

# THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

*by Alvy Ray Smith, FASG*

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The person atop a sketch is linked to its respective child line.

A child with a + sign is linked to its respective parent sketch.

Each line in the table of illustrations is linked to its picture.

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## Preface

There are two contributors to the Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group who have “Brannick” in their name. While researching other Riggses in the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City, I happened onto a file of Patriarchal Blessings, containing several other related Riggses. These are considered as trustworthy as Bible records. I here compile this information into a scholarly genealogy.

The two contributors match in their DNA signatures, on 35 of 37 markers. They do not match any of the other 100+ contributors to the project, so define a unique clan of Riggses, which I have called the “Brannickian” Riggses. In particular, they are not descendants of Edward Riggs, immigrant to Roxbury, Mass. in 1633 or of any other Riggs related to Edward of Roxbury.

There are several spelling variations of the name “Brannick.” I will give the actual spellings from the records in the footnotes, but have otherwise fixed on the single spelling “Brannick” for convenience and esthetics of presentation. A close contender was “Brannock.” This name appears frequently in the following.

Two names which appear in the records used below are “Dos Cabases” and “Doscabaz,” which are probably references to the Dos Cabezas Mountains in Cochise Co., Ariz.

Another often-mentioned location is Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico, which is Colonia Dublan which lies about 100 miles south of Columbus, Luna Co., N.M., and about 123 miles southwest of El Paso, Tex. Nearby to Colonia Dublan is a village called Colonia Juárez, not to be confused with the large Ciudad Juárez on the New Mexico border.

The town of Colonia Juarez has only around 1,000 residents, almost all of them descendants of the first LDS settlers in what are known as the Mormon Colonies, which include Colonia Dublan, fifteen miles away. The Colonies were originally settled in 1885, which makes the Colonia Juarez Stake the oldest stake in Mexico.<sup>[1]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Colonia Juarez Chihuahua Mexico Temple*, <[www.geocities.com/Athens/Rhodes/5539/](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Rhodes/5539/)>

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[coljuare.html](#)> (accessed 14 July 2007).

## First Generation

[Items in red are unproved or questionable or otherwise denote a problem.]

1. **THOMAS AUGUSTA<sup>1</sup> RIGGS<sup>2</sup>** was born about 1802, Kentucky or Tennessee or North Carolina, and died **16 Sept.** 1867, Medina River, Bandera Co., Tex.<sup>3</sup> His gravestone near the Medina River, near Pipe Creek, in Riggs Cem., Bandear, Bandera Co, states, “[He] was drowned in Medina River, buried at this spot by his Negro slaves.”<sup>4</sup> He married **RHODA CASEY,<sup>5</sup>** who was born about 1804, Georgia or Alabama, died **Jan. 1881, Bell Co., Tex.,** and was buried in **Land Cem., Jarrell, Williamson Co., Tex.**<sup>6</sup>

A census which fits: In 1830 “Tho” Riggs, 20–30, resided in Pickens Co., Ala., with a woman 20–30, one boy under 5, and two boys 5–10.<sup>7</sup>

On 26 Apr. 1839 Thomas Riggs of Monroe Co., Miss., sold to Reubin Y. Rynolds of the same place for \$2,000 several tracts of land in the same county of 90.75 acres (lot no. 4 S33 T13[S] R19W), 79.5 acres (W½NE S33 T13[S] R19W), 39-plus acres (NESE S33 T13[S] R19W), and 39 acres (NESE? S28 T13S R19W). Thomas’s wife, “Rody” Riggs, swore separately on the same day that she was in agreement with the

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<sup>2</sup> His name is often given as Thomas Augustus Riggs, but I have found only one record so far that mentions his middle name at all. It’s his gravestone which has it as Augusta.

<sup>3</sup> Most of this paragraph comes from an unsourced item on the Riggs forum, <www.genealogy.com>.

<sup>4</sup> *Find a Grave*, no. 71220638, gravestone photograph, by Marilyn Riggs, Riggs Cem., Bandera, Bandera Co. , with this note: “Photo of headstone taken in Oct. 1991.It is located near the Medina River near Pipe Creek, Bandera Co., Texas,” “Thomas Augusta | Riggs | 1802 [Masonic symbol] 1867 | was drowned in the Medina | River, buried at this spot | by his Negro slaves.”

<sup>5</sup> Her surname comes from the death certificate of her daughter, Rhoda (Riggs) (Copeland) Miller (q.v.), which is also the source of North Carolina as the birthplace of Thomas and Alabama for Rhoda Casey. The informant on this death certificate, F. D. Copeland, of Blackwell, Tex., was Rhoda Miller’s firstborn, so these items take on added evidentiary weight.

<sup>6</sup> From *Find a Grave*, no. 5136612, but with no supporting evidence.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. census, 1840, Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 18, p. 192.

sale.<sup>[8]</sup> Oddly Thomas and Rody sold these tracts before they had ownership of them. See the land sales listed in paragraphs below.

In 1840 Thomas Riggs, 30-40, resided in Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., with a woman 30-40, one boy and two girls under 5, two boys 5-10, one boy 10-15, two males 15-20, and one male 20-30.<sup>[9]</sup>

On 1 Feb. 1841 Thomas Riggs purchased and was issued deeds for public lands in Monroe Co., Miss., of 92 acres (lot no. 2 S28 T13S R19W), and for 40 acres in the same location (NESE S28 T13S R19W).<sup>[10]</sup>

On 27 Feb. 1841 Thomas Riggs purchased and was issued deeds for public lands in Monroe Co., Miss., of 90.75 acres (lot no. 4 S33 T13S R19W), and for 39 acres (SESW (equivalently, the South half of Lot no. 5) S28 T13S R19W).<sup>[11]</sup>

On 10 Sept. 1844 Thomas Riggs purchased and was issued deeds for public land in Monroe Co., Miss., of 79.5 acres (W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE (equivalently, lot no. 2) S33 T13S R19W).<sup>[12]</sup>

From 4 Nov. 1844 to 10 Jan. 1845, Thomas Riggs served as a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives from Izard Co.<sup>[13]</sup>

On 27 Feb. 1847 Thomas Riggs was appointed U.S. Postmaster of Rich Woods, Izard Co., Ark. The post office was changed to Riggsville on 29 Aug. 1860.<sup>[14]</sup>

From 4 Nov. 1848 to 10 Jan. 1849, Thomas Riggs served as a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives from Izard Co.<sup>[15]</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>. Digital image of the deed was emailed to me 27 Feb. 2015, by Bob Brown, a descendant (ggggson) of Thomas.

<sup>9</sup>. U.S. census, 1840, Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 18, p. 192.

<sup>10</sup>. U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907, Thomas Riggs, 1 Feb. 1841, land office Columbus, meridian Huntsville, state Miss., co., Monroe, accession no. MS0060\_\_239 and MS0060\_\_259.

<sup>11</sup>. U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907, Thomas Riggs, 27 Feb. 1841, land office Columbus, meridian Huntsville, state Miss., co., Monroe, accession no. MS1100\_\_370 and MS1430\_\_366.

<sup>12</sup>. U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907, Thomas Riggs, 10 Sept. 1844, land office Columbus, meridian Huntsville, state Miss., co., Monroe, accession no. MS1450\_\_116.

<sup>13</sup>. A Pictorial History of Ark. Up to 1890, appendix B, p. 1204, Fifth Legislature, "Held November 4th, 1844, to January 10th, 1845," House of Representatives, "Izard, Thomas Riggs."

<sup>14</sup>. U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971, Thomas Riggs, Rich Woods, Izard, Ark., appointment 24 Feb. 1847, changed to Riggsville, 29 Aug. 1860.

On 1 Oct. 1849 Thomas Riggs of Izard Co., Ark., purchased and was issued deeds for public land in Stone Co., Ark., of 40 acres (NESE S26 T14N R11W).<sup>[16]</sup>

In 1850 Thomas Riggs, 48, a farmer with \$1,000 worth of real estate born in Kentucky, resided in White River Twp., Izard Co., Ark., with “Rhody,” 46, born in Georgia, and with “Branick,” 22, “Barny,” 19, and Thomas, 17, all three born in Alabama, James, 15, “Margarett,” 13, and Martha, 11, all three born in Mississippi, and “Rhody,” 9, and Charles, 5, both born in Arkansas. Next door was John C. Riggs, 25 (q.v.).<sup>[17]</sup> Thomas had nine slaves.<sup>[18]</sup>

N.B. Stone Co., Ark., was formed partially from Izard Co., Ark., in 1873. So the Stone Co. in the following records is anachronistic.

On 1 Mar. 1855 Thomas Riggs of Izard Co., Ark., purchased and was issued deeds for public land in Stone Co., Ark., of 43.2 acres (S½SW (equivalently, lot no. 2) S19 T14N R10W), 40 acres (SWNE S19 T14N R10W) with Alexander Adler, and 40 acres (NWSE S25 T14N R7W).<sup>[19]</sup>

On 1 May 1860 Thomas Riggs of Izard Co., Ark., purchased and was issued deeds for public land in Stone Co., Ark., of 40 acres (NWSE S12 T14N R11W).<sup>[20]</sup>

In 1860 Thomas Riggs, 58, a farmer with \$3,000 worth of real estate and \$12,000 in personal estate born in Tennessee, resided in Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., with Rhoda, 56, born in Georgia, and with Charles, 14, Rhoda E., 12, Susan, 10, Margaret, 9, Rachel, 8, “W<sup>m</sup>,” 5, all born in Arkansas, and John, 2, born in Texas. Nearby was James

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<sup>15</sup>. *A Pictorial History of Ark. Up to 1890*, appendix B, p. 1206, Seventh Legislature, “Held November 4th, 1848, to January 10th, 1849,” House of Representatives, “Izard, Thomas Riggs.”

<sup>16</sup>. *U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796–1907*, Thomas Riggs, 1 Oct. 1849, land office Batesville, meridian 5th PM, state Ark., co., Stone, accession no. AR0520\_\_381.

<sup>17</sup>. U.S. census, 1850, White River Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 27, p. 16, dw. 249, fam. 249. John C. Riggs resided in dw. 248.

<sup>18</sup>. U.S. census, 1850, Slave Schedule, Izard Co., Ark.

<sup>19</sup>. *U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796–1907*, Thomas Riggs, 1 Mar. 1855, land office Batesville, meridian 5th PM, state Ark., co., Stone, accession no. AR0570\_\_464, AR0580\_\_365, and AR0580\_\_400.

<sup>20</sup>. *U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796–1907*, Thomas Riggs, 1 May 1860, land office Batesville, meridian 5th PM, state Ark., co., Stone, accession no. AR0740\_\_450.

M. Riggs, 25.<sup>[21]</sup> Thomas had 13 slaves.<sup>[22]</sup> Four of the six youngest children were probably those of John C.<sup>2</sup> and Jane Riggs, killed by Indians in Coryell Co., Tex., 16 Mar. 1859. I have placed them in John's sketch.

