

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA AND HIS PROBABLE FAMILY (C1765–2005)

by
Alvy Ray Smith, FASG

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This is a paper in my Edwardian Riggs series.

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PICTURE CREDITS

Figure 1. Composed by me, using Microsoft Visio.

Figure 2. Page 200 of Peterson (1987). See bibliography for details.

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I want to thank the DNA contributors and the Riggs family members who have helped me directly in the following researches: Colleen Wilder Garman, Sherry (Fee) Riggs, Richard W. Rodgers, Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman.

THE DNA EVIDENCE

Four living Riggs male descendants of William Riggs have contributed DNA to the Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group that I have managed for many years, using FamilyTreeDNA as our testing firm. I have established in a recent pair of papers that the following is the genetic signature of the 1633 immigrant to America, Edward¹ Riggs, at 67 genetic markers on the Y chromosome:

lXnknplllmmCsijkkkyosCooqqkjswooqrKLll:kiophjjhkjluwpjllohlwtmIkmmkklI.^[1]

This is known as the Edward¹ Riggs Modal Signature. Two of the four Riggs descendants match this signature on 37 and 34 of the first 37 markers (demarcated by the colon), and hence are with high probability descendants of Edward¹ Riggs.^[2] The other two of the four Riggs descendants both match this signature on 66 of the 67 markers, and hence are with high probability descendants of Edward¹ Riggs.^[3]

Since three of the four living Riggs descendants each descends from a distinct son of William (the three descents are proved in this paper), this means that William himself must have carried the signature in his Y chromosome, inherited by these three sons. The markers at which they disagree with the Edward¹ Riggs Modal Signature are mutations of it (if indeed William descended directly from Edward¹—there always being a

1. Smith, “The Probable Genetic Signature of Thomas¹ Riggs,” and “The Probable Genetic Signature of Edward¹ Riggs,” *Register* 164 (2010):85–103. For full details on sources, see the bibliography. The signatures are actually returned as a sequence of 67 numbers. For ease of presentation, I have coded the numbers as follows: **a** = 1, **b** = 2, . . . , **z** = 26, **A** = 27, **B** = 28, . . . , **Z** = 52.

2. An agreement at 35 of 37 markers is considered a match. Hence one of the two is with high probability a descendant of Edward¹ Riggs. The other one is known (proved here) to be kin of the other, so both are descendants if one is.

3. An agreement at 64 of 67 markers is considered a match. In this paper I will consider only the first 37 markers since the two descendants with 67 markers tested match the Edward¹ Riggs Modal Signature exactly on the rightmost 30 markers.

slight possibility that he did not, but rather that he and Edward¹ both descended from a common ancestor predating Edward¹).

One of these markers with a mutation is marker number 35 (counted from the left). This marker is **L** in the Edward¹ Riggs Modal Signature, but is **M** for the three proved descendants of William Riggs. Hence this mutation can be used as a flag for the William Riggs subfamily of the Edward¹ Riggs family. We should expect that any male descendant along a male line from William would carry **M** at marker 35.

N.B. William is not necessarily the most recent descendant of Edward¹ Riggs to carry the mutation. DNA analysis can establish the fact of descent, but generally not the path of it.

Here is a full presentation of the Riggs DNA results for the Riggses in this paper (anonymously):⁴

A (Otis David⁶) Riggs (₁₄₈William David⁵, Emmett⁴, David R.³, John², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCrijkkyosCoo^oqkjswooq^sKMIl

B (John Clifton⁶) Riggs (₁₅₉Hubert Clifton⁵, Henry H.⁴, David C.³, David², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCsijkkyosCooq^qkjswooqrKMIl

C (Jeffrey L.⁶) Riggs (₁₇₆Lee Grant⁵, William Grant⁴, Joseph S.³, James², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCsijkkyosCooq^qkjswoo^rrKMIl:kiophjjhkjlupjllohlwtmIkmmkkl

D (Robert Asbury⁶) Riggs (₁₃₉John L.⁵, George W.⁴, Richard A.³, John², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCsijkkyosCooq^qkjswooqr^NMIl:kiophjjhkjlupjllohlwtmIkmmkkl

where the red letters indicate marker values that differ from William's genetic signature derived next.

A and D Riggs have John² (William¹) as MRCA. The maximum parsimony algorithm explained in my two papers (footnote 1) yields the following genetic signature on 37 markers for John² Riggs:

4. Where the rightmost 30 markers of C and D Riggs are omitted as discussed. C and D Riggs are not yet proved and hence do not figure into this preliminary analysis.

l_xn_kn_pl_lm_mC{rs}ij_kkyosCoo{oq}qkjswooq{rs}K{MN}ll

where the blue letters indicate marker values that differ (or potentially differ) from the Edward¹ Riggs Modal Signature given earlier.^{5]} But John² and B Riggs have William¹ as MRCA, so the maximum parsimony algorithm resolves all four uncertainties to **sqrM**, respectively, as explained in my two papers, yielding this genetic signature for William¹ Riggs on 37 markers:

l_xn_kn_pl_lm_mCsij_kkyosCooqqkjswooqr**KMll**

One of these markers—the **M** at marker 35—serves as a flag for the William Riggs subfamily of the Edward¹ Riggs family. It is worth pointing out again that a 37 of 37 agreement is a “match”—meaning that William, with high probability, descended from Edward¹ Riggs in genealogical time (i.e., within a few hundred years). Indications of the genealogy derived here are that the descent happened in about six generations or so.

An alternative derivation: A, B, and C Riggs descend from three different sons of William¹, who was therefore their MRCA. William¹ immediately has this signature from the maximum parsimony algorithm, exactly as derived above via a different path through the evidence:

l_xn_kn_pl_lm_mCsij_kkyosCooqqkjswooqr**KMll**.

