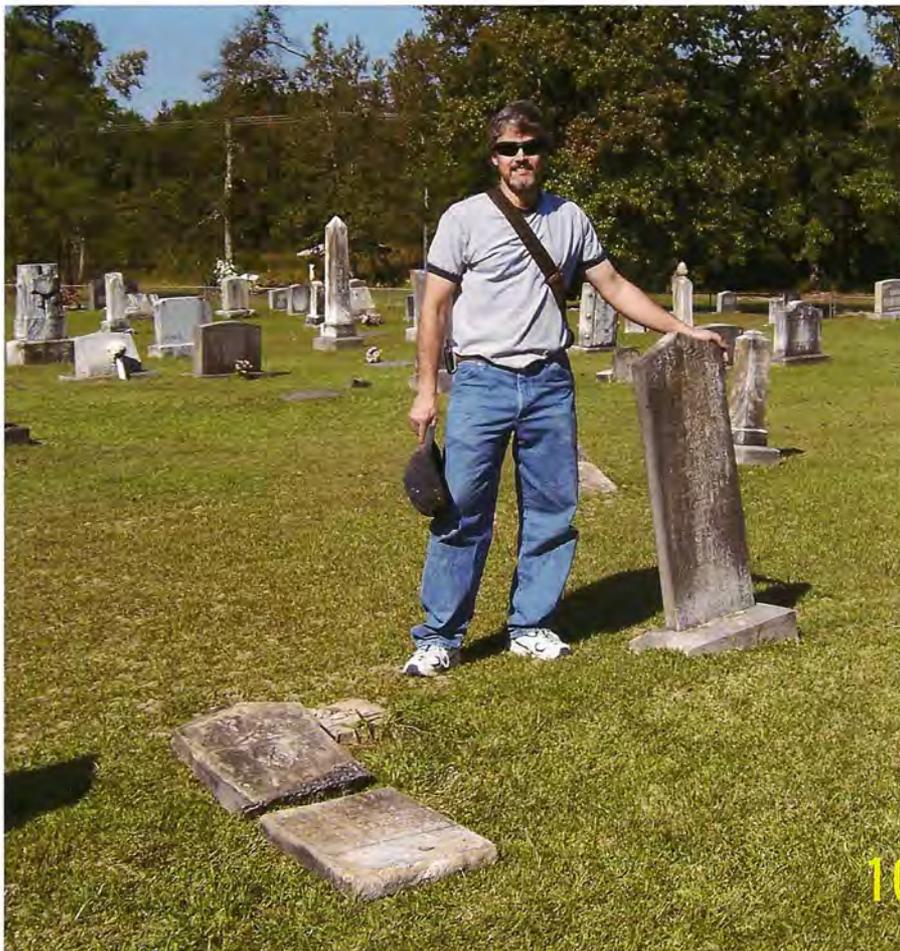
“What will your tombstone say, and HOW LONG WILL IT SAY IT?”

by *Ken Dailey, ALTGA member since 2014

Some sources list the Spring Branch Baptist Church Cemetery as being in Webster Parish, Louisiana¹. It is actually in Arkansas on Columbia Co. Rd. #22 about ½ mile north of the state line near Springhill, LA. Like many old cemeteries in the Ark-La-Tex, it contains markers that are thin and fragile and have become worn or broken with the passage of time.

Such was the case with a pair of headstones placed after the passing of the writer’s great-grandfather and great-grandmother. The graves were among the earliest and were located near the center of the cemetery’s high ground. Descendants of the couple began to raise funds in 2004 to repair and restore the markers. Cost concerns meant that we would do most of the work ourselves.

This essay is a “**how-to**” that may help others in their restoration efforts, but is also a memorial to the couple who left reconstruction Georgia to begin a new life west of the Mississippi.



Great-great grandson, Rodney Dailey of Magnolia, AR stands between the broken, leaning, and neglected tombstones of Yancy and Martha Dailey.
Oct. 2004

1) Cemetery Inscriptions of Webster Parish, LA, Vol. III, Claiborne Parish, LA, Public Library, Homer

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To begin our tutorial, a brief introduction of the pioneers is required:

Samuel Yancy Dailey, born in Campbell Co., GA, was too young to see action in the Civil War. At age 16, in 1864, he did manage to enlist in the 4th Georgia Reserves, C.S.A. and served in Company B and F. As a reserve unit, it was typically filled with the very young and very old, who were not deemed ideal for battle duty. Family lore relates that S.Y. Dailey, as his name is listed on muster rolls², may have been engaged in building and repairing the beleaguered railroads of the area. The story was, "He could wield a broadaxe with such skill as to make a crosstie look as if it were cut in a sawmill." Some members of his regiment (Companies A, C, E, G, K, and also B), however, saw guard duty at the infamous Andersonville Prison (Camp Sumpter) in south Georgia and are among the dead buried there.³ Little official records exist of Yancy's reserve regiment.

After the war, Yancy married the widow of a fallen Confederate soldier.

Martha Jane (Turner) Howard-Dailey married Yancy on December 12, 1867, and their eldest child, William "Billy" Florence Dailey, the writer's grandfather, was born in Georgia, and came with them to Claiborne Parish, LA in 1870. Martha Jane left behind a daughter, Lou Howard (Jones), from her first marriage, with family members and never saw her again. Yancy and Martha Jane had eight other children and lived in Louisiana and Arkansas until their respective deaths.



Samuel Yancy Dailey
08-12-1848 / 03-19-1927

Circa 1876



Martha Jane (Turner)
Howard-Dailey
04-17-1842 / 06-17-1906

Circa 1876

The grave sites are in sandy, loamy soil. The stones were cemented into a heavy granite base, a classic "die in socket" configuration typical of the period. The tall narrow profile allowed the fragile stones to shift and lean. Yancy's broken stone was likely the result of the upper part becoming detached when the lean became too great. Martha's marker was similarly at risk. A broad, heavy base would be needed to keep the stones upright for another one hundred years.

The first step was to take careful measurements of the plot and of the stones. The Sexton or administrator of any given cemetery should be contacted to obtain permission before beginning work or removing any stone. Photos from all angles are helpful.

2) Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the State of Georgia

National Archives Catalog ID:586957, compiled 1903 - 1927, documenting the period 1861 - 1865

3) www.Angelfire.com/ga2/Andersonvilleprison/Guardegrave.html

4) Georgia Marriages, 1808-1967, S. G. [sic.] Dailey and M. J. Howard, 12 Dec 1867, Paulding, Georgia; FHL microfilm 419,168.

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The Procedure:

The family decided that the best course of action was to remove the inscribed markers from the heavy granite bases and prepare a single large base into which the renovated markers could be set. Since Yancy's stone was dismounted and broken, we took it first to repair.

The author (right) is shown beside the layout using string and stakes that represent the actual size of the slab necessary to mount the tombstones. The thickness was to be 5 ½ in. to provide substantial support. When the length and width of the form is determined, it can be calculated how much cement would be needed to fill the volume.

By using a string level, the slope of the ground can be estimated. The slab would have more exposure on the lower side and less on the upper side.



A local metal worker was recruited to fashion a stainless metal “armature” channel (left) fitted to the thickness of the stone with a little extra room to wrap the channel with copper sheeting that was salvaged from a local guttering project. The stones were snug when they were inserted into the armature. The “legs” were to extend several inches to anchor the marker firmly into the ground when placed inside the opening cast into the concrete slab. Each opening in the slab was sized to allow room for the assembly and to inject a sealing compound to keep water from seeping between slab and assembly.

The marker here is shown encased in both the steel channel and the copper cladding. Lead solder seals the upper angles and a stainless steel rod is inserted at the base of the stone to keep it in place. Freezing water cannot accumulate due to the open channels. No cement was used to repair the crack in Yancy's stone. This allowed for the inscription to be more easily read.

We anticipated that time would provide an attractive weathered patina on the copper cladding.

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Scrap lumber was used to construct the base (right). Two-by-six inch lumber was used for the sides of the form and a heavy sheet of plywood formed the bottom. Keep in mind that the base was being cast *upside down* and that the bottom would become the top of the slab. All surfaces had to be carefully sanded and prepared as the finished base would mirror any imperfections.

Since the finished slab would contain roughly eight 60-pound bags of concrete and exceed 500 lbs., an improvised axle made from 3/4 inch pipe and a set of spare wheels was



added to help maneuver the unit into place. A chain was bolted to the other end for towing and strapping was added across the top of the form for reinforcement and from which to suspend a steel re-bar cage to strengthen the cured slab. A reinforced concrete mix with fibers was used for strength to make the slab crack resistant. The final concrete pour was made thin so that it would seep into all corners and recesses.

A final touch was to insert a one-by-six inch board with each edge cut to a 45-degree angle into one long side of the form. This would give a tapered front exposure (see page 6) on which to mount a descriptive plaque. Each seam, corner, and joint was carefully sealed with silicone adhesive and smoothed to keep concrete from seeping past them. This gave the finished product slightly rounded corners and edges instead of sharp edges subject to damage or chipping.

Two-by-six inch scrap pieces were cut and sandwiched together to hold the place of the voids where each repaired stone would be inserted. All joints were fastened with large wood screws for a tight hold and to make the removal of the form from the cured slab easier.

Finally, the plaques were pre-installed face down on the front tapered face. This allowed them to be recessed into the slab surface of the finished product. To make form removal easier and allow for a smoother finish, two coats of clean motor oil were used to paint all inside surfaces.

On the day of the pour, several family members mixed four wheelbarrow loads of concrete while others used sticks to agitate the mixture into all seams and corners. The pour sat a full week before any attempts to move it.



An optional step, (shown left) is to construct, a mirror image of the finished concrete form from lightweight lumber. It served as a “place holder” for the finished product and made it easier to level the ground during excavation and to keep gravel in place. The gravel allows for drainage and stabilizes the base.

The temporary form would be removed just before installing the finished base.

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Finally, the warm and bright day of installation came. The casting remained in its form and no one knew how the reveal might look. Six fairly strong family members came to muscle the base in place. An ATV slowly pulled the form into the grave site from the edge of the cemetery. All care and respect was afforded to the adjacent resting places.

The form was rolled on its side at the excavated location (right) and lowered using braces, slings, and timbers.



The hardest chore was drilling and sawing the “place holder” boards from the cavities where the stones were to be inserted. In retrospect, we wished that we had constructed a hollow frame of one-by-six inch place holders instead of the solid ones we had used.

The slab was lowered to its resting place and positioned. The outer frames and upper plywood sheet were removed. Everything was intact and awaited the installation of the gravestones.

The stones were seated, leveled, and a slurry of vinyl concrete mix filled in the gaps between the markers and the slab. The cleanup revealed an attractive and functional base.



