

***Family Research about William Whaley Bryant & Margaret Massey
by Tom W McMillan
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I do not have the ability to publish a book. This is perhaps my final attempt to share family research that needs to be shared with my Bryant and Massey related cousins. Feel free to pass my research on to anyone who shares our Bryant and/or Massey and/or related ancestry. Some links I share may change over time, so a person may need to search online to find the information from those links.

Read through my research. It can be painful to delete family tree information we've thought to be correct. Having correct family information should be our goal. I've spent years reviewing family trees at ancestry, and notice many errors. Some errors happen as folks accept ancestry hints which are wrong. Hints and family trees need to be carefully researched to determine if they're accurate or not. Also, DNA can lead us to correct family lines. Concentrate on accuracy.

Introduction and Review of Books

Note: Please read my research of the correct lineage of William Whaley Bryant, and about the correct lineage of Margaret Massey. Read separate sections below: William Whaley Bryant Parentage; Evidence for the Middle Name Whaley; and Massey and Barrett Ancestry. It is very important to understand that my research, along with DNA research have helped us to correct our Bryant and Massey family lines. While I believe we now know the correct Moore: Bryant; Massey; and Barrett lines, we don't know for sure who the specific parents were of our family members. Perhaps, someday a record will

surface showing correct information.

My Bryant Family Connection

I've spent a number of years reviewing and researching our Bryant family history. My maternal Grandmother, Minnie Estella Modesta Bryant's parent's were William Cullen "George" Bryant and Hattie Jasper; her Grandfather was Christopher Columbus Bryant; and her Great Grandfather was the subject of much of my research: William Whaley Bryant. Grandma was very proud of her Bryant ancestry. Sadly, both Christopher Columbus Bryant and William Whaley Bryant died when each were only 32 years of age.

I suspect my research is unique, and important to all of us. It's unlikely my research could be repeated, so I'm sharing my findings while I still have the ability.

Family Books

Bryant family books I am aware of for our mutual family are: "What Does America Mean to You?" Vol I (1942) and Vol II (1962), by Evelyn Ownbey; and a revealing work "Autobiography Rev Thomas J Bryant, For Thirty-five Years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church." 1890, by Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant, son of William Whaley Bryant.

About Evelyn Ownbey

From page 16 of Evelyn's book, Volume II, "What Does America Mean to You?": "Evelyn Jeannette Miller (b Jan 23, 1895) m Chauncey B Ownbey (b April 23, 1890) on April 18, 1925. She taught school for 34 years and practiced law with her husband six years. No issue. Home: Blue Island, Illinois."

Evelyn's parents were:

Alva Bryant Miller b 1863 d 1938

Alice J McTaggart b 1868 d 1950

Evelyn's paternal grandparents:

John Miller b 1822 d 1885

Margaret Clendenin Bryant b 1831 d 1910

Evelyn J Ownbey died January 28, 1964 at Cook Co, IL. Evelyn and her husband are buried at Riverside Cemetery, Ashville, Buncombe Co, North Carolina. There is a memorial for Evelyn and her husband Chauncey Ownbey at the findagrave website.

In the Preface of Volume II, Evelyn wrote: "Due to fire and the ravages of war, many public records are missing which makes the writing of a history very difficult."

Further down in the Preface of Volume II, Evelyn wrote: "When I realized that my health was failing, I decided to get the results of my research compiled before it was too late."

Evelyn had spent many year's collecting information, corresponding with historical societies and archives. She traveled to secure information that she felt would further our family's ancestry. It's clear that she had a passion to write an account of what she felt to be our mutual family history.

While I applaud Evelyn's efforts, I have found wrong ancestry for the parentage of William Whaley Bryant, and for the parentage of Margaret Massey. I have researched, as I've been able, and have found information that changes and negates much of Evelyn's written account. Sadly, I have removed a great deal of ancestry I found to be

wrong. I hope my Bryant and Massey related cousins will realize the importance of my research, and make needed corrections to family trees.

Evelyn's books are available for review at ancestry with a subscription to ancestry.

Volume I of "What Does America Mean to You?" is available to read or download from archive.org Here's a link:

<https://archive.org/details/whatdoesamericam00ownb/mode/2up>

Here's a link to view Volume II.

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005731668>

About Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant

Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant was born at Overton Co, TN in 1829. Siblings were Dr James William Bryant born at Overton Co, TN in 1827; Margaret Clendenin Bryant born at Overton Co, TN in 1831; Martha Ann Bryant born at Overton Co, TN in 1833; Christopher Columbus Bryant born at Morgan Co, IL in 1835; and George Washington Bryant born at Morgan Co, IL in 1838 who died at about 6 months of age. (Rev T J Bryant Autobiography, pages 4 & 5)

Parents of the above were William Whaley Bryant and Isabel Rankin.

Thomas fought in the Mexican War, was a Captain during the Civil War, and was wounded several times at the Battle of Shilo. He served as a Minister for many years with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Illinois and Missouri.

Thomas's Autobiography was written in 1890. I recall Evelyn's mention of Thomas Bryant's autobiography, so I made attempts to

find a copy. After some research, I found an Illinois college library had a copy, which they kindly copied and sent to me. This book holds clues, which may not be apparent at first. Following Thomas's clues have pointed us in a direction to our correct ancestry, which DNA affirms.

You can review Reverend Bryant's Autobiography, which I have included at the end of this PDF file.

William Whaley Bryant Parentage

Evelyn Ownbey felt William Whaley Bryant's parents were Evan Bryant and Jane Overton. (Ownbey, Vol I, page 1)

(See separate section below about Whaley as William's middle name.)

Evelyn felt Evan's parents were Thomas Bryan(t) and Ann Halley. Evelyn wrote Thomas's second wife was Phebe/Phoebe Bryan. Phoebe was said to have been the daughter of William Bryan and Mary Boone, Daniel Boone's sister. (Ownbey Vol II, page 7)

Was Phoebe Bryan a wife of Thomas Bryant?

Some researchers and family I've corresponded with, had questions about Phoebe Bryan that we couldn't answer.

**In July, 2014, I corresponded with the Genealogist of the Boone Society. This was her response to my query, when I questioned if Phoebe Bryan could have been the wife of Thomas Bryan(t):
"Phoebe Bryan, daughter of Col. William Bryan and Mary Boone was born 1763. She married Col. Wilson Hunt and died either giving birth to her son Enoch Hunt b 2 April 1785 or soon after. I do not have the exact date of her death other than April 1785."**

Wills of Thomas Bryan(t); Faithful Bryant; and Evan Bryant

Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant wrote that his father, William W Bryant was born September 11, 1807 at Pittsylvania Co, VA. (Rev Bryant Autobiography, page 3)

The newspaper death notice below, for William Whaley Bryant, indicated he was 32 years of age when he died August 8, 1838. That

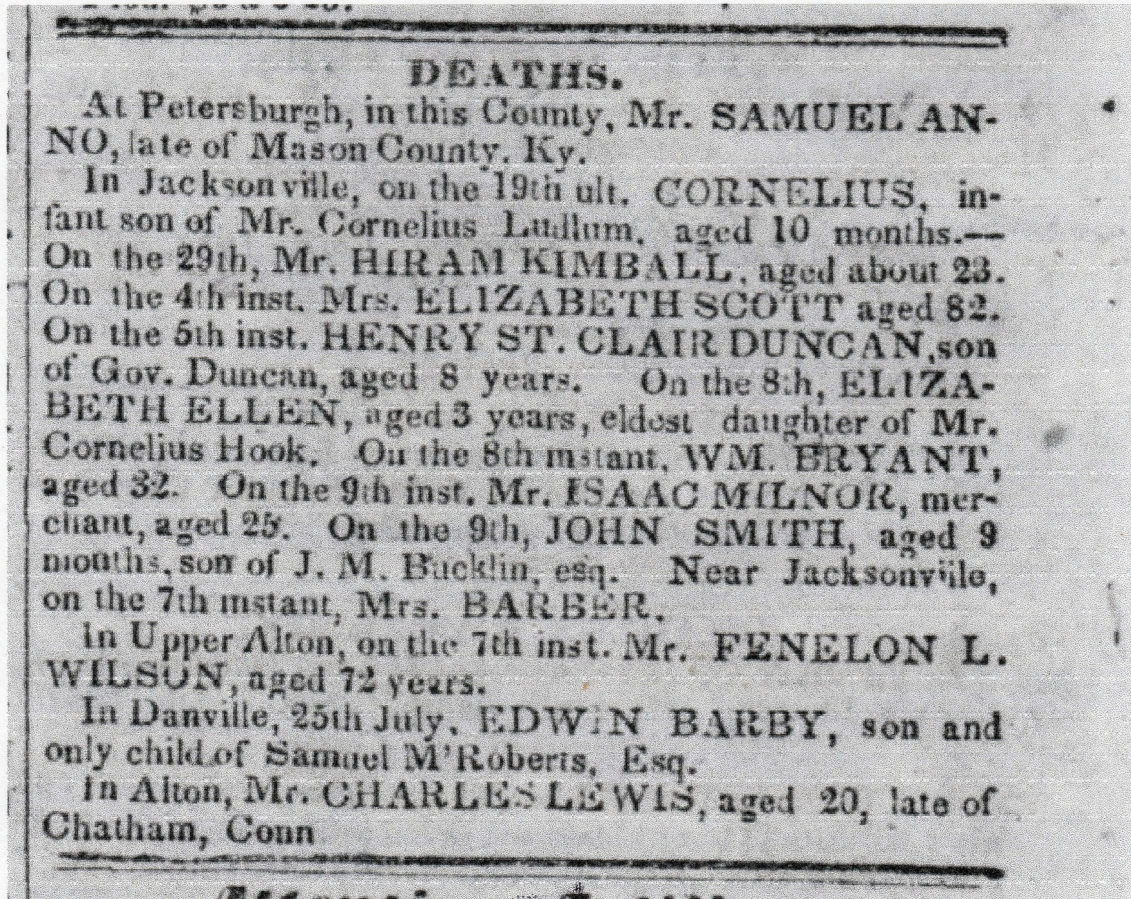
could imply a birth year of 1805 or 1806, but we don't know who reported that information or if it was accurate.

The date of 1801 for William Whaley Bryant's birth reported by Evelyn Ownbey is wrong. William was born more recently than that, most likely between 1805 and 1807. It is clear to me that Evan Bryant and Jane Overton were not William Whaley Bryant's parents. Thomas Bryan(t) was the father of Evan Bryant. Faithful Bryant was the step mother of Evan Bryant.

Y-DNA and autosomal DNA show William likely had a father surname Moore, and a mother surname Bryant. I will explain later what family lines the parents of William Whaley Bryant are from.

Sangamon Journal, 18 August 1838

From article below: "Deaths," "On the 8th instant, WM. BRYANT, aged 32."



Evelyn Ownbey wrote that William Bryant was born September 11, 1801 at Pittsylvania Co, VA. (Ownbey, Vol II, page 7)

Evelyn shared most of Thomas Bryan(t)'s will, but contended the name "Faithful" Bryan(t) shown as Thomas's wife in his will, was his daughter, and that the will should have named Phoebe as his wife. (Ownbey, Vol II, page 8, 9)

However, I found this to be wrong, Faithful/Faithy was Thomas's second wife.

You will note Evelyn's transcription in her book mentioned above, omitted the name of Thomas Bryan(t)'s wife "Faithful", which is written in the original will. (Ownbey, Vol II, pages 8,9)

I browsed wills for Edgecombe County, NC at the familysearch website, where I found wills for Thomas Bryan(t); Faithful Bryant; and for Evan Bryant. (Note: these wills are also available at the ancestry website. You can find the will for Thomas by searching at ancestry for Thomas Bryan from: (All North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998)

Thomas Bryan(t)'s will does show Faithful Bryant(t) as his wife, and no mention of a Phoebe. There was also a petition by Faithful part of which reads "The petition of Faithful Bryant humbly (submits?) to your worships, that her late husband Thomas Bryant". This makes it clear Faithful Bryant was Thomas Bryan(t)'s second wife. (Faithful's petition is found at ancestry by searching for Thomas Bryant from: All North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998)

Next, was a will for Faithful Bryant also written as "Faith" and "Faithy". This will was dated 12 Oct 1803, and was probated in 1804. (Faithful's will can be found by searching for Faithy Bryant at ancestry from: All North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998)

Then came the will for Evan Bryant dated 27 Aug 1808, and probated November of 1810. Evan named children of his siblings, but no mention of a child of his own or of a wife. (You can find Evan Bryant's will by searching for Evin Bryant at ancestry from: All North Carolina,

Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998)

Evan's death in 1810, does not fit what Evelyn believed. She felt Evan drowned retrieving water for the family a few weeks after marriage in December of 1800. If you review names in each will, you can tell Faithful Bryant was the spouse of Thomas Bryan(t) who died in 1785, and that Evan Bryant was the son of Thomas Bryant, and likely Thomas's first wife.