We can call this genetic signature the William Riggs Modal Signature.

5. Marker values in brackets are uncertain in the derivation so far. I expect the three uncertain markers to resolve to **sqr** respectively (thus matching the Edward¹ Riggs Modal Signature at those locations), but have not yet proved it.

First Generation

1. **WILLIAM¹ RIGGS** was born about 1765, Virginia (1850 census) or New Jersey (1880 census) or North Carolina (1880 census), died after the 1850 census, probably in Scott Co., Va., when and where he appeared in the household of his daughter, Sarah Shepherd. William's sons, John and Hiram, each listed his father as born in New Jersey in the 1880 census, but **putative** daughter Polly gives his nativity as North Carolina. William married **SARAH** —, according to a deed dated 17 Dec. 1833 on land on the north side of Stock Creek, in Hunter's Valley. Details of this deed are presented below. A record for son Hiram gives her name as "Salie Riggs" (q.v.).

See Figure 2 for an unsourced genealogy of William¹ Riggs, referred to as William Miles-Riggs, a common surname confusion for Edwardian Riggses. I repeat part of it here for convenience. Note that it matches what we have established fairly closely except for the Miles-Riggs surname business. I haven't yet established the Druchania and Asbury names either, and this excerpt doesn't do so:

William Miles-Riggs, born 1760-5, who came to Washington Co., Va from North Carolina and he married Sara —. A son of William Miles-Riggs was Rev. John Riggs (ME [Methodist Episcopal]), born 1792 married Druchania Stanley. A son of Rev. John Riggs was Richard Asbury Riggs, born 1820 and he married Nancy McNew; a son of Richard Riggs was our William Harry Riggs. . . .^[6]

N.B. Scott County was partially derived from Washington County in 1814. Both abut the northern edge of North Carolina and are near the northeast pointed corner of Tennessee. The Holston River (two forks) flowed through Washington County.

Rita Kennedy Sutton, in "The Riggs Family," *Appalachian Quarterly*, June 2002, argues that William Riggs married Sarah Richmond, and that

6. Peterson (1987), 200 (cf. Fig. 2). See the bibliography for full source details.

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they were indeed the progenitors of the entire Riggs family (presumably the one of this paper), a role only tentatively suggested here.^[7] This argument will be discussed below.

To fully appreciate Sutton's contributions, it is important to be familiar with Hunter's Valley, already mentioned, and with the Stoney Creek Baptist Church.

Hunter's Valley is located in Scott Co. north of and tributary to the Clinch River. The current town of Dungannon, Scott Co., was formerly called Hunter's Ford and marked the beginning of Hunter's Valley.^[8] An early minute book of Scott Co. (formed in 1814) mentions, on 12 Mar. 1817, a William Riggs as overseer of the road from the fork of Hunter's Valley to his home.^[9] Sutton argues that William was first recorded in Hunter's Valley in Oct. 1802 as a road surveyor.^[10]

The Stoney Creek Baptist Church is the oldest Primitive Baptist Church. It was organized in the late 1700s on Stoney Creek, north of [Fort] Blackmore, and minutes exist for it since 1801.^[11] Fort Blackmore is on the Clinch River in Scott Co., Va. The minutes show a William Riggs as a member during the period 1809–1813.^[12]

7. Sutton, "The Riggs Family." See the bibliography for full source details.

8. Bogan, *First Recorded Indian Massacre on Powell's River Claimed Daniel Boone's Son*, Others, "the route the party followed . . . was the trail the early Long Hunters used known as the "Hunter's Trail." The trail crossed the Clinch River at Hunter's Ford, now the village of Dungannon, through Hunter's Valley, Rye Cove Cove, and across Powell Mountain at Kane's Gap onto the head of Wallen's Creek." The same description is in Hamilton, *The First Massacre on Powell's River*, "From the unpublished manuscript Indian Atrocities Along the Clinch, Powell and Holston Rivers, pages 1–6." Almost the same description also occurs in Addington, *James Boone Killed Oct. 10, 1773*, which suggests Daniel's son, James, took the Hunter's Trail on his ill-fated trip.

9. Scott Co., Va., Minute Book, 2:282, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4.

10. Russell Co., Va., Law Order Book, 3:228, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4, "In Oct. 1802, William Riggs was appointed road surveyor in the room of John Osborne, which places him in Hunter's Valley." This seems to rely on the reader's knowing that Osborne's Store was located at the point where the stream in Hunter's Valley empties into the Clinch River [Hamilton, *Indians Kill the Phillips Family*].

11. Addington, Stoney Creek Primitive Baptist Association.

12. Minutes of the Stoney Creek Baptist Church, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4, men-

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[Email from Richard W. Rodgers, 14 Jan. 2007: “The Russell County, Virginia, property tax lists register a William Riggs for the years 1799–1802 and 1804–1810, all with one white tithable older than 16. Scott County (formed 1814 [from Russell and Lee Counties, Alvy]) personal property tax lists a William, 2 tithables and John, one tithable, in years 1815–1817 and 1820–1821. Years 1822–1825 list William, John, and David Riggs, all with one tithable. Years 1826–1830 list William, John, David, and James Riggs. Years 1831–1833 list William, John, David, James, and Reuben Riggs. Years 1834 and 1835 are the same group minus Reuben Riggs.

“The 1849 tax list of Scott County names several Riggses: William S.; William (son of James); William (son of Jno); Richard; and James Sr. (These were taken from a tape I made some 30 years ago at the Virginia State archives while hurriedly going through the tax lists. In a side note on the transcription next to the 1849 entry I wrote that there may have been one more Riggs listed, that the tape was blurred. Time to revisit the tax lists.)”]

