

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

William Whaley Bryant¹ was born September 11, 1801 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia at the home of a relative of his mother Jane Overton Bryant. He died on August 8, 1838 in Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois of an illness during an epidemic² that had been in Illinois for several years. His name was spelled William Whaley Bryant in other publications.³

Rev. Thomas Jefferson Bryant in his autobiography reported that the family tradition stated that “*the family originated in Breton, France*” and immigrated to England in the sixteenth century. He further stated that three brothers came to the America with one settling in Massachusetts, one in New York and one in Virginia.⁴ His family was from the Virginia connection and he reported that he had no information about the New York brother but the Massachusetts brother lead to William Cullen Bryant(t). The outline below delineates a path for the family migrations from England.

Robert Bryan(t)⁵ was probably born before 1540 in Aylesbury, County of Bucks, England and was buried on December 26, 1604 in the same city. He was married first to Joanne who was buried on March 15, 1581 and second to Agnes Carpenter who was buried in Aylesbury on March 24, 1624.⁶ Aylesbury and Wendover are in the Aylesbury Hundred of the County of Buck (Buckinghamshire) and are located about two miles apart and are forty miles from London.

Robert and Joanne Bryan(t) had one known son Thomas Bryan(t).

Thomas Bryan(t) was probably born before 1564 in Aylesbury, County of Bucks, England and was buried there on October 7, 1611. He married first to an unknown wife before 1579 and married Frances Bowling of Aylesbury on June 13, 1586. Thomas was thought to have been a dealer in cotton and woolen goods and belonged to the merchant class.⁷

The will of Thomas Brian (Bryan(t)) dated October 20, 1611 records: “*Bequests to the poore of Aylesburie, 20s. Daughter Judith Springall, a feather bedd and boulster which was her mothers. To sons Austin and Alexander 30 pounds each at 21 years. Daughters, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Faith, Amye, Franuncys, Mary, and Anne 10 pounds each at 18 years. Sonne Thomas Brian 10s. Sonne, Robert Brian, 10 pounds, Sonne, William 10 pounds, Mary Henshaw, my kinswoman, 10 pounds, Lands in Walton field and Griffin Orchard, unto Fraunces my wife. Residuary legatee and sole executrix, said wife Fraunces. Overseers: “Brothers” Thomas Bowlinge and Henry Bolinge. Witnesses, Robert Bell, William Clark, John Cockman, robbers Gullock (? Bullock).” Probated on November 5, 1611 by Fraunces Brian (Bryan(t)).⁸*

A lawsuit against the estate was settled on February 5, 1612 declared the “*sanity of the said deceased and the validity of the said Will.*”⁹

The known children are Judith, Thomas, Robert, William, Austin, Rebecca, Faith, Amy, Alexander, Frances, Mary, Elizabeth, and Anne. Other children thought to be include William, Nathaniel, Anne, Michel, and Elizabeth.¹⁰

The earliest Bryan(t) that Evelyn Ownbey identified in her book “*What Does America Mean To You?*” was Thomas Bryan(t) of Aylesbury, County of Bucks, England. She reported that he had at least three children: Elizabeth, baptized on November 2, 1600; Alexander, baptized on

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

September 9, 1602; and Frances, baptized on April 19, 1606. ¹¹

Alexander Bryan(t) was baptized on September 9, 1602, and married first Anne Baldwin before February 18, 1632 in England. Anna died on February 20, 1661 in New Haven, Connecticut. Alexander Bryan(t) died between July 20 and November 6, 1679. Richard Baldwin, uncle of Anne Baldwin, mentions Anne Baldwin Bryan(t) along with her son, Richard Bryan(t), in his will in the Parish of Aston Clinton, County of Bucks, Yoeman, England dated February 18, 1632. ¹² Robert and Joane Baldwin were the parents of Anna Baldwin Bryan(t). Robert Baldwin apparently died shortly after Anna's death.

On February 12, 1639 Alexander Bryan(t), Edmund Trapp, Zachariah Whitman, Benjamin Penn, and William Fowler traveled with a party of six men from New Haven to Wepawaug and purchased land from Ansantawe, a sachem or chief of the Paugusset Indians. They bought the site for "*six coats, ten blankets, one kettle, twelve hatchets, twelve hoes, two dozen knives, and a dozen small mirrors*". ¹³ In the fall of 1639 Alexander and Anne Baldwin Bryan(t) were among the first settlers ¹⁴ of Milford, Connecticut. Alexander and Anne left New Haven with a small group of friends for the ten mile trip to the site of Milford. The group had come from Boston about one year prior having arrived from London about two years before. Most of the early settlers were from the English counties of Essex, Hereford, and York. ¹⁵

Alexander was also granted a franchise as a "*free planter*" on November 20, 1639 at the first General Court or Town meeting held in Milford along with 43 other church members. ^{16 17} In 1639 he was granted lot number twenty-three which was four acres in size which was located at the junction of River and Broad streets. ¹⁸ Land for lots was given to the planters based on the size of his estate, the size of his family, and his importance as a leader. The original lots were two to seven acres in size. This amount of land was too small to support themselves and more land was assigned on the edges of the town. ¹⁹ Later Alexander owned fourteen acres and was a proprietor of Stratford a town on the west edge of Milford. ²⁰

In May of 1643 Milford joined a confederation that included Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and New Haven. On October 27, 1643 the General Court for the league was formed. The settlers of Milford always desired more land and they sought additional land from the Indians. In 1655 and 1659 Andrew signed agreements with the Indians for more land. ²¹

On May 25, 1671 additional land was obtained for the city of Stratford in a purchase called the "*White Hills Land*." Andrew Bryan(t) was paid two pounds and eleven shillings "*for goods to ye Indians for same land*." Richard Bryan(t) was paid sixteen pounds for cloth coats used for the purchase of the land. ²²