The following item is from *Pioneer History of Bandera County: seventy-five years of intrepid history* (photocopied onto <Ancestry.com> (I have not seen the book)):

#### Drowning of Riggs

Many of the early settlers of Bandera county remember the drowning of Thomas Riggs in the Medina river below Bruin Creek some time in 1861 [sic]. The river was on a big rise and it seems that Riggs, who was an expert swimmer, attempted to go across to look after some stock on the other side. He may have been taken with cramps, for he was seen to go under and failed to come up. Searchers found his body the next day lodged in a drift. George Hay, O. B. Miles, Thad Ryan and others went from Bandera to assist in the burial.

In 1880 Rhoda Riggs, 78, a widow born in Georgia, resided in the Cedar Gr[ove?] Neighborhood, Bell Co., Tex., in the household of her daughter, Rhoda Copeland, 38, a widow born in Arkansas of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Georgia and with her (Rhoda Copeland's) sons, Franceola, 22, a farmer born in Arkansas, and Comodore, 11, daughter, Emma, 9, and sons, Charles, 7, Tilden, 5, and William D., 1, all five born in Texas of a father born in Tennessee and a mother born in Arkansas.<sup>[23]</sup>

The following notes are from <Ancestry.com> **unvetted**:

He was born 1802 in South Carolina to John Riggs & Rachel Huskey. He was the 7th child. He bought land in Arkansas around 1819 & established Riggsville which is now known as Mountain View, Ark. 1820 he marries Rhoda Casey at age 18 in Alabama. Together they have 13 children. 1823 William, 1824 female that died 1825, 1825 John, 1828 Brannick, 1830 Barney, 1832 Thomas, 1835 James, 1837 Margaret,

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<sup>21</sup> U.S. census, 1860, Richwoods PO, Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 43, p. 482, dw. 1021, fam. 1022. James M. Riggs resided in dw. 1018.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. census, 1860, Slave Schedule, Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. census, 1880, Bell Co., Tex., ED 8, r. 1290, p. 450A, dw. 18, fam. 20.



1840 Martha, 1842 Rhoda, 1846 Charles, 1849 Susan, & 1851 Rachel. 1830 census shows them living in Pickens, Ala. 1840 census he is 38 & living in Blue Mountain, Izard, Ark. He serves 2 terms in Arkansas House of Representatives General Assembly 1844-1846 & 1848-1850. 1850 census shows him age 48 living in White River, Arkansas with wife & 8 children. 1860 census shows him age 58 living in Blue Mountain, Ark. After Civil War he moves family to Bandera, Tx area. He drowns September 16, 1867 in the Medina River during flash flood when he tried to save live stock. He is buried on the Gable ranch.

The following notes are from <Ancestry.com> **unvetted**:

Notes for Thomas Augustus Riggs:

Thomas Riggs died while trying to swim the Medina River. There was a flash flood and he was trying to save his horses on the other side of the river.

He owned a plantation in Izard Co., Arkansas. He owned eight slaves. They owned a slave named Aunt Carolina who did housework, cooked, and took care of the children.

About 1861 Thomas Riggs came to Salado, Bell Co., Texas. He later moved to Medina, Texas. He bought 3000 acres of land for \$.50 an acre. He brought 2 slaves, Thomas & John Riggs, to Texas with him. A neighbor named Clark also came to Texas with him. Near Pipe Springs (near Bandera, Texas) they built a huge stockade of rock with double walls 8ft tall, filled in with dirt, planted pricklypear cactus on top to keep Indians from climbing over the top. The stockade was built near a spring near Medina River. Inside were 2 fireplaces for heat and cooking purposes. Log cabin was inside of stockade.

Thomas Riggs had horses staked across the Medina River, a flood came, he knew the horses would drown if they were not turned loose. Since he was a good swimmer, he attempted to swim across to the other side. His pants came down, hobbled him and he drowned. In 1868.

Thomas had 7 slaves that stayed with him when slaves were freed. They found him after the water receded, lodged in a tree. They cut trees, hued lumber, made coffin and buried him on his place.

After his death Rhoda Casey Riggs decided to go to California ("was during the gold rush") with oldest son Brannick Riggs in 1870. She got sick so she decided that the first green meadow and water that they came

to they would stop. That place was Wilcox, Arizona. There most of the family stayed.

They accumulated 100 square miles from Wilcox to Phoenix.

Rhoda Riggs came back to Texas and died at Charle Copeland's(who was her son-in-law) father's house in Bell County, Texas.

Rhoda Riggs ran the plantation in Arkansas during the Civil War. After the war she moved to Bandera to be with her husband, who was already there.

They moved by ox wagons.

Above information furnished by Stuart Cox(great grandson of Charles Stuart - gg grandson of Thomas Riggs).

Thomas Riggs served in the House Of Representatives of the Arkansas General Assemblies. Serving terms 1844-46 & 1848-50. This information was confirmed by The Arkansas History Commission.

Buried On the Gable Ranch.

Thomas Augustus Riggs born 1802, died 1867. He was drowned in the Medina River, and was buried at the spot, by his negro slaves. He was a Mason.

Children:<sup>[24]</sup>

- + 2 i WILLIAM CARROL<sup>2</sup> RIGGS, born about 30 Oct. 1823, Marion, Perry Co., Ala., married NAYOMA —, and had at least two children.
- 3 ii [INFANT]<sup>3</sup> RIGGS, born 1824.
- + 4 iii JOHN C.<sup>2</sup> RIGGS, born about 1825, Marion, Ala., married ELIZABETH JANE JOHNSON, and had four children. John and Jane were the famous victims of an Indian massacre in Coryell Co., Tex., in 1859.
- + 5 iv BRANNICK B. [“BILLY”]<sup>2</sup> RIGGS, born 10 July 1828, Marion, Ala., married MARY ELIZABETH ROBBINS, and had 11 children.
- + 6 v BARNEY KEMP<sup>2</sup> RIGGS, born about 1831 14 Dec. 1830, Marion, Ala., married ELIZA —, and had at least two children.
- + 7 vi THOMAS<sup>2</sup> RIGGS, born about 1833, Marion, Ala., married HANNAH M. FELTON, and had 12 children.
- + 8 vii JAMES MONROE<sup>2</sup> RIGGS, born about 7 Apr. 1835, Monroe Co., Miss.

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<sup>24</sup>. Most of the children details (through child 12, Charles) come from an unsourced item on the Riggs forum, <[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)>. The 1850 census is supportive.

- + 9 viii **MARGARET<sup>2</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1837 **14 Mar. 1838, Monroe Co.,** Miss., married **CHARLES H. STUART [STEWART]**, and had at least seven children.
- 10 ix **MARTHA<sup>2</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1839 **1840, Monroe Co.,** Miss.
- + 11 x **RHODA<sup>2</sup> RIGGS**, born 18 May 1842, Arkansas, married (1) **WILLIAM D. COPELAND**, and had 10 children, married (2) **ALEXANDER R. MILLER**.
- 12 xi **CHARLES<sup>2</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1845, Arkansas.
- 13 xii ?**SUSAN<sup>2</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1850, Arkansas. **Susan and Rachel might be other children of John C.<sup>2</sup> Riggs.**
- 14 xiii ?**RACHEL<sup>2</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1852, Arkansas.

## Second Generation

2. **WILLIAM CARROL<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>1</sub>*Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 30 Oct. 1823, **Marion**, Ala. He married **NAYOMA** —, who was born about 1830, Arkansas.

In 1850 William C. Riggs, 27, a farmer born in Alabama resided in Sylamore Twp., Izard Co., Ark., with Nayoma, 20, born in Arkansas, and with Charles, 3, and Isaac, 1, both born in Arkansas.<sup>[25]</sup>

Children:

15 i **CHARLES<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1847, Arkansas.

In 1870 Charles Riggs, 23, a farmer born in Arkansas with \$100 in personal estate, resided in Belton, Bell Co., Tex., in the household of W. H. Perry.<sup>[26]</sup>

16 ii **ISAAC<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1849, Arkansas.

4. **JOHN C.<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>1</sub>*Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1825, **Marion**, Ala., murdered (as was his wife) 16 Mar. 1859 by Comanches, and was buried in Killeen City Cem., Killeen, Bell Co., Tex.<sup>[27]</sup> He married 9 Dec. 1847, Independence Co., Ark.,<sup>[28]</sup> **ELIZABETH JANE JOHNSON**, who was born about 1826, Tennessee, died at the same time as her husband, and was buried with him.

In 1850 John C. Riggs, 25, a farmer with \$300 worth of real estate born in Alabama, resided in White River Twp., Izard Co., Ark., with Jane, 24, born in Tennessee, and with “Rhody” E., 1, born in Arkansas. Next door was Thomas Riggs, 48.<sup>[29]</sup>

The following is from *Memoirs and Miracles: The Life of Samuel W. Bishop*, by James J. Bishop:

The John Riggs family consisted of himself and wife, two daughters,

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<sup>25</sup>. U.S. census, 1850, Sylamore Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 27, p. 6, dw. 89, fam. 89.

<sup>26</sup>. U.S. census, 1870, Belton PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1575, p. 88, dw. 400, fam. 400.

<sup>27</sup>. *Find a Grave*, no. 61497575, gravestone photograph, by Kelley Bean, Killeen City Cem., Killeen, Bell Co., Tex., “John & Jane | Riggs | Murdered by | Comanche | Indians | Mar.16, 1859.”

<sup>28</sup>. *Arkansas Marriages to 1850*, <Ancestry.com>, John C. Riggs to Elizabeth J. Johnson.

<sup>29</sup>. U.S. census, 1850, White River Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 27, p. 16, dw. 248, fam. 248. Thomas Riggs resided in dw. 249.

## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

Rhoda nine, Margaret five, and two sons - William three and one half, and John nine months.

On March 16th, 1859, sixteen Indians came upon Mr. Young Pierce who lived a few miles from the Riggs family and killed him. Then continuing toward the Riggs home they met Mr. Riggs and Davie Elms, a sixteen year old boy, each were driving a wagon.

They were only about 400 yards from their home when the Indians attacked them. They whipped young Elms unmercifully and stripped him of his clothes. Elms dashed into a thicket and made his escape.

Mr. Riggs fought the Indians with rocks while they were shooting arrows into his body. Mrs. Riggs saw the fight and ran to the aid of her husband. Both Mr. & Mrs. Riggs were soon killed by arrows pierced into their bodies. The Indians grabbed the two small girls, put them on horses behind them and fled. The infant child and small boy were left unmolested. This tragedy happened about 9 a.m. It was mid afternoon before a posse of men could be assembled to start in pursuit of the villains.

When the Indians had traveled about eight miles, a Mr. Cruger, while riding the range, discovered the Indians about 300 yards distant. Cruger whirled his horse and ran in the direction of Belton. The Indians pursued him a short distance but Cruger escaped and spread the alarm all the way to Belton, fifteen miles away. The Indians then turned west. In a few miles they met a white man named Peavy. They murdered him and continued rapidly to the west.

It is now late in the afternoon and the two little girls were still being held on the horses. What an ordeal they are suffering. About this time the Indian carrying the small girl attempted to pass her to another Indian while riding rapidly side by side. He dropped the child to the ground. The older girl, seeing her sister thrown to the ground, jumped from the speeding horse she was on and ran back to her sister. The Indians, being afraid the white men were close after them, continued westward not stopping to pick up the children. It was now getting dark. The little girls, bruised, barefooted and hungry, walked back the way they came.