On 25 Aug. 1819 William Riggs entered 100 acres on the north side of Stock Creek, Hunter’s Valley.^[13] It was 67 acres of this plot that William and Sarah sold on 17 Dec. 1833, to Joshua Bird.^[14] (Emphasis added.)

In 1820 William Riggs, over 45 [born before 1775], resided in Scott Co., Va., with a woman over 45, and with four boys and two girls under 10, one boy 10–16, one boy 16–18, hence the one boy 16–26, and one female 16–26. Four persons were engaged in agriculture.^[15] The census, in alphabetical order, also listed John Riggs, 18–26. David born 1797 would have been 18–26, so there was no male corresponding to him there.

tions William on 24 Jan. 1807, 26 Feb. 1809, 24 June 1809, 25 Nov. 1809, Mar. 1811, 28 July 1811, and 24 July 1813.

13. Jonathan Book, 25.

14. Scott Co., Va., Deeds, 3:332, as cited in Sutton, “The Riggs Family,” 4.

15. U.S. census, 1820, Scott Co., Va., r. 139, p. 197.

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On 14 July 1825 William Riggs entered 33 acres on Big Stock Creek, Hunter's Valley.^[16]

In 1830 William Riggs, 60-70 [born 1760-1770], resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 50-60, and with one girl 5-10, one boy 10-15, one male 15-20, and one male 20-30. The census, in alphabetical order, also listed David Riggs, 30-40, John Riggs, 30-40, and Hannah Riggs, 30-40.^[17]

William Riggs was listed in the Scott Co. tax records every year 1845-1853.^[18]

In 1850 William Riggs, 85, born in Virginia, lived in the household of Andrew Shepherd, 44, born in Virginia, presumably his son-in-law, who resided in Lee Co., Va. (the westernmost county of Virginia, bounded by the Cumberland Gap on the west and Wise Co. and Scott Co. on the east), with Sarah, 43, born in Virginia.^[19]

On 10 Feb. 1853 William Riggs sold to John Riggs Sr. 80 acres in Hunter's Valley for \$200.^[20] I take this as evidence that John² Riggs was son of William¹ Riggs.

On 16 Feb. 1855 William Riggs sold to George Stanley 50 acres near said Riggs's house in Hunter's Valley.^[21] Sutton states, for both these last deeds, that they "must refer to a later William Riggs," but this is not necessarily so since we know William¹ was alive in 1850.

Sutton's argument that Sarah Richmond was William Riggs's wife is based on this note:

Mrs. J. A. Brannen, of Amarillo, Texas, wrote that her Grandmother's notes stated that Sarah Richmond, daughter of Jonathan Richmond, Sr.

16. Jonathan Book, 66.

17. U.S. census, 1830, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 200, p. 27.

18. Courtesy Colleen Wilder Garman, who reports "at least one" William Riggs each of these years.

19. U.S. census, 1850, Lee Co., Va., r. 955, pp. 323-24, dw. 300, fam. 314.

20. Scott Co., Va., Deeds, 10:262, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4. Sutton's abstract of the land description is: "corner to Joseph Shepherd, to conditional line made by Riggs and George Stanley."

21. Scott Co., Va., Deeds, 11:373, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4.

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and sister of Jonathan Richmond, Jr., married William Riggs. Mrs. Brannen's Grandmother was a daughter of Stephen Osborne's youngest daughter, Esther, who married Isaac Richmond, from Scott Co.^[22]

Sutton mentions a John Richmond and a John Osborne in her second paragraph.^[23] The early Scott Co. censuses listed several Richmonds, including a John and an Isaac, but no Jonathan. There were also several "Osbourns," including a John and a Stephen. **I have been unable so far to deduce the logic of this argument, so leave Sarah's surname in question so long as it depends on said argument.**

However, a court case has been found that supports several of Sutton's claims, but suggests that Sarah's surname was indeed not Richmond. I quote from the research of Mary B. Kegley who analyzed the case in 2003:

The following case was found in the chancery files of Wythe County [Va.] but referred to families living in Scott County [Va.]. It was filed on October 4, 1822, and decided in 1833. . . .

Ozborne & etc. vs Ozborne et al, 1833-08-SC, Wythe County Chancery.

The case was filed by the orators Jonathan, John, William, and James Osborne, Jeremiah Herrel and Sarah his wife, late Sarah Osborne, Samuel Alley and Mary his wife, late Mary Osborne, **Isaac Richmond and Esther his wife, late Esther Osborne**, Jonathan Osborne, Jr., and Elizabeth his wife, and John Dollarhide and Jemima his wife, late Jemima Osborne, sons, sons-in-law and daughters and heirs-at-law of Stephen Osborne, deceased of the County of Scott. They stated that on the 31st day of January

22. Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 27. No date or location of the Brannen letter is given.

23. Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4, states that on 8 June 1795 William Riggs entered 100 acres on the south side of the North Fork of Holston River, as assignee of John Richmond, in Washington Co., Va. [Washington Co., Va., Survey Book, 1781-1797], thus identifying this William with the one who shortly later, in 1802, appeared in the Scott Co. records, being appointed surveyor "in the room of John Osborne." To be complete, Sutton further identifies this William with a William Riggs in Tenn. in 1792, and claims that he moved to N.C. from N.J. as a child. She also states that Sarah Richmond was born 1770-1775, N.C.

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1803, Stephen Osborne, the father, made his will by which he disposed of his whole estate. . . .

[. . . the case centers on a black woman Barbary [Barbara] and four children, one fathered by Isaac Richmond, and a second will of Stephen Osborne that conflicted with the first will. The actual case does not concern us here.]

They denied all fraud and combination and having fully answered the bill asked to have it dismissed. Signed A. McHenry for defendant. Dated May [blank] 1824.