Final installation on July 20, 2013 required the efforts of **Bill Dailey, Ken Dailey, Susan Dailey, Ken Phillips, Kathy DuBose, and Rodney Dailey**

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Funds raised for the restoration project amounted to \$500.00. Total cost of the entire project came to exactly \$250.00 for the restoration of both monuments – quite a bargain!

Today the headstones are in great shape and the copper has weathered to an attractive dark brown.

We are thankful for all the donations of money, time, and labor that saved these markers and reestablished the memory of our ancestors.



* Ken Dailey is an unofficial historian for the Dailey and Beckham families in Arkansas and Louisiana. He welcomes all corrections, additions, and comments regarding his research. Contact him at ksdailey@outlook.com.

Ruth Remembers
My Scofield Reference Bible
©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin



RUTH REMEMBERS
MY SCOFIELD
REFERENCE BIBLE

©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

My *Scofield Reference Bible* lay open and the bright red taffeta ribbon marks the second chapter of Luke. It had been on the drum table during the Christmas Season as part of my Christian décor. But this Bible is more than “décor” for me. It holds many wonderful memories of Christmas past and of experiences which date back to when I was a teenager—about fourteen to be exact.

When I was a teenager, Dr. Woychuk, a Presbyterian minister in Shreveport, Louisiana, conceived the idea of awarding young people prizes for memorizing and reciting Bible verses. He mobilized his church family and Shreveport community persons to advertise and support his plan. To receive a book as a reward, the contestant had to memorize twenty identified Bible verses each week and recite them with no more than four prompts from the designated listener.

These were the waning years of World War II. We church-going, young people of Greenwood, Louisiana, were delighted to have a fresh challenge and to have the opportunity to win weekly prizes of paperback books written by persons, such as Grace Livingston Hill. The Grand Prize, *The Scofield Reference Bible*, would be awarded when all 250 assigned Bible verses had been correctly recited to a designated individual in the community.

The designated individual in Greenwood, Louisiana, was Mrs. Florence Trosper. Florence Trosper was such a wonderful leader; she was our youth leader in the Methodist Church. She was young in spirit; she was pretty. She was a former fashion model. She wore marvelous clothes—always black, white, or a combination of the two. Her large, two-storied, historic home adjacent to the Greenwood Methodist Church had its kitchen attached to the main house by screened porches.

It was in that kitchen where we recited many of our Bible verses to Mrs. Trosper. I recited my memorized Bible verses to Mrs. Trosper while she cooked a meal or while she cleaned up the kitchen following a meal for her family. Sometimes she placed the dinner plates on the floor and allowed the dogs to eat the food scraps and lick the plates before she washed the dishes. I always thought this weird. I knew Mother would never do such a thing at our house. But I recited away while all this activity took place around me.



The Scofield Reference Bible

A few times I thought I was not going to be able to complete the twenty verses without help. But Mrs. Trosper encouraged me.

During the first year of this contest, I won a book each week and *The Scofield Reference Bible* at the end of the twelve-week contest. I treasure that Bible!

When all of us Greenwood contestants began to win books, we were eager to share them with others in the community. But where could we place our book collection so that all the town's young people could have an opportunity to browse through them and check them out for reading at home?

It was Florence Trosper who came to the rescue. Mrs. Trosper allowed us to use a room on the first floor of her home for our book collection. This room had an outside entrance. We loved going to Mrs. Trosper's home, where we entered through the side door. This was during the days when people did not have locks on their doors. We selected a book, sat on the floor or a chair, then read a book, such as *Pilgrim's Progress*.

That book room also became a great meeting place for visiting with friends. In our small town, there were no places to “hang out.” So Mrs. Trosper's home was greatly appreciated. Her husband, James; her father-in-law, Mr. Trosper; and her little daughter, Lynn, were also very gracious to us gawky and noisy teenagers.

For two years Mrs. Trosper had listened to me and others recite Bible verses we memorized during the twelve weeks of the Bible Memory Contest. During the second year, we continued to weekly win books. The Grand Prize was a *Peloubet's Bible Dictionary* that year. By the end of two years, the War was over. I soon graduated from high school. As I packed my belongings for college, my *Scofield Reference Bible* was among the first items placed in my luggage. It was, and continues to be, a source of strength, solace, and a place for special keepsakes.

Now it is worn and torn; its cover is so tattered. Its scotch-taped pages have notes written in the margins. I now handle it with extra-special care.

But at Christmas each year, I open my Bible Memory Contest won *Scofield Reference Bible* to the second chapter of Luke. I place the inch-wide red taffeta ribbon in its spine and display it on the drum table in my living room.

Postscript:

The Bible Memory Contest continued for many years. My friend, Mrs. Diffey, told me she had recited memorized Bible Memory Contest verses for thirteen years. She is married to a missionary, who writes “Gospel Nuggets,” and who distributes those nuggets from the Bible, all over the world.



Peloubet's Bible Dictionary

JAMES BLAIR GILMER – PLANTER AND ENTREPRENEUR, Part III

Contributed By Dale Jennings

James B. Gilmer was a large-scale cotton planter with many plantations to manage. However, he developed at least an equal bent toward entrepreneurship. He established his first general mercantile store in Bossier Parish on a 65-acre tract of land acquired by private purchase in 1844. This tract was between two others that were bought by James Pickett in 1839 and now belong to his widow, Paulina, the present wife of James Gilmer. Her tract on the west, or river side, became the 840-acre Rough and Ready Plantation now being developed by the Gilmers. On the east boundary was the other 160-acre tract. To better center the “store tract” on the “Shreveport-Arkansas Road,” they restructured it by moving part of her land on the east side into the store tract and letting some of James’ purchase fall over in to Rough and Ready. This was no doubt done on the prospect that a town might someday be formed around the store. That would eventually happen in the form of the town of Benton (later “old Benton”). This is just one example of the complexity in commingling their assets, later to complicate the division of property between the spouses.

Mr. Gilmer apparently had his roadside store established by 1846. George Washington Sentell, who became his manager or operating partner, was to say later that he came to Bossier Parish as a “beardless boy of twenty-two” to engage in the mercantile business in the winter of 1846. This followed the common practice of the day, a partnership arrangement whereby one partner was the store owner, and the other the merchant/manager. The store was granted a post office in 1850, with Sentell becoming postmaster of the “Sentell’s Store” federal post office.

Some twelve miles to the north of “Sentell’s Store,” James Gilmer continued in 1846 and 1847 to add to the west side of his developing Orchard Plantation. He built another store there at the crossroads of the Shreveport-Arkansas Road and the road that led east to his Orchard Place home. In December 1846, he made a contract with his friend, Frank Armor, to be his “limited, managing partner.” The contract, registered as a public record with the Bossier Parish Clerk of Court, stipulated that Gilmer was putting up \$3,292.97 in merchandise to stock the store.

The partners had recently advertised their Shreveport retail sales and warehouse businesses in the *Caddo Gazette*, both operated as “Gilmer & Armor.” On February 18, 1847, they were granted a post office at the store, only the second in rural Bossier Parish (most parish residents on the river side having used the Shreveport post office in Caddo, and on the east side, one in Claiborne Parish). Concurrently, Francis W. Armor was appointed postmaster, and “Pineville” was approved as the post office designation, later to be changed to Collinsburgh, and then Collinsburg.

James Gilmer developed a thriving town around his store and post office. Up until the time of his death in 1856, only Collinsburg and two other Bossier Parish community centers could be called towns. The other two were Fillmore and the parish seat, Bellevue. It is not known just when

Gilmer brought Johnston R. Davis into a “manufacturing and commercial partnership,” but Davis was not found there in the 1850 census. The components of the “Johnston R. Davis Company,” owned by Gilmer and operated by Davis, were described as steam mill (no doubt grist mill), saw mill, wood shop, wagon factory, blacksmith shop, shoe shop, and tan yard, later collectively described as the “Collinsburg mill and tan yard.”

Gilmer’s other Collinsburg enterprises included a nearby brickyard, a hotel, and the “Pineville Female Seminary,” run by the principal, Mr. Davis’ sister, Hannah E. Davis. He also had a medical treatment facility or clinic, operated by the Ireland-born Doctor George H. Walker, said without contradiction to have been brought from Ireland by James Gilmer. Dr. Walker’s practice was the treatment of the many hundreds of slaves belonging to the Gilmer couple and their relations. Collinsburg also had a Masonic and a Sons of Temperance lodge. James had donated the fraternities a one-acre lot on which they constructed a two-story building for their meeting halls.

James Gilmer brought G.W. Sentell up to Collinsburg in 1853, and then sold him the mercantile business in 1854, according to Gilmer chronicler, J. T. Manry. George Sentell would supersede Armor as postmaster in 1858. The post office designation was changed from Pineville to “Collinsburgh” on June 28, 1856, although the trade center had been acknowledged as “Collinsburg” as early as the 1850 census. This postal name change occurred not long after Paulina acquired the Orchard Plantation and its town site from James in May 1856. The post office was not renamed Collinsburg until much later. It was very common in Bossier Parish that the post office name not agree with that of its community center. (“Sentell’s Store” remained the post office designation through a succession of ten postmaster/merchants. The place was called Benton as early as 1858, but the post office was still Sentell’s Store when closed in 1868, and then reopened as Benton in 1870.) The town’s name, “Collinsburg,” may have been a good-natured nod to the local Collins men, some of whom were “mechanics” at the “mill and tan yard.”

As indicated, Gilmer coupled his practice of agriculture with an array of commercial ventures. Included was another steam grist and saw mill operation “near the head of Willow Chute” (Bayou), probably near the 2,000-acre Willow Chute Plantation’s residence. Another was a commission merchant business in New Orleans (where the Gilmers had many valuable properties). His brother-in-law, Leonidas Spyker, had partnered in this cotton brokerage firm with James’ kinsman, Nicholas M. Gilmer. Nicholas wanted to retire, and James bought out his interest in January 1845. The business continued to operate as “Gilmer and Spyker.” In February 1846, James placed an advertisement in the *Bossier Banner* under the caption, “Foot of the Raft Hurricane Bluff Warehouse.” He assured the planting interests “on the Upper Red River” that he would give his every exertion in the hauling, storage, and scheduling for shipment of their cotton and other produce.

James Gilmer, ever the innovator, was a pioneer in both thought and action. His ambitious business ventures didn’t always succeed. Manry told us that Gilmer had, “contemplated and started a silk industry.” He didn’t tell us whether it was successful.