In the distance they saw the top of a chimney. They went to the house and found it vacant. It was now nearly dark and a cold wind blowing from the north. The girls went into the house. The older girl pulled off her dress and wrapped it around her shivering sister.

The posse of twenty men who were pursuing the Indians camped when

dark came on a short distance before coming to this house.

The next morning they found the children. They took them to the nearest home where they were fed and given clothes to protect their naked bodies.

The posse then followed the trail of the Indians for one hundred miles. Coming to Fort Colorado they were informed that soldiers from the Fort were pursuing the Indians. The Indians were never captured.

The two girls were turned over to relatives who cared for them tenderly. Neighbors went to the Riggs house to inspect the situation. They found the nine months old child scrambling in its mother's blood, trying to nurse.

That's a sample of one of the many tragedies of pioneer life in Texas.

The Riggs baby grew to manhood in the state of Colorado. Once every year as long as he lived he would return to the Sugar Loaf cemetery and place flowers on the graves of his father and mother.

The writer's mother and sister, his grandfather and many other dear relatives are buried in the same Sugar Loaf cemetery with the Riggs.<sup>[30]</sup>

Children (see the 1860 census listing for Thomas<sup>1</sup> Riggs):

- 17 i **RHODA E.**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS**, born about 1849, Arkansas. The biography of John C. Riggs has her 9 in 1859.
- 18 ii **MARGARET**<sup>2</sup> **RIGGS**, born about 1851, Arkansas. The biography above has her 5 in 1859, so not matching closely.
- + 19 iii **WILLIAM C.**<sup>2</sup> **RIGGS**, born Sept. 1856, Arkansas, married **MARGARET** —, and had five children. The biography above has him 3½ in 1859.
- 20 iv **JOHN**<sup>2</sup> **RIGGS**, born about 1858, Texas. The biography above has him 9 months in Mar. 1859.

**5. BRANNICK B. [“BILLY”]<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>1</sub>Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born **10** July 1828 (1900 census), **Marion**, Ala., died 1907 (see biographical note below), and was buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[31]</sup> He married<sup>[32]</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>. James. J. Bishop, *Memoirs and Miracles: The Life of Samuel W. Bishop* (1957), published online at <[www.thehewitt.net/sambishop.html](http://www.thehewitt.net/sambishop.html)> (accessed 24 Feb. 2009).

<sup>31</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <[files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt](http://files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt)>, “Riggs Brannick 1828 1907 [notes] Mason.”

<sup>32</sup>. LDS Patriarchal Blessings (transcription) [FHL 392681] (hereafter cited as Patriarchal Blessings),

## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

**MARY ELIZABETH ROBBINS**, who was born 29 July 1838, Tennessee, died 5 Feb. 1935, Riggs Settlement, Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[33]</sup> and was buried 6 Feb. 1935 in the Riggs Family Cem.<sup>[34]</sup>

In 1860 B. Riggs, 31, a stockman born in Alabama, resided in Belton, Bell Co., Tex., with Mary, 20, born in Tennessee, and with “Tho<sup>s</sup>.” J., 4, and Rhoda, 2, both born in Texas.<sup>[35]</sup>

From *Last of the Old-time Outlaws*, by Karen Holliday Tanner, in a discussion of Black Jack Ketchum:

[p. 89] At midday, Saturday, November 14, two of the outlaws reached Bill Stark’s ranch and received a dinner invitation. Rather than hide their identities, the outlaws became “quite loquacious, recounting all of their deeds in various holdups, which would furnish an interesting topic for a blood and thunder novel. Forgetting all precautionary dangers and usual grave demeanor and watchfulness, [they] turned the hour into one of veritable mirth, seemingly enjoying it to the utmost.” Meanwhile, Black Jack and another gang member were about two miles away at Brannick Riggs’s C Bar Ranch, below Bonita Canyon at the base of the Chiricahua Mountains. Black Jack and his colleague rejected Riggs’s similar offer for dinner, remarking that they had recently eaten breakfast and that they were not used to that many meals in a day. They did indicate their need for fresh horses. At the remuda, they roped four of Riggs’s horses, explaining, “Mr. Riggs, we want good horses. We are not stealing from you. When we ride them and make a change we will drop you a card so you can come and get them.” After repeating that it was

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Brannock Benjamin Riggs, b. 31 Oct. 1857, Bell Co., Tex., father Brannock Riggs, mother Mary Elizabeth Robins, blessing 17 Jan. 1909, Dublin, Chihuahua, Mexico, [lineage] Ephraim, [patriarch] Alexander Jameson, [vol.:p.] 543:264.

<sup>33</sup>. *Ariz. Death Records, 1887–1960*, death certificate, no. 49, image online, Mary “Elizebeth” Riggs, 58 yrs. resident of the Riggs Settlement, Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co., Ariz., died 5 Feb. 1935 there, female, white, widowed (spouse “Branick” Riggs), housewife, aged 96 yrs. 6 mos. 8 dys., born 29 July 1838, Tennessee, father – “Robins,” born Tenn., mother unknown, of unknown birthplace, informant B. K. Riggs, of Dos Cabezas, Ariz., buried 6 Feb. 1935, Riggs Cem.

<sup>34</sup>. *Find a Grave*, no. 17870491, gravestone photograph, Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz., “Mother | Mary E. Riggs | Wife of Brannick Riggs | 1838–1935 | . . .”; *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs Mary E. 1838 1935 [notes] Mother; wife of Brannick Riggs.”

<sup>35</sup>. U.S. census, 1860, Belton PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1288, p. 322, dw. 364, fam. 366.

not their intention to harm any individual, the fugitives insisted that they would not be taken alive and rode on. [A note on p. 295 supporting this paragraph: An Alabama native, Brannick K. [sic] Riggs (1828–1907) came to Arizona in 1877, via Texas and Colorado, and ultimately settled in the Sulphur Spring Valley in 1879, at the mouth of Pinery Canyon at the juncture with Bonita Canyon, approximately thirty miles south of Willcox and west of the present-day Chiricahua National Monument. Riggs’s daughter Mary married Bill Stark (*Arizona Range News*, July 12, 1907; *Tombstone Epitaph*, April 17, 1925, and October 15, 1929; *Arizona Daily Star*, March 22, 1936). The horses were left in the south end of the Animas Valley of the New Mexico Territory, and Riggs recovered his stock.]

[p. 129] Meade continued his efforts. Now he learned that one of Black Jack’s fingers on the right hand, possibly the third finger, previously had been caught in a rope and was damaged. Several days later he learned that a bullet, not a rope, had mutilated Black Jack’s little finger. Undeterred, Meade next wrote to Brannick Riggs, very familiar with the members of the High Five gang, and sought Riggs’s recollection of Black Jack’s “age, height, hair, beard, eyes, complexion, teeth and character of special marks.” [A note on p. 304 credits this information: “Meade (telegram) to Brannick Riggs, Willcox, Ariz., May 29, 1897.”]<sup>[36]</sup>

In 1880 “Bannock” Riggs, 52, a ranchman born in Mississippi of Mississippi natives, was “on the road in Chiricahua Mte,” Pima Co., Ariz., with his wife, Mary, 42, born in Tennessee of Tennessee natives, and with his daughter, Rhoda, 21, son, William, 19, daughter, Martha J., 15, and sons, “Bannock” B., 13, and James J., 10, all five born in Texas, and daughter, Mary F., 8, son, John C., 6, and daughter, Lucy E., 4, all four born in Colorado, and son, Barney K., 1, born in Arizona.<sup>[37]</sup>

In 1900 B. Riggs, 71, a stock raiser born July 1828 in Alabama of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Georgia, Cochise Co., Ariz. Terr., with his wife of 44 years, Mary E., 61, born July 1838 in Tennes-

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<sup>36</sup> Karen Holliday Tanner, *Last of the Old-time Outlaws: The George West Musgrave Story* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002), 89, 129, 295, 304. Black Jack Ketchum and Musgrave were members of the High Five Gang.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. census, 1880, Chiricahua Mountains, Pima Co., Ariz., r. 36, p. 153B, dw. 69, fam. 72.



## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

see, and with his son, J. C., 25, born Sept. 1874, and daughter, Lucy, 23, born Oct. 1876, both born in Colorado, and daughter [sic], "Bona" K., 20, born Aug. 1879 in Arizona. Mary had had three [sic] children, with three [sic] surviving. Next to them were William Riggs, Thomas Stark, and B. B. Riggs.<sup>[38]</sup>

In 1910 Mary E. Riggs, 71, a widow born in Tennessee of Tennessee natives, resided in Bowie, Cochise Co., Ariz. Terr., with her sons, Barney K., 30, single, born in Arizona, and John C., 35, born in Colorado, and his wife, Janette M., 31, born in Ohio of a German father and a mother born in Ohio. Mary had had 11 children, with 10 surviving. Next to them were Thomas B. Stark and his family.<sup>[39]</sup>

Known children, of 11:

- + 21 i **THOMAS JEFFERSON<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born May 1857, Texas, married (1) **EULA LEE MURRAY**, and had two children, married (2) **LOUISA** —.
- 22 ii **RHODA<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born 19 Mar. 1859, Milam Co., Tex., unmarried, died 16 July 1929, Riggs Settlement, Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[40]</sup> and buried in the Riggs Family Cem. there.<sup>[41]</sup>

In 1900 Rhoda Riggs, 41, a stock raiser born Mar. 1859 in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee, resided in Cochise Co., Ariz., with her sister, W. A. Stark, 28, born May 1872 in Colorado. Her sister had been married three years, and had had two children, both surviving and in the household: sons, Harold, 3, born Sept. 1897, and Frank, 1, born Jan. 1899, both born in Arizona of a father born in Missouri.<sup>[42]</sup> I believe the sister's name should be Mrs. W. A. Stark (see sister Mary F. Riggs below).

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<sup>38</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Cochise Co., Ariz. Terr., ED 6, r. 45, p. 61, sh. 14A, dw. 291, fam. 291. The three nearby families resided in dw. 292-294

<sup>39</sup>. U.S. census, 1910, Bowie, Cochise Co., Ariz. Terr., ED 15, r. 38, p. 31, sh. 1A, dw. 7-8, fam. 7-8. The Starks resided in dw. 9.

<sup>40</sup>. Death certificate, Ariz. State Board of Health, state file no. 27, Rhoda Riggs, died 16 July 1929, Riggs Settlement, Cochise Co., 70 yrs. 3 mos. 28 days, birth 18 Mar. 1857 [sic], Milan [sic] Co., Tex., father B. B. Riggs, born Ala., mother Mary Robbins, born Tex., informant William Riggs, of Dos Cabezas, Ariz., burial 17 July 1929, Riggs Cem., cause chronic myocarditis.

<sup>41</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwararchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, "Riggs Rhoda 1859 1929 [notes] [empty]."