Shortly after the answer was file in Scott County on the 12th day of February 1823, the following petition was filed. . . .

Stephen Osborne, deceased, left ten children, to wit, Jonathan, John, William, James, Molly, now Molly Alley wife of Samuel Alley in the State of Indiana, Sarah now Sarah Harl wife of Jeremiah Harl in same state, Jane, now Jane Kilgore, wife of William Kilgore of Scott County, **Esther now Esther Richmond, wife of Isaac Richmond of Franklin County, Tennessee**, Jemima now Jemima Dollarhide wife of John Dollarhide in Scott County and Elizabeth wife of Jonathan Osborn, son of James in the State of Indiana, who are to have his estate by the terms of the will equally dividied between them at at the death of Comfort Osborn . . .

Deposition: **William Riggs** stated that he was acquainted with the testator [Stephen Osborn] for thirty-one or two years and lived one year on his plantation, and several years within four miles of him and about twenty years till his death, within eighteen miles of him. . . . He [William Riggs] was connected by marriage with some of the plaintiffs. **Isaac Richmond was the son of his wife's sister.** . . . Signed William Riggs.^[24]

So the only scenario under which Sarah could have been Sarah Richmond is that her sister, "Sis" Richmond married a kinsman, Isaac Richmond. **This has not been ruled out, but seems unlikely. However, cousin marriages are not all that unusual.**

24. Mary B. Kegley, *Free People of Colour: Free Negroes, Indians, Portuguese, and Freed Slaves*, 2003, FHL US/CAN 975.5 F2kf. Chapter Nine, Scott County, excerpt sent me as a .pdf by correspondent Timothy J. Barron, as part of a document by him: *Wythe County, Virginia Chancery Court Case Index Number: 1833-08-SC*, 18 Apr. 2015.

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I have conducted a Y-chromosome DNA study of several branches of the Riggs family descending from Edward Riggs, immigrant to Roxbury, Mass., from England in 1633.^[25] Living male descendants of John² and David² Riggs match the “Edwardian” Y-DNA signature, so are related. Furthermore, they share a single mutation indicating that they both got it from a common ancestor. Since John² was likely a son of William¹, then David² was highly probably his son also.

The Y-DNA study does not establish a descent of William¹ from Edward¹ of Roxbury,^[26] but it does suggest strongly that there might have been one. An interesting descent in this regard is Timothy⁵ Riggs (?Samuel⁴, ?Edward³, Edward², Edward¹). This descent is claimed, but not established, from Edward¹ of Roxbury to Timothy⁵ of Morris Co., N.J. Timothy is thought to have then removed to North Carolina: Timothy⁵ disappeared after 1764 from the New Jersey records before a Timothy appeared in 1768 in the North Carolina records. So a possibility is that William¹ of this paper, reputed to have been born in New Jersey, was exactly William⁶ Riggs (Timothy⁵, ?Samuel⁴, ?Edward³, Edward², Edward¹). **This has not been sufficiently established to satisfy me however.** For example, the descent might have passed through Samuel⁵, Timothy’s brother, instead. Samuel was in North Carolina in 1768, and all his children **are thought** to have been born in New Jersey.

Children:

- + 2 i JOHN² RIGGS, born about 1792, Tennessee, married **DRUCHANIA ELENOR STANLEY**, and had at least six children.
- 3 ii ?HANNAH² RIGGS, born say 1795, married 1815, Scott Co., Va.,^[27] **JEREMIAH STANLEY**, and had children. **[Why is she Hannah “Riggs” in 1830 census?]**

25. Smith, Alvy Ray. “The Y-DNA Signature of Edward Riggs of Roxbury.” *NEA* 6(2005):46–48.

26. The apostrophe after the generation number indicates the older lineage, starting with the immigrant Edward¹ Riggs.

27. Phyllis Louise Peterson, *Scott County, VA Consent and Bonds of Marriage*, **xxx**, signed for by William Riggs, courtesy of Colleen Wilder Garman. **[Get full reference for this.]**

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- + 4 iii **DAVID² RIGGS**, born 1797, Virginia, married **FRANCES BEVINS [BLEVINS]**, and had at least seven children.
- + 5 iv **?POLLY² RIGGS**, born about 1802, Va., married **BARTLETT WHITLOW**, and had at least eight children.
- + 6 v **JAMES² RIGGS**, born about 1805, Virginia, married **MARY/POLLY STEWART**, and had at least six children.
- + 7 vi **SARAH [SALLY]² RIGGS**, born about 1807, Virginia, married **ANDREW SHEPHERD [SHEPPERD]**, and had at least seven children.
- + 8 vii **HIRAM² RIGGS**, born about 1814, Scott Co., Va, married **LAVINA** — , and had five children.

Second Generation

2. **JOHN² RIGGS** (₁*William*¹) was born about 1792, Tennessee, married **DRUCHANIA ELENOR STANLEY**, daughter of Richard Stanley, a Revolutionary War soldier.^[28]

In 1820 John Riggs, 18–26, resided in Scott Co., Va., with a woman 16–26, and with two boys and one girl under 10. One person was engaged in agriculture.^[29] The census, in alphabetical order, also lists William Riggs, over 45. Note that this John would have been born 1794–1802.