Mr. Gilmer opened another mid-century mercantile store with Edward Frierson as his managing partner. It was located at “Red Bluff” in DeSoto Parish, just across the southern Caddo Parish line formed by the Pierre and Wallace bayous. The 1890 book, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana* (pages 33 and 210) related how Gilmer had planned to establish a port town there to out-compete Shreveport for its steamboat trade. He dug a trench diverting the water out of Red River at the bottom of Scopini Bend and down through Tones Bayou to Pierre Bayou. (A half century earlier, Bayou Pierre below present-day Shreveport had been a one hundred-mile detour route around the then position of the Great Red River Raft.) It is believed that the flow through Gilmer’s alternate river channel would have been effective only during the higher stages of the river. At any rate, the book tells us that, “His town of Red Bluff was never built.”

This same diversion scheme would be duplicated there by Confederate forces in the 1864 Red River Campaign. It lowered the river and very nearly trapped the Federal fleet on the “Rapides” shoals above Alexandria. This was during the flotilla’s retreat back down river after the Union’s failed attempt to capture Shreveport.

Memoirs (page 33) maintained that James Gilmer’s plot to “leave Shreveport high and dry” had been in retaliation for thwarting his attempts to use slave labor for construction projects in Shreveport. His first object had been to put up buildings for himself. (This no doubt included the warehouse and residence (townhouse?) that he did build, as documented by Fredricka Doll Gute and Katherine Brash Jeter in their 1982 book, *Historical Profile Shreveport 1850*.) The 1890 *Memoirs* goes on to say that his secondary objective was to hire out slaves to residents who desired to build. It concluded by saying, “His action was so unacceptable to the white mechanics that they induced the council to levy a license tax on all colored mechanics.”

James Gilmer was ahead of his time in another of his visions. He acquired a great amount of cheap “swamp” land above Shreveport in Caddo Parish. To make it productive, according to Manry, he began three immense drainage ditches or canals. Mr. Manry said they were known as the “Gilmer ditches,” and could still be seen (1932). He said that the steamboat operators with a route through the waterways (from Shreveport) to Albany, Mooringsport, and Jefferson, Texas, feared that if Gilmer’s drainage project succeeded, their boat transportation would cease. They appealed to the government for protection and received an injunction stopping the work. Manry further stated that half a century later, this and the closing of some of the bayous exiting the river were accomplished and thousands of acres of the finest land in the state were reclaimed. This is borne out by the vast agricultural production seen there today.

To be continued.....

“Weeder” Geese

Contributed by Johnnie Hall Covington

My father, Herman Hall, was born in 1912, in Bienville Parish, not too far from Ringgold, Louisiana. He said when he was young, his family used geese, called “weeder” geese, to eat grass and weeds which sprang up in the rows of cotton. The grass and weeds had to be destroyed as they drank up water and nutrients needed by the cotton. Geese love to eat grass and weeds, but they won’t eat cotton plants. One benefit of weeder geese is that they fertilize the cotton as they are grazing.

If you didn’t have weeder geese, this work had to be done by a worker with a sharp hoe—a process called “choppin’ cotton.” Each morning, the geese would be herded to the cotton field where they would eat all day long. Tubs of water had to be hauled and placed at the ends of some of the rows so the geese would have water to drink during the day. In the late afternoon, the geese would be herded back to an enclosure to protect them from varmints during the night.

Daddy said the best part of having weeder geese was “plucking day”. It always took place in the spring after the weather had warmed a bit and always involved the extended family and neighbors. Plucking day was a social event like a reunion. The boys were the ones who caught the geese, which was not an easy task as geese are strong and inflict painful bites. Even if the boys were scared of the geese, they worked hard catching them so as not to look bad in front of the other boys. The geese were brought to the women and girls who plucked the feathers from the birds’ breasts and bellies. This made the geese look funny but it didn’t really hurt them. Their plumage would grow back before winter came. The feathers were stuffed into big cloth bags sewn by the women. Warm mattresses and pillows were later made from the feathers. When the work was all done, the children played chase and the adults visited and food was shared.



Image found [here](#)

A Tale of Two Brothers
Who is my GGGG Grandfather?
Contributed by Elaine Johnson

My gg grandparents are John Moreland and Phoebe Bragg. From their marriage record, I knew that John Moreland and Phoebe Bragg had married on July 5, 1872 in Hillsdale County, Michigan.¹ I already knew who his parents were, so I backed up to the 1870 census to see if I could find her parents.

On the 1870 Somerset, Hillsdale County, Michigan Census,² I found Samuel H. Bragg (age 62, blacksmith, born New Hampshire) and Orcelia (age 40, born New York) with children: Phebe Bragg, age 16, born Michigan; Estella Bragg, age 9, born Michigan and William Bragg, age 6, born Michigan.

On the 1860 Somerset, Hillsdale County, Michigan Census,³ I again found Samuel Bragg (age 51, blacksmith, born New Hampshire) and Orcelia (age 29, born NY) with children: Mary E. Bragg, age 15, born Michigan; Charles H. Bragg, age 12, born Michigan; Josephine Bragg, age 9, born Michigan and Phebe Bragg, age 7, born Michigan.

On the 1850 Somerset, Hillsdale County, Michigan Census⁴, I found Samuel H. Bragg (age 42, blacksmith, born New Hampshire) and Orcelia (age 21, born New York) with children: Eliza Bragg, age 12, born New Hampshire; Mary E. Bragg, age 4, born Michigan; and Charles H. Bragg, age 2, born Michigan.

Based on Samuel and Orcelia's ages and the ages of the children in 1850, I suspected that Orcelia was a second wife. In 1850 Orcelia was aged 21. The oldest child listed with them was Eliza Bragg, age 12, born New Hampshire. Assuming she was a daughter, she would have been too old to be the daughter of Orcelia. I also noted the 8 year age difference between Eliza (age 12) and Mary (age 4). Of course, the 1850 census does not list relationships, so she could have been a niece or other relationship. The younger children were young enough to possibly be the children of Orcelia.

When I was researching this in the late 1990's, I could find no clues regarding Orcelia's maiden name or when they married. Ancestry.com was just getting a good start and at that time there were no online family trees for this family. I continued to research their children, but could not find anything that indicated what her maiden name was. So I set aside my research for Orcelia for a while. In 2003 my husband Jim and I were considering a trip to Michigan. I decided to check the family trees on Ancestry.com again and discovered a family tree for Samuel H. Bragg and Orcelia **Tayer**. They only listed one child, William Wellington Bragg born in 1864. Based on the 1870 census records, I suspected this was the youngest son of Samuel and Orcelia.

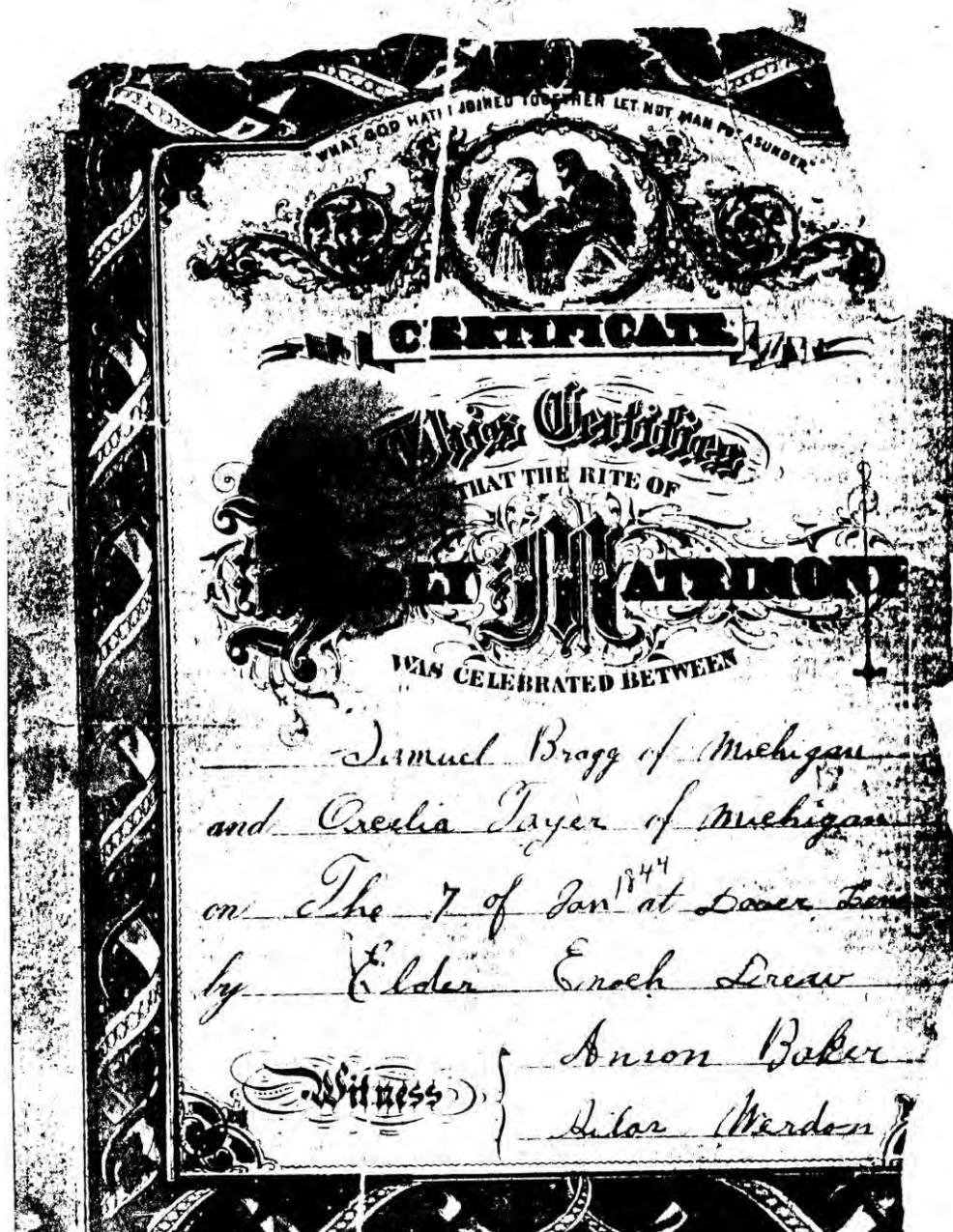
I made contact with the owner of the tree and discovered that she and her cousin Shirley Bragg were grandchildren of William Wellington Bragg, the son of Samuel and Orcelia Bragg. Shirley Bragg had done most of the research on the Braggs. In our correspondence I was told that I was correct that Orcelia was Samuel's second wife. He first married Elizabeth Blodgett on March 30, 1837 in Chesterfield, New Hampshire,⁵ and Eliza Jane Bragg was their child. Eliza Jane Bragg married Joseph Wesley Fullerton. I located a biography for Joseph which said:

"He (*Joseph*) worked at home until 24 years old when he was married in Addison Township, Lenawee Co., Michigan July 3, 1863, to Miss Jane E. Bragg, born in New Hampshire, May 11, 1838. Her father was by occupation a blacksmith and followed his trade in New Hampshire until a year after the birth of the daughter Jane. He then moved to Licking Co., Ohio, and three

years later came to Michigan, locating in Somerset, Hillsdale County. Her mother dying when Jane was 11 years old, the latter was left to care for herself. She worked as a domestic until her marriage."