Additionally, I'm not aware of proof that Anne Halley was the first spouse of Thomas Bryan(t)? I found a website that does show Francis Halley, thought to have been Anne Halley's Father. There is no mention that Francis had a daughter named Anne? Here's a link to that website: <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I108544&tree=Tree1>

What do we know about Jane Overton?

Evelyn corresponded with the Kentucky Historical Society in 1939 and 1940, and the Kentucky Historical Society has copies of this correspondence. At that point in her research, she wasn't sure who William W Bryant's father was, although she thought his father was from the Bryan family of William Bryan and Mary Boone. At the time, she was trying to find a marriage record she felt existed between Jane Overton and an unknown Bryan.

We know Jane Overton married James Moore in 1803, and they proceeded to have a number of children at Sampson Co, NC.

I have a copy of a letter Jane Overton sent to her Uncle John Overton in May, 1802, I obtained from the Tennessee State Library. Jane was at Fayetteville, NC attending art school at the time, and her Uncle was in Tennessee. Jane made no mention of having been married, or of

having a son (Evelyn felt William was born in September, 1801), and she signed the letter "Jane Overton". This letter was dated May 25, 1802. (At the Tennessee State Library website, Jane Overton's letter is in the Murdock Collection of John Overton papers, 1780-1908)

Transcription of Jane Overton's letter to her Uncle John Overton
(I left spelling and punctuation as written, as best I can determine)

"Dear Uncle" "Fayetteville May 25, 1802"

"I take the liberty of writing to you to inform you of the Health of myself and my fathers Family they are all well at present I Expect before you receive this letter you will see Brother who started from this place about four weeks ago he will give you all the news of this place as nothing has happened worth Relating since he left here what I have seen of Fayetteville I like Tolerable well though not as well I am in hopes as I shall Tennessee I go to school at the Academy to learn Painting and Drawing and am In hopes by the time I see you shall have some Handsome Piece of Painting to show you I received a letter from Aunt Dean a few days ago informing me that Sister Mariah and the Rest of Grandmamas family were well I have not heard from Grandpapa Overtons for some time I am in hopes to see you in Fayetteville before we go to Tennessee which I am in hopes will be at this Fall. they Expressed a great desire to see you at Grandpapas and soon Aunt Betsey used often to talk how much she wanted to see you but never Expected it Aunt Elizabeth had two Fine Children a son and Daughter the Son Named after Grandpapa and Daughter after Aunt Betsy. I have nothing more to write but Remain your Affectionate Niece"

"Jane Overton"

What does Rev T J Bryant's Autobiography share about William's parentage?

Rev Thomas Jefferson Bryant wrote in his autobiography: “the other [Bryan] brother settling in the colony of Virginia. From that family Boone’s wife and father were descendants.” If Thomas was correct, we should find a connection to that Bryan family line. I do not see that Thomas made any claim that our Bryan/Bryant line is directly related to the Boone family, though. (Rev Bryant Autobiography, page 3)

I know the Bryant family line, William Whaley Bryant's Mother was from. A lot of us have autosomal DNA matches for that Bryant line. At this point, I don't know of anyone who we match for autosomal DNA who has had the male lineage Y-DNA test from that Bryant line. That could tell us what Bryant line our William Whaley Bryant's Mother descends from, and whether she was from the Bryan line that married into the Boone family or not.

While at Greene Co, IL in 1884, Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant met Mr Daniel Smith who had known William Whaley Bryant. (Thomas wrote “David”, but I believe it was Daniel from my research of Greene Co. IL.) Mr Smith shared: “I went to school to your father in Cumberland county, Ky, and I estimated him very highly.” Family trees show brothers Daniel Smith and Stephen Smith had both relocated from Cumberland County, KY to Greene Co, IL. Daniel and Stephen had married surname Pace sisters at Cumberland Co, KY.

Thomas wrote: “From him I learned that father was raised by his

uncles in Cumberland Co, Ky. These were Rhodes, Eli, George and Jersey [s/b Jesse]. He had an Aunt Miriam, who married a man by the name of Stewart, and with Allen, Rhodes, Eli and Grandma Bryant moved to and settled in Tennessee. I do not know what county they settled in. I only remember that as we moved to this State, we came by where they lived and visited with them. This is the first and only time I ever saw Grandma Bryant or any of father's family" (Rev Bryant Autobiography, page 4)

Thomas continued: "George Bryant (father's uncle) married a German girl named Groves, and lived and died on Marrowbone Creek, Cumberland county, Kentucky. Jess married a Miss Sallie Pace, daughter of Lovington [s/b Langston] Pace," (Rev Bryant Autobiography, page 4)

While the Grove name isn't apparent for family trees for George Washington Bryant, I did find a likely connection. At the familysearch website there is a will for George Grove of Cumberland Co, KY written in 1846. An heir listed in the will, is his Nephew, George G Bryant. George W Bryant, who is George G Bryant's father, is a witness to the will. (To find the will for George Grove: at familysearch.org search for Kentucky Probate Records, 1720-1990; then browse records for Cumberland County; go to Will records, 1841-1850, Vol. D; on page 9 of that section George Grove is indexed as will on page 402; go to page 402 for George Grove will, which shows an heir as his Nephew George G Bryant, and witnessed by George W Bryant.)

I did find more complete information for this Bryant family. A Bryant's and Snider's website lists siblings, and what was felt to be their parent's names. At that website, scroll down to a book about Macon County History, and look for what is said about Bryant siblings.

Here's a link to that website:

http://www.silogic.com/peden/Bryants_and_Sniders.html

The siblings shown at that website are said to have come from a will of Edmund Bryant. The siblings were said to be: Eli, Jesse, George, Rhoadhaven, the heirs of David, Allen, Polly, Nancy, Sally (Keeling), Elizabeth (Gilly), and Martha Maram (Stewart). The website shares that Allen Bradford Bryant was the child of Jesse Bryant and Mary Hill Nelson. (I assume most had the same parentage, but it seems possible Jesse Bryant, Sr could have had a previous marriage, if he was the correct father of this group of siblings?)

The will was said to have been from Edmund F Bryant, felt from 1841 at Anderson Co, KY. I have reviewed the will by an Edmund Bryant from 1841 for Anderson Co, KY, and it is clear it is not the will mentioned. There is an account of a Tennessee Supreme Court case at the Tennessee State Library. I obtained a copy for that Court case, which was a case: "Edmund P Bryant vs Arthur B Jackson". This court case started at Macon Co, TN in 1843/1844 and the final State Supreme Court case took place late in 1845. Edmund's brother, Allen Bryant did post a bond for Edmund in this action. Testimony from one person indicated Edmund's sister had lived with him for a number of years to assist him. I believe this is the same Edmund Bryant who had apparently written a will mentioning his siblings. I suspect Edmund died after 1845 and before 1850 at Macon Co, TN. Will records for Macon Co, TN were destroyed in Court House fires for the period in question. So far, I have not been able to track down anyone who has a copy of this will. At first, Edmund had an attorney, name John S Bryant represent him. I believe this was the same John S Bryant who was an attorney from Wilson County, TN.

Here is part of the Supreme Court case I find of interest to our research:

**Supreme Court case, Edmund P Bryant vs Arthur B Jackson
The following (as written) was when first tried as Arthur B Jackson vs
Edmund P Bryant: from pages 11 and 12:**

“Moses Burnley swore that he knew defendant [Edmund Bryant] Six or Seven years that he lived in his neighborhood that defendant had [sic] been affected and Sickly during that time that defendant was a very old man had not been able to work any Scarcely Since he knew him that defendt had no white family except an aged sister between fifty and sixty years old that lived with defendant and whom he had supported for many years, that defendants personal property was a negro woman between 50 and 60 years old - , a negro man aged about 47 years, a small tract of land stock and a moderate Share of household furniture that defendant [Edmund Bryant] was industrious when he was in a condition to work that defendant was not in a condition from his disease of body and mind to labour or to provide for him self if his property was taken from him that his sister [I suspect the sister was Polly aka/Molly, Mary Bryant] above named had no means of support and was too old to earn much

Westley Oglesby proved about the same as Burnley and that defendant had taken care of his sister for about twelve years to his knowledge that is that property belonged to defendant he believed his sister helped him manage”

Edmund P Bryant appealed the ruling of the first trial which made it a Tennessee Supreme Court case: from pages 20 and 21:

“Slander, the defendant (Edmund P Bryant) being dissatisfied with the Judgment of the court in this case hath prayed on appeal in the nature of a writ of error in the next Supreme Court of errors and appeals to be holden in the City of Nashville on the first Monday in december next - which to him is granted he having enter into bond

with Allen Bryant his security for prosecuting the same with effect

Know all men by these presents that are Edmund P Bryant and Allen Bryant [brother of Edmund] both of the county of Macon and the State of Tennessee are firmly bound unto Arthur B Jackson in the sum of two hundred fifty dollars for which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves our heirs and assigns firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of May 1845”

I’m curious if there is a family connection between the Bryant family siblings mentioned and attorney John Bryant and perhaps others of Wilson Co, TN. The Moore line I’ve studied, who I believe we relate to went from Virginia to Giles Co, TN, but, they also appeared to have connections to Wilson Co, TN.

There is some similarity between Thomas’s and Evelyn’s writing about how William was raised. Thomas was told his father was raised by his Bryant Uncles, and Evelyn felt he was raised by relatives who were different than those Thomas shared.

Some who were said to have been William’s Uncle’s were likely a little older than him, but it appeared some were closer to his age and some of the females appear to have been older. Census records show Polly aka/Molly/Mary was born about 1780 at Virginia.

Jesse Bryant Jr was the only one in the group of siblings on the 1820 census at Cumberland Co, KY, and it appeared he had only a young child and wife on that census. Perhaps, the other’s were still at Virginia, or at an unknown location in 1820?

There was a James Bryant on the 1820 US census at Cumberland County, KY. I don't know who this James Bryant was, and he was not in the area in 1830.

Who was Grandmother Bryant?

Rev Thomas Jefferson Bryant's memory about visiting the Bryant family and Grandmother Bryant in Tennessee on their move from Tennessee to Illinois in 1834, seems telling. (Rev Bryant autobiography, page 4)

I have found Bryant siblings from that group who had been at Smith County, Sumner County, and Macon County, Tennessee. (Note: As new counties were added in Tennessee boundaries changed. Macon became a County in 1842.) I suspect it could have been Smith County or Sumner County, TN where our Bryant family visited relatives upon leaving Overton County, Tennessee for Illinois. If you look at a county timeline map for Tennessee, you can see Smith County, Tennessee and Sumner County, Tennessee would be on the direct route our Bryant and Rankin family's would have taken from Overton County, Tennessee on their trek to Illinois in 1834.

Here's what I found for census, that may have Grandmother Bryant: David Bryant is shown for an 1830 Smith Co, TN census. This has one male 20-29; one male 30-39; one female 50-59; and one female 90-99. (The female showing in the 90s may have been Mary Hill (Nelson) Bryant (however, I suspect she would have more likely been in her 70s in 1830), and the female 50-59 might have been a sister of David's.)

Shown as Alen Briant for the 1840 Smith Co, TN census, includes one female 50-59 on this census. This may be a sister, shown as 50-59 on the 1830 census with David Bryant?

One 1850 census for Macon County, TN has:

**R G Briant 52 year's old; born VA (this is Rhodes/Rhoadhaven Bryant)
Molly Briant 70 year's old; born VA (I believe this is Polly,
Rhoadhaven's sister, perhaps our William Whaley Bryant's Mother)
There are a number of children for Rhoadhaven I won't list all except:
Whaley Briant 11 year's old, born TN**

Another 1850 census of interest for Sumner Co, TN (the census taker did not list birth place by individual) I won't list children of Allen and Sarah.