By 1641 Alexander Bryan(t), of Milford, was involved in early trade with Boston and other coastal ports. ^{23 24} He was described as "*the great merchant for the whole region of the country, and with his son, Richard, they traded for more than half of a century. They bought and sold land in almost or quite every town from New London to New York. They furnished goods to pay the Indians for nearly all the townships in the region. Their vessels traded, not only at home, but in foreign ports, England, Holland, and Spain. Their bills passed in Exchange in all parts of the country, and particularly in England. It is doubtful if there was another merchant, out of Boston,*

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

on the American Coast, that did as large business as Alexander Bryant from 1639 to 1670.” ²⁵

He was described as the most extensive merchant of either the colonies of New Haven or Connecticut. From 1668 to 1673 Alexander Bryan(t) was assistant Governor of the Colony of Connecticut. In 1650 Alexander was granted him land on the corner of Broad and Dock or Bryan lane to build a warehouse and wharf in Milford for his and other ships. ²⁶ The Bryan wharf was the usual stop for ships to and from New York and the towns along the Connecticut River. ²⁷ The ships carried barrel staves and flour went to the West Indies and molasses and rum on the return trip. Later Alexander gave the wharf to the city. ²⁸ He was described as a man of great influence in the Colony of New Haven and he and his son, Richard, were reported to be the richest men in the Milford.

Alexander Bryant was an important official in the town of Milford. He was a magistrate from 1668 to 1679. ²⁹ During King Phillip's War of 1675-1677 he was actively involved in the defense of Milford. When the Indians were coming from Massachusetts Alexander sent for Captain Robert Trent of Milford to return with two hundred militia dragoons ³⁰ to defend Milford. ³¹ The war caused an estimated fifteen thousand Native American deaths and eight hundred colonist deaths. This war had the highest death percentages for both sides of any war ever fought by the United States. The war began because of the expansion by the colonists and their treatment of the Native Americans. ³²

Alexander Bryant(t) owned a corn mill in Milford where grain was ground for flour and meal. ³³ William Fowler also was an owner of the gristmill which was an important part of the early community. ³⁴

Alexander and Anne Baldwin Bryant(t) had three known children: Richard, Susanna and Joanna.

A will by Alexander Bryant(t) of Milford, Connecticut has been reported. ³⁵

Richard Bryant(t), the son of Alexander and Anne Baldwin Bryant(t), was born in 1629 and died in 1696. Richard entered the same domestic and foreign merchant business as his father. Richard owned Milford Island, Milford, Connecticut Colony which was situated about three-quarters of a mile from shore but with a bar between the island and the shore. This island was later sold to Charles Deal and the island is now known as Charles Island. ³⁶ Richard was also a successful merchant and owned a warehouse on Dock Lane. His ships and those of his father made regular trips to and from the West Indies. Richard was also sold some land by the town of Milford to build a tavern or hotel. ³⁷

Richard Bryant(t) and William East, business partners, both owned ware houses on Dock Lane. In 1676 they were still the leading merchants of Milford and their ships continued to make regular trips to Boston and the West Indies. His warehouse was adjacent to his father's warehouse.

In 1687 Richard Bryant(t), the richest man in Milford, received two hundred eight acres of land in Milford. About forty years later his son moved to this land. ³⁸ This area became known as Bryant's farms and a school was on the property. Land in Milford was in the possession of the

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

settlers which was very different from most of the rest of the early American land that was owned by patentees or the Crown.

His first marriage was to Mary Pantry (Peyntree) daughter of William and Margaret Pantry, who settled in Hartford before November 29, 1649. Richard and Mary Pantry (Peyntree) Bryan(t) had 11 children: Alexander, Mary, Hannah, Sarah, Samuel, John, Abigail, Richard, Frances, Abigail, and Elizabeth.

Richard Bryan(t) second marriage was to Mary Wilmot on July 15, 1679 and they had two children: Elizabeth and Joseph.

Richard Bryan(t)'s third marriage was to Elizabeth Powell Hollingsworth, widow of Richard Hollingsworth. In 1696 after the death of Richard Bryan(t) Elizabeth married Robert Treat who was baptized in England in February 1624. Robert Treat was a member of the original group that settled Milford in 1639 and he was the deputy governor and the governor of Connecticut for 32 years.³⁹ He was also the founder of Newark, New Jersey. Robert Treat was a very educated man using Latin and other languages. Robert Treat was also a Captain of the Connecticut militia. He was involved in a witchcraft trial on September 19, 1692 and as Governor he acquitted "*Elizabeth Clawson, Goody Miller, and widow Staple*" but sentenced "*Mercy Disbrough*" to death. She was later acquitted.⁴⁰

Alexander Bryan(t) was born in 1651 and died August 19, 1701. He was the town clerk of Milford in 1692 and for several other years. Later he lived for a time on Southampton, Long Island, New York where he also owned property. He married Sybilla Whiting who was born in 1655.

John Bryan(t) was born in 1680 and left Southampton, Long Island after the death of his father in 1701 and migrated to Maryland where other family members had settled. He was a witness to the will of Edward Sherwood sometime after 1730 as reported in *Old Maryland Families*, Bromwell, page 40.

There is a tradition that the Bryan(t)'s lived in St. Marys County, Maryland near Brittain's Bay in the Leonardstown, Maryland area. The deeds were destroyed in a fire that burned the court house in 1890. The wife of John Bryan(t) is not known. Later records list a Brittain Bryan(t) in Edgecomb County, North Carolina.

Thomas Bryan(t), (Sr.) was married to Elizabeth Fowler on June 27, 1720 as noted in the Register 1672-1800, Richmond County, Virginia. Two sons were listed in the *Isle of Wright County, Virginia History* by Boddie:

Willfree, born June 2, 1731

Thomas, born December 8, 1736

Captain Thomas Bryan(t) was appointed a trustee for four small children of John Cotten on July 5, 1732. Captain Thomas Bryan(t) met in a home in Isle of Wright County, Virginia to complete the division of an estate on December 7, 1734.