Page 384 Gratiot County
Album of Gratiot County, MI

The grandchildren of William also had copies of the Bible record which showed that Elder Enoch Drew performed the marriage of Samuel Bragg and Orcelia Tayer on June 7, 1844 in Dover Township, Lenawee County, Michigan. Anson Baker and Silas Worden were witnesses. When I wrote to Lenawee County to get an "official" marriage record, I was told that their courthouse had burned and their marriage records started in 1867. So I was very fortunate to get a copy of the Bible record.



The Bible Record also contained the names and dates of birth for their children: Mary Elizabeth Bragg, born Sept. 16, 1846 in Michigan; Charles Henry Bragg born Sept. 17, 1849 in Michigan; Josephine Bragg, born June 8, 1851 in Michigan; Phoebe M. Bragg, born June 10, 1853 in Jerome, Hillsdale County, Michigan; Estella E. Bragg, born Feb. 11, 1861 in Hillsdale County, Michigan and William Wellington Bragg born Sept. 14, 1864 in Somerset, Hillsdale County, Michigan.

Unfortunately there was no mention of Samuel or Orcelia's parents. Shirley Bragg was able to tell me the names of the parents of Samuel, but had no clue as to the parents of Orcelia. So the search was on to see if I could determine who they were!

The name "Tayer" was not very common in Michigan during that time period. Based on census records, there were only two men in the state of Michigan that could be the father of Orcelia Tayer Bragg. Gershom "Remington" Tayer and Jason Tayer were both in Lenawee County (a neighboring county to Hillsdale) in 1840. Unfortunately, the 1840 census does not list every name in the household and by 1850 Orcelia was already married and was not listed with either one of them. Of course, I realized that just because they were in Michigan did not mean that either of them was her father. But it was the only clue I had. Both Tayer men were in Monroe County, New York in 1830 and were located in Lenawee County, Michigan in 1840. From queries I found that they are believed to be brothers. In 1840 Gershom Remington Tayer was in Madison, Lenawee County. Jason Tayer was in Dover, Lenawee County.

Because he was the oldest, I started by doing some census research on Gershom Remington Tayer. The 1830 and 1840 census records showed that it appeared that he had five sons and four daughters, one of which (based on age) could be Orcelia. The 1850 Census in Madison, Lenawee County, Michigan showed:

Remington Tayer, age 56, male, farmer, 5000, born RI
 Delia Tayer, 53, female, born NY
 Edward Tayer, 21, male, farmer, born NY
 Alphonsa Tayer, 20, male, farmer, born NY
 Jane Tayer, 16, female, born NY
 Erasmus Tayer, age 14, male, born Michigan
 William W. Tayer, age 10, male, born Michigan

The 1850 census record only showed one daughter. The 1830 and 1840 census records apparently showed four. I realize, of course, that every child listed in the 1830 and 1840 census did not have to belong to him. But if they did, then I knew that all the children were not in the home in 1850. But I did not know which ones were missing.

I found some information posted by one of Gershom Remington Tayer's descendants that listed his children, and there was no mention of Orcelia Tayer. I did not consider that to be proof -- the descendant may not have known about her.

In 2012, my husband Jim and I took a trip to Michigan. We visited Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. Specifically we were looking for information regarding either Gershom Remington Tayer or Jason Tayer. I was determined to prove which one of them (if either) was the father of Orcelia Tayer Bragg.

I found the 1853 will of Gershom Remington Tayer in Lenawee County. His will mentioned:

Remington Tayer of Madison, Lenawee County, Michigan.

- Wife Adelia Tayer
- Son William R. Tayer
- Son Edward P. Tayer
- Son Elphonso Tayer
- Son Erasmus D. Tayer
- Daughter Sally Elvira Marshall
- Daughter Phebe Ann Osgood
- Daughter Abigail Jane Tayer
- Son Benjamin J. Tayer
- William and Mary Brown, son and daughter of daughter Mary E. Brown, deceased

This will indicated to me that Gershom Remington Tayer was NOT the father of Orcelia Tayer. His will appears to have mentioned all four of his daughters, married, single, and deceased. There was no mention of Orcelia, even though she was still living. If she was his daughter, why would he have excluded her?

I then turned my attention to Jason Tayer. I did not have proof that Jason Tayer was the father of Orcelia Tayer Bragg. But, I believed that he was. (*Mainly based on Gershom Remington Tayer's will.*)

On the same 2012 trip to Michigan I had also looked in Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties for probate records or a will for Jason Tayer, but had no luck.

According to the 1850 Census Jason Tayer was born about 1800 in New York. In 1830 he was in Sweden, Monroe County, New York.

The 1830 census in Sweden, Monroe County, NY⁶ for Jason Tayer shows:

Male under age of 5 = 0

Male of Age 5 and under ten = 1 (*born between 1820 and 1825 -- Unknown*)

Male of ten and under fifteen = 0

Male of fifteen and under 20 = 0

Male of twenty and under 30 = 0

Male of thirty and under 40 = 1 (*Jason, age 30*)

Female under five years of age = 2 (*born between 1825 and 1830 -- Unknown, but Orcelia could be one of them*)

Female of five and under ten = 1 (*born between 1820 and 1825 -- Unknown*)

Female of ten and under fifteen = 0

Female of fifteen and under twenty = 0

Female of 20 and under thirty = 1 (*Polly, age 30*)

The names in Italics are my notes. Using the 1850 census I was able to fill in the name of Jason's wife, but there was one unidentified male and three unidentified females.

In 1840 Jason Tayer was in Dover, Lenawee County, Michigan. (This was my first “clue.” Per their Bible marriage record, Samuel Bragg and Orcelia Tayer married in Dover on Jan. 7, 1844).

The 1840 census in Dover, Lenawee County, Michigan ⁷ for Jason Tayer shows:

Males under 5 = 2 (*born between 1835 and 1840 -- Oscar & William*)
 Males between 5 & 10 = 1 (*born between 1830 and 1835 -- Franklin*)
 Males between 10 & 15 = 0
 Males between 15 & 20 = 1 (*born between 1820 and 1825 -- Unknown*)
 Males between 20 & 30 = 0
 Males between 34 & 40 = 0
 Males between 40 & 50 = 1 (*Jason, age 40*)

Females under 5 = 0
 Females between 5 & 10 = 1 (*born between 1835 and 1840 -- Sarah*)
 Females between 10 & 15 = 2 (*born between 1825 and 1830 -- Could be Orcelia and one Unknown*)
 Females between 15 & 20 = 1 (*born between 1820 and 1825 -- Unknown*)
 Females between 20 & 30 = 0
 Females between 30 & 40 = 0
 Females between 40 & 50 = 1 (*Polly, age 40*)

The names in Italics are my notes. Using the 1850 census I was able to fill in some of the names, but there was again one unidentified male and three unidentified females. The age category of between 10 and 15 was the right age for Orcelia, so she could be one of those females.

On the 1850 Census, Jason Tayer was 2 families over from Samuel and Orcelia Tayer Bragg in Somerset, Hillsdale County, Michigan⁸ (*another “clue”*).

Jason Tayer, age 50, male, farmer, 600, born New York,
 Polly Tayer, age 50, female, born New York
 Sarah M. Tayer, age 19, female, born New York
 Franklin Tayer, age 16, male, farmer, born New York
 Oscar Tayer, age 14, male, born Michigan
 William Tayer, age 11, male, born Michigan
 John Tayer, age 9, male, born Michigan

Based on the age of the children born in NY and Michigan, they would have moved to Michigan between 1834 and 1836. This is further supported by the fact that Jason Tayer bought 80 acres of land from the government in Dover, Lenawee County, in September 1835. ([Bureau of Land Management](#))

I cannot find Jason or Polly Tayer on any census after 1850. But the Hillsdale County history says that in 1853 Jason Tayer was Treasurer and in 1855 he was Commissioner of Highways for Somerset, Hillsdale Co., Michigan. I believe he was alive at least until 1855.

So my working theory was that Jason Tayer was the father of Orcelia -- and I continued to research the children of that family to see if I could prove it. I first researched the children listed on the 1850 census.

Franklin Tayer: He married first Sarah Pratt. Her maiden name came from a family tree. They had several children and then apparently divorced. She remarried in 1892 -- and died in 1894 in Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio. I did not find a marriage record for Franklin and Sarah, but her obituary lists their marriage date as Jan 24, 1859.⁹ Also per her obituary, she married F. P. Chambard on Oct. 19, 1892.

Franklin Tayer remarried on June 7, 1900 to Susan Jenning Cochran. The second marriage record¹⁰ for Franklin Tayer lists his parents as **Jason Tayer and Mary King**.

Franklin served during the Civil War in the 4th Michigan Infantry, Co. B. I ordered his pension records, but there were no new clues in the records regarding his family. It did contain the same marriage and death record that I had found previously that listed his parents. Franklin Tayer died June 26, 1904 in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan.

His obituary did not mention any of his siblings.

Oscar F. Tayer: He was born June 26, 1836 in Dover Township, Lenawee, Michigan. He married Adeline Ransom on May 1, 1868 in Illinois. They had one child that died young. Oscar F. Tayer died Nov 1, 1915 in Wichita, Sedgwick, Kansas.

His obituary said he was "born June 26, 1836, at Dover, Mich., he moved in early childhood to Fayette, Ohio". His obituary also says "**He was the last member of the large family**, and is survived by his widow." Funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. E. Kirk at the College Hill Methodist church. His obituary did not mention any family names.

Even though I have the date of death, Kansas law does not allow requesting death records for genealogy. So I can't request his death record. However, he also served during the Civil War in the 100 Ohio Infantry, Company H. At some point, I plan to request his pension record.

Note: Fayette is in Fulton County, Ohio, which is adjacent to Lenawee County, Michigan. I have been able to locate several other family members in Fulton County, but not Jason or his wife Mary.

William Tayer: He was born January, 1839 in Dover Township, Lenawee County, Michigan. He married Nancy Jane Kellogg on June 12, 1866 in Fulton County, Ohio. He died May 5, 1914 in Wichita, Sedgwick, Kansas. His obituary only lists his two children George and Clara; and his brother O.F. Tayer. No parents or other siblings are mentioned.

Again, even though I have the date of death, Kansas law does not allow requesting death records for Genealogy. So I can't request his death record. However, he also served during the Civil War in the 100 Ohio Infantry, Company H. I plan to request his pension record.