Allen Bryant 45 year's old

Sarah Bryant 35 year's old

Mary Bryant 70 year's old (I believe this is also Polly Bryant)

The above two 1850 census records were taken at different times. I would suspect the sister shown as Molly and Mary was the same person, and helped and/or visited her 2 different brother's families. I suspect the sister was the same person who had lived with Edmund P Bryant, as noted in his Court case.

This is speculation, but I would consider that Polly (Mary, Molly) Bryant might have been the "Grandma Bryant" mentioned by Rev T J Bryant. Perhaps, she was our William Whaley Bryant's mother. If so, he would have had a father surname Moore.

I don't believe Jane Overton could have been William Whaley Bryant's mother. Jane was Jane Moore in 1834, and she lived with her family at Sampson Co, NC. She would not appear to fit Thomas's "Grandma Bryant" who the family visited, upon exiting Tennessee.

Evelyn Ownbey had different stories about who she felt the family visited upon leaving Tennessee. I believe the Reverend T J Bryant's information is correct, as it is his first hand account.

Evelyn's story concerning a visit with the Massie Family in Kentucky could have applied to our family visiting William's mother and his Bryant related family in Smith County, or Sumner County, Tennessee, on their exodus from Tennessee in 1834.

Here's the excerpt from Evelyn's book: "In 1834 the author's grandmother, then a little girl was enroute to Morgan County, Illinois from Tennessee with her parents, grandparents, aunts, brothers, sister and friends to make their new home. . . . They stopped at Great Crossings (near Georgetown) Kentucky to pay a visit to her great grandparent's, Mr and Mrs Edmund Massie (Massy) now very old who were making their home with their daughter, Anne (Mrs Peter Adams). The author's grandmother never could forget this visit for several reasons. One thing was that her great grandmother who resembled her own mother to a marked degree, insisted on holding her most of the time. Judith who was still living and very old would call her great grandmother, "Honey Child" . It was a great puzzle to this little girl how it was that a lady who was described as very old was called "Honey Child" by her still older negro slave." (Ownbey, Vol I, page vii)

As noted in Edmund P Bryant's Tennessee Supreme Court case, there was an elderly African American lady with Edmund Bryant at what became Macon County, Tennessee, and I suspect William Whaley Bryant's Mother would have been at, or visited the same location with Edmund Bryant and the African American lady in 1834. Perhaps, other siblings of William's Mother, Allen, Rhodehaven, and David were able to visit at that time also.

The Moore Half Brother's

Both Rev T J Bryant and Evelyn Ownbey wrote that William had half brother's names James Moore and Thomas Moore. Rev T J Bryant

indicated his father had no brother, so it would seem he had no full sibling, although there was no mention of any sisters.

Thomas wrote: “At the time of father’s death the postage on a letter from Tennessee to Jacksonville, Ill, was twenty-five cents. I remember being sent to that post office to get a letter from father’s half brother, condoling with mother on the death of my father, and I paid twenty-five cents postage to get it out of the office.” (Rev Bryant autobiography, page 4)

This tells us the half brother was in Tennessee in 1838. Jane’s son, Thomas Overton Moore was living at Louisiana by then, and I can’t place Jane’s other son’s outside North Carolina.

Male Lineage Y-DNA

We have 2 male representatives from our Bryant line who have male lineage Y-DNA tested. This test follows a male’s, male line directly back in time, from son to father, to father, to father and so on back in time. At some point, with a good match, the common male family line for William Whaley Bryant could turn up. (Note: All these matches are pretty good matches, and all would be common lines at some point, but some are likely common a little further back in generations.)

So, our Bryant representatives do match each other with 2 markers different on the 67 marker test which is not unusual. Our representatives have common Bryant ancestry at William Whaley Bryant. Each of the representatives, descends from a different male son of William Whaley Bryant.

Our representatives have pretty good matches with 5 others, and all of those individuals have the Moore surname.

So, if we look at it logically, William's father was surname Moore. We know William had 2 half brother's with the Moore surname. We don't know positively who William's father was, but, I believe we have eliminated Evan Bryant.

So, what about Jane Overton's husband, James Moore? I don't see a connection to our representative's Y-DNA tests. James Moore is said to have descended from the first Governor of South Carolina. Some representatives have Y-DNA tested from the first Governor's line, and our representatives do not match them for Y-DNA.

I have researched family trees for those our representatives match. All appeared to originate in Virginia. One of the Moore Y-DNA matches to our Bryants, have a William F Moore that had gone from Virginia to Stokes Co, NC. Some of us do have an autosomal DNA match with one person who has that William F Moore.

With Autosomal DNA I discovered a Moore line most of us have good matches with. This line had gone from somewhere in Virginia to Giles County, TN.

I communicated with a representative of that Moore line, and found he had a Y-DNA test some years ago, when ancestry sold male lineage Y-DNA tests. He shared his Y-DNA markers that had been tested for him by ancestry. I was able to compare those markers to one of our Bryant representatives, and they matched perfectly for the 30 markers ancestry tested for.

So, I now feel our William Whaley Bryant, likely was fathered from a male in that Moore line. I'll address that possibility later.

Autosomal DNA matches for Bryant

I have communicated with several individuals who descend from the group of Bryant siblings that had resided at Cumberland Co, KY, and at Smith; Sumner; and Macon Counties, TN.

Three of those did the autosomal DNA test and shared their results with me. In fact, one shared correspondence with me between her Bryant ancestor's of Cumberland County, KY and one of our Bryant cousin's back in the 1970s. It seemed there was an effort to figure out what the connection might be between the Cumberland County, KY Bryant family to the Edgecombe, NC Bryant family, upon realizing the differences between Rev T J Bryant's Autobiography and Evelyn Ownbey's books.

The odds of autosomal DNA matching a known cousin, is pretty strong back to 3rd cousins that share Great Great Grandparents. The odds of matching a 4th cousin is 50 percent, and the odds of matching a 5th cousin reduces to 10 percent. We do have more autosomal DNA matches for distant cousins than closer cousins, since the number of cousins multiply as we go back in time.

I've been working with 10 representatives who share our William Whaley Bryant family line, that have autosomal DNA tested. One of those does have a match with the representative who autosomal DNA tested of the Bryants of Cumberland Co, KY.

Three descendants of the Bryant line of Cumberland Co, KY and one representative of the same Bryant line from Macon Co, TN have shared their autosomal DNA matches with me, and they are matching for the same Bryant line we match for autosomal DNA.

I can tell the Cumberland Co, KY representatives have good matches with those who have the Bryants that moved to Tennessee. We also have matches with some who have the Cumberland Co, KY

connection and some of those that had moved to Tennessee. Seeing the right name on a family tree does not mean we match them for that line. But, when I check shared matches, and shared matches show up that have one of those same Bryant lines (and I can determine trees are accurate), I believe it indicates a DNA match for the line. So, I do believe we are related to the Bryant's that Rev T J Bryant shared with us. I have found a lot of evidence of autosomal DNA matches, that I believe shows a strong connection to this line.

I'm sure the Bryant connection for our William Whaley Bryant is maternal. We don't yet have proof of who William's Mother was. I suspect William's Mother could have been Polly aka/Molly/Mary Bryant who had lived with her brothers, and appears to have moved between their households in Tennessee. Years ago a family researcher for this Bryant line indicated Polly Bryant never married. I suspect William Whaley Bryant was an only child of his Bryant Mother.

I'll share observations about autosomal DNA tests. Autosomal DNA tests are those from ancestry; 23andME; Family Finder at FTDNA; MyHeritage; and LivingDNA. The autosomal DNA test can be taken by females and males, and it's possible to match back to 7th cousins or further back as some claim. A 7th cousin would share 6th Great Grandparents. As autosomal DNA is passed down to us from our parents, we only receive half of the autosomal DNA they had. Also, it is passed down in a random way, so even siblings will have some different autosomal DNA from their siblings. It can also help if a person who has autosomal DNA tested has a closer relationship to an ancestor. For instance, William Whaley Bryant is a Great Great Grandparent for some of those who have shared their autosomal DNA matches with me. Then, William Whaley Bryant is a 3rd Great Grandparent for me and others of us who have shared their DNA matches with me. But, again the results can vary, depending on the portion of DNA handed down to us. A parent and child relationship will be obvious with autosomal DNA. As we move down to 2nd

and 3rd Great Grandparents, determining the relationship gets more difficult, but I believe we can establish likely direct family lines, although we may not be able to identify the particular parent for an ancestor.

I suspect William Whaley Bryant's Mother had only the one child. That means there would be no siblings of William, so no direct descendants from Bryant siblings of William. But, autosomal DNA will show us matches for descendants of Uncles and Aunts of William's.

All of us have matches for the same Bryant line. I'll share one example:

match 1: one of our Bryant cousins is the GG Grandson of Dr James William Bryant

match 2: matches match 1 for 53 centimorgans 4 segments; has Martha Bryant sister of Dr James William Bryant

shared matches both match 1 and match 2 have:

match 3; matches 566 centimorgans 29 segments; has Dr James William Bryant

match 4; matches 361 centimorgans 16 segments; has Dr James William Bryant

match 5; matches 139 centimorgans 8 segments; has Dr James William Bryant

match 6; matches 59 centimorgans 6 segments; has Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant

match 7; matches 50 centimorgans 4 segments; has Martha Bryant, sibling of James and Thomas;

match 8; matches 46 centimorgans 5 segments; has the same Martha Bryant

match 9; matches 38 centimorgans 1 segment; has Allen Bradford Bryant one of the Bryant siblings of Smith;Sumner;Macon Cos, TN

match 10; 28 centimorgans 1 segment; has Eli Bryant of Henry Co, VA, a sibling of Allen Bradford Bryant

match 11; 26 centimorgans 1 segment; has Allen Bradford Bryant;

**match 12; 23 centimorgans 1 segment; has Allen Bradford Bryant
match 13; 23 centimorgans 2 segments; has Allen Bradford Bryant**

This is just one example of shared matches we have for the Bryant line of siblings of Henry Co, VA; Cumberland Co, KY; and Smith Co,; Sumner Co; and Macon Co, TN. Some others have shared matches that include Rhodehaven/Rhodes Bryant; Allen Bradford Bryant; Eli Bryant; and Martha Maram (Bryant) Stewart. It is clear to me, we are matching for this Bryant line which is the line Rev T J Bryant wrote about in 1890.

Autosomal DNA matches for Moore

With autosomal DNA, males and females can find matches back to 5th to 7th cousins, and perhaps further back as some claim.

As I mentioned in the Y-DNA section, I believe we are matching closely to a specific Moore family line of siblings for Y-DNA and for autosomal DNA.

This seems to be a meaningful line, as I am seeing good autosomal DNA matches for those who have a sibling from this Moore line. There are also shared matches, that show me it is likely the Moore line we match them for.

I believe our William Whaley Bryant's father was a male sibling from this Moore line.

The siblings I've found for this line include: Asa Moore; Dorthula Ann "Dolly" Moore (husband William A Chapman); Shadrach Moore; French Moore; Lemuel Moore; and Jephtha Moore. These siblings appear to all have been born an unknown place in Virginia and resided at Giles County, TN for a time, with some spreading out from there. It seems some had also spent time at Wilson County, TN.

On the 1820 census at Giles Co, TN there was also Abednego Moore and a William Moore, and a number of other Moores, but we don't know if any of these were related to those I listed?

While at Giles Co, TN some of the Moore siblings lived at or near the town of Pulaski, Giles Co, TN. I recall Rev T J Bryant, felt his father had mentioned that he lived less than 10 miles from Clarksville, Tennessee. I see there is a Campbellsville, TN at Giles County which shows as 13.8 miles from Pulaski, TN. Perhaps, Thomas confused the name of the town , if the family lived outside the town of Pulaski? But, we don't know if William could have lived at Giles County, Tennessee.

So far, this won't help us to pinpoint who William's father was, but I suspect it was one of those mentioned, or another sibling.

If one of the Moores I shared, fathered our William, we won't know the situation for sure, unless a record surfaces.

We just don't know the circumstances of our William Whaley Bryant's birth. It is possible a record could still exist for Pittsylvania County, VA where it was felt William was born. I understand most records for Pittsylvania have survived. Some have been indexed, but I believe some have not. I have read some records from Pittsylvania County went to the Virginia State Library for scanning, but could take several years before they are available to view online. I know some scanned records are available to view free at the Virginia State Library website. If anyone sees any such record for our William, please let me know.