<sup>42</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Cochise Co., Ariz., ED 6, r. 45, p. 60, sh. 13B, dw. 284, fam. 284.

- 23 iii **WILLIAM M.<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born 27 Dec. 1861, (probably Milam,) Texas, died 13 Feb. 1949, buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[43]</sup> married about 1890 **ADELE** —, born June 1864, Ohio, and had no children.

In 1900 William Riggs, 38, a stock raiser born Dec. 1861 in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee, resided in Cochise Co., Ariz., with his wife of 10 years, Adele, 35, born June 1864 in Ohio of Virginia natives. Adele had had no children. Nearby were B. Riggs, B. B. Riggs, and Thomas and Martha Stark.<sup>[44]</sup>

- 24 iv **MARTHA J.<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born Mar. 1865, Texas, died 1949, and buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[45]</sup> married about 1886 **THOMAS B. STARK**, born Oct. 1856, Missouri, died 1926, and buried in the Riggs Family Cem.,<sup>[46]</sup> and had no children.

In 1900 Thomas Stark, 43, a stock raiser born Oct. 1856 in Missouri of Kentucky natives, resided in Cochise Co., Ariz., with his wife of 14 years, Martha, 35, born Mar. 1865 in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee. Martha had had no children. Nearby were B. Riggs, B. B. Riggs, and William Riggs.<sup>[47]</sup>

In 1910 Thomas B. “Starks,” 53, a ranchman born in Missouri of Kentucky natives, resided in Bowie, Cochise Co., Ariz. Terr., with his wife of 23 years, Martha, 44, born in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee, with his (presumably) brother, William A., 37, a ranchman born in Missouri of Kentucky natives, with his (William’s) wife of 13 years, Mary F., 37, born in Colorado of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee and their sons Harold [K?], 12, and Frank W., 11, daughter, M.

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<sup>43</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs William M. December 27, 1861 February 13, 1949 [notes] Prob b. in Milam, TX.”

<sup>44</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Cochise Co., Ariz., ED 6, r. 45, p. 61, sh. 14A, dw. 292, fam. 292. B. Riggs resided in dw. 291, B. B. in dw. 294, Martha in dw. 293.

<sup>45</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Stark Martha R 1865 1949 [notes] wife.”

<sup>46</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Stark Thomas B. 1856 1926 [notes] husband.”

<sup>47</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Cochise Co., Ariz., ED 6, r. 45, p. 61, sh. 14A, dw. 293, fam. 293. B. Riggs resided in dw. 291, B. B. in dw. 294, William in dw. 292.

## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

- Eunice, 8, and son, John R., 4, all four born in Arizona. Next to them Mary E. Riggs.<sup>[48]</sup>
- + 25 v **BRANNICK BENJAMIN**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS**, born 31 Oct. 1867, Bell Co., Tex., married **MARTHA A. SMITH**, and had six children.
  - 26 vi **JAMES J.**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS**, born 31 Jan. 1870, Texas, died 24 Jan. 1910, buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[49]</sup> married **MAGGIE** —, born 6 Aug. 1876, died 19 Oct. 1958, buried in the same cemetery.<sup>[50]</sup>
  - 27 vii **MARY F.**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS**, born 21 May 1872, Colorado, died 2 Feb. 1961, buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[51]</sup> married 18 Dec. 1896, Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[52]</sup> **WILLIAM A. STARK**, born 11 Dec. 1851, died 3 Feb. 1936, buried in Riggs Family Cem.,<sup>[53]</sup> and had at least two children: (1) Harold<sup>4</sup> Stark, born Sept. 1897, Arizona; and (2) Frank<sup>4</sup> Stark, born Jan. 1899, Arizona. She resided with her sister Rhoda Riggs in 1900 (q.v.).
  - 28 viii **JOHN CASEY**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS**, born 21 Sept. 1874,<sup>[54]</sup> Colorado, died 1943, and buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[55]</sup> married **JANETTE M. B.** —.
  - 29 ix **LUCY E.**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS**, born Oct. 1876 (1900 census), Colorado.

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<sup>48</sup>. U.S. census, 1910, Bowie, Cochise Co., Ariz. Terr., ED 15, r. 38, p. 31, sh. 1A, dw. 9, fam. 9. Riggs resided in dw. 7.

<sup>49</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs James J. January 31, 1870 January 24, 1910 [notes] [empty].”

<sup>50</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs Maggie August 6, 1876 October 19, 1958 [notes] wife of James J. Riggs.”

<sup>51</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Stark Mary Riggs May 21, 1872 February 2, 1961 [notes] [empty].”

<sup>52</sup>. *Ariz. Select Marriages, 1888–1908*, Mary Riggs, 25, to W. A. Stark, 45, 18 Dec.. 1896, Cochise Co., FHL 1984689.

<sup>53</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Stark William A. December 11, 1851 Febraury 3, 1936 [notes] [empty].”

<sup>54</sup>. *World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, John Casey Riggs, of Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co., Ariz., 43, born 21 Sept. 1874, cattle raiser, wife Janette Riggs, registered 12 Sept. 1918, Tombstone, Cochise Co., Ariz.

<sup>55</sup>. *Find a Grave*, no. 17876893, gravestone photograph, Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz., “Riggs | John C. Riggs | 1874–1943 | Nettie B. Riggs | 1876–1958 | Mother Father”; *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs John C. 1874 1943 [notes] Father.”

30 x **BARNEY KEMP<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born 23 Aug. 1879, Arizona,<sup>[56]</sup> died 9 May 1963,<sup>[57]</sup> Willcox, Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[58]</sup> buried 12 May 1963, Riggs Cem., Dos Cabezas, Ariz., married **MARY ROBINS**, and had at least one child: (1) J. M.<sup>4</sup> Riggs, born 4 Sept. 1915, died 15 June 1930, buried in Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[59]</sup> The obituary below lists three other children.

The following obituary for “Brannick” K. Riggs is probably for Barney K.. It mentions a nephew John Stark who indeed matches a son of Barney’s sister, Mary F. (Riggs) Stark:

Brannick K. Riggs, uncle of John Stark, passed away in Arizona May 9.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 12, at 2:30 p. m. Graveside services were held in the family cemetery of the Riggs Settlement. This cemetery was established in 1880.

Mr. Riggs was born in 1878 in Immigrant Canyon, east of Bowie, Ariz., and had lived at the home place in the Riggs Settlement since 1879. This settlement is 32 miles east of Willcox, Ariz. In the Chiricahua Mountains.

Survivors include his wife, Mary: two sons, Ed Riggs and Herbert Riggs; one daughter Mrs. Elmer Lamberson; one sister, Mrs. G. L. Moore of Willcox, Ariz.; and five grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stark attended the funeral services.<sup>[60]</sup>

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<sup>56.</sup> *World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Barney Kemp Riggs, of Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co., Ariz., 39, born 23 Aug. 1879, cattle rancher, wife Mary Riggs, registered 12 Sept. 1918, Tombstone, Cochise Co., Ariz.

<sup>57.</sup> SSDI, Barney Riggs, SSN 526-62-9704, born 28 [sic] Aug. 1879, died May 1963, issued Ariz. (1959).

<sup>58.</sup> *Arizona, U.S., Death Records, 1887–1968*, no. 4511 [image 303 of 4391 online at <Ancestry.com>, accessed 21 Dec. 2022], Barney K. Riggs, died 9 May 1963, Willcox, Cochise Co., Ariz., resident of Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co., Ariz., age 83, male, white, married (spouse Mary), rancher, born 23 Aug. 1879, Ariz., father Brannick Riggs, born U.S., mother Mary Robins, born U.S., informant Mrs. Elmer Lamberson, of Dos Cabezas, Ariz., buried 12 May 1963, Riggs Cem., Dos Cabezas, Ariz.

<sup>59.</sup> *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs J. M. September 4, 1915 June 15, 1930 [notes] son of B. K. and Mary Riggs.”

<sup>60.</sup> Obit., “B. K. Riggs passes away in Arizona,” *The Deming Headlight*, Deming, N.M., 20 May 1963, Mon. p. 2, online at <newspapers.com>, accessed 21 Dec. 2022.

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6. **BARNEY KEMP<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>1</sub>*Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1831 **14 Dec. 1830, Marion**, Ala. He married **ELIZA** —, who was born about 1838, Arkansas.

In 1860 B. K. Riggs, 29, a stockraiser born in Alabama with \$1,000 and \$1,100 worth of real and personal estates, resided in Belton, Bell Co., Tex., with Eliza, 22, born in Arkansas, and with Pocahontas, 4, and “W<sup>m</sup>” A., 2, both born in Texas. Nearby was Thomas Riggs, 28, and B. Riggs, 31.<sup>[61]</sup>

Children:

- 31 i **POCAHONTAS<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1856, Texas.
- + 32 ii **WILLIAM A.<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born Mar. 1859, Texas, married **MARGISSY G. MASON**, and had six children.

7. **THOMAS<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>1</sub>*Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1833, **Marion**, Ala. He married **HANNAH M. FELTON**, who was born about 1836, Tennessee or Missouri, and died after the 1910 census. See biography below for her full name, and see also the death certificate for her son, Brannick.

Thomas Riggs owned land in Bell Co., Tex., assessed for taxes in 1860, 1862, 1866, 1867, 1870, 1872, 1873, and 1875.<sup>[62]</sup>

In 1860 “Tho<sup>s</sup>” Riggs, 28, a stockraiser with \$300 and \$550 worth of real and personal property born in Alabama, resided in Bell Co., Tex., with Hannah, 24, born in Tennessee, and with “Brannock,” 7, and Barney, 5, both born in Arkansas, Richard, 3, and Rhoda, 6/12, both born in Texas. Nearby was B. K. Riggs, 29 (q.v., see Barney K. Riggs), and he was next door to B. Riggs, 31 (q.v., see Brannick B. [“Billy”] Riggs).<sup>[63]</sup>

Thomas Riggs served as a private in Company D of the 21st Texas Cavalry (aka 1st Texas Lancers, or 1st Regiment Carter’s Brigade) in the Civil War, on the Confederate side. There are four records of his service in the National Archives (NARA): (1). He appeared on a company mus-

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<sup>61</sup>. U.S. census, 1860, Belton PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1288, p. 322, dw. 363, fam. 365. Thomas Riggs resided in dw. 361, and B. Riggs in dw. 364.

<sup>62</sup>. *Tex. Co. Tax Rolls, 1846–1910*, Thomas Riggs, Bell Co. tax assessment, for the years listed, images online.