In 1830 John Riggs, 30–40, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 30–40, and with one boy and two girls under 5, two girls 5–10, two boys and two girls 10–15, and one female 15–20. The census, in alphabetical order, also lists David Riggs, 30–40, William Riggs, 60–70, and Hannah Riggs, 30–40.^[30]

In 1840 John Riggs, 40–50, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 40–50, an elder woman, 80–90, and with one boy [David] and one girl [Miriam?] under 5, two girls [Elizabeth and Jane] 5–

28. For her surname and father, see the statement of Joseph S.⁴ Riggs in his sketch.

29. U.S. census, 1820, Scott Co., Va., r. 139, p. 197.

30. U.S. census, 1830, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 200, p. 27.

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10, one boy and one girl [Elizabeth] 10–15, three females 15–20, two males and two females [Peggy] 20–30. Listed a few names distant is David Riggs, 40–50.^[31]

In 1850 John Riggs, 58, born in Tennessee, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Peggy, 36, born in Virginia, and with Eleanor, 21, Jane, 20, Elizabeth, 19, John, 18, Miriam, 16, and David, 14, all six born in Virginia.^[32]

As previously mentioned, William Riggs sold John Riggs Sr. 80 acres of land in Hunter's Valley, Scott Co., Va., for \$200.^[33]

In 1860 John Riggs, 64, a "Meth Prot" [Methodist preacher?] born in Virginia, resided in Gladesville [now Wise], Wise Co., Va., in the household of Gabriel K. Ritchie, 24, a farmer born in Virginia with \$300 and \$340 worth of real and personal property, respectively, and with Jane Ritchie, 25, born in Virginia, James M. L. Ritchie, 2/12, born in Virginia.^[34] Jane appears to have understated her age by five years. Wise Co. was formed from Scott Co. in 1851 so perhaps John did not move far between censuses, if at all.

In 1870 John Riggs, 78, a farm laborer born in Tennessee, resided in Grayson, Carter Co., Ky., in the household of John Corom, 59, a farmer born in Virginia, Meloina Corom, 42, born in Virginia, Richey Jane, 36, a female born in Virginia, and Meloina Jane, 8, a girl born in Kentucky.^[35] Surely Richey Jane was Jane Ritchie, John's daughter. Again her age appears to be understated.

In 1880 John Riggs, 88, a widower born in Tennessee of a father born in New Jersey and a mother in Virginia, resided in Carter Co., Ky., in the household of his son, David Riggs, 43, born in Virginia, and his

31. U.S. census, 1840, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 578 p. 290.

32. U.S. census, 1850, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 975 p. 397, dw. 638, fam. 638.

33. Scott Co., Va., Deeds, 10: 262, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4. Sutton's abstract of the land description is: "corner to Joseph Shepherd, to conditional line made by Riggs and George Stanley."

34. U.S. census, 1860, Gladesville PO, Wise Co., Va., r. 1384 p. 329, dw. 421, fam. 421.

35. U.S. census, 1870, precinct 3, Grayson PO, Carter Co., Ky., r. 454, p. 119, dw. 41, fam. 37.

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wife, Matilda, 37, born in Kentucky, and seven children. See David's sketch for details.^[36]

Known children of 12 or 13:

- 9 i **PEGGY³ RIGGS**, born about 1813, Scott [formerly Russell] Co., Va., died of dropsy 6 Sept. 1859, Wise Co., Va.^[37]
- + 10 ii **WILLIAM³ RIGGS**, born about 1813, Russell Co., Va., married (1) **MARTHA —**, married (2) **BARBARA (BRENDY) SALEN**.
- + 11 iii **RICHARD ASBURY³ RIGGS**, born about 1820, Virginia, married (1) **NANCY MCNEW**, and had eight children, married (2) **MARGARET CASTEEL**, and had three children.
- 12 iv **ELEANOR³ RIGGS**, born about 1829, Scott Co., Va., married 17 Apr. 1856, Scott Co., Va.,^[38] **JOSEPH LONG**, born about 1820, Grayson Co., Va., son of Samuel and Polly (—) Long.
- 13 v **JANE³ RIGGS**, born about 1830, Scott Co., Va., married (1) 18 Mar. 1858, Wise Co., Va.,^[39] **GABRIEL K. RITCHIE**, born about 1836, Russell Co., Va., son of James and Basheba (—) Ritchie, married (2) **GREEN C. STALLARD**.
- 14 vi **ELIZABETH³ RIGGS**, born about 1831, Scott Co., Va., married 4 Aug. 1857, Wise Co., Va.,^[40] **WILLIAM A. STALLARD**, born about

36. U.S. census, 1880, Carter Co., Ky., ED 16, r. 408, p. 566A, dw. 267, fam. 267.

37. Va. *Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912*, Peggy Riggs, 46, died 6 Sept. 1859, Wise Co., Va., born 1813, Scott Co. Va., father John Riggs, mother “Elvisa” Riggs, was unmarried [FHL 2048588, item 1].

38. Va. *Select Marriages, 1785–1940*, “Elnor” Riggs, female, 32, born 1824 [sic], Scott Co., Va., married 17 Apr. 1856, Scott Co., Va., Joseph Long, male, 30, born 1826, “Grason” Co., Va., his parents Samuel Long and Polly Long, her parents John Riggs and Elenor Riggs, FHL 337187.

39. Va. *Marriages, 1785–1940*, Jane Riggs, 24, born 1834, Scott Co., Va., to “Gabrel” K. Ritchie, 22, born 1836, Russell Co., Va., 18 Mar. 1858, Wise Co., Va., bride’s father John Riggs, bride’s mother “Elany” Riggs, groom’s father James Ritchie, groom’s mother “B . . . a” Ritchie, bride and groom both single [FHL 34394, items 2–4, Register of births, 1856–1871; register of deaths, 1856–1894 (Wise Co., Va.)].