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

Records of Bertie County, North Carolina that appeared in *Isle of Wright County, Virginia History* by Boddie listed Thomas Bryan(t) as a Justice in 1739. Thomas was the attorney of record for a deed in 1740.⁴¹ Thomas Bryan(t) was also a Representative to the Colonial Assembly from Bertie County, North Carolina in 1743-1744.

Thomas Bryan(t) is also listed in Edgecombe County, North Carolina as receiving a land grant on April 14, 1727. This may be the same land grant which is found on page 166 of Volume No. 13 of Virginia Land Grants. Edgecomb County was formed from Bertie and Halifax Counties, North Carolina. Evelyn Owenby⁴² reported that many Bryan(t)'s were in Edgecomb County, North Carolina during the 1700's.⁴³

Thomas Bryan(t), (Jr.) was born December 8, 1736 and died in April 1785. He married twice with the first marriage being to Anne Halley the daughter of Francis and Anne Halley of Prince William County, Virginia until 1760 and after that date in Bedford County, Virginia. Anne is believed to have died in 1773. Evan Bryan(t) is thought to have been the only son of Thomas and Anne Halley Bryan(t).⁴⁴

Thomas Bryan(t) married second to Phoebe Bryan, born about 1761 and died about 1850, the daughter of Captain William and Mary (Boone) Bryan. Mary (Boone) Bryan was the sister of Daniel Boone. The children of Thomas and Phoebe Bryan Bryan(t) included: John, William, Hudson, Delilah, Elizabeth, and Faithful Bryan(t).

Thomas Bryan(t) signed a will in the County of Edgecomb, North Carolina on February 15, 1785. He stated that he was of "*weak in body but sound and present mind and memory*".

The will further states "*Item: I give and bequeath to my son, Evan Bryant, one hundred acres of land whereon he now lives. I also give my son Evan one negro (sic) slave called Abram.*"⁴⁵ Others named in the will include John, William, Hudson, Delilah, Elizabeth, Anne, and "my wife".

A listing for Faithful Bryan(t) receiving her dower from her father's estate, that of Thomas Bryan(t), deceased in 1785 was noted in Edgecomb County, North Carolina records on June 13, 1797.

Evan Bryan(t)'s birthdate is not known but it is reported that he was born about 1764. In 1785 he was willed land from his father's estate and would have to be twenty-one years old to hold title to property. He reportedly died on December 20, 1800. In the 1800 North Carolina, Edgecomb County census Evan Bryan(t) was listed as being twenty-six to forty-four years of age. One other male person of the same age is listed as living with Evan Bryan(t). His name was spelled Bryant on this record.⁴⁶ Some have thought that Evan Bryan(t) was the son of Thomas Bryan(t) and his second wife, Phoebe Bryan Bryan(t). Family history notes that he was the son of Thomas and Anne Halley Bryan(t).⁴⁷

Evan Bryant was reportedly a favorite grandson of Mary Boone Bryant and spent much time with her.⁴⁸

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

The 1790 Census of Edgecombe County, North Carolina ⁴⁹ lists the following:

Evan Bryant	100034
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This would indicate that there were no females in the household at this time but that Evan held three slaves. Evan was at least sixteen years of age but to head a household would have been at least twenty-one years of age.

Evan Bryan(t) married Jane Overton, born in 1786, in 1800. Jane Overton was the daughter of Captain "General" Thomas Overton and his first wife, Sarah Woodson. Captain Thomas Overton was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati of Virginia. ⁵⁰ In 1793 Sarah Woodson Overton died when Jane (Jean) Overton was about six years old and Jane (Jean) lived with several aunts that were neighbors or friends of the Bryans. Phoebe Bryan Bryan(t), daughter of Mary Boone Bryan, visited these families often. These aunts were Mrs. Francis B. Deane, Mrs. John Kennon, and Mrs. Orlando James. The Kennon's and Deane's lived in Richmond County, Virginia. Evan Bryan(t) most likely met Jane (Jean) Overton through the friendship of the Boone/ Bryan/ Bryan(t) families. Phoebe Boone Bryan(t) was Evan's paternal grandmother. General Thomas Overton married second Penelope Holmes and their first child was born in 1797. Thomas Bryan(t) married second Phoebe Bryan. Thus both Jane (Jean) Overton and Evan Bryan(t) lost their mothers at a young age.

Jane Overton would have been fourteen years of age at her marriage to Evan Bryan(t) and he was about twenty-six years of age.

Thomas Bryan(t) gave Evan Bryan(t) "*one hundred acres of land whereon Evan now lives*" and "*one negro slave named Abram*" in his will of February 15, 1785. ⁵¹

Edgecomb County, North Carolina records show that Hudson Bryan(t), ⁵² son of Thomas Bryan(t), deeded 175 acres of land to Evan Bryan(t) on January 6, 1800 for 100 pounds. A witness was Whitnell Bell which was later was the executor of Evan Bryan(t)'s estate as noted on a deed he gave after Evan Bryan(t)'s death on December 20, 1800. The record of the marriage of Evan Bryan(t) and Jane Overton is reported to be on the inside of a real estate record book in Sandy Hook, Elliott County, Kentucky. The marriage was reported to have been in the record book of Rev. John A. Head, a pioneer minister, who traveled the eastern Kentucky area. ⁵³ It is not known why their marriage is recorded in a book of a Kentucky minister unless Rev. John Head traveled to Kentucky later.