<sup>63</sup>. U.S. census, 1860, Belton PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1288, p. 322, dw. 361, fam. 363. B. K. Riggs resided in dw. 363 and B. Riggs in dw. 364.

ter roll for Sept. and Oct. 1863, with this further information: He was enlisted 15 Mar. 1862 at Belton (Bell Co., Tex.), by Lou Walker, for a period of three years, was last paid by R. M. Graham on 31 Dec. 1862, and deserted 7 Oct. 1863. (2). He (“Thom” Riggs) appeared on a list of men who had enlisted in Capt. G. R. Freeman’s Company, 1st Regiment Texas Lancers (which later became Company D) for three years or during the war, listd dated 2 Apr. 1862, Camp Carter, Bell Co., Tex. (3). He appeared on a company muster roll for 31 Aug. 1862 to 28 Feb. 1863, with enlistment information the same as in (1) above, and with this note: “Absent | Remarks: At home on sick furlough.” (4). He appeared on a company muster-in roll dated 26 Apr. 1862 at Camp Carter near Hempstead, with enlistment information matching (1) above.<sup>[64]</sup>

In 1870 Thomas Riggs, 38, a farmer with \$120 and \$450 worth of real and personal property born in Illinois, resided in Belton, Bell Co., Tex., with “Hanna”, 33, born in Missouri, and with “Branick,” 16, and Barney, 14, both born in Arkansas, Richard, 13, Thomas, 8, and Jones (male), 2, all three born in Texas.<sup>[65]</sup>

[Placeholder item: In 1870 Jane Riggs, 9, born in Texas, resided in Belton, Bell Co., Tex., in the household of J. M. Hickok.<sup>[66]</sup>

[Placeholder item: In 1870 Fannie Riggs, 12, William Riggs, 11, and Martha Riggs, 9, all born in Texas, resided in Salado, Bell Co., Tex., in the household of John Durhan.<sup>[67]</sup>

In 1880 Thomas Riggs, 48, a farmer born in Alabama of a father born in Tennessee and a mother in Georgia, resided in Kimble Co., Tex., with his wife, Hannah, 44, born in Tennessee of Tennessee natives, and with sons, “Branick,” 27, and Barney K., 24, both born in Arkansas, and sons, Richard, 22, Thomas, 18, and daughters, Martha, 14, and

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<sup>64</sup>. From four cards (images online at Fold3.com), NARA M323, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organization from the State of Texas, RG 109, r. 112, for Thomas Riggs, age 30 in 1863.

<sup>65</sup>. U.S. census, 1870, Belton PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1575, p. 66, dw. 88, fam. 88.

<sup>66</sup>. U.S. census, 1870, Belton PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1575, p. 85, dw. 369, fam. 369.

<sup>67</sup>. U.S. census, 1870, Salado PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1575, p. 69, dw. 136, fam. 136.

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Mary, 9, and son, Monroe, 6, all five born in Texas. There were also three others in the household, including two servants.<sup>[68]</sup>

Hannah M. Riggs, 75, a widow, resided in the household of her son, Thomas, in the 1910 census (q.v.). She had had 12 children, with six surviving.

Known children of 12:

- + 33 i **BRANNICK<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1854, Arkansas or Texas, married **ELLEN** —, and had at least three children, and divorced.
- + 34 ii **BARNEY KEMP<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born 18 Dec. 1856, Arkansas, married (1) **VENNIE HICKLIN**, and had one child, married (2) **ANNIE STELLA (FRAZER) JOHNSON**, and had four children.
- 35 iii **RICHARD<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1857, Texas.
- 36 iv **RHODA<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1859, Texas. She does not appear in the 1870 census so probably had died.
- + 37 v **THOMAS<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1862, Texas, married **MARY JANE** —, and had six children.
- 38 vi **MARTHA<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1866, Texas. Oddly she does not appear in the 1870 census but does so in the 1880.
- 39 vii **JONES<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1868, Texas. He does not appear in the 1880 census so probably had died.
- 40 viii **MARY<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1871, Texas.
- 41 ix **MONROE<sup>3</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1874, Texas. He resided with his brother, Thomas, in the 1910 census, as a widower with three children (q.v.).

**8. JAMES MONROE<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (*Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was born about **7 Apr.** 1835, **Monroe Co.**, Miss. He married twice, according to the biography of his nephew, Barney Kemp<sup>3</sup> Riggs (q.v.).

In 1860 James M. Riggs, 25, a blacksmith with \$300 worth of personal property, born in Mississippi, resided in Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., in the household of Charles H. Stuart, 25, and Margaret Stuart, 23 (his sister).<sup>[69]</sup>

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<sup>68</sup>. U.S. census, 1880, Kimble Co., Tex., ED 97, r. 1314, p. 270A, dw. 5, fam. 7.

<sup>69</sup>. U.S. census, 1860, Richwoods PO, Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 43, p. 482, dw. 1018, fam. 1019. Thomas Riggs resided in dw. 1021.

The following is from <Ancestry.com> **unvetted**:

James was born April 7, 1835 in Monroe, Miss, the 6th child of Thomas Augustus Riggs & Rhoda Casey. 1850 census he is living in White River, Ark, with his father, mother & 6 brothers & sisters. By 1860 he is at Blue Mountain, Ark, living with his sister Margaret & her family. 1861 he joins the confederacy during the Civil War as 1st Lt. Ark Comp. H, Ark 7th Infantry. April 8, 1862 he is captured & is listed as POW military prison, Alton, Ill. Sept. 1862 he is sent to Vicksburg for exchange. Oct 11, 1871 James marries Elizabeth Drusilla Hudson. She had 1 child at the time of their marriage- Richmond Lee Hudson. Together they have 5 children- Martha, John, Elizabeth, Florence & Lula. 1880 census shows him living in Dos Cabezas, Arizona with Elizabeth as a stock raiser & 5 children present. It is unknown if he & Elizabeth divorce but on June 1, 1885 he marries Sarah Julia Willborn Bostick in Bell, Tx. She has 4 children at the time they marry & together they have 5 children. 1900 census he is living in Liberty, Tx, with Sarah & 7 children. 1910 he is in Harris, Tx, with Sarah & 3 children. He dies Aug. 10, 1912 in Tennyhaw, Tx.

**9. MARGARET<sup>2</sup> RIGGS** (*Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was born about 1837 **14 Mar. 1838, Monroe Co.**, Miss. She married **CHARLES H. STUART [STEWART]**, born about 1835, North Carolina.

In 1860 Charles H. Stuart, 25, a blacksmith with \$100 in real and \$635 in personal estates, born in North Carolina, resided in Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., with Margaret, 23, born in Mississippi, and with Thomas, 4, and Isham, 2, both born in Arkansas, and with James M. Riggs, 25 (Margaret's brother). Nearby was Thomas Riggs, 58.<sup>[70]</sup>

In 1870 C. H. Stewart, 35, a blacksmith born in North Carolina with \$1,300 in real and \$1,000 in personal estates, resided in Salado, Bell Co., Tex., with "Margeret," 32, born in Mississippi, and with "Isam," 11, and "Branick," 7, both born in Arkansas, and James, 6, Sidney, 4, Lee, 2, and an infant girl, 8/12, born in Sept. 1869, all four born in Texas, and also Jack Green, 49, a stone cutter born in Pennsylvania.<sup>[71]</sup>

<sup>70</sup>. U.S. census, 1860, Richwoods PO, Blue Mountain Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 43, p. 482, dw. 1018, fam. 1019. Thomas Riggs resided in dw. 1021.

<sup>71</sup>. U.S. census, 1870, Salado PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1575, p. 71, dw. 153, fam. 153.



## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

Children:

- 42 i THOMAS<sup>3</sup> STUART, born about 1856, Arkansas.
- 43 ii ISHAM<sup>3</sup> STUART, born about 1858, Arkansas.
- 44 iii BRANNICK<sup>3</sup> STUART, born about 1863, Arkansas.
- 45 iv JAMES<sup>3</sup> STUART, born about 1864, Texas.
- 46 v SIDNEY<sup>3</sup> STUART, born about 1866, Texas.
- 47 vi LEE<sup>3</sup> STUART, born about 1868, Texas.
- 48 vii [DAUGHTER]<sup>3</sup> STUART, born Sept. 1869, Texas.

11. RHODA<sup>2</sup> RIGGS (<sup>1</sup>Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was 18 May 1842 (death certificate), Arkansas, died 18 July 1917, Coke Co., Tex.,<sup>[72]</sup> and was buried 18 July 1917, James (or Blackwell) Cem., Blackwell, Nolan Co., Tex.<sup>[73]</sup> She married (1) **7 Oct. 1757, Arkansas, WILLIAM D. COPELAND**, who was born 11 July 1837 (gravestone), Tennessee, died 21 Apr., 1879, and was buried in Salado Cem., Salado, Bell Co., Tex.<sup>[74]</sup> Rhoda married (2) about **12 Dec. 1895, McLennan Co., Tex., ALEXANDER R. MILLER**, who was born June 1836 (1900 census), Ohio, and who predeceased her.

In 1860 W. D. Copeland, 22, a farmer with \$[?] worth of real estate and \$550 in personal estate born in Tennessee, resided in Richwoods, Izard Co., Ark., with Rhoda, 18, born in Arkansas, and with Francisco, 1, born in Arkansas.<sup>[75]</sup>

In 1870 W. D. Copeland, 33, a ret[ail] merchant with \$13,000 worth of real estate and \$6,000 in personal estate born in Tennessee, resided in Salado, Bell Co., Tex., with Rhoda, 27, born in Arkansas, and with

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<sup>72</sup> Death certificate, image online at Tex., Death Certificates, 1903–1982, no. 18268, Mrs. Rhoda Miller, died 18 July 1917, Ranch house no. 2, Coke Co., Tex., aged 75 yrs. 2 mos., female, white, widow, born 18 May 1842, Ark., father Thomas Riggs, born N.C., mother Rhoda Casey, born Ala., informant F. D. Copeland, of Blackwell, Tex., buried 18 July 1917, James Cem., Blackwell, Tex.

<sup>73</sup> *Find a Grave*, no. 15013197, gravestone photograph, by Gale Gipson Rotan, Blackwell Cem., Blackwell, Nolan Co., Tex., “Mother | Mrs. Rhoda Copeland-Miller | May 18, 1842–July 18, 1917.”

<sup>74</sup> *Find a Grave*, no. 30624668, gravestone photograph, by Stephen Peters, Salado Cem., Salado, Bell Co., Tex., plot: 1905 addition, sect. 9F, “W. D. Copeland | July 11, 1837 | April 21, 1879.”

<sup>75</sup> U.S. census, 1860, Richwoods PO, Richwoods Twp., Izard Co., Ark., r. 43, p. 471, dw. [903?], fam. [903?].

Francis, 11, a male born in Arkansas, Florence, 5, and Comodore, 2, both born in Texas.<sup>[76]</sup>

In 1880 Rhoda Copeland, 38, a widow born in Arkansas of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Georgia, resided in the Cedar Gr[ove?] Neighborhood, Bell Co., Tex., with her sons, Franceola, 22, a farmer born in Arkansas, and Comodore, 11, daughter, Emma, 9, and sons, Charles, 7, Tilden, 5, and William D., 1, all five born in Texas of a father born in Tennessee and a mother born in Arkansas, and her mother, Rhoda Riggs, 78, a widow born in Georgia.<sup>[77]</sup>

In 1900 Alexander R. Miller, 64, born June 1836 in Ohio of Pennsylvania natives, resided in the Coke Co., Tex., with his wife of 5 years, Rhoda, 58, born May 1842 in Arkansas of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Georgia. She had had 10 children, with six surviving.<sup>[78]</sup>

The following was recorded on Rhoda's *Find a Grave* site, **unvetted**:

She was the mother of Charles Copeland. Her husband W D Copeland died in the 1870's and she married Alexander R Miller in 1895 and then he expired or returned to Ohio. My mother and her siblings called her "Grandma Miller" as she lived with Eulah and Charles Copeland. Granddaddy ( Harvie Saunders) worked for Charles Copeland. Grandma Miller died at the Copeland ranch house which is southwest of Blackwell in Coke County, but their address was Blackwell.