Here's some of what is known about Asa Moore: There was a court action in 1816 where a Reeta Rae/Ray had a child by Asa Moore where she sought and received support funds by her court action at Giles

Co, TN. It was also mentioned that Asa Moore had married a young girl when he was in his 60s at Missouri, and there was said to have been a court action about that also. Asa Moore shows as having a son, named Thomas Moore but I don't see a James Moore for him. He did have a son William Moore born in 1806, who died at Giles County, Tennessee in 1886.

Shadrach Moore, a sibling of Asa's had sons named Thomas Moore born 1804 (some may have this son born later?), and James Moore born 1806. Shadrach's wife was Chloe, perhaps surname Payne . Shadrach later had a son shown as William Chapman Moore born in 1815.

Another sibling was Jephtha Moore. Date of birth for him varies between 1786 and 1790? He shows as being married second to Lucy Jones at Giles County, TN in 1822. He doesn't appear to have sons named James or Thomas Moore with his wife Lucy. Jephtha had been married previous to Lucy, but so far I have not been able to determine names of children by that marriage. From Jephtha Moore's pension record for his service in the War of 1812, it was mentioned that Jephtha's first wife was Nancy Payne, perhaps a sister of Shadrach Moore's wife.

Other siblings were Lemuel Moore and French Moore, but so far I'm not sure of their history. However, there are some autosomal DNA matches to someone who has a Lemuel Moore who had lived in Kentucky, and had a son named Lemuel Moore who had been at Giles Co, TN for a time. Early marriage records for Giles Co, TN were destroyed.

Family trees for some siblings, show parentage. But, I don't see a common pair of parent's, so I suspect most or all trees are wrong regarding parentage of these Moore siblings.

One person I communicated with about this Moore line of Giles Co, TN, gave me the following information for births, felt to have been taken from a Bible which is now said missing:

Asa Moore born February 20, 1783

Dolly Moore born March 1, 1785

Shadrach Moore born 1788

Lemuel Moore born January 18, 1796

French Moore born July 1, 1799

Jeptha Moore was not listed.

I don't know if those birth dates could be accurate? A lot of trees show Shadrach Moore born in 1775.

The name "French" Moore is interesting. I have no idea of what the origin is for naming this person. But, in following the family lines back for those Moore's our representatives match for Y-DNA, some lines appear to work back earlier to a William Moore and Angelina French.

William Moore and Angelina French are felt to have had 2 sons, Jesse Moore 1740-1815 and Jeremiah Moore 1746-1815. I don't know if William and Angelina may have had additional children or not? Information for William and Angelina's children could be incomplete. Some aren't sure if there is proof for Angelina French, but the name "French" was used for middle names. Those who show Angelina seem to feel she died young, so it's possible William Moore could have married again, and may have had more children.

Jeremiah Moore had become a Baptist Minister. There are a number of websites with information about him. Some show records of

correspondence between Reverend Jeremiah Moore and Thomas Jefferson. It doesn't appear our direct Moore line would include Jeremiah Moore or his brother Jesse Moore, but they would be distant cousins.

Autosomal DNA Examples to Moore

**match 1: has Martha Ann Bryant of our Bryant line
match 1 matches match 2 for 75 centimorgans 2 segments; has Asa Moore, one of the Giles Co, TN Moore line**

**shared matches both match 1 and match 2 have
match 3; 34 centimorgans 1 segment; has Shadrach Moore brother of Asa Moore**

match 4; 32 centimorgans 1 segment; has Asa Moore

match 5; 23 centimorgans 2 segments; has Shadrach Moore

match 6; 26 centimorgans 1 segment; has Asa Moore

match 10 matches match 11 for 17 centimorgans 1 segment; has Dorthula Moore, spouse of Asa Moore, Shadrach Moore and others

match 10 and match 11 have shared matches:

match 12; 28 centimorgans 2 segments; has Dorthula Moore

match 13; 25 centimorgans 1 segment; has Dorthula Moore

match 14; 20 centimorgans 1 segment; has Dorthula Moore

Moore and Bryant on my family tree

After careful evaluation, I have deleted what I had for William Whaley Bryant's parentage. This deleted a lot of ancestry which I now feel was wrong. I added a possible unknown Moore or Bryant as William's father, and an unknown Bryant as William's mother.

Works Cited

"What Does America Mean to You?", Volume I, 1942, Evelyn Ownbey

"What Does America Mean to You?", Volume II, 1962, Evelyn Ownbey

"Autobiography, Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, For thirty five years a Member of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church." 1890, Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant

Evidence for the middle name Whaley

Evelyn Ownbey showed William Bryant's middle name as Whalley and Halley. It appears she came to this conclusion, as she felt Anne Halley was William's grandmother.

I'll present the evidence for Whaley as William Bryant's middle name.

The 1835 census for William at Morgan Co, IL lists him as Wm W Bryant.

Also, from: "HISTORY OF MORGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS Its Past and present

Chicago: Donnelley, Loyd & Co., Publishers, 1878.(reprinted by the Jacksonville Area Genealogical and Historical Society, 1975)":

"BRYANT, J. W., Dr. farmer and stock raiser, Sec. 36, P.O. Waverly. Dr. Bryant, who is contemporary with the early settlement of this county, was the eldest child of William W. and Isabel Bryant, whose maiden name was Rankin.

**From Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant's obituary which was in:
"The Journals and Records of the Seventieth Session of the Illinois
Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church" held
September 20-25, 1893.: ;
"Brother Bryant was the son of William Whaley Bryant who settled in
Kentucky in an early day."**

**Rev T J Bryant wrote about Jesse Bryant, felt to be an Uncle of
William, that had lived at Cumberland Co, KY. Jesse's wife was Sarah
Sallie Pace. Sarah's father was Langston Pace. Langston Pace and
his wife named a daughter born in 1802, Mary Whaley Pace.**

**A sibling of Jesse Bryant's was Rhodehaven/Rhodes Bryant who had
lived at Macon Co, TN. On the 1850 US census for Macon County, TN,
Rhodehaven shows as R G Briant. Rhodehaven's sister is also on
this census, and shows as Molly Briant. Another listed on this census
is Rhodehaven's son, who shows as Whaley Briant born in 1839. Our
William Whaley Bryant died August, 1838, so I suspect Rhodehaven's
son was named for William.**

**We don't know the origin of "Whaley", but I see a connection to the
middle name and a first name for this Bryant line.**

Massey Ancestry

**I've been studying my Bryant family history carefully. My
Grandmother was Minnie Modesta Bryant 1893-1971; my Great
Grandfather was William Cullen "George" Bryant 1865-1921; my Great
Great Grandfather was Christopher Columbus "Lum" Bryant 1835-
1867; my Great Great Great Grandfather was William Whaley Bryant
1807-1838.**

William Whaley Bryant's spouse was Isabel Rankin 1806-1844; Isabel's parent's were James Rankin 1776-1839 and Margaret Massey 1780-1853.

For this section, I'll address what I feel to be our correct Massey and Barrett connections. There are differences from what Evelyn Ownbey wrote.

We have family books, I will refer to, written as Volume I and Volume II by Evelyn Jeanette (Miller) Ownbey, titled "What Does America mean to you?" These books were written in the 1940s and 1960s.

Another book I will refer to, is an autobiography by my 3X Great Uncle, Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant. The title page shows "Autobiography, Rev Thomas J Bryant, For Thirty-Five Years A Member of the Illinois Conference, of the Methodist Episcopal Church". Thomas wrote his Autobiography in 1890.

I'll present what I'm now seeing regarding the parentage of Margaret Massey. I am not in agreement with Evelyn Ownbey about the parentage of Margaret.

Were Edmund Massie & Mary Dabney Winston Margaret Massey's Parents?

The short answer is, No, Edmund Massey and Mary Dabney Winston were not Margaret Massey's parents.

Evelyn Ownbey shows Margaret Massey's parent's as Edmund Massie 1747-1842 and Mary Dabney Winston 1740-1835.

I don't believe there was a couple who were Edmund Massie and Mary Dabney Winston. Evelyn indicated Mary Dabney had first married

Isaac Winston as Isaac's second wife, when she was very young. She felt after Isaac's death, Mary married Edmund Massie in Virginia.

When I look at family trees for an Isaac Winston and a Mary Dabney I see: A number of trees with a Captain Isaac Winston and wife Mary Dabney. This couple shows as originating in England in the late 1500s and dying anywhere from the late 1500s to the 1660s in Virginia.

Some other family trees show an Isaac Winston born early 1700s that died about 1760 at Virginia. Some of these, show Mary Dabney born early 1700s and dying in the 1760s.

I don't know the accuracy of any of those trees, so I will attempt to follow what I can from Evelyn's account.

Evelyn felt Edmund Massie, Jr and Mary (Dabney) Winston were a couple. It seems the record Evelyn may have based this on was an Indenture of August 4, 1770, between Edmund Marsey (I presume meant to be Massie/Massey) of Albermarle County and Mary his wife of the one part & Wm Trimyear of Louisa County of the other part. There were also some property transactions between an Edmund Massie and a John Winston in Virginia. I see no evidence of a maiden name for this "Mary".

Evelyn often writes "it is tradition", but generally she doesn't appear to share how such tradition was handed down, or what sources there may have been for such "tradition".

Edmund Massie's Revolutionary War record of where he had lived

Edmund Massie testified at 85 year's of age in court at Grant Co, KY in 1832 about his Revolutionary War service, including where he had

lived. A letter answering her request was written to Evelyn from a government record's office. This letter shared that Edmund testified he was born in 1747 at Hanover County, Virginia. While residing at Albermarle Co, VA, Edmund enlisted and served his first 3 months. Then, while a resident of Orange Co, VA, Edmund served 3 more months. Edmund indicated he moved from Orange Co, VA to Kentucky. The only mention I've seen for Edmund Massie concerning North Carolina, was a very short time he was there in his service during the Revolutionary War. This would not seem to fit, as Margaret Massey and her siblings were born at North Carolina, evidenced by the 1850 US census.

Was Hannah Edmund Massie's wife?

Evelyn did question who Hannah was, that was shown as a spouse of Edmund on some property transactions that occurred in Kentucky. Evelyn theorized this was Edmund's son, Edmund. I wasn't able to locate a son in Kentucky?

In my searches for Edmund, I found a Kentucky death record for Anna Hoover who died at 75 year's of age. Here's the transcription for that death (from ancestry: Kentucky, U.S., Death Records, 1852-1965) :

Name: Anna Hoover

[Anna Massey]

Gender: Female

Death Age: 75

Birth Date: abt 1780 (shows she was born State of Virginia)

Residence Place: Kenton

Death Date: 17 May 1855

Death Place: Kenton, Kentucky, USA

Father: Edmund Massey

Mother: Hannah Massey

Evelyn does show a child of Edmund Massie and Mary (Dabney) Winston as Anne Massey that married Peter Adams in 1808.

Here's a marriage record that I suspect is Anna Massey Adams for her second marriage (from ancestry, Northern Kentucky Marriages, 1795-1850):

**Name Anna Adams
Marriage Date 27 Sep 1824
Marriage Place Campbell, Kentucky, USA
Spouse Joseph Hoover
Household Members
Name
Anna Adams
Joseph Hoover**

Here are transcriptions of Census records from Ancestry.com for Edmund Massie

Census records for Edmund Massie in Kentucky (from ancestry: 1810 United States Federal Census):

**Name: Edmd Massie
Home in 1810 (City, County, State): Campbell, Campbell, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over : 1
Number of Household Members Under 16: 2
Number of Household Members Over 25: 2
Number of Household Members: 7**

(from ancestry: 1820 United States Federal Census):

Name: Edward [Edmund] Masser [Massie]
Home in 1820 (City, County, State): Burlington, Boone, Kentucky
Enumeration Date: August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over : 1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Commerce: 1
Free White Persons - Under 16: 2
Free White Persons - Over 25: 2
Total Free White Persons: 5

(from ancestry: 1830 United States Federal Census):

Name: Edmund Mascie
[Edmund Massie]
Home in 1830 (City, County, State): Campbell, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 70 thru 79: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1
Free White Persons - Under 20: 3
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49: 1
Total Free White Persons: 5
Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): 5

1840 census notes veterans:

Name: Edmund Massey
Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Kenton, Kentucky
Birth Year: abt 1745
Age: 95

Military Service: Veteran

(from ancestry, 1840 United States Federal Census)

Family Edmund Massie was with on 1840 census:

Name: Joseph Wayland

Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Kenton, Kentucky

Birth Year: abt 1782

Age: 58

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 3

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 90 thru 99: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49: 1

Persons Employed in Agriculture: 5

No. White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write: 3

Free White Persons - Under 20: 6

Free White Persons - 20 thru 49: 2

Total Free White Persons: 10

Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves: 10

(The 1850 census showed Joseph Wayland's wife was Nancy born VA in 1800. Perhaps, she was Edmund's granddaughter?)