The reported location of their marriage record is in a deed book in Elliott County, Kentucky located at Sandy Hook but the record has not been found at this time. Mary Boone Bryan lived in West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky for a period of time. ⁵⁴ This is adjacent to Elliott County where Sandy Hook is the county seat. Perhaps this location of Mary Boon Bryan is the reason that Evan and Jane Overton Bryant were in this region of Kentucky. Evelyn Ownbey reported that "*Margaret Older, a Latin teacher of Oak Park, Illinois, who has done research on the family of Mary Boone Bryan.....that she found the Court House record of the marriage of Evan Bryant and Jane (Jean) Overton. It was pasted on the inside of a real estate book at*

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

Sandy Hook, Kentucky. It appeared to have been lost or taken from another old time record book.”⁵⁵ She (Margaret Older) had heard ‘The marriage of Evan Bryant and Jane (Jean) Overton was recorded in Reverend John A. Head’s journal and was seen by Bryant descendants.”⁵⁶

“Maria Overton Moore Miller who had been named for one of the daughters of her great grandmother, Mrs. James Moore (Jane Overton), heard that there was a record at Sandy Hook, Kentucky.....In September of 1913 she employed a lawyer who went with her to Sandy Hook. He not only located the record, but had a certified copy made of it. I personally saw this certified copy of the marriage of Evan Bryant to Jane Overton.”⁵⁷ This aunt and her trip were further discussed by Evelyn Ownbey in a letter to the State Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky. Her letter in the Bryant files states “My aunt was visiting Bryan(t) relatives at Red House, Ky and at Nicholasville, Ky in 1913. Some of them drove her over to a nearby town or county seat to see this record.....After she had seen the record, these relatives drove her to Lexington, Ky where she boarded a night train on the Southern R.R. for Florence, Ala.”⁵⁸

On the day of the Census, August 4, 1800, an Evan Bryan(t) of age twenty-six to forty-four is listed in the Edgecomb County, North Carolina Census.⁵⁹ The 1800 Census report date was August 4, 1800. The Census of Edgecombe County is as follows:

Evan Bryant	00020	0000001
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The Census would indicate that Evan Bryan(t) did not have a wife at the time in the household. The name of the other male between the ages of 26 and 44 is not known. At this time Evan Bryan(t) should have been about 26 years of age.

Evan and Jane Overton Bryan(t) had one son, William (Overton) (Whalley) Halley Bryant.

Evan Bryan(t) died of an accidental drowning by falling into a well on December 20, 1800 about two or three weeks after his marriage.⁶⁰ It was not sure whether he suffered a heart attack, which he had before, or slipped on the muddy ground. Some technicalities arose and his estate could not be closed for twelve years.

After Evan Bryan(t)’s death Jane Overton Bryan(t) married second James Moore of Sampson County, North Carolina.⁶¹ They lived on a six thousand acre estate called Vineyard Hill near Clinton, North Carolina.⁶²

The children of Jane (Jean) Overton Bryan(t) Moore and James Moore included Thomas Overton, Walter Overton, Maria Overton, James Overton, Hardy, Anne, Sarah Woodson , Harriet, and Jane Overton Moore.

The above information about Evan Bryant and his marriage to Jane Overton has recently been questioned. The current readers should study this information very carefully as to its veracity. (Author 2017)

The reader is directed to work of Tom McMillan at the following address.

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

<https://sites.google.com/view/bryantfamgen/home>

Tom has done considerable work on this family line including DNA evaluation of portions of the family line. Tom casts doubt on much of the work done by Evelyn Ownbey on this line of the family. Tom believes that William Whaley Bryant's father was a Moore and his mother was a Bryant. This has been decided using DNA and Y-DNA testing of current family lines.

Tom McMillan states the following. "A lot of us share mutual family ancestry that works back to William Whaley Bryant and his wife Isabel Rankin. Some of us relied on *What Does America Mean to You?* Vol. I and II by Evelyn Ownbey. An earlier and more revealing work in the *Autobiography of Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant* written in 1890. Rev. Thomas Bryant was William Bryant's son.

Tom McMillan has reviewed these family books for years to try and reconcile the differences he noticed. He has also reviewed DNA matches for our Bryant male line and autosomal DNA matches for others who share William Whaley Bryant's ancestry.

Tom's maternal grandmother's maiden name was Minnie Modesta Bryant; her father was William Cullen 'George' Bryant; his father was Christopher Columbus Bryant; his father was William Whaley Bryant.

This research and Rev. Thomas Jefferson Bryant's autobiography puts a new light on what we thought we knew. This research and DNA point to a Moore father and a Bryant mother for William Whaley Bryant.

The parentage of Margaret Massey was also reviewed. Margaret was James Rankin's spouse and Isabel (Rankin) Bryant's mother. Rev. Bryant's book reveals that Margaret's mother and her maternal grandfather were the surname Barrett. Thomas gave clues to a distant cousin that leads back to correct Barrett ancestry. This research and DNA points to different parentage for Margaret."

This work can be reviewed at the above web address.

William Whaley Bryant⁶³ reportedly was born on September 11, 1801 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia⁶⁴ at the home of one of his mother's aunts and died on August 8, 1838 in Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois

Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, son of William Halley Bryant, reported that his father "*had no brothers but did have two step-brothers, James and Thomas Moore.*"⁶⁵

The children of William Halley Bryant and Isabel Rankin include:

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

James William Bryant (Doctor)	born in Overton County, Tennessee
Thomas J. Bryant (Reverend)	“
Margaret Clendenin Bryant	“
Martha Ann Bryant	“
Christopher C. “Lum” Bryant	born in Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois
George W. Bryant	“

Several uncles of William Whaley Bryant assisted with his education in Cumberland County, Tennessee.

On April 5, 1827 William Whaley Bryant married Isabel Rankin, the daughter of James Rankin and Margaret Massie Rankin, in Overton County, Tennessee.^{66 67} Isabel was referred to as Isabella in some records.⁶⁸ Her grandmother was Isabella Clendenin Rankin.