Her death certificate was signed by J B Latham M.D. of Blackwell.

The Undertaker: Farmer's Hardware and Co. in Blackwell which was the owned by Luther Frost and Louis Home.

The Cemetery: James Cemetery, which was the first name for the Blackwell Cemetery.

Glenda VanZandt Stroud

Married William D Copland 7 October 1857 Arkansas

Married Alexander R Miller 12 December 1895 McLennan County, Texas

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<sup>76</sup> U.S. census, 1870, Salado PO, Bell Co., Tex., r. 1575, p. 70B, dw. 146, fam. 146.

<sup>77</sup> U.S. census, 1880, Bell Co., Tex., ED 8, r. 1290, p. 450A, dw. 18, fam. 20.

<sup>78</sup> U.S. census, 1900, Coke Co., Tex., ED 13, r. 1619, p. 129, sh. 6B, dw. 105, fam. 115. They shared a dwelling with fam. 114, John S. Craft and his wife Emma.

## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

Known children, of 10:

- 49 i **FRANCEOLA/FRANCISCO/FRANCE[S] D.<sup>3</sup> COPELAND**, born 1858, Arkansas, died 1932, and buried Blackwell Cem., Blackwell, Nolan Co., Tex.,<sup>[79]</sup> married **LOU** —, born 1859, died 1933, buried with her husband.
- 50 ii **COMODORE<sup>3</sup> COPELAND**, born about 1869, Texas.
- 51 iii **EMMA<sup>3</sup> COPELAND**, born June 1871 (1900 census), Texas, married about 1889 **JOHN S. CRAFT**, born Sept. 1868, Texas, and had three children.
- In 1900 John S. Craft, 31, a farmer born Sept. 1868 in Texas of Texas natives, resided in the Coke Co., Tex., with his wife of 11 years, Emma, 29, born June 1871 in Texas of a father born in Tennessee and a mother in Arkansas, and with his daughter, Bertha B., 9, born Mar. 1891, and sons, Herman [perhaps an R. inserted here] H., 7, born Apr. 1893, and Lenard, 5, born May 1895, all three born in Texas. She had had three children, with three surviving. Alexander R. Miller and his wife Rhoda shared the dwelling with them.<sup>[80]</sup>
- 52 iv **CHARLES<sup>3</sup> COPELAND**, born about 1873, Texas.
- 53 v **TILDEN<sup>3</sup> COPELAND**, born about 1875, Texas.
- 54 vi **WILLIAM D.<sup>3</sup> COPELAND**, born about 1879, Texas.

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<sup>79</sup>. *Find a Grave*, no. 15013223, gravestone photograph, by Gale Gipson Rotan, Blackwell Cem., Blackwell, Nolan Co., Tex., “Mother | Lou | 1859-1933 || Father | France D. | 1858-1932 || Copeland.”

<sup>80</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Coke Co., Tex., ED 13, r. 1619, p. 129, sh. 6B, dw. 105, fam. 114. They shared a dwelling with fam. 115, Alexander R. Miller and his wife Rhoda.

### Third Generation

19. **WILLIAM C.<sup>3</sup> RIGGS** (*John C.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was born Sept. 1856 (1900 census), Arkansas. He married about 1881 **MARGARET** —, who was born Nov. 1865 (1900 census), Texas.

In 1880 William C. Riggs, 24, a cattle grower born in Arkansas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in the U.S resided in Las Animas Co., Colo., with Thomas J. Riggs, 23, a cattle grower born in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in “Tenas.”<sup>[81]</sup>

In 1900 William C. Riggs, 43, a farmer born Sept. 1856 in Arkansas of unknown parent nativities (“Don’t Know | Parents Killed by Indians”), reised in Forbes, Las Animas Co., Colo., with his wife of 19 years, Margaret, 34, born Nov. 1865 in Texas of a father born in Tennessee and a mother in Missouri. She had had five children, with three surviving and in the household: daughter, Ethel J., 17, born May 1883, and sons, Eldred W, 15, born Dec. 1884, and Earle, 5, born Jan. 1895, all three born in Colorado.<sup>[82]</sup>

Known children, of five:

- 55 i **ETHEL J.<sup>4</sup> RIGGS**, born May 1883, Colorado.
- 56 ii **ELDRED W.<sup>4</sup> RIGGS**, born Dec. 1884, Colorado.
- 57 iii **EARLE<sup>4</sup> RIGGS**, born Jan. 1895, Colorado.

21. **THOMAS JEFFERSON<sup>3</sup> RIGGS** (*Brannick B.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was born May 1857 (1900 census) or 14 May 1853[3? 9?] (gravestone), Texas, died 9 Dec. 1926, and was buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[83]</sup> He married (1)<sup>[84]</sup> **EULA LEE MURRAY**, who died 19 Aug. 1890, and

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<sup>81</sup>. U.S. census, 1880, Las Animas, Colo., r. 92, p. 130A, dw. 296, fam. 311.

<sup>82</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Forbes, Las Animas Co., Colo., ED 68, r. 126, p. 333, sh. 11B, dw. 233, fam. 235.

<sup>83</sup>. *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs Thomas J. May 14, 1853(?) December 9, 1926 [notes] [empty].”

<sup>84</sup>. Elizabeth Wegman-French, *Faraway Ranch Special History Study, Chiricahua National Monument* (Cultural Resources Division, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, 2006) 19, “Miss Eula Murray taught at the school for one year, until she married Brannick Riggs’ son, Thomas Jefferson Riggs. She later gave birth to Edward Murray . . . .” On p. 14, “In all, Brannick and Mary Riggs had

## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

was buried in the Riggs Family Cem.<sup>[85]</sup> He married (2) about 1896 **LOUISA** —, who was born Oct. 1875 (1900 census), Pennsylvania.

In 1880 Thomas J. Riggs, 23, a cattle grower born in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in “Tenas,” resided in Las Animas Co., Colo., with William C. Riggs, 24, a cattle grower born in Arkansas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in the U.S.<sup>[86]</sup> William C.<sup>3</sup> Riggs (*John C.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was a cousin of Thomas.

In 1900 Thomas Riggs, 43, a stock raiser born May 1857 in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee, resided in Cochise Co., Ariz., with his wife of four years, Louisa, 24, born Oct. 1875 in Pennsylvania of a Scot father and a mother born in Pennsylvania, and with his sons, Edward, 14, born Sept. 1886, and Charles, 12, born Mar. 1888, both born in Arizona. There was also a servant in the household. Louisa had had no children.<sup>[87]</sup>

Children of the first marriage, to Eula Lee:

- 58 i **EDWARD MURRAY<sup>4</sup> RIGGS**, born 22 Sept. 1885, Arizona, died 29 June 1950, buried in the Riggs Family Cem., Cochise, Ariz.<sup>[88]</sup>
- 59 ii **CHARLES<sup>4</sup> RIGGS**, born Mar. 1888, Arizona.

**25. BRANNICK BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> RIGGS** (*<sup>5</sup>Brannick B.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was born 31 Oct. 1867, Bell Co., Tex.<sup>[89]</sup> He married 7 or 16 Nov. 1896, Cochise Co., Ariz.,<sup>[90]</sup> **MARTHA A. SMITH**, who was born 2 Dec. 1876, Randolph, Rich Co., Utah, daughter of Charles and Mary (Wilkenson)

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11 children. The oldest was Thomas.”

<sup>85</sup> *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs Eula Lee [died] August 19, 1890 [notes] Wife of T. J. Riggs.”

<sup>86</sup> U.S. census, 1880, Las Animas, Colo., r. 92, p. 130A, dw. 296, fam. 311.

<sup>87</sup> U.S. census, 1900, Cochise Co., Ariz., ED 4, r. 45, p. 39, sh. 2A, dw. 63, fam. 63.

<sup>88</sup> *Riggs Family Cem., Cochise Co., Ariz.*, <files.usgwarchives.org/az/cochise/cemeteries/riggs.txt>, “Riggs Edward Murray Sept 22, 1885 June 29, 1950 [notes] son of Thomas J. and Eula Lee Riggs.”

<sup>89</sup> Patriarchal Blessings, Brannock Benjamin Riggs, 543:264.

<sup>90</sup> *Ariz. Select Marriages, 1888–1908*, Brannick Riggs, 29, to Martha Smith, 20, 7 Nov. 1896, Cochise Co., FHL 1984689, also Brannick B. Riggs to Martha Smith, 16 Nov. 1896, Cochise Co., FHL 2069885; Patriarchal Blessings, Mary Riggs, b. 24 Aug. 1897, Cochise Co., Ariz. “(near Dos Cabases)”, father Brannock B. Riggs, mother Martha A. Smith, blessing 28 May 1917, Ephraim, Peter A. Lofgreen, 341:175.

Smith.<sup>[91]</sup> Both received their patriarchal blessings in Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico.

In 1900 B. B. Riggs, 32, a stock raiser born Oct. 1867 in Texas of a father born in Alabama and a mother in Tennessee, resided in Cochise Co., Ariz., with his wife of four years, Martha, 28, born Nov. 1876 in Utah of English natives, and with his daughter, Mary, 2, born Aug. 1897, and son, "Benjamin," 7/12, born Oct. 1899, both born in Arizona. There were also two lodgers in the household. Martha had had just the two children. Nearby were B. Riggs, William Riggs, and Thomas and Martha Stark.<sup>[92]</sup>

[Place holder item: Here is one patriarchal blessing that seems pertinent but which I have been unable to place: Branick Baxter Riggs, born 31 July 1893, Belton, Bell Co., Tex., father John Wesley Riggs, mother Varilla<sup>[93]</sup> Asalene Benthall.<sup>[94]</sup> A reasonable guess is that John Wesley Riggs was a brother of Brannick Benjamin<sup>2</sup> Riggs. A Varilla Riggs died 22 Aug. 1966, Gaines Co., Tex., a widow.<sup>[95]</sup>]

Placeholder (see paragraph above): In 1910 John W. Riggs, 57, a farmer born in Texas of Louisiana natives, resided in Lynn Co., Tex., with his wife of 19 years, Addie, 38, born in Texas of Texas natives, and with his sons, John W., 18, Brannick B., 16, and Charlie E., 14, daughters, Agnes, 13, Gladys, 10, Bell, 7, Lizzy E., 5, Mena, 3, and Alice, 1, all born in Texas.<sup>[96]</sup>

Placeholder (see paragraphs just above): "Branick" B. Riggs, 23 [sic], born 31 July 1893, Cornhill, Tex., resident of Lovington, N.M., with a

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<sup>91</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Martha A. Riggs, b. 2 Dec. 1876, Randolph, Rich Co., Utah, father Charles Smith, mother Mary Wilkenson, blessing 17 Jan 1906, Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico, Ephraim, Alexander Jameson, 543:385.