What happened to Edmund's wife, and where was Judith?

No spouse appears for Edmund on the 1830 census? Evelyn wrote that Mary had gone back to Virginia in 1835 when it was felt she was murdered.

Here's an excerpt from Evelyn's book: "In 1834 the author's grandmother, then a little girl was enroute to Morgan County, Illinois

from Tennessee with her parents, grandparents, aunts, brothers, sister and friends to make their new home. . . . They stopped at Great Crossings (near Georgetown) Kentucky to pay a visit to her great grandparent's, Mr and Mrs Edmund Massie (Massy) now very old who were making their home with their daughter, Anne (Mrs Peter Adams). The author's grandmother never could forget this visit for several reasons. One thing was that her great grandmother who resembled her own mother to a marked degree, insisted on holding her most of the time. Judith who was still living and very old would call her great grandmother, "Honey Child" . It was a great puzzle to this little girl how it was that a lady who was described as very old was called "Honey Child" by her still older negro slave." (Ownbey, Vol I, page vii)

Note "Anne/Anna (Mrs Peter Adams)"? By 1834 she had remarried and was Anna Hoover.

I don't believe our Rankin or Bryant family went to Kentucky on their trek from Tennessee to Illinois in 1834. The location in Kentucky would be a good distance out of the way of a direct route from Overton Co, TN to where they planned on settling in Illinois. Rev T J Bryant shared about visiting Bryant relatives and the Bryant Grandmother in Tennessee enroute to Illinois, with no mention of venturing into Kentucky.

In addition to there being no spouse on the 1830 census, where is "Judith" who was said to have been a very old slave? I don't see her listed on any of the census records I shared above?

A letter from Margaret (Massey) Rankin's Granddaughter

Evelyn provided a letter in one of her books that is helpful. The letter was dated April 1, 1914 and came from Myrtle, Missouri. It was

addressed to Mrs Neil Browning in Springfield, Illinois, and was from Mrs Almira (Weaver) Jones who was a granddaughter of James Rankin and Margaret Massey. Margaret had lived with her daughter Sarah's family in Arkansas, where Margaret and Almira likely had a close relationship. (Ownbey, Vol I, page 5)

From that letter:

“Grandmother Rankin's name was Margaret Massie. Her father was in the Revolutionary War. I remember hearing Grandmother say she had small pox when she was a baby-----that her father had the small pox when he came home from the war. If grandmother knew how old she was, she would never tell any of us. All that we ever knew was that she was a baby when her father got home from the war.

I think grandmother has lived in South Carolina and moved from there to east Tennessee, from there to middle Tennessee, and from there to Illinois where grandfather Rankin died.

Grandmother Rankin had seven children. The three oldest died in infancy. Their names, Nancy, William and Thomas. Her next was Isabelle; next, Sarah, my mother; then Margaret and Susan, the two youngest. Grandma's children all died in Illinois, except my mother and the three oldest. I never knew how old grandpa was when he died. I don't know where her and grandpa first met. Grandma Rankin had sister's, Sallie and Susan.”

Almira may have been mistaken about South Carolina. The 1850 census showed Margaret (as well as her siblings) born at North Carolina. It is possible our Massey line moved from North Carolina to South Carolina after the Revolutionary War, and some of the children eventually went to East Tennessee.

Edmund Massie had served in the Revolutionary War, as had many men during that time. But, I can't place Edmund in South Carolina, North Carolina, or east Tennessee, as his Revolutionary war record testimony shows he had lived at Virginia before relocating to upper Kentucky?

I feel it's likely Margaret Massey and James Rankin met at east Tennessee. Almira made no mention of Kentucky.

We can find Margaret (Massey) Rankin with her daughter's family at Arkansas on the 1850 US census. On that census, Margaret shows to have been 64 year's old, and as born at North Carolina. Edmund Massie had passed through North Carolina in the military, but likely for a very short period of time, when he was away from home. We have dates of birth for Margaret, anywhere from 1776 to 1786, with her grave showing 1780.

That letter is the only record I've seen of seven children for James and Margaret. Many folks still used naming patterns in early America. James and Margaret did use Thomas and Isabel as first names, which were the names of James Rankin's parents. So, could Margaret's parents have been a William and Nancy?? If Almira's memory was accurate, perhaps. Naming patterns aren't always consistent, though.

***Clues about Massey from Rev Thomas Jefferson Bryant's
Autobiography***

Here's some of what Rev T J Bryant wrote in his autobiography about his 1834 arrival in Illinois (Rev Bryant Autobiography, page 7):

"Mother had an uncle living on Massey Creek, 10 miles northwest of Carlinville. Carlinville had but a few cabins, a log court house and a jail. The most distinct memory I have of it is Mr McDaniel's pet deer.

After a short visit at Uncle Massey's we went on to Morgan County."

This was Isaac Massey, who was our Margaret (Massey) Rankin's brother. Evelyn did include Isaac as a child of Edmund Massie and Mary (Dabney) Winston, but I don't believe they were Isaac and Margaret's parent's.

Here's some information I found about Isaac:

From "History of Macoupin County Illinois" 1879

Addressing those early settlers who settled in South Palmyra Township, Macoupin County, Illinois:

" Isaac Massey and his family also from Tennessee (arrived) about 1829."

"Drainage--The land of South Palmyra is drained on the west side by Solomon's creek; on the middle by Massey creek (sometimes known as Nassa creek), running almost a south-west direction; and from the south-east by Otter creek, running almost in the same direction as Massey creek. The creek derived its name from Isaac Massey, an early settler of the township."

The 1850 US census, for Macoupin Co, IL for Isaac Massey showed he was born at North Carolina about 1786.

So, Isaac and his family moved from Tennessee to Macoupin Co, IL, and both he and Margaret are listed as born at North Carolina on the 1850 US census.

Isaac Massey's first wife was Elizabeth Bristow. James Bristow was Elizabeth's father, and he is said to have moved from Tazewell Co, VA to Cumberland Co, KY in 1805, and relocated to Overton Co, TN in 1812, where some show he died in 1818.

Looking for Massey's in East Tennessee

Our Rankin family had lived at Jefferson County, Tennessee from about 1785. I looked at East Tennessee for possible records for Massey.

Here's an interesting marriage record I found for who I suspect is Margaret Massey's sister:

From Jefferson County, TN marriage records:

James Bradshaw, Groom married Susannah Massey, Bride

Date 4/22/1800 Security: Thomas Rankin

Witness: J Hamilton

I recall seeing that Thomas Rankin (perhaps our James Rankin's father or brother) gave security for the marriage. I have found a record to substantiate the marriage. Here's the transcribed info of the record noted at ancestry about the bond for James Bradshaw and Susannah Massey's marriage:

Citation Information

Transcript

bn Thomas Rankin Wit J. Hamilton

Detail p 22

Source Information

Title Jefferson Co Marriages

Note Source Medium: Book

I found census records at ancestry from 1820 US Census that would seem to be this couple:

Name: James Bradshaw

Home in 1820 (City, County, State): Overton, Tennessee

Enumeration Date: August 7, 1820

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 2

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 18: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: 1
Slaves - Males - 14 thru 25: 1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Manufactures: 3
Free White Persons - Under 16: 5
Free White Persons - Over 25: 2
Total Free White Persons: 9
Total Slaves: 1
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: 10

from ancestry, 1830 US Census:

Name: James Bradshaw
Home in 1830 (City, County, State): Overton, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49: 1
White Persons - Blind: 1
Free White Persons - Under 20: 6
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49: 1
Total Free White Persons: 9
Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): 9

from ancestry: 1840 US Census:

Name: James Bladshaw

[James Bradshaw]

Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Southern Division, Green, Kentucky

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59: 1
Persons Employed in Agriculture: 4
Free White Persons - Under 20: 2
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49: 2
Total Free White Persons: 7
Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves: 7

from ancestry: 1850 US Census:

Name: James Bradshaw; occupation Blacksmith

Age: 70

Birth Year: abt 1780

Birthplace: Virginia

Home in 1850: District 1, Green, Kentucky, USA

Gender: Male

Family Number: 47

Household Members:

Name Age

James Bradshaw 70 born Virginia

Susan Bradshaw 67 born North Carolina

Margaret Bradshaw 23 born Tennessee

from ancestry: 1860 US Census:

Name: James Bradshaw; occupation farmer this census

Age: 80
Birth Year: abt 1780
Gender: Male
Birth Place: Virginia
Home in 1860: District 2, Green, Kentucky
Post Office: Barrack
Family Number: 392
Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:

Name	Age	
James Bradshaw	80	born Virginia
Susannah Bradshaw	76	born North Carolina
Margaret Bradshaw	34	born Tennessee
Cornelia Bradshaw	10	born Kentucky

from ancestry: 1870 US Census:

Name: Susan Brdshaw
Age in 1870: 88
Birth Year: abt 1782
Birthplace: North Carolina
Home in 1870: Precinct 3, Green, Kentucky
Race: White
Gender: Female
Post Office: Osceola
Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:

Name	Age	
Margaret Brdshaw	45	born Tennessee
Cornelia Brdshaw	20	born Kentucky
John J Brdshaw	8	born Kentucky
George T Brdshaw	5	born Kentucky
Susan Brdshaw	88	born North Carolina

from ancestry: Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1953:

Death record for Susan Susannah:

Here's Susannah's death record:

Death info Susan Bradshaw

Gender: Female

Race: White

Death Age: 90

Birth Date: abt 1785

Residence Place: Green

Death Date: 25 Oct 1875

Death Place: Green, Kentucky, USA

Father: Johnathan Moss

Mother: Nancy Moss

Moss as a maiden name doesn't fit. Some family trees show a John Moss and Nancy Galloway as parent's. But, they show that John Moss and Nancy Galloway married in 1792. Then, they give Susan a birth year of 1793, which does not fit since she married James Bradshaw in 1800.

This is Susan/Susannah Massey who married James Bradshaw at Jefferson Co, TN in 1800. It's not uncommon for names of parents to be wrong on death records. Names of parents were wrong for 3 out of 4 death records for my paternal Great Grandparent's.

I believe this may give us the names of our Margaret (Massey) Rankin's parents. Margaret did name her first daughter Nancy, so that would fit the naming pattern. The name of the father shows as Jonathan on the death record. I believe Margaret's mother's maiden name could have been Nancy Barrett.

I have reviewed a number of death records that have the wrong names including those of my paternal family. I think that could

account for the surname Moss instead of Massey reported by the informant or wrongly written by the person recording the death information. James Rankin and wife Margaret Massey used the names of his parents, Thomas and Isabel for children. They used Nancy for their first daughter which would fit a naming pattern. The only other male name they used was William, so I would still look for either a William Massey or a Jonathan Massey as the father of Margaret and her siblings.

I now believe Margaret and likely Susannah's grandfather was Jonathan Barrett, so the informant for Susan/Susannah's death may have mistakenly associated Jonathan for Susannah's father instead of her maternal grandfather.

Family connections of Rankin, Clendenin, and Bradshaw

Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant shared another connection he felt existed between the Bradshaw and Rankin families. It was felt by our Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant that Thomas Rankin's daughter, Mary Rankin married a James Bradshaw. Some family trees show the same James Bradshaw as married to Susannah Massey and to Mary Rankin.

I don't believe James Bradshaw had married Mary Rankin. Other information shows that Mary Rankin (daughter of Thomas Rankin and Isabel Clendenin) born 1774 at Cumberland Co, PA died 1842 at Meigs Co, TN, and is buried at Roane Co, TN. Findagrave shows Mary Rankin's husband was Andrew McCuistion.