40. Va. *Marriages, 1785–1940*, Elizabeth Riggs, 23, born 1834, Scott Co., Va., to “Wm.” A. Stallard, 19, born 1838, Scott Co., Va., 4 Aug. 1857, Wise Co., Va., bride’s father John Riggs, groom’s father Dentin Stallard [FHL 34394, items 2–4, Register of births, 1856–1871; register of deaths, 1856–1894 (Wise Co., Va.)]; *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Elizabeth Riggs to William A. Stallard, 4 Aug. 1857, David’s parents: David Riggs and Elenor Riggs, William’s parents: Dunkin Stallard

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1838, Scott Co., Va., son of Dunkin/Dentin and Alisabeth (–) Stallard, and had at least one child: Cora⁴ Stallard.

- 15 vii JOHN³ RIGGS, born about 1832, Scott Co., Va., married 14 Aug. 1853, Carter Co., Ky.,^[41] RACHEL MCFARLANE, born about 1835, Lee Co., Va.
- + 16 viii MIRIAM³ RIGGS, born about 1834, Virginia, married JOHN WELLS [WILLS], and had 10 children.
- + 17 ix DAVID R.³ RIGGS, born about 1836, Virginia, married MATILDA TACKET, and had ten children.

Known child of a second marriage:

- 18 x HIRAM³ RIGGS.

4. DAVID² RIGGS (₁William¹) was born 1797, Virginia, died after 1860, Virginia. He married 1825 FRANCES BEVINS [BLEVINS], who was born about 1805, Virginia or North Carolina.

In 1830 David Riggs, 30–40, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 20–30, and with one boy and one girl under 5. The census, in alphabetical order, also lists William Riggs, 60–70, John Riggs, 30–40, and Hannah Riggs, 30–40.^[42]

In 1840 David Riggs, 40–50, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 30–40, and with four girls [Martha, Eleanor, and Rebecca?] under 5, one boy [William] and two girls [Sally] 5–10, and one boy 10–15. Listed seven names away is John Riggs, 40–50.^[43]

In 1850 David Riggs, 53, a wagon maker born in Virginia, resided in the Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Frances, 45, a female born in North Carolina, and with William, 18, a farmer, Sally, 16, Martha, 14,

and Alisabeth Stallard.

41. *Ky. Marriages, 1785–1979*, John Riggs, 26, born 1827, Scott Co., Va., to Rachel McFarlane, 18, born 1835, Lee Co., Va., 14 Aug. 1853, Carter Co., Ky. [FHL 216819, item 6, Births, marriages, deaths (Carter Co., Ky.)].

42. U.S. census, 1830, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 200, p. 27.

43. U.S. census, 1840, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 578, p. 290.

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Eleanor, 12, Rebecca, 10, Elizabeth, 8, Henry H., 6, Eliza, 4, David, 3, and Frances, 2, female, all 10 born in Virginia.^[44]

In 1860 David Riggs, 68, a cooper born in Virginia, resided in Estillville [now Gate City], Scott Co. Virginia, with spinster, Frances Riggs, 52, born in Virginia, and with Eleanor, 22, spinster, Elizabeth, 20, spinster, Henry H., 18, farm hand, Eliza, 14, David C., 12, Frances, 10, and Manerva M., 8, all seven born in Virginia.^[45]

Children:

- + 19 i **WILLIAM³ RIGGS**, born about 1832, Virginia, **and had at least three children.**
- 20 ii **SALLY³ RIGGS**, born about 1834, Virginia.
- 21 iii **MARTHA³ RIGGS**, born about 1836, Virginia.
- 22 iv **ELEANOR³ RIGGS**, born about 1838, Virginia.
- 23 v **REBECCA³ RIGGS**, born about 1840, Scott Co., Va., married 6 Dec. 1858, Wise Co., Va.,^[46] **ALEX HALL**, born about 1818, Russell Co., Va., son of Isham/Isam and June/Jane (—) Hall.
- 24 vi **ELIZABETH³ RIGGS**, born about 1842, Virginia.
- 25 vii **HENRY H.³ RIGGS**, born about 1844, Virginia.
- 26 viii **ELIZA³ RIGGS**, born about 1846, Virginia, married 2 Dec. 1884, Wise Co., Va.,^[47] **AARON ELKINS**, son of Thomas and Mary Jane (—) Elkins.
- + 27 ix **DAVID C.³ RIGGS**, born about 1847, Virginia, who married **LURANA [LOURANIA] VANCE**, born about 1852, Virginia, and had five children.

44. U.S. census, 1850, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 975, p. 403, dw. 711, fam. 711.

45. U.S. census, 1860, Estillville PO, Scott Co., Va., r. 1376, p. 470, dw. 1588, fam. 1588. Gate City is in the southern part of Scott Co.

46. *Va. Marriages, 1785–1940*, “Rebee” Riggs, 18, born 1840, Scott Co., Va., to Alex Hall, 40, born 1818, Russell Co., Va., 6 Dec. 1858, Wise Co., Va., bride’s father David Riggs, bride’s mother Francis Riggs, groom’s father Isham Hall, groom’s mother Jane Hall, bride single, groom widowed [FHL 34394, items 2–4, Register of births, 1856–1871; register of deaths, 1856–1894 (Wise Co., Va.)]; *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, “Rebeca” Riggs to Alex Hall, 6 Dec. 1858, Rebecca’s parents: David Riggs and Nancy [sic] Riggs, Alex’s parents: Isam Hall and June Hall.

47. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Eliza Riggs to Aaron Elkins, 2 Dec. 1884, Eliza’s parents: “Davey” Riggs and Frances Riggs, Aaron’s parents: Thomas Elkins and Mary Jane Elkins.

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28 x **FRANCES³ RIGGS**, female, born about 1848, Virginia.

29 xi **MANERVA M.³ RIGGS**, born about 1852, Virginia.