<sup>92</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Cochise Co., Ariz., ED 6, r. 45, p. 61, sh. 14A, dw. 294, fam. 294. B. Riggs resided in dw. 291, William in dw. 292, Martha in dw. 293.

<sup>93</sup>. SSDI, Varilla Riggs, SSN 454-86-8208, born 8 Feb. 1871, died 15 Aug. 1966, last residence 79360 Seminole, Gaines Co., Tex.

<sup>94</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Branick Baxter Riggs, b. 31 July 1893, Belton, Tex., father John Wesley Riggs, mother Varilla Asalene Benthall, blessing 22 May 1960 LaVerne, Calif., Ephraim, John C. Smith, 1723:1299.

<sup>95</sup>. *Texas Death Index, 1903-2000*, <Ancestry.com>.

<sup>96</sup>. U.S. census, 1910, Lynn Co., Tex., ED 156, r. 1574, p. 118, sh. 12A, dw. 25, fam. 25.

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father, mother, and four sisters, registered for the draft 5 June 191[7], Chaves Co., N.M.<sup>[97]</sup>

Children:

- + 60 i **MARY**<sup>4</sup> **RIGGS**, born 24 Aug. 1897, “near Dos Cabases,” Cochise Co., Ariz., married **JOSEPH URBAN LARSEN**, and had at least four children.
- 61 ii **BENJAMIN**<sup>4</sup> **RIGGS**, born 19 Oct. 1899, El Dorado, Ariz.<sup>[98]</sup>
- 62 iii **WALTER**<sup>4</sup> **RIGGS**, born 27 Sept. 1902, Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[99]</sup>
- + 63 iv **THOMAS**<sup>4</sup> **RIGGS**, born 26 Mar. 1904, married **CARRIE INEZ MILES**, and had three children.
- 64 v **MARTHA**<sup>4</sup> **RIGGS**, born 12 Dec. 1908, Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico.<sup>[100]</sup>
- 65 vi **RHODA**<sup>4</sup> **RIGGS**, born 22 Feb. 1911, Colonia Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico.<sup>[101]</sup>

**32. WILLIAM A.**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS** (*Barney Kemp*<sup>2</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born Mar. 1859 (1900 census), Texas. He married about 1891 **MARGISSY G. MASON**, who was born Oct. 1867, Texas, daughter of Martha (–) Mason.

In 1900 William A. Riggs, 41, a farmer born Mar. 1859 in Texas of a father born in an unknown place and a mother in Arkansas, resided in Lampasas Co., Tex., with his wife of nine years, Margissy G., 32, born Oct. 1867 in Texas of a father born in an unknown place a mother in Alabama, and with his son, Thomas M., 8, born July 1891, daughter, Beulah M., 7, born Dec. 1892, sons, Barney K., 6, born May 1894, and William I., 4, born Dec 1896, and daughters, Martha L., 3, born Mar.

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<sup>97</sup>. *WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Branick B. Riggs.

<sup>98</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Benjamin Riggs, b. 19 Oct. 1899, El Dorado, Ariz., father Banock [sic] B. Riggs, mother Martha Smith, blessing date 3 Nov. 1921, Ephraim, Peter A. Lofgreen, 342:143.

<sup>99</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Walter Riggs, b. 27 Sept. 1902, Cochise Co., Ariz., father Brannick Benjamin Riggs, mother “Marhta” Smith, blessing 17 July 1947, St. David, Ariz., Ephraim, E. T. Lofgreen, 1250:61.

<sup>100</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Martha Riggs, b. 12 Dec. 1908, Dublan, Mexico, father Brannick B. Riggs, mother Martha Smith, blessing 3 May 1925, St. David, Ariz., Israel, William D. Kuhre, 873:357.

<sup>101</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Rhoda Riggs, b. 22 Feb. 1911, Juarez, Mexico, father Brannick B. Riggs, mother Martha Smith, blessing 3 May 1926, St. David, Ariz., Israel, William D. Kuhre, 875:356.

1897, and Gina B., 2, born Mar. 1898, all six born in Texas. Margissy had had just the six children. Also in the household were his mother-in-law, Martha Mason, 79, a widow born Sept. 1820 in Alabama of South Carolina natives, and his brother-in-law, Ran Mason, 29, born Feb. 1871 in Texas of a father born in an unknown place and a mother in Alabama. Martha had had six children, with four surviving.<sup>[102]</sup>

Children:

- 66 i **THOMAS M.**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born July 1891, Texas.
- 67 ii **BEULAH M.**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born Dec. 1892, Texas.
- 68 iii **BARNEY K.**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born May 1894, Texas.
- 69 iv **WILLIAM I.**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born Dec. 1896, Texas.
- 70 v **MARTHA L.**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born Mar. 1897, Texas.
- 71 vi **GINA B.**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born Mar. 1898, Texas.

**33. BRANNICK<sup>3</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>5</sub>*Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) was born about 1854, Arkansas or Texas, died 29 Dec. 1928, Wichita Falls, Wichita Co., Tex., and was buried 30 Dec. 1928, Pecos, Tex.<sup>[103]</sup> He married **ELLEN** —, who was born about 1878, Mississippi. They divorced after the 1920 census and his death in 1928.

In 1920 Brannick Riggs, 66, a stock farm laborer born in Texas of Missouri natives, resided in Pecos Co., Tex., with his wife, Ellen, 42, born in Mississippi of Alabama natives, and his daughters, Mattie, 16, Hannah, 14, and Amanda, 12, all three born in Oklahoma. Next door was Thomas Riggs, 57, with the same parental nativities.<sup>[104]</sup>

Children:

- 72 i **MATTIE LOU**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born **27 Oct. 1902** about 1903, Oklahoma, died **11 Dec. 1989**, married **4 July** about 1921 **THOMAS PYEART**

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<sup>102</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Lampasas Co., Tex., ED 106, r. 1653, p. 277, sh. 16A, dw. 277, fam. 278.

<sup>103</sup>. Death certificate, Brannick Riggs, Tex. State Board of Health, reg. dis. No. 962, registered no. 56169, died 29 Dec. 1928, Wichita Falls, Wichita Co., Tex., born 1854, Tex., male, white, divorced, stockman, father Tom Riggs, born Ark., mother Hannah Felton, born Mo., buried 30 Dec. 1928, "Pacos," Tex., informant: "As taken from his from his [sic] records in the Wichita Falls State Hospital."

<sup>104</sup>. U.S. census, 1920, Pecos Co., Tex., ED 160, r. 1839, p. 249, sh. 23B, dw. 504, fam. 545. Thomas resided in dw. 503.



## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

**HULSE**, born 22 Oct. 1888, Kerens, Navarro Co., Tex.,<sup>[105]</sup> son of Jacob **Henry** and Ada **Jane (McFadden)** Hulse,<sup>[106]</sup> and died 15 July 1940, **Beaverhead, Catron Co., N.M.**, buried Reserve, Catron Co., N.M.,<sup>[107]</sup> and had two children: (1) Ida<sup>6</sup> Hulse, born about 1923, New Mexico; and (2) Quentin **Thomas**<sup>6</sup> Hulse, born 30 Apr. 1926, **Miami, Gila Co., Ariz.**, died 2 Apr. 2002, last residence Reserve, Catron Co., N.M.<sup>[108]</sup>

In 1930 “Pyeort” Hulse, 41, a mine laborer born in Texas of Texas natives, resided in Mogollon Pct., Catron Co., N.M., with his wife, Mattie, 27, born in Oklahoma of a father born in Arkansas and a mother in Mississippi, and with his daughter, Ida, 7, born in New Mexico, and son, Quentin, 3, born in Arizona. Pyeort was 32 at first marriage, and Mattie was 18.<sup>[109]</sup>

73 ii **HANNAH**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born about 1906, Oklahoma.

74 iii **AMANDA**<sup>5</sup> **RIGGS**, born about 1908, Oklahoma.

**34. BARNEY KEMP**<sup>3</sup> **RIGGS** (<sup>5</sup>*Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born 18 Dec. 1856 (**but Dec. 1844 by the 1900 census**), Arkansas, died 8 Apr. 1902. He married (1) 21 Feb 1882, Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co., Ariz., **VENNIE HICKLIN**. He married (2) 23 Sept. 1891 (**but about 1881 by the 1900 census**), Pecos Co., Tex., **ANNIE STELLA (FRAZER) JOHNSON**, who was born May 1862 (1900 census), Texas, and who divorced Barney on 27 Mar. 1901. See biography below for these details.

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<sup>105</sup>. *WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, <Ancestry.com>, Pyeart Hulse, 28, of Aragon, N.M., born 22 Oct. 1888, “Cerans,” Tex., single, registered 5 June 1917, Socorro, N.M.

<sup>106</sup>. U.S. census, 1920, Concho Co., Tex., ED 37, r. 1623, p. 4, sh. 4B, dw. 74, fam. 75, lists Jacob H. Hulse, 31, born July 1868, Ark., wife, Ada J., 31, born Dec. 1868, Tex., and three children including son, “Pyeort,” 11, born Oct. 1888, Tex.

<sup>107</sup>. *Find a Grave*, <www.findagrave.com>, no. 39427550, gravestone photograph, by Pat Christensen, Reserve Cem., Reserve, Catron Co., N.M., “Pyeart Hulse | 1888–1940.” **Items from this site in red are unsourced.**

<sup>108</sup>. SSDI, Quentin Hulse, SSN 527-26-6637, born 30 Apr. 1926, died 2 Apr. 2002, last residence 87830 Reserve, Catron Co., N.M., issued Ariz. (before 1951).

<sup>109</sup>. U.S. census, 1930, Mogollon Pct., Catron Co., N.M., ED 15, r. 1392, p. 248, sh. 3B, dw. 78, fam. 78.

From *Deadly Dozen: Twelve Forgotten Gunfighters of the Old West* by Robert K. DeArment we learn about the sons of Thomas Riggs Jr., particularly Barney Kemp Riggs:

Barney Kemp Riggs was born in Arkansas on December 18, 1856, the second of seven children born to Thomas and Hannah Felton Riggs. Shortly after Barney's birth his parents moved to Texas, where began a history of violence that would plague the Riggs family through two generations. In March 1859 Indians killed Barney's uncle, John Riggs, in Coryell County. His older brother, Brannick, got into a shooting scrape in Kimble County in October 1885, stood trial for murder and assault, and came off clear. Dick, a younger brother, also was tried for murder at El Paso in 1909 and acquitted. . . .

Two Riggs brothers, uncles of Barney, had settled in Cochise County, Arizona, and were well established. Brannick Riggs, "Uncle Billy," had the Sycamore ranch on Pine Creek in the Sulphur Springs Valley, where Barney found employment as a cowboy. "Uncle Jim," James Munroe Riggs, lived with his second wife and her children in the nearby town of Dos Cabezas, where he ran a grocery store and was the postmaster. Another prominent entrepreneur of Dos Cabezas was a Mrs. Hicklin, who owned the Central Hotel, the Alhambra Saloon, and a meat market. Of more interest to Barney Riggs than Mrs. Hicklin's business enterprises was her attractive daughter Vennie. Soon Barney and Vennie announced their engagement. On February 21, 1882, Justice of the Peace A. E. Fay conducted the wedding ceremony at the J. M. Riggs home in Dos Cabezas. . . .