There is a marriage record at ancestry showing Andrew McCuistion married a Rankin 8 Feb 1797 at Jefferson Co, TN. I suspect her first name doesn't show, as it may have faded or been unreadable on the original marriage record.

There is interesting information about a friendship between the Rankin, Bradshaw, and related family's at this website: _

<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/13892915>

John Bradshaw was the elder male of this family, and father of James Bradshaw. It's shown he was born in 1743, likely at Bucks Co, PA. Here's more: "he farmed and worked at the blacksmithing trade. He was among the first to use a continuous hoop-rim on wagon wheels and is said to have invented the concept."

Note, the younger James Bradshaw was a blacksmith on the 1850 census at Green Co, KY.

James and Susannah (Massey) Bradshaw appear on the 1820 and 1830 census at Overton Co, TN. Our Bryant and James and Margaret (Massey) Rankin families were at Overton Co, TN on the 1830 census.

Another family connection from that website: "John Bradshaw married Nancy Agnes Clendenin, daughter of John Clendenin and Jane Houston. With his family, friends and relatives he moved to Limestone Creek in Washington Co, TN in the early 1780s. Early in 1785, with his brother-in-law Richard Rankin, he explored the dense forest wilderness in Greene Co (now Jefferson Co), where at the head of Dumplin Creek they found that for which they searched; the place to make their homes beside beautiful, clear running creeks."

So, we would relate to the Bradshaw's through our Clendenin and Huston family lines.

James Bradshaw that married Susannah Massey was one of John Bradshaw's sons.

Recall that Evelyn included the letter where Mrs Almira (Weaver) Jones wrote that her grandmother, Margaret (Massey) Rankin had a sister named Susan, who could be Susannah Massey that married James Bradshaw.

I can't find a marriage record for James Rankin and Margaret Massey. I've reviewed a lot of the records for Jefferson and Greene Counties, TN, and some are very hard to read and too faded to make out. I would suspect they also married at East Tennessee about 1800.

There were some other Massey's that married during the same era in East Tennessee. So far, I can't place Massey parent's at East Tennessee. It's possible the children relocated from North Carolina with another family, or with an older sibling or siblings. We also may find something for early property records.

About our Barrett Ancestry

From Rev T J Bryant's autobiography pages 15 & 16, which I believe reveals more about our correct Barrett family connections:

"In the fall of 1844, after mother's death, I engaged with Mr I N Edwards of Macoupin County, to work nights mornings and Saturday's for my board, while I took a three month's term of school at Shinbone."

"I worked for Mr Edwards the next summer at \$5 per month, he and I were half cousin's. His father, Griffith Edwards was a devoutly pious man and always kind to me; so was Mr Edward's wife."

**Aha!! Half cousins!! So, let's take a look at that connection. I found "I N Edwards" to be:
Isaac Nelson Edwards**

(some show)

Birth 23 AUG 1817 • , , Indiana, USA

Death 7 DEC 1860 • , Macoupin, Illinois, USA

Isaac's father was:

Griffith Edwards (Jr)

(some show)

Birth 2 DEC 1790 • , , North Carolina, USA

Death 15 SEP 1860 (or 1858?) • Macoupin, Macoupin, Illinois, USA

So, here's who I found Griffith Edwards, Jr's parents to be:

Griffith Edwards, Sr

(some show)

Birth 1750 • Llandillo Vawr, Carmarthen, Wales

Death Rowan, North Carolina, USA

spouse: Mary Ann Barrett

(some show)

Birth 1755 • , Rowan, North Carolina, USA

Death Rowan, North Carolina, USA

Wow!!! A Barrett!!!

Frin Rev T J Bryant Autobiography, page 6: "Grandfather Rankin married Margaret Massey. On her mother's side she was a Barrett. Her grand father Barrett was a powerful man, physically, his teeth were all double, and his chest apparently was one solid bone."

I interpret what's written by Thomas, that Margaret Massey's mother was surname Barrett, and that Margaret's maternal grandfather was a Barrett.

So, Margaret Massey's mother was a Barrett and not Mary (Dabney)

Winston.

Let's go back to Isaac Nelson Edwards, who Rev T J Bryant felt to be a half cousin. First, why would Thomas have called him a "half" cousin? I suspect since Isaac had Barrett ancestry, but didn't share both Massey and Barrett ancestry. Thomas felt he was a half cousin for the Barrett side of the family. Clearly, they would not have been first cousins, but I think during that era, they probably didn't deal with levels of cousins, but understood their family connection.

Here's what a lot of folks show on family trees for the parents of Mary Ann Barrett:

Jonathan Barrett

(some show)

Birth 1722 • Hanover, Hanover, Virginia, USA (some feel he was born at Middlesex, MA and some feel he was from Wales.)

Death 1795 • Hanover, Hanover, Virginia, USA (some show death at Rowan Co, NC)

(some have first wife Native American Jarmin "Jarfly" Hagler and second wife as Elizabeth "Betsy" Henderson) Note: Some do not feel there is enough information for either as Jonathan's wife.

You can google for Jonathan Barrett and Barrett's Mountain. Barrett's Mountain in North Carolina was named for him. There are some who dispute who Jonathan's wives were, and whether he really lived like an Indian or not.

I did find the marriage bond from 1774 for the marriage of Griffith Edwards and Mary Ann Barrett. Their marriage took place at Rowan County, North Carolina. Jonathan Barrett did give his written permission for this marriage on this record.

So, from what our Rev Thomas Jefferson Bryant wrote, Mary Ann (Barrett) Griffith, would have been an Aunt to Margaret (Massey) Rankin and the sister of Margaret's mother, who I believe was Nancy (Barrett) Massey.

Part of Evelyn's book showed as working back to Massie and Hart ancestry. At this point, I don't find a connection to a Hart line. (FYI: Rev T J Bryant did write about doing work for Hart Massey at Morgan Co, IL. Hart Massey was born in New York in 1811, so I doubt he is directly related and Thomas made no claims of being related.)

DNA Matches for Massey

I'm sure our Massey connection was in North Carolina during the time Margaret Massey and her 2 known siblings were born. Where some of us have shared DNA matches for Massey, the line would appear to be related to the Massey or Masseys who married wives surname Pettipool/Pettypool. The Pettipool surname could also show up earlier as Poole or Pool or similar. I believe the Massey Pettipool/Pettypool couple would be earlier than the William or Jonathan Massey who was likely our Margaret Massey's Father. For that earlier line the surname Caton might be another connection. Griffith Edwards, Sr married Mary Ann Massey at Rowan County, NC. Samuel Oxford married Bathsheba Barrett and they appeared to live in the same area as the Edwards/Barrett couple. It would seem likely that our Margaret Massey's parents would have married and lived for time at least, in the same area. With my current vision limitations, that's all I can share for now. I'm sure Edmund Massie is not Margaret Massey's father.

DNA Matches for Jonathan Barrett

Our representatives who have autosomal DNA tested have matches with other's who have ancestry that works back to Jonathan Barrett

who had children in North Carolina. I believe Jonathan is our ancestor. I believe our Margaret Massey's mother was maiden name Nancy Barrett, and I'm hopeful someone will eventually find evidence for her. The Jonathan Barrett that Barrett's Mountain in North Carolina is the person we would be related to.

I see shared matches, where I can see we do share for the correct Jonathan Barrett lineage. We do have a number of matches for those who have Bathsheba Barrett that married Samuel Oxford and other Barrett siblings on their family tree, and there are shared matches to others who have the same Jonathan Barrett.

I feel Reverend Thomas Jefferson Bryant's Autobiography has been a good guide to follow, in trying to determine which family lines we have ancestry with.

Massey and Barrett on my family tree

After careful evaluation, I deleted what I had for Margaret Massey's parentage. I changed her parentage to a possible Jonathan or William Massey, and her mother to a possible Nancy Barrett. I show her Grandfather as Jonathan Barrett (Barrett's Mountain in North Carolina was named for him). Rev Bryant's Autobiography leads us directly to him.

I added Margaret Massey's siblings, who I believe were Isaac Massey and Susannah Massey. Another siblings was Sarah Massey, but I'm not sure who she was yet.

Below is Rev Thomas Jefferson Bryant's Autobiography

I regard Reverend Bryant's Autobiography as the guidebook in locating the proper Bryant and Massey family lines. Reverend Bryant's Autobiography begins on the next page.



— AUTOBIOGRAPHY —

— OF —


— Rev. Thomas J. Bryant, —

— FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS A —

Member of the Illinois Conference

— OF THE —

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



PREFACE



In the strange providence of God I have been in a great many places and have seen a great many persons and things of historic value. I was brought to Illinois when its population was less than a quarter of a million; saw Daniel Webster when he visited the West in 1837; saw the first train of cars that ever run in the state; saw the first telegraph line, which ran from Springfield via Jacksonville to St. Louis, Mo. Have seen Van-Buren, Taylor, Lincoln, Grant and Garfield, Generals Marshall, King, Wool, McDowell, Mansfield, Totten, Hunter, Pope and Shields, of the Union side in the Mexican war; Jeff Davis, Robt. E. Lee and Bragg on the rebel side. I cannot enumerate the Generals of the rebellion I have seen, but served under Grant and Sherman. Of Senators, have seen Davis, of Mississippi, Shields, Trumbull, Douglas, Logan, Cullom, of Illinois, McDougal, of California, Baker, of Oregon, Z. Chandler and Doolittle. I have mingled with the people from the cabin with a dirt floor to the mansion carpeted with carpet thick as it is made and soft to the tread as down, yet my position in society and estimated mental powers and length of purse absolutely forbid my publishing a book that would meet with public favor, so I avail myself of this method of putting on record many things that are worth preserving, and because I believe my children will appreciate and value them after my form has moldered back to clay.

Autobiography of T. J. Bryant.

CHAPTER I

Origin of Family—Daniel Boone's Wife a Bryant—Bryants Settle in Kentucky and Tennessee—Rankin Family—Marriage of Parents—Their Uncles and Aunts—Our First Camp Meeting—Memory of Person and Things in Tennessee—Family Remove to Illinois—Carlinville—Massy Creek—Morgan County—Reminiscences of Jacksonville—Father's Death—Cabin Built by Parson White, the Slayer of Frederick Brown—Political Campaign of 1840—Goes to Methodist Camp Meeting and is Happy—Revs. Hindal and Crow—Jacksonville, Ills., from 1834 to 1844—Mother Remarries and Dies—Mormon War and Murder of the Smith's—Experience Going to School.

Daniel Boone's wife was a Bryant. There is a tradition that the family originated in Breton, France, and emigrated from thence to England early in the sixteenth century, and that three brothers came to the New World in colonial days, one settling in the colony of Massachusetts from whom William Cullen Bryant came; one in N. Y., of that family I have no information; the other brother settling in the colony of Virginia. From that family Boone's wife and father were descendants. Father was born in Pittsylvania county, Va., September 11th, 1807. Father had no brother, but two half brothers, James and Thomas Moore. Some of the Bryants came, or rather followed Boone, at an early day into Kentucky, and Bryants' station is named for one of them. I have but a meager outline of father's family. First, because father left his kinsfolk when he was but 18 years old. Secondly, he emigrated with his family to Illinois at an early day and I was thus severed from intimate relations with them by distance and

limited mail facilities. At the time of father's death the postage on a letter from Tennessee to Jacksonville, Ill., was twenty-five cents. I remember being sent to that postoffice to get a letter from father's half brother, condoling with mother on the death of my father, and I paid twenty-five cents postage to get it out of the office. Third, father died before I was 9 years old and doubtless if I could have remembered them there were conversations between my parents as to their families, but I was too young to be interested in such things then, and some things I thought I remembered very well, I found subsequently I was mistaken as to name of place, *i. e.* I thought I remembered well of hearing father say his folks lived within 10 miles of Clarksville, Tenn., whereas I have learned it was within 10 miles of Burkesville, Ky. Father died of flux and fever at Jacksonville, Ill., on the 8th of August, 1838, and I grew up among strangers to father's family, and only in 1884 I met Mr. David Smith, who lived 6 miles northwest of Greenfield, Green county, Ill., who said to me: "If I had known who your father was I would have sought your acquaintance when you traveled the Greenfield circuit. I went to school to your father in Cumberland county, Ky., and I estimated him very highly." From him I learned that father was raised by his uncles in Cumberland county, Ky. These were Rhodes, Allen, Eli, George and Jersey. He had an Aunt Miriam, who married a man by the name of Stewart, and with Allen, Rhodes, Eli and Grandma Bryant, moved to and settled in Tennessee. I do not know what county they settled in. I only remember that as we moved to this State, we came by where they lived and visited with them. This is the first and only time I ever saw Grandma Bryant or any of father's family, only my own brothers and sisters.