John W. Tayer: He was born June 17, 1843 in Hillsdale County, Michigan. He married Lucy Hunt. He died June 29, 1899 in Muskegon, Muskegon, Michigan. His obituary says "he was orphaned at age 11." *He would have been age 11 from June 17, 1854 to June 16, 1855.* Since a History of Hillsdale County states that Jason was elected Commissioner of Highways for Somerset, Hillsdale Co., MI in 1855, maybe Jason and Mary died in early 1855. The death record for John W. Tayer lists his parents as **Jason Tayer** and **Mary King**.

His obituary also says: "Mr. Tayer leaves three brothers – William H. Tayer and Oscar F. Tayer, of Colwich, Kansas and Frank Tayer, of Grand Rapids. There were four sisters, but all are dead. Miss Lillie Tayer, a niece and Oscar Tayer, a nephew, of Pentwater, arrived here." (*note: "Oscar Tayer, nephew" was the son of Stephen Remington Tayer (see below), further confirming Stephen's relationship with this family. Lillie Tayer was the daughter of Oscar*)

Because of the reference to Fulton County, Ohio, I also searched there for the Tayer family. It appears that they migrated to that county after 1850 (possibly after 1855).

Stephen Remington Tayer: On the 1860 census I found Franklin R. Tayer in Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio. Listed on the same page was S. R. Tayer. He was born about 1823, so he was the right age to be the unaccounted for male on the 1830 and 1840 census. I thought there was a very good chance that he was the missing male on those census records.

1860 Census, Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio.

S. R. Tayer, age 37, male, wagon maker, born NY
 Minerva, age 32, female, born NY
 Mary, age 12, female, born O
 Henry, age 8, male, born O
 Oscar, age 6, male, born O
 Cornelia, age 4 female, born O

I also found him on the 1850 census in Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio

S. R. Fare (age 29, carriage maker, born NY), Minerva Fare (age 23, born NY), Mary Fare (age 2, born Michigan), and Alice Gay (age 8, born NY)

I could not find him after the 1860 census, but further research of his family on the 1870 census showed that he also had a younger son named Sherman Remington Tayer (born after 1860). I wondered if S. R. Tayer might be Sherman Remington Tayer, Sr.

I was contacted by David Gips, who is also researching the Tayer family. He said this about S.R. Tayer: "I also believe S.R. Tayer is one of Jason's children. I think he is Stephen Remington Tayer. He registered for the draft (Civil War) on 1 July 1863 in Fulton Co., OH as Remington S. Tayer so he was at least still living then. I can find no further mention of him and as you said, in 1870

Minerva is alone. I have five children for them: Mary born 1848 died by 1900, Henry 1850-1912 married Mary E. DeLong (on his death record his father is "Rhimichon"!), Oscar H. 1853-1933 married Martha Kuhn (father on his death record is Stephen), Cornelia (Nellie) 1855-1935 married Henry Ruppert (father on her death record is Henry!) and Sherman R. (1865-1948) married Daisey Harvey "

I (ejj) could find no other reference to S. R. Tayer after the 1863 draft registration, although I was able to track his wife and children. I found no mention of Orcelia Tayer Bragg when I researched him.

Orcelia Tayer Bragg: She is my ggg grandmother. I am trying to prove that she belongs to the Jason Tayer family. Neither her death record nor marriage record lists her parents. I could not find an obituary for her. None of the obituaries I have found for any of Jason Tayer's other children mention Orcelia. I have done extensive research on her children. Now that more records are available I have found some of the children's death records that record her maiden name – but not her parents.

Sarah Mariah Tayer: *The following information was provided by David Gips, a Tayer researcher:* "Sarah Mariah Tayer daughter of Jason and Polly King Tayer was born 3 Sept 1831 in NY and died 21 Feb 1896 and is buried in Fairplains Cemetery in Grand Rapids. She married 1 Feb 1861 in Lenawee Co., MI to Sala Blancher Smith a physician, minister, abolitionist and brother to the famous Laura Smith Haviland. They had two sons Ernest Emmet and Fred Eugene."

Notes by ejj: I have not actually found proof that confirms this. I did find several family trees that had Sala Blancher Smith married to Sarah Maria **Thayer**. No one had parents listed for her. I did not find a marriage record, obituary or death record that lists her parents. I did find census records for Sala and Sarah M. that shows the children listed above. The Smiths are buried in Fairplains Cemetery as stated above. I also read up on his sister Laura Smith Haviland and discovered that her family was Quaker. I initially wondered if the Tayer family was also Quaker. But according to the history that I found "the Havilands, her parents and others resigned their membership in 1839 and joined a group of Methodists known as the Wesleyans". The Tayers may have been Methodist. The obituaries for William, Oscar and John W. Tayer above all said their funerals were held at a Methodist Church. For now I have just accepted what was told to me by David Gips.

Again, I found no mention of Orcelia Tayer Bragg when I did my research for Sarah.

Conclusion: In spite of all my research, my biggest clue that Orcelia belonged to the Jason Tayer family was a negative: The fact that Gershom Remington Tayer did not mention her in his will.

Update: On April 4, 2016 I found the Probate Records for Jason Tayer on Ancestry.com. Oddly enough the probate records were filed in Hillsdale County, Michigan. I had taken a trip to Hillsdale County, Michigan in 2012 and could not find any probate records or will for him. At that time I was not aware of the Fulton County, Ohio connection. I just thought there were no probate records.

The probate was filed June 11, 1863 in Hillsdale County.¹¹ As it mentions a widow (but not by name), the record seems to indicate that Jason Tayer predeceased his wife. However, I am not 100% sure how to interpret the statement below. Possibly it means that the widow's portion was used to pay debts. The statement in the record says:

“Setoff to the widow by appraisers on said estate three hundred and twenty dollars of the property inventories including household furniture as per return to this court between sold and appraised value and previously applied towards payment of debts of said estate.”

There was no inventory in the file which makes me wonder if there are other records out there. The online probate file dealt primarily with selling a piece of property to pay his debts.

But the best piece of information was his heirs. (*Note that his widow is not mentioned.* In the records it lists his heirs as:

- *Remington Tayer, **Mrs. Abigail Baker, Mrs. Mariah Smith, Oscar Tayer, William Tayer and John R. Tayer of Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio.
- **Mrs. Orselia Bragg** & the minor heirs of ***Mrs. Worden of Somerset, Hillsdale County Michigan.
- Franklin Tayer of Somerset aforesaid.

**This has to be Stephen Remington Tayer.*

***This is no doubt one of the missing sisters (from the 1830 and 1840 census)*

**** This is no doubt the other missing sister (from the 1830 and 1840 census)*

Abigail Tayer: She was one of the unidentified female on the 1840 census. She was born about 1824 in New York. She married Anson Baker. It is interesting to note that Anson Baker was a witness to the marriage of Samuel Bragg and Orselia Tayer. Prior to finding Abigail's name, I had no clues as to who he was. The other witness, Silas Worden, was married to Fanny Bragg, sister of Samuel Bragg.

On the 1850 census, Anson and Abigail Baker were found in Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio. They were listed just 2 families over from S. R. Tayer. In 1860 they were still in Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio. In 1870 they were in Pentwater, Oceana County, Michigan. In 1880 I found them in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

I'm not certain what happened to Anson Baker, but Abbie Baker married Hobart Brink on May 27, 1889 in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan. He was living with them on the 1860 and 1870 census. Abigail Brink died April 13, 1895 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Hannah Tayer Worden: Jason Tayer's probate records also said: “minor heirs of Mrs. Worden in Somerset, Hillsdale County.” Unfortunately, it did not list her first name. Since I had identified everyone else from the 1840 census, I knew that in 1860, I was looking for a female between the age of 30 and 35. I then searched the 1860 census for a “female, last name Worden, in Hillsdale County, Michigan, born in New York between 1825 and 1830.” The only one I found was Hannah Wordin.

In 1860 I found in Somerset, Hillsdale County, Michigan: Shubael Wordin (age 54, born New York), Hannah Wordin (age 34, born New York), and children: Ira Wordin (age 16, born Ohio), Lucretia Wordin (age 14, born Mich), Jason Wordin (age 12, born Ohio), Mary J. Wordin (age 10, born Ohio) and Leander Wordin (age 7). (Note the names **Jason and Mary**, which are the names of the parents of the other Tayer children). So, based on her last name, age, place of birth, and children's names, I am certain this is the other missing daughter of Jason and Mary Tayer.

In 1850 they were in Gorham, Fulton County, Ohio: Shubel Worden (age 44, farmer, born NY), Hannah Worden (age 30, born NY), Ira Worden (age 6, born Ohio), Lucretia Worden (age 4, born Michigan), Jason Worden (age 3, born Ohio), Mary Worden (age 8/12, born Ohio), Ira Worden (age 74, farmer, born NY). *Note that Shubael and Hannah would have been married before 1850, probably either in Lenawee County, Michigan or Fulton County, Ohio. I wonder if Jason and Mary moved there and died in Fulton County? Or if they died in Hillsdale County causing the family to migrate to where their older sister was?*

In 1870, Shubael Worden was in Blue Lake, Montcalm County, Michigan: Shebel Worden (age 63, farmer, born NY), Leander Worden (age 18, born Ohio), Mary Jane Worden (age 21, born Ohio). Note that Hannah is not with them, which could fit the scenario that Hannah Tayer Worden was deceased before the probate was done for Jason Tayer in 1863. I am certain that she is the other missing daughter of Jason Tayer and Mary "Polly" King.

So now, my incomplete 1840 census looks like this:

1840 Census Dover, Lenawee County, Michigan *(the italics are my notes. The ones in **BOLD** are the ones I could complete after I found the probate records for Jason Tayer.*

Males under 5 = 2 (*Oscar, age 4 & William, age 1*)

Males between 5 & 10 = 1 (*Franklin, age 6*)

Males between 10 & 15 = 0

Males between 15 & 20 = 1 (***Stephen Remington Tayer, age 17***)

Males between 20 & 30 = 0

Males between 34 & 40 = 0

Males between 40 & 50 = 1 (*Jason, age 40*)

Females under 5 = 0

Females between 5 & 10 = 1 (*Sarah, age 9*)

Females between 10 & 15 = 2 (***Orcelia, age 10 and Hannah, age 14***)

Females between 15 & 20 = 1 (***Abigail, age 16***)

Females between 20 & 30 = 0

Females between 30 & 40 = 0

Females between 40 & 50 = 1 (*Polly, age 40*)

I have now solved the puzzle of which brother was my gggg grandfather -- the father of my ggg grandmother, Orcelia Tayer Bragg, is Jason Tayer!!