The wrangle between Riggs and Hudson over Vennie had been the juiciest item of gossip in the county, and Riggs was the obvious prime suspect in the murder. Suspicion hardened into certainty when it was learned that he had stopped at the house of his cousin, Thomas J. Riggs, and admitted the shooting before off into the mountains on the best horse on the ranch. Officials offered a \$250 reward for his capture. . . .

One child had been born to the marriage of Barney and Vennie Riggs, a son, William Earl, who was then living in a foster home in Los Angeles. . . .

Back in Texas Riggs formed a partnership with his younger brother Tom in the operation of a horse ranch about thirty miles west of Fort Stockton in Pecos County. . . .

## THE BRANNICKIAN RIGGSES

Although no record has been found that Riggs and his wife Vennie were ever divorced, and Vennie was still alive as late as 1902, Riggs entered into another marriage, apparently bigamous, on September 23, 1891 [sic] in Pecos County. The new Mrs. Riggs was Annie Stella Frazer Johnson, divorced wife of James Johnson, former Pecos County sheriff and treasurer. The union produced four children, three sons and a daughter. . . .

Ernest Riggs, Barney's son, . . .

By June 1900 Annie Riggs had all she could stand and filed for divorce . . .

Then, on February 14, 1901, she [Annie] filed a second divorce petition . . .

She was granted a divorce on March 27. . . .

[On 8 April 1902 Barney died from a gunshot wound by Daniel J. Chadborn, husband of Annie's daughter by a previous marriage.]<sup>[110]</sup>

In 1900 Barney K. Riggs, 55, a stock raiser born Dec. 1844 in Arkansas of Arkansas natives, resided in Pecos Co., Tex., with his wife of 18 years, Annie S., 38, born May 1862 in Texas of a father born in Missouri and a mother in Florida, and with his daughters, Nata, 15, born Jan. 1885, Emily, 13, born Oct. 1886, and Myrtle, 12, born Nov. 1887, sons, Barney K., 8, born May 1892, and Ernest M., 5, born July 1894, daughter, Eva, 4, born Apr. 1896, and son, George, 2, born Jan. 1898, all seven born in Texas. Annie had had 10 children, all 10 surviving.<sup>[111]</sup>

Child of the first marriage, to Vennie:

75 i **WILLIAM EARL<sup>5</sup> RIGGS.**

Known children, of 10, of the second marriage, to Annie:

76 ii **NATA<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born Jan. 1885, Texas.

77 iii **EMILY<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born Oct. 1886, Texas.

78 iv **MYRTLE<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born Nov. 1887, Texas.

79 v **BARNEY KEMP<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born 9 May 1892, Saragosa, Texas.<sup>[112]</sup> Had one child dependent in 1917.

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<sup>110</sup>. Robert K. DeArment, *Deadly Dozen: Twelve Forgotten Gunfighters of the Old West* (Norman, Okla.: University of Okla., 2003), ch. 9, "Barney Riggs (1856-1902)," 134-51.

<sup>111</sup>. U.S. census, 1900, Pecos Co., Tex., ED 64, r. 1664, p. 4, sh. 4A, dw. 44, fam. 51.

<sup>112</sup>. *World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, <Ancestry.com>, Barney Kemp Riggs, of Ft.

- 80 vi **ERNEST M.<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born July 1894, Texas.  
 81 vii **EVA<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born Apr. 1896, Texas.  
 82 viii **GEORGE<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born Jan. 1898, Texas.

**37. THOMAS<sup>3</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>5</sub>*Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1862, Texas, married about 1895 **MARY JANE** —, who was born about 1879, Texas.

In 1910 “Thos.” Riggs, 48, a rancher born in Texas of a father born in Arkansas and a mother in Missouri, resided in Pecos Co., Tex., with his wife of 15 years, Mary Jane, 31, born in Texas of Texas natives, and with his sons, Tom James, 12, Sterling, 10, Lee, 8, Fowler, 5, and Cleo Vernon, 3, and his daughter, Cherry Iola, 1, all six born in Texas, and with his mother, Hannah M., 75, a widow born in Arkansas of Tennessee natives, his brother, Monroe, 37, a widower with the same nativities as Thomas, his nephew, Ressie Lee, 11, and nieces, [Bes?]sia May, 7, and Dollie M., 6, all three born in Texas.<sup>[113]</sup>

In 1920 Thomas Riggs, 57, widower, a farmer born in Texas of Missouri natives, resided in Pecos Co., Tex., with his sons, Sterling, 20, Lee M., 17, Mike 15, and Cleo, 13, and his daughter, Sherry, 11, all five born in Texas. Next door was Brannick Riggs, 66, with the same parental nativities.<sup>[114]</sup>

Children:

- 83 i **TOM JAMES<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1898, Texas.  
 84 ii **STERLING<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1900, Texas.  
 85 iii **LEE M.<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1902, Texas.  
 86 iv **MIKE FOWLER<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1905, Texas.  
 87 v **CLEO VERNON<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1907, Texas.  
 88 vi **SHERRY/CHERRY IOLA<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born about 1909, Texas.

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Stanton, Tex., 25, born 9 May 1892, Saragosa, Tex., mechanic, dependent one child, single, registered 5 Jun 1917, Pecos Co., Tex.

<sup>113</sup>. U.S. census, 1910, Pecos Co., Tex., ED 195, r. 1581, p. 281, sh. 6B, dw. 117, fam. 117.

<sup>114</sup>. U.S. census, 1920, Pecos Co., Tex., ED 160, r. 1839, p. 249, sh. 23B, dw. 503, fam. 544. Brannick resided in dw. 504.

## Fourth Generation

**60. MARY<sup>4</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>25</sub>*Brannick Benjamin*<sup>3</sup>, *Brannick B.*<sup>2</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born 24 Aug. 1897, “near Dos Cabases,” Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[115]</sup> She married<sup>[116]</sup> **JOSEPH URBAN LARSEN**.

Known children, of at least four:

- 89 i **HAROLD URGAN<sup>5</sup> LARSEN**, born 9 Apr. 1925, Miami, Gila Co., Ariz.<sup>[117]</sup>
- 90 ii **NEILS BRANNICK<sup>5</sup> LARSEN**, born 2 June 1930, Morenci, Greenlee Co., Ariz.<sup>[118]</sup>

**63. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> RIGGS** (<sub>25</sub>*Brannick Benjamin*<sup>3</sup>, *Brannick B.*<sup>2</sup>, *Thomas*<sup>1</sup>) was born 26 Mar. 1904.<sup>[119]</sup> He married<sup>[120]</sup> **CARRIE INEZ MILES**. Thomas received his patriarchal blessing in “Doscabaz,” Ariz.

Children:

- + 91 i **THOMAS TRAVER<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born 8 Dec. 1935, Tucson, Pima Co., Ariz.
- 92 ii **NANCY RUTH<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born 13 Nov. 1938, Bisbee, Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[121]</sup>
- + 93 iii **BRANNICK LESTER<sup>5</sup> RIGGS**, born 17 Sept. 1941, Douglas, Cochise Co., Ariz.

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<sup>115</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Mary Riggs, 341:175.

<sup>116</sup>. From birth certificates of her children.

<sup>117</sup>. Birth certificate, Ariz. State Board of Health, state file no. 156, registered no. 1, Harold Urban Larsen, born 9 Apr. 1925, Miami, Gila Co., father Joseph Urban Larsen, 27, of Miami, born Old Mexico, mother Mary Riggs, 27, of Miami, born Cochise Co., Ariz., her first child born and living.

<sup>118</sup>. Birth certificate, Ariz. State Board of Health, state file no. 258, registered no. 93, Neils Brannick Larsen, born 2 June 1930, Morenci, Greenlee Co., father Joseph Urban Larsen, 32, of Morenci, born “Colona” Dublan, Mexico, mother Mary Riggs, 30, of Morenci, born Dos Cabezas, Ariz., her fourth child born and living.

<sup>119</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Thomas Riggs, b. 26 Mar. 1904, father Branac Benjamin Riggs, mother Martha (Smith) Riggs, blessing 30 June 1926, “Doscabaz,” Ariz.

<sup>120</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Nancy Ruth Riggs, born 13 Nov. 1938, Bisbee, Cochise Co., Ariz., father Thomas Riggs, mother Carrie Inez Miles, blessing (“revd.”) 16 May 1954, St. David, Ariz., Ephraim, Edward T. Lofgreen, 1743:90.

<sup>121</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Nancy Ruth Riggs, 1743:90.

## Fifth Generation

91. THOMAS TRAVER<sup>5</sup> RIGGS (<sub>63</sub>Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Brannick Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Brannick B.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born 8 Dec. 1935, Tucson, Pima Co., Ariz.<sup>[122]</sup>

Child:

94 i ?ROBERT BRANNICK<sup>6</sup> RIGGS, DNA contributor. I know that Robert Brannick<sup>6</sup> and Brannick Barton<sup>6</sup> Riggs are cousins,<sup>[123]</sup> so have simply assumed that Robert Brannick<sup>6</sup> must be son of Thomas Traver<sup>5</sup> Riggs because I have no other son of Thomas<sup>4</sup> Riggs to whom to assign him (hence the question mark).

93. BRANNICK LESTER<sup>5</sup> RIGGS (<sub>63</sub>Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Brannick Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Brannick B.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born 17 Sept. 1941, Douglas, Cochise Co., Ariz.<sup>[124]</sup>

His wife was from Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Child:

95 i BRANNICK BARTON<sup>6</sup> RIGGS, DNA contributor: “My father is Brannick L. Riggs from Douglas AZ. Grandfather is Thomas Riggs and his sisters and brother are Rhoda Riggs, Martha Riggs and Walter Riggs, respectively. . . . Interestingly my mother is from Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico.”<sup>[125]</sup> His genetic signature definitely was not Edwardian—that is, he definitely did not descend from Edward Riggs, immigrant to Roxbury, Mass. in 1633.

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<sup>122</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Thomas Traver Riggs, born 8 Dec. 1935, Tucson, Ariz., father Thomas Riggs, mother Carrie Miles, blessing 17 July 1939, Stafford, Ariz., Ephraim, Harry L. Payne, 965:86.

<sup>123</sup>. Email from Wil Lyon, 10 Aug. 2006, “Regarding Brannick Barton and Robert Brannick Riggs (Cousins) . . . their ancestor, Thomas Riggs.”

<sup>124</sup>. Patriarchal Blessings, Brannick Lester Riggs, b. 17 Sept. 1941, Douglas, Cochise Co., Ariz., father Thomas Riggs, mother Carrie Inez Miles, blessing 30 June 1957, St. David, Ariz., Ephraim, Edward T. Lofgreen, 1743:178.

<sup>125</sup>. Email from Brannick B. Riggs, 27 Feb. 2006.

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