George Bryant (father's uncle) married a German girl named Groves, and lived and died on Marrowbone creek, Cumberland county, Kentucky. Jess married a Miss Sallie Pace, daughter of Lovington Pace; he and she lived and died on Fodges creek, Cumberland county, Kentucky. Some of their progeny are there yet.

Ma was Isabell Rankin, she was born in Greene county, East Tennessee, February 11, 1806; she and pa were married in Overton county, Tennessee, April 15, 1827; they had six children. James William born Dec. 27, 1827; Thomas Jefferson born Sep-

tember 29, 1829; Margaret Clendenen born July 3, 1831; Martha Ann born June 7, 1833; Christopher Columbus born April 11, 1835; George Washington born February 22, 1838.

James died March 2, 1885. His first wife was Sarah Huckstep. They were married December 24, 1850, and had nine children—Charles C., Steven G., Martha E., James O., Thomas E., Catharine D., Adrian D., Nellie and Jessie. Margaret Clendenen married John Miller. Their children were Henry, Maria, Edward, Mary, Emma, Ella May, Anna, Alva and Charlotte. Martha Ann married John Huckstep. Their children were William, Thomas, Jane Ann, Rosa Ellen, Emma Isabel, Catherine Eugene, James Bertram and Lenora Bertha. Columbus married a Miss Davis. Their children were Ida May, William Cullen and Isabel Clendenen. I married Margaret Ann Brady in Hannibal, Mo., November 22, 1855. Our first born was James William, second, Isabel Houser, third, Thomas, fourth, John Rhodes, fifth, James Rieves, sixth and seventh, twins, Laura and Lulu, the eighth and last was Sarah Minnie.

Mother was a Rankin. During the persecution of the Presbyterians in Scotland by Charles I, of England, between 1625 and 1629, there were three Rankin brothers in Scotland. One of them lost his life for Protestantism and the other two fled and settled in Derry county, Ireland. William had three sons—John, Adam and Hugh. John came to America and settled first on the Juniata and then on the Susquehanna, 12 miles from where Harrisburg now stands, in 1724. His brother preceded him to the colony of Pennsylvania by three years. Adam came in 1721. He had three children—Jeremiah, William and Jane. Jeremiah had a son Adam, an associate Presbyterian preacher and leader in building the first Presbyterian church in Lexington, Kentucky. Some of Janes' grandchildren now live (1890) in Des Moines, Ia. Adam's brother John had a large family—mostly girls—but two sons, Richard and Thomas; Thomas was my great grandfather. He was born in 1728 and died in 1832, being 104 years old; his wife was Isabel Clendenen. They had twelve children, six sons and six daughters. Mrs. Braselton, who lived and died in Rushville, Ill., was a grand daughter of Thomas Rankin. His sons were John, Richard, William, Samuel, Thomas and James. The daughters were Jane, who married William Gillespie; Margeret married Samuel Harris; Ann married Lemuel Lacy; Isabel mar-

ried Robert McQuistin; Nancy married Samuel White, and Mary married James Bradshaw. Grand Father Rankin married Margaret Massey. On her mother's side she was a Barrett. Her grand father Barrett was a powerful man, physically, his teeth were all double and his chest apparently was one solid bone.

As intimated above Grandfather James Rankin was the youngest of his father's family. The Rankins ran to seed in being Presbyterian preachers and ruling elders. From William's, Richard's, John's, Isabel's and James' family there have come eighteen Presbyterian preachers and eighteen ruling elders; Three Methodist Episcopal preachers and one Protestant Methodist preacher. The Methodist Episcopal preachers are a grandson of Isabell McQuistin, James O., a son of my oldest brother and myself. Elijah Lacy, a grandson of Ann and Lemuel Lacy, is the Protestant Methodist preacher who went from Jefferson county, Illinois, to Texas a good many years ago.

Grandfather and Grandmother Rankin were both born in 1776; they had but four children—all girls. We have already stated that ma was born Feb. 11, 1806; Sarah, the next, was born Jan. 29, 1808; Susan, Jan. 18, 1819, and Margaret, who was a helpless invalid all her life, was born Nov. 23, 1824; Susan died in the summer of 1835 in Jacksonville, Illinois; Margaret died in January, 1839, three quarters of a mile west of where the insane asylum at Jacksonville stands.

Mother's sister Sarah married Robert Weaver and they went immediately to Benton county, Arkansas. Their children were Amanda, born April 24, 1830, and died May 17, 1848. The next was Samuel, a promising boy, who was found hung in a fence corner when but a little boy; his mother never recovered from the shock. Almira was next, then Paralee, then Jacob. Robert Weaver died in 1840, and aunt married Z. M. Whinry, by whom she had three girls—Harriet, who died in infancy, and Francis M. and Martha Ellen. Jacob died a few years ago in Texas; Almira lives three miles northwest of Sulphur Springs, Ark.; Paralee in McKinney, Texas; Francis, five miles north of their homestead, the White Sulphur Springs, Benton county, Arkansas, and Martha Ellen in the neighborhood of Harrison, Ark.

One of my first recollections is going to a camp meeting near the house of a Mr. Durant, who owned a carding factory on Flat Creek, Overton county, Tennessee. I was dressed in a homemade

copperas-colored cotton frock, with a pocket in it. I have never felt so well dressed since; doubtless I felt very much as our youngest boy did when he had his first, panties; he spread his feet as far apart as possible, put both hands into the pockets and said: "Ma don't oo wish oo was a little boy so oo could wear panties with pokies in em?"

Leaving Tennessee at the age of five years, of course I cannot remember much of my Tennessee home. I remember Hinses' Mill, Durant's Carding Factory; hounds running a deer into Durant's factory pond; the organization of a hunt and the bringing of the bear to our house to be skinned and divided among the hunters; Doctress Patience Williams and Dr. Bender; and James Hawkins who moved us to Illinois with his four horse team and in his great scooped wagon bed. It was early in the fall of 1834 when we set out for Illinois. Mother had an uncle living on Massey creek, 10 miles northwest of Carlinville. Carlinville had but a few cabins, a log court house and jail. The most distinct memory I have of it is Mr. McDaniel's pet deer. After a short visit at Uncle Massey's we went on to Morgan county and lived in a cabin in the southeast corner of the Major Simms farm; the Simms farm is the section south of the insane asylum at Jacksonville. Father taught school that winter in the log school house that stood just south of the southeast corner of the Simms section.

In the spring of 1835 we moved into Jacksonville, and lived in a house on South Main street opposite Hacketts' tan yard. At that time Vandalia was the capital of the state, and there was less than a quarter of a million inhabitants in the state. Chicago had 1000; St. Louis, 5000; Springfield, Jacksonville, Peoria and Quincy less than a 1000 each. What a change hath 56 years wrought! For years Jacksonville, Peoria and Springfield kept even pace, but now it is a question whether Peoria or Quincy is the second city in the state, and Springfield, Bloomington, Rock Island and Galesburg are outstripping Jacksonville.

In 1835 father superintended Hedenberg's carding factory, and in '36 and '37 March's. In 1838 he and a Mr. Davis opened what would be called a restaurant, then it was called an eating house. Father died of flux and fever on the eighth day of August, 1838, and in September we moved in the country and lived with Grandpa Rankin, until he died in the January following. The spring following grandpa's death, ma and grand-

ma moved into a cabin on Mr. Beckraft's place, built by Parson White, the "old side" Baptist preacher who killed old John Brown's son, Frederick, at Ossawatimie, Kansas. After the killing they tied a rope around his neck and then to the hind axle of a wagon and dragged his dead body through the streets of Ossawatimie to overawe the free state settlers. Afterwards while a member of the Lecompton legislature, he use to brag about killing Frederick Brown. In view of this killing and many other events and incidents connected with the border war, the after life of old John Brown ought not to be a surprise.

In the spring of 1839 ma hired me to Mr. Hart Massey; I worked for him the three following summers; he was very kind and patient with me. The first summer he paid me 12½ cents per day; the second, 18½ and the third, 25 cents a day. This was at a time when corn and oats was only worth 6½ cents a bushel; wheat, 37½ cents per bushel; and 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; so it will be seen Mr. Massey dealt very liberally with mother as to my wages and treatment. 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.

It was during my second year with Mr. Massey that the Harrison campaign for the presidency was prosecuted. In the west it was known as the campaign of "Log Cabins and Hard Cider." I remember the campaign, the Whig triumph; the inauguration of General Harrison; his almost immediate and sudden death; the suspicion of the whigs that the democrats, his political enemies, had secured his poisoning. While I supposed I was a democrat, I remember the terrible thoughts that came into my mind about the wickedness, treachery and dishonesty of the democratic party, as I heard whigs talk of the taking off of the president, and the treachery of Tyler's vetoing the bill renewing the charter to the

United States bank and their enmity to home industry, and I am sorry to say as years advance these suspicions and feelings of distrust increase.

Jacksonville at that time was the battle ground of debate between the men that since have become the political giants of the nation. On the democratic side there were Murray McConnell, John A. McClernard, McDougal, afterward senator from California, John C. (candle box) Calhoun, Josiah Lamburn, Thomas L. Harris and S. A. Douglas. On the whig side Stephen T. Logan, John J. Hardin, O. H. Browning, Judge Woodson, E. D. Baker and Abraham Lincoln. All later stump speakers, except Owen Lovejoy, seem to me to be pigmies.

In 1841 I attended a camp meeting at Black Oak grove, about two miles northeast of where Concord now stands in Morgan county. I went with Mrs. Hart Massey's father and mother, Mr. William P. and Sallie Officer. It was my first Methodist camp meeting; the one I attended in Tennessee was conducted by the Cumberland Presbyterians. Father and mother were members of that church before they came to Illinois. Father joined the M. E. church at John T. Mitchell's great revival at the old East Charge church in the winter of 1838, where Richard Yates and Judge Wm. Thomas were converted and taken into the Methodist Episcopal church. But ma was such a stiff Presbyterian that she would not join the Methodists then, nor did she until 1842, but when she became acquainted with the doctrine and usages of that church she became as staunch a Methodist as she was a Presbyterian. The first Methodist preacher I remember to have seen or heard was Smith L. Robertson, who preached Aunt Susan's funeral at our house in Jacksonville in 1835. But to my story of the camp meeting. There I first saw Peter Cartright. I little thought in the future I was to serve under him as my Presiding Elder. There I also saw for the first time the father of Aquilla, Wm. McK. and G. R. S. McElfresh and John C. Hambleton. John C. Hambleton was a local preacher, but there was always a wonderful fascination in his preaching to me. There too I first saw the Rev. Wm. Hindal. He was the largest man in stature in the Illinois conference and a good preacher. There is a story that when in an early day he was sent to the Jacksonville circuit a Rev. Crow, an old school Baptist preacher met him in the road and knew it was Hindal by his stature, said by way of salutation,

"I suppose you are the itinerant hen-coop sent to the Jacksonville circuit this year?" Hindal said "Yes." and by way of retort said, "I suppose you are the forty gallon demijon of Little Indian Creek?" Brother Crow admitted the soft impeachment as good naturedly as Brother Hindal had and they passed on, each one pleased with his own wit. I never shall forget that as the services of the camp meeting progressed I became very happy and my mouth was filled with laughter; I have often wondered at it since, I am now satisfied I had not lost my infant justification and the fervor and spirituality of the meeting met and filled the longings of my young but yearning heart. Oh, that we could impress upon the minds of our children that by virtue of the atonement of Jesus Christ they are born into the world in a graciously saved relation which they retain until they forfeit it by an intelligent rejection of Christ as did Adam and Eve.

We remember many things about Jacksonville that will seem strange to the present and oncoming generation. There was an old Irish tailor by the name of Tommy Young, addicted to drunkenness. One night while inebriated he supposed he had gone to his room at his boarding place and found a man occupying his bed, he crawled into bed and tried to crowd the man over to the back side. For in his drunken imagination he thought the man had cut him with a knife, but it turned out that he had laid down with a sow and litter of pigs and the old sow bit him, and it cost the public \$80 to care for him to recovery from the hog bite. Whisky curses and costs always.