In 1780 Thomas and Isabella Clendenin Rankin, the parents of James Rankin, moved from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania to Augusta County, Virginia because many families were leaving Pennsylvania for Augusta County, Virginia at this time. In 1784 Thomas and Isabella Clendenin Rankin then moved from Augusta County, Virginia to the area of French Broad River close to Dandridge and Jefferson City, Greene County, Tennessee. This area was later to become part of Jefferson County, Tennessee. James Rankin initially owned land on Lick Creek and Swan Pond Creek in Greene County, Tennessee but after the 1830 Census the family moved to Flat Creek, Bedford County, Tennessee.

In 1830 James Rankin and William Briant (Bryant) were living adjacent to each other in Overton County, Tennessee.⁶⁹

James Rankin	00000001	0200001
William Briant	20001	00001

The William Halley Bryant family planned to move from Tennessee to Illinois. Before moving to Illinois William Halley Bryant took his family from Tennessee to Clinton, North Carolina to meet his mother, Jane Overton Bryan(t) Moore. This was the first and only time that Rev. Thomas Jefferson Bryant, son of William Halley and Isabel Rankin Bryant, remembered meeting his “*grandmother Bryant*”⁷⁰ or “*any of father’s family*.” He also reported that “*I only remembered that as we moved to this State, we came by where they lived and visited with them.*”⁷¹

In the fall of 1834^{72 73} the two families, William and Isabel Rankin Bryant and James and Margaret Massie Rankin, left Flat Creek, Bedford County, Tennessee for their new home in Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois. Flat Creek is between Shelbyville and Tullahoma, Tennessee.⁷⁴ Waggoner James Hawkins was reported by Rev. Thomas Bryant as having “*moved us to Illinois with his four horse team and his great scooped wagon bed.*”⁷⁵ The children of William and Isabel Rankin Bryant, James, Thomas, Margaret, and Martha Ann, accompanied their parents. They were also accompanied by Margaret Massie Bryant’s two sisters, Susan and Margaret. The route began just south of Nashville, then east to Sevier County, and then north to Kentucky near Georgetown.

They stopped in Sevierville, Sevier County, Tennessee to visit uncles of William Halley Bryant

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

who lived in an area called Henry's Crossroads. Then they went to Great Crossing, Scott County, Kentucky to visit Margaret Massie Rankin's parents, Edmund II and Mary Dabney Winston Massie who had moved to Kentucky about 1792.⁷⁶ Edmund II was 87 years old and Mary was 94 years old at the time. The Edmund II Massie's were living with Anne Massie Adams (Mrs. Peter Adams), their daughter. Edmund II and Mary Dabney Winston Massie had lived in Grant County, Kentucky during their active years.

Another person at Edmund Massie home was "Aunt Judah", a slave nurse that had cared for Mary Dabney Winston Massie when Mary was a child. In 1746 the nurse was given to Mary Dabney Winston Massie by her grandmother Mary Lee Fitzhugh Barret.⁷⁷

In 1835 Mary Dabney Winston Massie died and her daughter, Isabel Massie Rankin, was always happy that she had made the extra effort to stop for an extended visit in Kentucky with her mother during the trip to Illinois.⁷⁸

The traveling party stopped near Massie Creek, Palmyra, Macoupin County, Illinois to visit Isaac Massie, Margaret Massie Rankin's brother. This was about ten miles northwest of Carlinville, Illinois.⁷⁹ Isaac Massie had moved to this area before 1830. The party rested for a short time before moving on to Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois. In Jacksonville they were met by Hart and Margaret Officer Massey who assisted them in adjusting to the area. Mrs. Massey was from eastern Tennessee and her husband was from New York.

During the winter of 1834 William Whaley and Isabel Rankin Bryant and family lived on Major Simm's farm near Jacksonville, Illinois and William Halley taught school just south of the Simm's farm. In the spring of 1835 William Halley and Isabel Rankin Bryant and family moved into Jacksonville to a house on south Main Street opposite Hackett's tan yard. Vandalia was the capital of the state and Jacksonville had a population of less than one thousand people.⁸⁰

The 1835 Illinois State Census, Morgan County, page 61, line 20 lists the following:

Briant, Wm. W.⁸¹ 300100000 200100000

The 1835 Illinois State Census, Morgan County, page 61, line 22 lists "*one carding machine and one wool mill*".

William Whaley Bryant joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville after having been a Presbyterian in Tennessee. In 1842 Isabel Rankin Bryant joined the Methodist Episcopal Church.

William Whaley Bryant was a superintendent of the Hedenberg Carding Factory in 1835 and of the March Carding Factory in 1836 and 1837. In 1838 William Halley Bryant and Mr. Davis opened a restaurant business but William Halley Bryant died on August 8, 1838.^{82 83 84} George Washington Bryant, son of William and Isabel Rankin Bryant, died on August 14, 1838 just six days after his father died.⁸⁵ His death was described as "*of flux and fever.*"⁸⁶

William Whaley Bryant was also a mechanic by trade. His skill was noted as "*somewhat*

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

*remarkable, and it is related of him that very few, if any, excelled him as a mechanic.”*⁸⁷

At the time of William Whaley Bryant's death it cost twenty-five cents to mail a letter from Tennessee to Jacksonville, Illinois. Rev. Thomas Bryant, his son, remembered going to the post office to get a letter from his father's half-brother "*condoling with mother of the death of my father.*"^{88 89} Thomas Bryant was only nine when his father died and could not remember conversations of the adults remaining in the family about family history.

In September of 1838 Isabel Rankin Bryant and the children moved from Jacksonville, Illinois back to the country into the home of her parents, James and Margaret Massie Rankin, but the house was crowded with two families. In 1835 Susan Rankin, sister of Isabel Rankin, died so only Margaret Rankin was living in the home with her parents at that this time when Isabel Rankin Bryant and her family moved in with the Rankin family.