¹ Wisconsin, Hillsdale County, marriage no. 1078 (5 July 1872), John Moreland and Phoebe Bragg; Hillsdale County Court House, Hillsdale County, Michigan.

² Ancestry.com, *1870 United States Federal Census* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009), Year: 1870; Census Place: Somerset, Hillsdale, Michigan; Roll: M593_673; Page: 508B; Family History Library Film: 552172.

³ Ancestry.com, *1860 United States Federal Census* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009), Year: 1860; Census Place: Somerset, Hillsdale, Michigan; Roll: M653_543; Page: 765; Family History Library Film: 803543.

⁴ Ancestry.com, *1850 United States Federal Census* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009), Year: 1850; Census Place: Somerset, Hillsdale, Michigan; Roll: M432_351; Page: 498A; Image: 341.

⁵ "New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637-1947," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FL65-C9Y> : accessed 17 Nov 2012), Samuel Bragg and Eliza Blodgett and null, 1837.

⁶ Ancestry.com, *1830 United States Federal Census* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010), 1830; Census Place: Sweden, Monroe, New York; Series: M19; Roll: 94; Page: 369; Family History Library Film: 0017154.

⁷ Ancestry.com, *1840 United States Federal Census* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010), Year: 1840; Census Place: Dover, Lenawee, Michigan; Roll: 207; Page: 81; Family History Library Film: 0014796.

⁸ Ancestry.com, *1850 United States Federal Census* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009), Year: 1850; Census Place: Somerset, Hillsdale, Michigan; Roll: M432_351; Page: 498A; Image: 341.

⁹ Jan/Feb 1994 issue of Lenawee County Family Researchers newsletter, Vol 7, Issue 4, submitted by member, Mrs. Gert Gutchall who found this obituary in the Fulton County Oh, Chapter of the O.G.S. newsletter dated Nov./Dec. 1993, It has a Lenawee County connection

¹⁰ "Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3Z1-4DQ> : 4 December 2014), Frank Tayer and Susan Jennings Cochran, 07 Jun 1900; citing Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan, v 2 p 520 rn 14880, Department of Vital Records, Lansing; FHL microfilm 2,342,515.

¹¹ Ancestry.com, *Michigan, Wills and Probate Records, 1784-1980* (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015), Probate Records; Author: Michigan. Probate Court (Hillsdale County); Probate Place: Hillsdale, Michigan.



Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Beverly Bowers is a relatively new member to Ark-La-Tex Genealogy and really enjoys getting involved. Beverly is a native Upstate New Yorker and moved to Bossier City years ago when her then husband was transferred to Barksdale by the Air Force. She is retired from Willis-Knighton North as a medical technologist and has an adult son. Beverly describes herself as a movie buff and is a volunteer at Robinson's Film Center where she might be found stuffing envelopes or taking tickets. She also volunteers at the Little Theatre, the Strand, and at Riverview. She likes to read mysteries and enjoys traveling. Beverly recently visited the Pacific Northwest and then toured South Dakota with her son and sister. She returns to New York at least once a year, and then her sister visits her in Bossier City. Beverly has agreed to serve on the Ark-La-Tex Board. The family names that she is most interested in are Scudder, Frost, Stanton, and Brooks.



Kristen Kilpatrick is a new member who lives in League City, Texas, and is a homemaker who is fascinated by family history. She and her husband, Shane, have two little girls, ages seven and eight. The Kilpatrick family are pioneers of Claiborne Parish, and Kristen and her husband own family property there. Kristen is especially interested in learning more about the Kilpatricks, Lowes, Garlands, and Kights.

Kristen likes to run long distances and ran in this year's Boston Marathon. She has run in two ultra marathons, which are 50 kilometers (or 31 miles) long. Kristen is looking forward to even longer races. Kristen and Shane frequently visit his parents, Sue and Hershel Kilpatrick, who live in Benton, Louisiana. Kristen tries to schedule the visits on the second weekend of the month so she can attend Ark-La-Tex meetings.



Member **Sara Knox** is originally from Baltimore, Maryland, but now lives in Haughton. She retired after 35 years as a civil servant at Barksdale Air Force Base. Two adult children live in Shreveport and Kilgore, Texas. Sara loves antiques and collectibles, but her real love is animal rescue and welfare. She emphasizes the importance of spaying and neutering. Sara is eager to learn more about the following surnames: Shawn, Knox, Rolph, and Gilchrist which is also spelled Gilchrist.



Margie Caplis and her husband, Joe, live in Caplis, Louisiana, Bossier Parish, on property that has been in the Caplis family since before The War Between the States. Joe is a farmer, cattleman, and is a retired business manager for SWEPCO. Margie is a retired clinical laboratory scientist and worked for Willis-Knighton. The couple have four children and two grandchildren. The family enjoys boating in the Gulf of Mexico as well as RVing. Margie is an avid reader and an advanced master gardener. She would like to know more about the names Caplis, Orta, Loughran, and Mooty.



Julie Norton lives in Shreveport but is a native of Bossier. She is a homemaker who loves to exercise and play tennis with her husband. Julie teaches Sunday School at Open Door Bible Church. The couple have three adult children, and the youngest just turned 21 in France where she is studying. Julie said she used to love listening to her grandparents when they talked about family history. There was a really big picture hanging on the wall of great-great-grandparents and a story of how the grandmother had died and her husband, never remarrying, took the picture with him from Oklahoma to South Texas near the King Ranch. Julie would like to research the names Finley (Findley), Crocker, Robards, Foley, and Holyfield (Holifield.)



Member **Wade Lyons** is retired from Eagle Distribution and spends much of his time in the gym and doing yard work. He loves researching his family and is a frequent visitor at the Broadmoor Branch of the library. Wade was born in Alabama but started visiting his brother who was stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base back in the 1950s and decided to move to Shreveport. Wade is interested in the following surnames: Kelly/Kelley, McLeod/McCloud, Flowers, Holly/Holley, Lyons, Wiggins, and Purdue. While I was interviewing Wade, we discovered that both of us have Irish ancestors from Antrim County, and we both have family buried in Springhill Baptist Cemetery in Bienville Parish. It's a small world.

ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

An article written and shared by member, Ms. Isabelle Woods, of presentations at the Family History Club, Bastrop, LA.

ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

The Family Club commemorated *Black History Month* with Mrs. Isabelle M. Woods' presentation, *Rosenwald Schools*. She displayed photographs of data, principal individuals, early schools, and Rosenwald schools to visually explain specific details of her documentary.

Mrs. Woods began her speech with a line from Katharine Lee Bates, "Love planted a rose, and the world turned sweet." Mrs. Woods said two individuals, Mr. Booker T. Washington, Sr., and Mr. Julius Rosenwald, planted roses called "*Rosenwald Schools*" in 15 southern states and created a sweeter world for African



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
1859-1915

Americans and for all of mankind today.

A Rosenwald School defines a school building which received a portion of its construction costs from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The Fund also built teachers' homes, workshops and made additions



JULIUS ROSENWALD
1862—1932

to existing Rosenwald schools.

Each came from a different background. Mr. Washington was a former slave. Mr. Rosenwald was a Caucasian from Germany, who was a Jew. However, they both shared a life-long experience of being subjected to racial discrimination. The color of Mr. Washington's skin adversely impacted his life tremendously. Mr. Rosenwald personally experienced hatred and discrimination for being a part of an ethnic group, a religious group, and a racial group with the rise of anti-Semitism. They united in creating and preparing a world for upward mobility through elementary education for African-American children.

Mrs. Woods detailed the barriers since slavery times to 1943 which Blacks faced to attain an education. With most States forbidding teaching slaves to read, Blacks hungered for learning after the

Civil War. They flocked to church schools or academies set up by missionaries. After 1900, their lives worsen when Blacks in southern states were stripped of their right to vote. From 1913 to 1915, the State of Louisiana's Department of Education spent 53 per cent more money on a White pupil than the amount spent on a Black pupil in public schools. Another roadblock, the "Jim Crow Era (1876-1965)" basically legislated segregation. The separate, racially segregated, school systems were not equal.

Obtaining an elementary education in rural areas was difficult for both Black and White children. Their schools lacked similar facilities available to children residing in city schools. However, if a rural town lacked funds to build two separate schools, only one school—for Whites—was built.

Moreover, elementary rural schools for both races were open for fewer days and for less months each year than city schools. Rural schools were scheduled around the cotton growing season.

A shortened school session greatly affected the children of sharecroppers. They were often removed from school to plant and

harvest crops beside their parents. As a result, more Blacks than Whites left school after the fourth grade. Consequently, fewer children in rural areas sought or qualified for higher education.¹

From 1867 to 1936, there were at least seven educational philanthropies which assisted Blacks teachers and students at the high school and college levels. Only the Rosenwald Fund financed elementary school construction for Blacks. When Mrs. Woods compared photographs of early schools held in churches, abandoned buildings, and in mason halls with those of Rosenwald schools, their differences were dramatic.

The story of Rosenwald Schools begins with Mr. Booker T. Washington (1859-1915), principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Tuskegee University). He was born in slavery. His mother, Jane, was a mulatto slave of a tobacco farmer, Mr. James Burroughs, near Hale's Ford in Franklin County, Virginia. Mr. Washington had intense grey eyes, a light skin, and two siblings: a half-sister Amanda, and a brother, John. He never knew his father. He applied his savings from working in salt furnaces and coal mines toward an education at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Newport News, Virginia, founded by former Union General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Here Mr. Washington worked as a janitor for his room, board, and his educational fees. His graduation from the Hampton Institute and his subsequent experience as a teacher there led to his appointment in 1881 as organizer and principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Agricultural Institute.²

Mr. Washington married faculty members of the Tuskegee Normal and Agricultural Institute. He was the father of three children. His first wife, Fannie Norton Smith, bore him a daughter, Portia. Two sons, Booker T. Washington, Jr., and Ernest Davidson Washington, were born in union with his second wife, Olivia America Davidson. Mr. Washington is shown with his third wife, Margaret James Murray and his three children in this photograph.



Washington's family ca 1899. From left: E. Davidson, Booker T. Jr., Margaret, Washington, and Portia. (National Park Service) photo

In 1912, three years before Mr. Washington died, Mr. Julius Rosenwald joined the Tuskegee Normal and Agricultural Institute's Board of Trustees, where they met. Born in 1862, Mr. Rosenwald was a White, German-Jewish immigrant's son, who was raised in Springfield, Illinois. In 1890 he married Augusta Nusbaum, who bore him five children. The family settled in Chicago. In 1897, he joined Sears, Roebuck and Company in Chicago, Illinois. He developed Sears into a major mail-order enterprise when the United States Postal Service instituted Rural Free Delivery. By 1909 he was CEO of Sears and his wealth grew. He became a well-known philanthropist for his monetary gifts beyond Chicago.