5. **POLLY² RIGGS** (₁?William¹)^[48] was born about 1802, Va., and died before 31 Dec. 1881, the date on her estate packet in Yamhill Co., Ore.^[49] She married 12 June 1828, Scott Co., Va.,^[50] **BARTLETT WHITLOW**, who was born about 1806, N.C., and died before 31 Dec. 1879, the date on his estate packet in Yamhill Co.^[51]

In 1850 Bartlett “Whitlow,” 44, a farmer born in North Carolina, illiterate, resided in Fabius Twp., Davis Co., Iowa, with Polly, 48, born in Virginia, and with “Elliott,” 21, a carpenter born in Virginia, Sally, 18, Miles R., 14, and Tabitha, 12, all three born in Kentucky, Virginia D., 10, Missouri E., 8, Lucinda S., 5, and Reuben T., 2, all four born in Iowa.^[52]

In 1860 “Bartlet” Whitlow, 54, a farmer born in North Carolina, resided in Luckamute Pct., Polk Co., Ore., with “Barbara,” 58, born in Virginia, and with M. R., 24, a male born in Kentucky, V. D., 20, female, Lucinda, 15, and R. T., 12, male, all three born in Iowa. Also in the household was L. W. Harger, 36, a carpenter born in Mass.^[53]

In 1870 “Bartlet” Whitlow, 64, a farmer born in North Carolina, resided in Lafayette District, Yamhill Co., Ore., with Polly, 68, born in Virginia, and with Miles, 34, born in Kentucky, and Reuben, 22, born in Iowa. Also in the household were Thomas Lovelady, 38, a physician born in Tennessee and Elizabeth Lovelady, 28, born in Iowa.^[54] **Elizabeth might have been daughter Missouri E. Whitlow**, who would have been about 28 in 1870, born in Iowa.

48. She is Barbara in the 1860 census, the only known record which so records her.

49. *Ore. Historical Records Index*, estate record, Polly Whitlow, case 0351.

50. *Va. Marriages, 1740–1850*, Bartlett Whitlow to Polly Riggs, who also reports a purchase by Bartlett of 280 acres in Davis Co. on 14 May 1849 (land a Jonathan Riggs with 160 acres in the same county).

51. *Ore. Historical Records Index*, estate record, Bartlett Whitlow, case 0335.

52. U.S. census, 1850, Fabius Twp., Davis Co., Iowa, r. 182, p. 295, dw. 66, fam. 66.

53. U.S. census, 1860, Luckamute Pct., Polk Co., Ore., r. 1056, p. 560, dw. 786, fam. 703.

54. U.S. census, 1870, Lafayette District, Yamhill Co., Ore., r. 1056, p. 560, dw. 786, fam. 703.

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In 1880 Polly Whitlow, 78, a widow and head of family, born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Lafayette District, Yamhill Co., Ore. with her sons, Elliot D., 51, widower cabinet-maker born in Virginia, Miles R., 44, a single day laborer born in Kentucky, and "Ruben," 32, a single gardner born in Iowa, and her granddaughters, Alice, 20, and Ethel, 12, both born in Oregon of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Indiana. The three sons were of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia.^[55] The granddaughters were probably daughters of Elliot.

Children:

- 30 i **ELLIOT D.³ WHITLOW**, born about 1829, Virginia, and had at least two children: (1) Alice⁴ Whitlow, born about 1860, Oregon; and (2) Ethel⁴ Whitlow, born about 1868, Oregon.
- 31 ii **SALLY³ WHITLOW**, born about 1832, Kentucky.
- 32 iii **MILES R.³ WHITLOW**, born about 1836, Kentucky.
- 33 iv **TABITHA/BERTHA³ WHITLOW**, born Mar. 1838 (1900 census), Kentucky, married^[56] **STEPHEN SNYDER WHITCOMB**, born about 1824, New York, and had two children: (1) Frank⁴ Whitcomb, born July 1862, Oregon; and his twin (2) Belle⁴ Whitcomb, born July 1862, Oregon.

In 1870 Stephen Whitcomb, 46, a farmer born in New York with \$660 personal estate, resided in Dayton, Yamhill Co., Ore., with Tabitha, 32, born in Iowa [sic], and with Frank, 8, and Belle, 8, both born in Oregon.^[57]

In 1890 and 1891 Bertha Whitcomb, widow of Stephen S., resided in Portland, Ore.^[58]

55. U.S. census, 1880, Lafayette District, Yamhill Co., Ore., r. 182, p. 295, dw. 34, fam. 35.

56. Email from Josh B. Baker, 31 July 2011, "here is my descendency: Polly Riggs, Tabitha 'Bertha' Whitlow, Frank Fay Whitcomb, Arthur Whitcomb, Joyce Whitcomb, Wendy Black, Me."

57. U.S. census, 1870, Dayton PO, Dayton District, Yamhill Co., Ore., r. 1288, p. 565A, dw. 835, fam. 731.

58. *Portland, Ore. Directories, 1890-91*, Bertha Whitcomb (widow of Stephen in 1890, widow of Stephen S. in 1891).

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In 1900 Bertha Whitcomb, 62, a widow born Mar. 1838 in Kentucky of a father born in South Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Portland, Multnomah Co., Ore., with her daughter, Belle, 37, born July 1862 in Oregon of a father born in New York. Bertha had had two children, both surviving.^[59]

34 v VIRGINIA D.³ WHITLOW, born about 1840, Iowa.

35 vi MISSOURI E.³ WHITLOW, born about 1842, Iowa. She might have been Elizabeth Lovelady in the 1870 census in the Whitlow household. [Married 3 June 1860, Polk Co., Ore. Thomas Bounds Lovelady to “Maria” Elizabeth Whitlow.]

36 vii LUCINDA S.³ WHITLOW, born about 1845, Iowa

37 viii REUBEN T.³ WHITLOW, born about 1848, Iowa.