In January of 1839 James Rankin, father of Isabel Rankin Bryant and Margaret Rankin, sister of Isabel Rankin Bryant, died.⁹⁰ Initially Isabel Rankin Bryant and her mother, Margaret Massie Rankin, moved into a cabin⁹¹ on Equilla Beckraft's farm.⁹² Later Isabel Rankin Bryant and her mother, Margaret Massie Rankin, moved into the home of Hart H., Sr. and Margaret Officer Massey where Isabel's son, Thomas Bryant, would later work. Thomas reported "*In the spring of 1839 ma hired me to Mr. Hart Massey.*"⁹³ Thomas Bryant described the pay as twelve and one-half cents per day rising to twenty-five cents per day in three years. At that time it took twenty-five cents to mail a letter from Tennessee to Jacksonville, Illinois. Rev. Bryant wrote that "*I grew up among strangers to father's family*"⁹⁴ but the Massey family were friends of the Bryant family.

Rev. Bryant reported "*farmers drove their hogs to Alton (75 miles from Jacksonville) and only got \$1.25 per hundred for them. Good milk cows were only worth \$8 and the best farm hands the same per month. In those days we made ropes out of tow and used them for plow lines. Tow was the refused lint that was combed out of the flax lint by the hackle in preparing flax lint for the wheel. We plowed with wooden mould-board plow; pitched hay with wooden forks; reaped wheat with the sickle; threshed it with the flail and cleaned it by pouring it out of a vessel before the wind, and if they needed it for immediate use and there was no wind, they put small withes in the edges of a sheet and a man on each side fanned the chaff out of the wheat as it was poured out.*"

The Massey family, the Bryant family, and Rankin family were very close friends. Hart Massey, Sr. and his father, Silas, were farmers in St. Lawrence County, New York and came to St. Charles, Missouri in 1826 and moved to Morgan County, Illinois in 1827. Margaret Officer Massey was from Tennessee. Hart and Margaret Officer were married in 1834.⁹⁵ Hart Massey, Sr. was famous for his hospitality and kindness. In November of 1844 Isabel Rankin Bryant died of typhoid fever.

By 1830 over thirteen thousand people lived in Morgan County. In 1837 the I.O.O.F. formed in Jacksonville, Illinois. In 1839 the first railroad in Morgan County was built from Jacksonville to Meredosia, Illinois from which travel to St. Louis could then be done by riverboat steamer. In 1854 the Republican Party formed in Jacksonville.⁹⁶

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

In June of 1844 Isabel Rankin Bryant married Jeremiah Sears. James and Thomas Bryant desired that she marry a Mr. Black instead. Isabel said that she would not marry Mr. Sears if her sons promised not to marry and then would care for her in her older years. They did not agree to this plan and Isabel married.⁹⁷ Isabel Rankin Bryant contracted typhoid fever in September and died in November of 1844. Isabel Rankin Bryant and William Halley Bryant were buried side by side in a cemetery in the northeast area of Jacksonville, Illinois. Their grave was not marked and later Rev. Bryant could not identify the location.

Isabel Rankin Bryant was described by her son, (Rev.) Thomas Jefferson Bryant, as a “*kind, patient and loving mother.*” He went on to write that “*To me she was one of the handsomest women I ever saw, of medium height; just fleshy enough to present a perfectly rounded outline; a brunette with cheeks tinted with the rose; prominent forehead white as alabaster; eyes dark brown and hair and eyebrows black as raven wings; regular features and a Grecian nose, made her an almost perfect type of the then prevailing type of beauty. Farewell, dear mother, though you sleep in an unknown grave, yet I hope to meet you where there are no graves, and where the infirmities of your boy that so often wrung briny tears from your eyes, shall attain a perfection pleasing to you through an endless eternity.*”⁹⁸

After the deaths of the senior adult male members of the Bryant and Massie families the children of William Halley and Isabel Rankin Bryant went to live in different homes. Thomas Bryant went to live with the Hart Massey family; and Martha Ann Bryant went to live in the home of Thomas Wesswell. The Thomas Huckstep family and the Thomas Wesswell family lived adjacent to each other. On October 21, 1851 John Benjamin Huckstep, son of Thomas Huckstep, married Martha Ann Bryant.

Christopher Columbus “Lum” Bryant remained with his mother until her death in November 1844 after which he went to live with his sister, Margaret Clendenin Bryant Miller in Washington, D.C. Margaret Clendenin Bryant was about fifteen years old when she married John Miller of Morgan County, Illinois. In November 1844 she had returned from Clinton, North Carolina for her mother’s funeral.⁹⁹ She had known John Miller, who was about twenty-three years of age when they married, when she previously lived in Jacksonville, Illinois. The children of Margaret Clendenin Bryant and John Miller were Henry, Maria, Edward, Mary, Emma, Ella, May, Anna, Alva, and Charlotte.¹⁰⁰

Evelyn Ownbey reported in her book that Margaret Clendenin Bryant Miller, her grandmother, discussed living with Mrs. James (Jane) Overton Moore in Clinton, North Carolina after the death of both parents. Margaret Clendenin Bryant particularly liked Maria Overton Butler, her aunt and sister of Jane Overton Moore, who oversaw the construction of many of Margaret’s clothes.¹⁰¹ **This information is now challenged. Tom McMillan has established the parentage of William Whaley Bryant to be Moore. The reader is referred to his work. The writing of Evelyn Ownbey is left for the reader as this information is in the public domain.**

In the 1850 Illinois Census, Morgan County, Thomas and Jane Huckstep and family are noted. Living with them was James Bryant, son of William W. and Isabel Rankin Bryant. Later that year he married their daughter, Sarah Huckstep.¹⁰²

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

In 1855 Thomas Huckstep and family were listed on the Illinois Census, Morgan County ¹⁰³as follows:

Thomas Huckstep	120001	02001
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In the 1865 Illinois Census, Morgan County ¹⁰⁴ the Thomas Huckstep family is listed as follows:

Thomas Huckstep	0110001	002001
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Thomas Jefferson Bryant was elected Captain of Company D of the 14th Illinois Volunteers. He was wounded three times at Shiloh and was discharged on October 5, 1862 for disability. ¹⁰⁵ He married Sarah Huckstep, daughter of Thomas Huckstep. John Benjamin Huckstep, brother of Sarah Huckstep, married Martha Ann Bryant, sister of Thomas Jefferson Bryant and James William Bryant. Thomas Jefferson Bryant, son of William and Isabel Rankin Bryant, later became a minister and was active in the Methodist church of Illinois.