In 1840, or thereabout, Stephen Capps, built a carding factory and fulling mill in the neighborhood of where Capps' large factory is. There was a row of houses along West State street, but all north and west of where the Dunlap House is, except a single row of buildings a block further west on the north side of State street was open prairie. Where the Deaf and Dumb Asylum now stands there was a grove of pin oak saplings interspersed with plum and red haw bushes. I have hunted black bird nests there many a time. Governor Duncan had a bear pen a hundred yards northwest of where the old Duncan mansion stands. It was sided up like a barn, only the frame was on the outside. The pit was made by driving small piles six or eight feet into the ground under an adjoining corn crib; it was something like a cave cellar under the corn crib. I now wonder that some of us

did not fall into the bear pen. We often went there and climbed up on the frame and looked in and we were as careless as boys usually are. To me now it is wonderful how the old mother bear nursed her cubs in her arms like a woman, and when they whined and fretted she slapped their jaws just like a human mother. We saw the first train of passenger cars that ever ran in the state of Illinois. It came into Jacksonville in the fall of 1839. Its track came into what is now the park, through West State street, and went out to the Mauvaiseterre east through East State St. The quarter section on which the Insane Asylum stands was entered by a Mr. Ballard, father of Jerry Ballard, proprietor of the Ballard House, for many years in Quincy, Ill. We helped quarry the rock for the foundation of the first building that now composes the immense Insane Asylum at Jacksonville. When father first moved to Jacksonville the Methodists were worshipping in a small brick church on the street running east from the southeast corner of the park. It was due south of where the Centenary stands. We went to school to Rev. T. J. Starr, the first stationed preacher Jacksonville ever had. He taught in a log school house one block east and two blocks south of the southeast corner of the park. Our school mates were Thomas and James Stacy, Benjamin and Cass Ford, James and John Gregory, Jacob and James McFarland, John and William Foreshee, Peter and William Loore, Robert Wilkinson, David Simmons, Henry Coffman, Brax Davenport, William and Mary Berry, Benjamin Turner and many others whose names have gone from our memory now. This was before Mr. Spalding came to Jacksonville and taught in the basement of the East Charge church. The year he came Mary Lewis Isreal, a bright but rolicking girl was visiting at his house when Jack Varner knocked at the door to inquire if they wanted to buy a load of wood. He was a half witted, awkward, homely lout. Mrs. Spalding was busy and sent Mary Lewis to the door. When she opened it and saw Jack's ugly phiz all the risibility of her fun-loving nature was aroused and she called Mrs. Spalding: "Come here, the devil's at the door." The brook that runs through the south part of town like everything else has a history. We saw Samuel Church, who has since become quite a noted Campbellite preacher, and his sister Mary immersed in it, about 200 yards east of where South Main street crosses it, and we saw our brother James pull Grant Isreal out of the brook on

South Maine street when the waters were booming and he was drowning. We also remember that D. Pat Henderson, since an eminent Campbellite preacher, at that early day was clerking for Philip Coffman; people were more superstitious then than now; he arranged some fox-fire in the ware-room so he could set it in motion with a string from the front room and exhibited it one night to the loafers collected in the store. They were afraid of "danger in the dark" and would not investigate, but went away and reported a supernatural light in the ware-room back of Coffman's store. The village for a week was agog over the strange phenomenon.

At an early day a man was murdered on the hill south of Sandy where the Carrollton road crosses it. From our first recollection of that locality the superstitious reported ghostly scenes there. Sometimes it would be the trunk of a headless man, sometimes a man clothed in flowing white drapery. Wm. McAvoy, a drunken Irishman, reported that on one occasion the Devil mounted up behind him from the railing of the bridge and rode to the top of the hill south and then dissolved into air.

In June, 1844, mother married Jeremiah Sears. Brother James and I were greatly opposed to it, first, because we thought she had a better offer from a Mr. Black, if she wanted to marry; second, we thought she had worried through until we were big enough to be of real service to her in supporting and keeping the family together. She said she would not marry if we would promise on our part not to marry in the future and leave her old, helpless and dependent. I suppose brother thought as I did, that it was preposterous for her to think of our marrying, we laughed and made no promises, so she married in June; took the typhoid fever early in September and died the twenty-fourth of November following. Her funeral was preached by Chauncey Hobert, then stationed at the east charge M. E. church at Jacksonville, Illinois. She was buried by the side of father in the graveyard in the N. E. suburb of Jacksonville. There was no stone to mark their burying place, and before I reached manhood the graveyard was rearranged and laid off into lots, since then I did all I could to find and identify their graves, but could not, so their dust is reposing in unknown graves, but God the Father of Spirits is watching over their sleeping dust, and will as surely raise them from the dead as if their graves were known and marked.

Mother was not only a christian, but a good, kind, patient and loving mother, and now it is painful to me to see in how many ways in my thoughtless youth I must have grieved her. 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 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 and joyous to you through an endless eternity.

One thousand eight hundred and forty-four was the year of the presidential canvass between James K. Polk, of Tennessee, and Henry Clay, of Kentucky, for the presidency. I think it is a reproach to the American people to say it, that Mr. Polk, a man of only medium ability and little known outside of his state, should have beaten Mr. Clay for the presidency. The democrats adopted as their rallying cry 54° 40' as the boundary between the United States and Canada, or fight. The canvass was an exciting one, especially so in Illinois where it was affirmed and believed by many that leading democrats were in league with the Mormons. It was said that S. A. Douglas, then on the supreme bench of the state, was secretly a member of the Mormon church. Judge Higbee, since a judge of the appellate court of the state, was baptised by them. In June the feeling against the Mormons in Hancock, Warren, Fulton, Brown and Adams counties were such that Gov. Ford had to call out the militia to preserve the peace. Hespells' company of cavalry went from Jacksonville and I wanted to go in it, but was rejected because of my youth and I sat down and cried for disappointment, fearing there would never be another opportunity for me to go to war.

On the 17th of June in spite of the governor's precaution, the Smiths, who had surrendered themselves to the civil authorities, were killed in Carthage while the governor and guards were in Nauvoo to look personally into the charges of disloyalty, rebellion, lawlessness and corruption of leaders and people. While there he

called the people together and told them of the charges against them, warning them that they must not set aside nor infringe on the laws and their enforcement by county or state authorities. Captain Dunlap's company from Augusta, Hancock county, accompanied him as a body guard to Nauvoo. He and they took dinner at Smith's Hotel. They were handsomely entertained by Joseph's wife and mother. At the hotel they met O. P. Rockwell, who attempted the assassination of Gov. Boggs, of Missouri, and who was at the head of the Danite band, organized to kill and put out of the way all who were prominent in opposing Joseph and mormonism. He was a small, dark complected, vicious and cunning looking man. Smith's wife and mother showed them through the hotel, which they found conveniently arranged and nicely furnished. There was two mummies in the hotel which were kept to awe the ignorant and superstitious Mormons into submission we presume.

When a mile out of Nauvoo on their return to Carthage, the governor met a courier with the intelligence of the murder of the Smiths. Gov. Ford was a small and naturally a timid man, and when he heard the news he hurried on to Carthage and from there he went at once to Augusta, and a sense of insecurity impelled him to go immediately to Quincy. His body guards stopped in Carthage to feed their horses and refresh themselves. Robert Bacon and W. B. Ketchum hearing that the Smiths were laid out in Hamilton's tavern, went there to see them. They found that the Mormons that laid Joseph out did not think Hiram worthy to be laid by the side of Joseph, and therefore they laid Hiram's head at Joseph's feet. When the mob attacked, they were in the southeast room of the jail. When the racket commenced they fastened the door of their room as well as they could. While some of the mob was beating down the doors others were shooting through it. Hiram was holding the door and a ball passed through it and struck in the cavity of the lower jaw behind the chin and ranged upwards and killed him instantly. When the door was forced, Richardson (Joseph's secretary) jumped behind it and was undiscovered and escaped unharmed. John Taylor, since head of the church, crawled under the bed and was wounded in the wrist and thigh. Joseph was riddled with bullets and fell out of the east window at the southeast corner of the jail; they were in the second story. Joseph was dressed at the time of his

death in a fustian coat and pants and white Marseilles vest. The outside seams of his pants were fastened with silver buttons up to the pockets—a broad pleat covered them. Hearing that Taylor was wounded and upstairs, they went up to see him. When they appeared in their uniforms Taylor appeared considerably agitated. Their assurance that they would not harm him relieved him, and when asked if there was anything they could do for him, he asked for water, and when served he was very grateful, assuring them they should not lose their reward.

Isaac Pool, Ketchum's brother-in-law, was the preacher on the Carthage circuit, and like all the rest when the cowardly assassination took place, he and his wife ran away. The next day Ketchum went to Carthage for his household goods, and while there visited Taylor and saw the ball cut of his thigh and secured it as a keep sake. When he saw Taylor quivering with pain from the surgical operation, he little thought he would be at the head of a hierarchy in 36 years that would perplex and baffle the most profound statesmen of the republic.

In the fall of 1844, after mother's death, I engaged with Mr. I. N. Edwards, of Macoupin county, to work nights, mornings and Saturdays for my board, while I took a three months' term of school at Shinbone. The school was taught by Thomas McBredc, Esq. On arriving from school of an evening the first thing that I did was to drive fifty head of steers, that would be four years old the next spring, to the long bottom on Otter creek, four miles away and feed them on prairie hay, then go back and feed the home stock and get my supper and cut wood enough to run two fire places and a cook stove until the next night, that took me until 8 o'clock. In the morning I would get out of bed at 4 a. m., mount a horse and gallop to the long bottom and feed the steers; after eating they came home every day. Then after coming back and getting my breakfast and feeding the home stock, I walked three miles to the Shinbone school house. On Saturdays I chopped and hauled wood from the timber to do the next week. During the winter my pants gave out and Mrs. Edwards very kindly sold me jeans and made me a pair of pants on credit. When the school was out I made rails on Congress land at fifty cents a hundred to pay for my pants and schooling. This was after mother's death. I worked for Mr. Edwards the next summer at \$5 per month; he and I were half cousins. His father Griffith Edwards,

was a devoutly pious man and always kind to me; so was Mr. Edwards' wife. I took the ague in the fall and returned to Morgan county.

I presume I heard Dr. Akers preach, in 1848 from Rev. 14, 6-7, the sermon that Rev. Richard Heany at a reunion last fall (1889) told of Dr. Akers preaching that had such an effect on Mr. Lincoln. A camp meeting was being held near Springfield, Ill., in the 40's. It was known that Dr. Akers, celebrated for his purity of life, profound learning and eloquence, would preach at eleven on Sunday, and a hack load of distinguished lawyers of Springfield went out to hear him. Lincoln was one of the number. Dr. Akers' theme was the power of the gospel in the destruction of sin, and in his discourse spoke of the gospel arraying christians against sin in every form, and that the gospel was arraying christianity against African slavery; that judicial blindness had seized church and state in the southern section. He portrayed the heinousness of a system that took away from its victim marital, civil and religious right. The injustice of slavery he portrayed in vivid colors, and said God would wash away the national sin in blood and treasure up to what the negro had been robbed in wages, the sufferings they had endured and the blood they had shed. With prophetic accuracy he described the horrors of the approaching and impending war. It was a startling and thrilling sermon. Few of his hearers sympathized with him, slavery having subsidized pulpit and press, north as well as south. Mr. Lincoln's lawyer friends regarded it, eloquent as it was, as visionary, and the vaporings of a fanatic and said, that there would be a railroad to the moon before there would be war over slavery. Lincoln was silent and thoughtful and they rallied him by asking what he thought of the sermon? He replied: "I have never thought we would have war over slavery or any other question. But the utterances of to-day seem to come far from beyond the preacher; they come to me as a real and awful prophesy and more astonishing than all, I am convinced in my soul that in some way I am to be clothed with tremendous responsibilities in that oncoming and awful war." His manner made a deep impression on his lawyer friends, because usually he was the most vivacious of all in any company he came into. We all know how Dr. Akers' prophesy and its profound impression on Mr. Lincoln, was fulfilled under Lincoln's administration.