In 1915, Mr. Rosenwald celebrated his 50th birthday by distributing matching grants to a number of causes, including a \$25,000 grant to Tuskegee Normal and Agricultural Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. Mr. Washington asked Mr. Rosenwald permission to use \$2,800 remaining after his initial distribution of matching grants to teacher-training institutes. With his permission, Mr. Washington built six schools in Alabama with the \$2,800. Pleased with the results, Mr. Rosenwald made a \$30,000 gift in 1914, to build 100 rural schools.⁴

By 1917, he created the Rosenwald Fund in Chicago, re-organized the Fund in 1919, and relocated it to Nashville, Tennessee. This Fund became the source from which all future Rosenwald Schools were assisted financially until 1943. Since he discouraged the use of his name on schools he built, very few schools bear "Rosenwald" in their names.

According to a data base compiled by Fisk University at Nashville, Tennessee, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, had sixteen former Rosenwald school houses and one teachers' home. (See Exhibit A, Page 3.)

Mrs. Woods discussed five of them. Three (Mer Rouge, Shaw, and Morehouse Parish Training Schools) had photographs. Based on the designs published by the Rosenwald Fund, Mrs. Woods selected look-a-like photographs of two schools (Bonita Elementary, Sweet Home Consolidated) to give her audience probable images of them. Like this photograph, the Bonita School was uniquely painted a nut brown color and was similarly designed. Mrs. Woods concluded her presentation with photographs of the renovated Ridgeley Rosenwald School in Capitol Heights, Maryland.⁵



Morehouse Parish Training School



A similar design and color of the Bonita Elementary School, Bonita, Louisiana

The *Rosenwald Rural School Building Program* educated students to be good farmers. Blacks, therefore, were taught skills to ensure they remained in rural areas as the major pool for laborers. The Program dramatically improved Black rural school facilities and triggered an increase of money for Black education. However, public investment in Black education lagged behind that invested in White schools.

Mr. Washington gained personal freedom and international fame through education. However, he underestimated how far education and economic advancement would take African-Americans without their inherent right to vote.⁶ Even highly-educated Blacks remained second-class citizens, subjected to Jim Crow laws and practices and denied equal access to schools, public facilities, restaurants, etc.

The descendants of Black students educated in these buildings are forever grateful to these two men. Their schools fulfilled Blacks' thirst for knowledge and provided mentors who taught them skills to improve their lives.

EXHIBIT A: MOREHOUSE PARISH, LOUISIANA, ROSENWALD BUILDINGS

ID	SCHOOL	BUILDING PLAN	BUDGET Yr	LAND	PARISH	STATE	APPN #	COST	NOTES	BLACK	WHITE	PUBLIC	J R FUND
1	BASTROP ELEMENTARY	SIX-TEACHER	1927-1928	30.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	54-G	\$ 12,000	INS. 10,000	\$ 600		\$10,000	\$ 1,400
2	BONITA	TWO-TEACHER	1922-1923	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	16-B	\$ 3,200		\$1,800		\$ 700	\$ 700
3	COLLINSTON	TWO-TEACHER	1923-1924	3.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	48-C	\$ 3,000		\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 800	\$ 700
4	HAYNES	TWO-TEACHER	1927-1928	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	60-G	\$ 2,350	INS. \$2,000	\$ 300		\$ 1,550	\$ 500
5	J. N. JONES	TWO-TEACHER	1927-1928	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	57-G	\$ 2,350	INS. \$2,000	\$ 300		\$ 1,550	\$ 500
6	JONES-ROSENWALD	TWO-TEACHER	1927-1928	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	59-G	\$ 2,350	INS. \$2,000	\$ 300		\$ 1,550	\$ 500
7	LAWSON	TWO-TEACHER	1927-1928	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	56-G	\$ 2,350	INS. \$2,000	\$ 300		\$ 1,550	\$ 500
8	MCGINTY	TWO-TEACHER	1927-1928	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	58-G	\$ 2,350	INS. \$2,000	\$ 300		\$ 1,550	\$ 500
9	MER ROUGE	ONE-TEACHER	CIRCA 1919	UNK	MOREHOUSE	LA	----	\$ 1,340	TUSKEGEE	\$ 640	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 400
10	MOREHOUSE PARISH TRAINING	TEACHERS' HOME	1921-1922	UNK	MOREHOUSE	LA	23-A	\$ 2,400		\$ 800		\$ 600	\$ 1,000
11	MOREHOUSE PARISH TRAINING	SEVEN-TEACHER	1927-1928	15.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	43-G	\$ 19,600	INS. \$15,000	\$ 500		\$17,600	\$ 1,500
12	OAK RIDGE	FOUR-TEACHER	1926-1927	5.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	25-F	\$ 10,300	INS. \$9,000	\$ 200		\$ 9,000	\$ 1,100
13	SHAW	ONE-TEACHER	1928-1929	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	17-H	\$ 2,540	INS. \$2,000	\$ 400		\$ 1,940	\$ 200
14	SHEER	TWO-TEACHER	1927-1927	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	55-G	\$ 2,350	INS. \$2,000	\$ 300		\$ 1,550	\$ 500
15	SPEAKER	ONE-TEACHER	1922-1923	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	10-B	\$ 1,800		\$ 500		\$ 800	\$ 500
16	SPYKER	ONE-TEACHER	1922-1923	2.00	MOREHOUSE	LA	30-B	\$ 1,505		\$ 450	\$ 200	\$ 355	\$ 500
17	SWEET HOME CONSOLIDATED	THREE-TEACHER	1919-1920	UNK	MOREHOUSE	LA	----	\$ 3,248	TUSKEGEE	\$1,433	\$ 247	\$ 768	\$ 800
18							TOTAL COSTS	\$ 75,033		\$9,873	\$1,397	\$51,963	\$11,800
19							PERCENTAGE TOTAL COSTS			13.1%	1.9%	69.3%	15.7%

Sources:

- ¹ Tom Hanchett, "Rosenwald School History; Saving the South's Rosenwald Schools," at <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolhistory>.
- ² Raymond W. Smock, *Booker T. Washington, Black Leadership in the Age of Jim Crow*, Publisher: Ivan R. Dee, Chicago, Illinois, a member of the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, ©2009., pages 17, 26, 57, 72.
- ³ Op. cit, "Rosenwald School History; Saving the South's Rosenwald Schools."
- ⁴ "Rosenwald Schools Initiative, History," at page 3 and page 4 of 6 pages; <http://www.rosenwaldschools.com/history.html>.
- ⁵ <http://www.rosenwald@fisk.edu>.

Photo credits:

- Front page: Booker T. Washington from Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.
- Front Page: Photo of a portrait of Julius Rosenwald from *Dictionary of American Portraits* (New York, Dover Publications, 1968), page 531.
- Page 2: Photo of Washington's Family from National Park Service files.
- Page 2: Photos of Morehouse Parish Training School and of Rosenwald School, Cecil, Alabama, <http://www.flicker.com>



The Homer Workshop

Contributed by Barbara Dean Kronenberg

On Saturday, November 4, several members of our Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association traveled to Homer, Louisiana, to present a workshop at the Claiborne Parish Library. Presenters were Jim Johnson, Mary Ann Heinsohn, Margaret Ford, and Glenda Bernard, president of the Association. Topics presented were military records, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a historical message from a former Homer resident, and practical courthouse research tips.

There were approximately twenty in attendance, with door prizes given and refreshments being served. The program began at 12:30 p.m. and ended around 3:00 p.m. Delighted with the number in attendance, Pam Suggs, the librarian, expressed interest and desire to have additional workshops. There were numerous questions addressed to the presenters, indicating a wide range of interest and knowledge.

As part of an outreach to support small regional libraries in Northwest Louisiana, the workshop was an outreach request toward developing genealogical programs. The newly renovated library and genealogical collection is a wonderful resource and asset for Homer and Claiborne Parish.

Perhaps our ALTGA motto will encourage others. "To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation, and service. We're in the family business."





“Finding your Ancestors in Military Records” – Jim Johnson



“Researching at the Family History Library (Salt Lake City)” - Mary Ann Heinsohn



“Reminiscing About Growing Up in Homer” – Margaret Ford



Pam Suggs, Librarian, Claiborne Parish Library

Researching at the Louisiana State Archives

A Horn Book presentation given to the General Assembly of Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, October 14, 2017, by Glenda Efferson Bernard

Have you had the opportunity to visit the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge? If not, you might want to think about putting it on your list of major genealogy libraries and archives to frequent soon. The building is beautiful and easy to access at 3851 Essen Lane in the capital city. The staff is manned by several willing people to assist visitors with the process of locating available vital records, how to operate the equipment, and to answer any questions one may have. The research library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. (Be sure to call to be sure it is not a state holiday.) Their website lists the record dates which can be viewed and copied. Xerox copies from their library collections are 10 cents each and copies from microfilm are 50 cents each.

The website for the archives is very important because the death index can be searched from it, and other details about procedures are explained.

<https://www.sos.la.gov/HistoricalResources/ResearchHistoricalRecords/VisitTheResearchLibrary/Pages/default.aspx>. To view this index, go to the “Basic Search” box and fill in the surname desired. All of the death certificates which are available for your surname will appear. Obviously this is an ongoing list, so check back often. Make note of the year the person died, the volume number, and the page number of each first and last name for which you would like a copy of a death certificate. The certificate can be ordered for \$5.00 per copy through the mail or 50 cents each on the microfilm printer in the archives building. The website qualifies other vital records available:

Also found in the Research Library is the state's archival vital records program. Here patrons can view selected marriage, death, and birth records for Orleans Parish, as well as death records and some birth records for the remainder of the state. Death records cover the period up to 1962 and information on New Orleans births is for the period through 1912. Marriage records for Orleans Parish in the index are also over 50 years old. These records may contain information vital to ancestral research such as parents' names, place of birth, cause of death, age and occupation of deceased persons, location of burial, and official performing wedding.

Researchers may obtain any of the following vital records by visiting the Louisiana State Archives Research Library or may request the records by mail. The Archives maintains the following in our [Online Public Vital Records Index](#):

- Orleans Parish birth records for 1819–1912 (births more than 100 years ago)* (Index for 1790–1818, but no records)

- Orleans Parish marriage records for 1870–1962 (marriages more than 50 years ago)** (Index for 1831–1869, but no records.)
- Orleans Parish death records for 1819–1962 (deaths more than 50 years ago)* (Index for 1804–1818)
- Statewide birth records for 1911–1912 (births more than 100 years ago)*
- Statewide death records for 1911–1962 (deaths more than 50 years ago)*

*The only birth records that are currently available at the Archives prior to 1912 are from Orleans Parish. The only death records currently available prior to 1912 are from Jefferson and Orleans parishes. Records from Orleans are filed separately from the combined statewide listing of all the other parishes in the state. Records prior to the dates listed above are probably nonexistent unless the parish where the birth or death occurred kept such a record. If the person being researched was Catholic, birth and death information would probably be shown in the records of the church or diocese where that person lived.