James William Bryant was in the Mexican War and later became a physician. On December 23, 1854 ¹⁰⁶ he married his wife, Sarah Lucy Huckstep, who died in 1874 leaving Dr. Bryant with eight children. They were Charles, Steven, Martha, James, Thomas, Kate, Jessie, and Adian Bryant. ¹⁰⁷ The children of John Benjamin Huckstep and Martha Ann Bryant were William, Thomas, Jane Ann, Rosa Ellen, Emma Isabel, Catherine Eugene, James Bertram, and Lenora Bertha. ¹⁰⁸

The story of Martha Ann Bryant and John Benjamin Huckstep are under a separate biography.

Source:

What Does America Mean To You?, Volume II, Evelyn Ownbey, 1942-1962

Will Book C 1785-1796. Edgecomb County, North Carolina, Garborough, North Carolina

Phillip Leonard Baker, personal files and family records

History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Vol. I, page 294, Rev. Samuel Orcutt, Fairfield County Historical Society, 1886

The History of Milford, Federal Writers Project, Milford Tercentary Committee, 1939

Molly Kennedy, researcher, Springfield, Illinois

Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D.

Topeka, Kansas

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¹ William Halley Bryant was originally named William Overton Bryant for his mother, Jane Overton Bryant. After the death of Evan Bryan(t), father of William, uncles in the family suggested that the middle name be changed to Halley to reflect the Halley family line.

² Asiatic cholera had been in this area for several years.

³ *Memoirs, Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, Journals and Records of the Seventeenth Session of the Methodist Episcopal Church, page 71, September 20-25, 1893, Clinton, Illinois, page 71-72

⁴ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, 1890, page 1, Archives and Special Collections, Pfeiffer Library, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1890

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

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- ⁵ The author chose the spelling of the name as Bryan(t) for all Bryant family members before William Halley Bryant. This method was used because the name was spelled either Brian, Bryan, or Bryant before William Halley Bryant. Also the Bryan(t) family joins with the Bryan family of the Daniel Boone family causing further confusion.
- ⁶ *Families of Early Milford, Connecticut*, Susan Woodruff Abbott, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1979, page 123
- ⁷ *The Bryans of Aylesbury, England*, Howard J. Banker, The American Genealogist No. 38, Vol. X, No. 2, page 96
- ⁸ *Pre-American Ancestries*, The American Genealogist and New Haven Genealogical Magazine, No. 34, Vol. IX, No. 2, page
- ⁹ *Pre-American Ancestries*
- ¹⁰ *Pre-American Ancestries*
- ¹¹ *The Bryans of Aylesbury, England*, Howard J. Banker, The American Genealogist No. 38, Vol. X, No. 2, page 90
- ¹² *Notes on the Ancestry of Sylvester Baldwin*, Charles C. Baldwin, English Origins of New England Families, From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. I, page 67-80, 1985
- ¹³ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, Leonard W. Larabee, Tercentenary Commission of the State of Connecticut, Yale University Press, 1933, page 2
- ¹⁴ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records.*, page 2
- ¹⁵ *Early Milford*, from the Connecticut Magazine, Volume V. No. 3, March 1899, by M. Louise Green
- ¹⁶ *Milford Connecticut, the Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, page 2
- ¹⁷ *Families of Early Milford Connecticut*, Susan Woodruff Abbott, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1979, page 124
- ¹⁸ *Families of Early Milford Connecticut*, page 124
- ¹⁹ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, page 5
- ²⁰ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, Vol. I, Rev. Samuel Orcutt, Published by Fairfield County Historical Society, 1886, page 271
- ²¹ *Families of Early Milford Connecticut*, page 124
- ²² *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, Vol. I, page 271
- ²³ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, page 19
- ²⁴ *Early Milford*, M. Louise Greene, The Connecticut Magazine, Vol. V, No. 3, March 1899 from <http://history.rays-place.com/ct/early-milford-ct.htm>, page 7
- ²⁵ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport*, Vol. I, page 294
- ²⁶ *Early Milford*, page 7
- ²⁷ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, page 16
- ²⁸ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, page 15
- ²⁹ *Families of Early Milford Connecticut*, page 124
- ³⁰ A dragoon is a short musket carried on the belt. Dragoon later became the name of the soldier carrying the weapon.
- ³¹ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, Vol. I, page 198, Rev. Samuel Orcutt, Published by Fairfield County Historical Society, 1886
- ³² *King Phillip's War*, <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1094/king.htm>
- ³³ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, Vol. I, page 278
- ³⁴ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, page 15
- ³⁵ *The Bryans of Aylesbury, England*, The American Genealogist No. 38, Vol. X, No. 2, page 98
- ³⁶ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, Leonard W. Larabee, Tercentenary Commission of the State of Connecticut, Yale University Press, 1933, page 14
- ³⁷ *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. I-II, Evelyn Ownbey, 1942-1962, Blue Island, Illinois
- ³⁸ *Milford, Connecticut, The Early Development of a Town as Shown in Its Land Records*, page 26
- ³⁹ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, Vol. I, page 152
- ⁴⁰ *History of Stratford and Bridgeport, Connecticut*, Vol. I
- ⁴¹ Historical and Genealogical Records, Vol. I, page 475
- ⁴² Evelyn Ownbey was an Attorney at Law, Chicago, Illinois. She spent years with her attorney husband searching family records in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. Her grandmother was Margaret Clendenin Bryant, daughter of William Halley Bryant, and her aunt was Maria Moore Miller, daughter of John Miller and Margaret Clendenin Bryant Miller. Maria Moore Miller was named for Maria Overton Moore, daughter of James Moore and Jane Overton Bryant Moore. She is the author of *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. I-II, 1942-1962
- ⁴³ *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. I-II, Evelyn Ownbey, 1942-1962, Blue Island, Illinois

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

- ⁴⁴ *What Does America Mean to You?*
- ⁴⁵ *Thomas Bryan(t) Will*, Will Book C 1785-1796, Edgecombe County, Garborough, North Carolina
- ⁴⁶ 1800 North Carolina, Edgecomb County Census
- ⁴⁷ *What Does America Mean to You?*
- ⁴⁸ *Descendants of William W. Bryant and Isabel Rankin Bryant*, *What does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 2
- ⁴⁹ 1790 North Carolina Census, Edgecombe County
- ⁵⁰ *List of the Original Members of the Society of the Cincinnati of Virginia*, compiled by John Cropper, President of the Society, 1896
- ⁵¹ *Thomas Bryan(t) Will*, Will Book C 1785-1796, Edgecombe County, Tarboro, North Carolina
- ⁵² Hudson Bryan(t) was the son of Thomas And Phoebe Bryan Bryan(t) and half-brother of Evan Bryan(t). Thomas Bryan(t) married Phoebe Bryan after the death of Anne Halley
- ⁵³ *What Does America Mean to You?*, Volume II, Notes of the Editor, page 4
- ⁵⁴ *Descendants of William W. Bryant and Isabel Rankin Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. 11, 1942-1962, page 4
- ⁵⁵ *Descendants of William W. Bryant and Isabel Rankin Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. 11, 1942-1962, page 4
- ⁵⁶ *Descendants of William W. Bryant and Isabel Rankin Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. 11, 1942-1962, page 4
- ⁵⁷ *Descendants of William W. Bryant and Isabel Rankin Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. 11, 1942-1962, page 5
- ⁵⁸ *Loose Bryant Records*, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, Undated letter in Bryant files from Evelyn Ownbey with letter answerd by Bayless Hardin, State Historical Society, October 21, 1939
- ⁵⁹ 1800 North Carolina Census, Edgecombe County, page 428
- ⁶⁰ *Descendants of William W. Bryant and Isabel Rankin Bryant*, *What does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 2
- ⁶¹ *Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 6
- ⁶² *Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 6
- ⁶³ *Bryant*, *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 7
- ⁶⁴ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 3
- ⁶⁵ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 3
- ⁶⁶ *History of Morgan County, Illinois: Its Past and Present*, Chicago: Donnelley, Loyd, and Co., 1878, page 568
- ⁶⁷ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 4
- ⁶⁸ Death notice, George Washington Bryant, Sangamo Journal, August 25, 1838, page 2, column 5
- ⁶⁹ 1830 Tennessee Census, Overton County, page 197
- ⁷⁰ “Grandmother Bryant” was Jane Overton Bryan(t) who second married James Moore
- ⁷¹ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 4
- ⁷² *History of Morgan County, Illinois: Its Past and Present*, page 568
- ⁷³ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁷⁴ Tennessee Atlas & Gazetteer, DeLorme, 2001, page 21A1
- ⁷⁵ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁷⁶ *Pension Application No. (5)16462*, Edmund Masse, Kentucky, Book D, Vol. 9, page 51, reported by Evelyn Ownbey, 1942
- ⁷⁷ *What Does America Mean to You?*
- ⁷⁸ *What Does America Mean to You?*
- ⁷⁹ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁸⁰ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant*, *Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁸¹ Review of the 1835 Census reveals that William used the middle initial as “W”. This listing is in conflict with the writings of Evelyn Ownbey where she noted that his middle name had been changed to “Halley”.

WILLIAM WHALEY BRYANT

- ⁸² *Deaths*, Sangamo Journal, August 18, 1838, page 2, column 7
- ⁸³ There are thirteen deaths recorded in the Sangamo Journal on August 18, 1838. An epidemic of Asiatic cholera was in Illinois at this period of time and this was the cause of his death
- ⁸⁴ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁸⁵ *Deaths*, Sangamo Journal, August 25, 1838, page 2, column 5
- ⁸⁶ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 4
- ⁸⁷ *History of Morgan County, Illinois, Its Past and Present*, Donnelley, Loyd & Co., 1878, page 568
- ⁸⁸ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 4
- ⁸⁹ This “half-brother” would have been one of James and Jane Overton Bryan(t) Moore’s children
- ⁹⁰ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁹¹ This cabin was built by Rev. White, an “old side” Baptist preacher, who killed John Brown’s son, Frederick, in Osawatomie, Kansas
- ⁹² *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 7
- ⁹³ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 8
- ⁹⁴ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 4
- ⁹⁵ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Morgan and Scott Counties, Ill.*, Chapman Brothers, Chicago, 1889, page 464
- ⁹⁶ *History Morgan and Classic Jacksonville*, Charles M.Eames, 1884
- ⁹⁷ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 12
- ⁹⁸ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 13
- ⁹⁹ *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 17
- ¹⁰⁰ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 5
- ¹⁰¹ *What Does America Mean to You?*, Vol. II, page 17
- ¹⁰² 1850 Illinois Census, Morgan County, page 618
- ¹⁰³ 1855 Illinois Census, Morgan County, page 81
- ¹⁰⁴ 1865 Illinois Census, Morgan County, 126
- ¹⁰⁵ *Reverend Thomas J. Bryant*, Journals and Records of the Seventieth Session of the Methodist Episcopal Church, September 20-23, 1893. page 71
- ¹⁰⁶ Morgan County, Illinois, Marriage Book B, page 76, No. 2376
- ¹⁰⁷ *History of Morgan County, Illinois, Its Past and Present*, Chicago:Donnelley, Loyd & Co., Publishers, 1878, page 568
- ¹⁰⁸ *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, Thirty Five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, page 5