One of the most important hints for success at almost any genealogical library or archives is to gather as much information as possible prior to an actual visit. The use of the online death index at home, as well as available guides, are invaluable. There is no online catalog of the archives' collections outside the realm of the death records. However, the best supplement to a visit is to consider using a very detailed resource. Judy Riffel's excellent 2nd edition book, *A Guide to Genealogical Research at the Louisiana State Archives*,¹ can be purchased through LeComite des Archives de la Louisiana, Inc.² It can also be located in most Louisiana libraries throughout the state as a reference. Ms. Riffel describes many holdings which will be a great start in a search for records at the archives. She describes each collection and notes whether they are public or non-public collections.³

Among some of the most popular records accessed by the public are colonial records, Port of New Orleans passenger manifests, military service records, Confederate Pension Applications, and State Land Office records. The research library also houses quite a large accumulation of donated family histories, Louisiana related books, and periodicals published in or about Louisiana genealogy.

A visit to the Louisiana State Archives will be a positive one especially with preparation before leaving home. Good luck and have fun!

¹ Riffel, Judy. 2009. *A Guide to Genealogical Research at the Louisiana State Archives*. Baton Rouge, La: LeComite des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc.

² This is the non-profit support group for the Louisiana State Archives. The guide may be purchased from LeComite des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc. at <http://www.lecomite.org>.

³ Public records can be accessed by a patron, non-public records must be pulled from the "backroom" archives by departmental personnel.

ELIZABETH FRANCES SANDERLIN

Contributed by Thaddeus T. Pardue

Cast of Characters:

Me - Thad Pardue

Daddy and Mamma – my parents, Kenzie and Ethlynn Pardue

Pa Pa and Ma Ma – my grandparents, Cleat and Ollie Pardue

Granny and Grampa – Pa Pa's parents, Fanny and Lum Pardue

Elizabeth Frances Sanderlin and Leonidas Alexander (Lee) McBride were Fanny's parents and my great-great-grandparents.

When I first began really delving into my family history (about 1968), I knew little about any of my ancestors beyond my great-grandparents. I knew almost nothing about Granny's family. I'm not sure how much Pa Pa knew because his grand-parents were dead before he was born; I never asked him about his ancestors, much to my regret.

I heard a few snippets about Granny's family from Ma Ma and from Mamma and Daddy. After Grampa died in 1939, Pa Pa built a small house across the road from where he and Ma Ma lived, and Granny lived there until she died in 1945. Mamma and Daddy lived with Ma Ma and Pa Pa for about two years after they married (in 1939), so they also heard a few stories that Granny told.

From family stories, I knew a few facts about Granny's mother before I started looking into county and census records. Her maiden name was Sanderlin, and she came from Shelby County, TN. I later learned that her full name was *Elizabeth Frances Sanderlin*, and her husband, from whom I was descended, was *Leonidas Alexander McBride*. I never heard a nickname applied to Elizabeth; her husband was recorded as "Alex" on the 1850 Census, "L. A." on his marriage record, "Lee" on the 1860 Census, and "Leonidas A." on his Civil War record. I also was told that Lee was Elizabeth's tutor, that they had eloped, and that Elizabeth was disowned by her parents.

Thus, I began my research on Elizabeth in Shelby County, TN. I found the McBride family in the 1850 Census living in the 4th Civil District of Shelby County. Robert and Jane (Foster) McBride had an 18-year-old son named Alex. There were also some Sanderlin families living in Shelby County; however, Elizabeth was not listed with any of them. What I initially found in the Shelby County marriage records was puzzling. I found two marriages: one between *John M. McBride* and *Elizabeth Sanderlin* on 19 Jul 1852 and another between *L. A. McBride* and *E. F. McBride* on 18 Jul 1854. I looked back on the 1850 Census and saw that Robert and Jane had a son named John, who was two years younger than Alex. My conclusion was that Lee's brother, John, was Elizabeth's first husband. They were both 18 when they married and, after John's early death, Elizabeth stayed in contact with her in-laws since she had been disowned by her parents. That gave her and Lee the opportunity to form a closer relationship resulting in their marriage.

Elizabeth and Lee had one child, a son named James, before they moved, along with Lee's parents, Robert and Jane, west to Drew County, AR, where they settled in Prairie Township about nine miles east of Monticello, the county seat of Drew. Lee purchased 160 acres in 1859 and was listed in the 1860 Census living in Drew County with his wife and three children and another young family, L. J. Berry and his wife and daughter. Elizabeth and Lee's second child was a daughter named Mary Jane; their third was a daughter named Margaret Frances (Fanny). The household that precedes Lee's on the 1860 Census is that of L. J. Berry's parents; the household following Lee's is that of Robert and Jane McBride.

Lee and Elizabeth had one other son, Leonidas Price, born in Drew County before "Leonidas A." joined, in 1862, Company B of the 26th Arkansas Regiment of the Confederate Army. On 7 Dec 1862, Lee was wounded in the Battle of Prairie Grove in Washington County in northwestern Arkansas. [Fayetteville is the county seat of Washington County and the much larger battle of Pea Ridge, a Union victory, had been fought in that region several months earlier in 1862.] According to Granny, after Elizabeth heard (by telegraph, I assume) that Lee was wounded, she and her older son, Jim, who was only about seven years old, traveled by wagon from Drew (in southeast Arkansas) to bring Lee home to recuperate. On their return journey, in order to evade Union troops, they crossed the boundary into Indian Territory and, somewhere in eastern Oklahoma, Lee died on 28 Jan 1863. Elizabeth and Jim buried Lee alongside the road and traveled back home to Drew County.

Another tidbit that Granny told was that during the Civil War there were three wives of Civil War soldiers living with Robert and Jane McBride. I believe one of the wives was Robert and Jane's daughter Margaret, who was married to a Roberts, and the other two were wives of their sons, Lee and Robert, Jr. Sometime during the 1860s, probably shortly after the Civil War, the McBrides and "family" moved to Claiborne Parish in north central Louisiana. According to the 1870 Census report, Robert and Jane were living in the community of Lisbon while Elizabeth was living in or near the little town of Arizona, located between Homer, the parish seat of Claiborne, and Lisbon. Some time in the early 1870s, Elizabeth moved farther south to the Tulip community east of Athens. Her daughter, Mary Jane, married Ben Stevens in 1875; her son Jim married Mary Carr in 1877. Then on 14 Mar 1878, Margaret Frances (Fanny) McBride married Claiborne Columbus (Lum) Pardue. Four days later, on 18 Mar 1878, Elizabeth Sanderlin, widow of two McBrides, married William Kinder (W. K.) Carr, the father of her daughter-in-law Mary.

Elizabeth, about 44 years old, was about fifteen years younger than W. K., who was born about 1819. He had formerly lived in Union Parish before he moved to Claiborne Parish. Daddy told me that Granny had told him that "Grampa Carr" had been regarded in the community as a "seer" – that he had predicted that men would one day be flying in vehicles through the air. Elizabeth's marriage did not last long. Less than four months later, on 5 Jul 1878, she was killed in a buggy accident. According to an article in the *Guardian Journal*, a newspaper published in Homer, she died of a "broken back." According to the family story, her chest was crushed between a tree stump and the wheel of her buggy.

About 1981, I talked with Mrs. Delia Chandler, a daughter of Jim McBride and a granddaughter of Elizabeth, who was about 90 years old. "Aunt Delie," as my sisters and I called her, told me

more about the accident. I suppose there were several members of the family traveling together (maybe after July 4th festivities), and Grampa, her son-in-law for about four months, rode his horse around the buggy in which Elizabeth and W. K. were riding, and spooked the mule pulling the buggy. Elizabeth was bounced out of the buggy and was killed “instantly” according to the newspaper article. Aunt Delie also told me Elizabeth’s sons, who were understandably distraught over their mother’s death, killed the mule that was pulling the buggy. Aunt Delie also told me that Elizabeth is buried in the Tulip Cemetery next to two above-the-ground tombs (there used to be three) marking the burials of infants, one a sister of Aunt Delie, and the other a grandson of W. K. I later placed a tomb-stone in the Tulip Cemetery for Elizabeth.

A personal comment: Pa Pa and Ma Ma lived in the Hurricane community about two miles from one of Granny’s brothers and his descendants, but I never observed any contact between Pa Pa or Daddy and the McBrides. I asked Daddy one time why the McBrides and the Pardues never visited each other, and he said that he didn’t know. I wonder whether the McBrides partly blamed Grampa for their mother’s death. Grampa was involved in a number of “scrapes” in his lifetime, so the McBrides might have just chosen not to socialize with the Pardues. However, one of Jim McBride’s daughters did marry one of Pa Pa’s first cousins.

W. K., according to marriage records and various family trees (found on Ancestry.com) had been married at least twice in Union Parish before he married Elizabeth. He did not remain a widower long after her death. In December 1878, he married again (another widow), and moved away, first to Jackson Parish and then to Hempstead County, Arkansas, where he died and was buried in 1908.

Elizabeth’s oldest child, James, and Mary Carr had eleven children, three of whom died as infants. They lived in both Claiborne Parish and in Eros (Jackson Parish), where Jim died and was buried in 1913. Mary was living in Claiborne Parish when she died in 1930 and is buried in the Hurricane Cemetery. Her older daughter, Mary Stevens, and her husband died (of a disease, I assume) while on a trip in West Texas in 1894. Neither the exact dates of their deaths nor their burial place is known by descendants, about whom I know little. Elizabeth’s third child, Fanny (Granny), died in 1945; she and Lum, who died in 1939, are buried in the Hurricane Cemetery. Granny gave birth to twelve children, only four of whom lived to adulthood. Pa Pa was Granny’s only child still living when she died. Elizabeth’s last child, Leon/Lee, died in 1919 and is buried with his wife, Cordelia Craighead, in the Craighead Cemetery in the Tulip community. They had fifteen children, three of whom died in infancy.

I now have access to Ancestry.com records which include family trees. According to several of the family trees, Elizabeth was the youngest child of Reverend Lemuel Sanderlin and Elizabeth Slack, who died in 1834. The 1830 Census records Lemuel Sanderlin living in Wilson County, TN. In 1840, he was listed in Haywood County northeast of Shelby Co. I’m not sure where he was living in 1850, but I did not find “my” Elizabeth listed on any of his censuses. She was born in 1833/34, and she did not fit into the age group of Lemuel’s children in 1840, so I am not fully convinced that he was her father.