6. JAMES² RIGGS (¹William¹) was born about 1805, Virginia. He married 25 Dec. 1825, Scott Co., Va.,^[60] MARY/POLLY STEWART, who was born about 1808, Virginia.

In 1850 James Riggs, 45, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in the Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Polly, 42, born in Virginia, and with Joseph S., 18, Marion S., 16, male, “Verdil” F., 14, male, Presley B., 12, Hiram F., 10, and Sarilda, 8, all six born in Virginia.^[61]

Repeated for convenience: In 1860 James Riggs, 50, a farmer born in Virginia with \$30 personal estate, resided in Piney, Perry Twp., Johnson Co., Ark., with his wife Mary, 45, born in Virginia, and with Joseph, 25, Sarah, 24, Jane, 4, James, 3, all five born in Virginia, “Wesley,” 2, born in Missouri, Virgil, 22, Presley, 21, and Hiram, 18, all three born in Virginia.^[62] Jane, James, and “Wesley” were Joseph and Sarah’s children. Virgil, Presley, and Hiram were Joseph’s brothers. All were sons of James.

59. U.S. census, 1900, Portland, Multnomah Co., Ore., ED 63, r. 1350, p. 248, sh. 7B, dw. 148, fam. 148.

60. Va. *Compiled Marriages, 1740–1850*, James Riggs to Polly Stewart, 25 Dec. 1825. Descendant Richard Rodgers verifies it was 25 Dec. 1825, Scott Co., Va., citing Scott Co., Va., *Marriages*, 1:21, Virginia State Archives, Richmond, James Riggs to Polly Stewart.

61. U.S. census, 1850, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 975, p. 434, dw. 1124, fam. 1124.

62. U.S. census, 1860, Piney PO, Perry Twp., Johnson Co., Arkansas, r. 44, p. 1074, dw. 1003,

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The following notes are from a descendant's genealogy of James Riggs:

The name of James Riggs first appears in the Scott County, Virginia, personal property tax lists in 1827 along with three other Riggs, William, David, and John. James Riggs is listed in subsequent years through 1853. He is absent from 1854 onward in the Scott County tax list. The 1860 Federal Census of Johnson County, Arkansas, lists James with his wife, Mary, three of his sons, and one daughter. One son, Joseph, is present with his wife Sarah and three children. One of James's grandsons, James, was born in 1857 (Feb) in Virginia. Another grandson, listed as Wesley in the 1860 Census (probably was actually Presley) was born in Missouri about 1858 or 1859. Hence, the move from Virginia Westward apparently occurred between 1857 and 1859.

One does wonder why they moved from Virginia to Missouri, then Arkansas, during the years just before the outbreak of the Civil War. The Riggs do not appear to have been slaveholders. However, James H. Stewart, possibly James Riggs' father-in-law, was a slaveholder in Scott County, Virginia.

During the time that the James Riggs family was absent (per personal property tax lists) from Scott County, yet apparently still in Virginia, they may have gone to Lee County, Virginia. A probable brother of James', Hiram Riggs, was living in Lee County as was a likely sister, Sarah Riggs Shepherd. It also appears that James's oldest son (probable), John W. Riggs, was living in Lee County in 1850 as well. In 1860 John W. Riggs appears to have moved to Sulfur township, Sebastian County, Arkansas.

While in Johnson County, Arkansas, three of James's sons, Joseph S., John W., and Presley B.,] were members of Co. D. of the 10th Arkansas militia. This was a state organization. When the Civil War broke out many members of the militia join[ed] the regular Confederate army. Presley B., John W., and Hiram F. enlisted in the Confederate army and were in the 35th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, Co. B. Hiram was initially in the Fourth (Gordon's) Arkansas Cavalry Regiment, but later transferred to the infantry. A virtual Riggs (possibly James['s son Virgil F.) also enlisted in the 7th Arkansas Cavalry and was later transferred to the 16th Arkansas

fam. 1004.

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Infantry. Hiram and John were wounded in the Battle of Prairie Grove and were hospitalized at Kane Hill, Arkansas. They returned to their unit some months later. A subsequent record reported them to have deserted on Sept. 15, 1863. Interestingly, muster rolls of some units after the Battle of Bayou Fourche (Sept. 10, 1863) list a large number of soldiers as having deserted on Sept. 15, 1863. I don't know whether or not the Riggs brothers were involved in that action. At least one officer's report later states that many of the Confederate soldiers listed as having deserted on that date had actually been separated from their units during the route [sic] of the Confederates and wound up fighting elsewhere.

My grandmother, Lillie Ada Thompson Warner, granddaughter of Joseph S. Riggs, told of her grandfather often referring to his brother Presley as that "old turncoat" in a lighthearted way. She did not know the origin of that tease. However, a review of Presley's military records offers insight into the source. Presley is reported to have deserted from the Confederate army on May 31, 1863. On Sept. 1, 1863, he enlisted in the Union Army with the 1st Arkansas Infantry Regiment, Co. E.

A "Clesley" Riggs is listed in the muster roll of Co. G. 50th Arkansas militia (Confederate.) Very little is known about the 50th Arkansas militia other than the command was mustered in on Mar. 7, 1862, and mustered out on Mar. 9, 1862. There is no record of what they did or of what their command structure was. Of note is that the Battle of Pea Ridge occurred on Mar. 7-8, 1862. It makes you wonder if Presley was there.

Joseph S. Riggs was discharged from service in the 10th Arkansas State militia and subsequently enlisted in the Union Army in Co. F., 2nd Regiment Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He was taken captive by the Confederates at the Battle of Poison Springs, Arkansas, and held as a prisoner of war in Texas. He was eventually released on parole in a prisoner exchange. After the war Joseph and family were known to reside in Sebastian county, Arkansas, and Laclede, Lafayette, DeKalb, and Cass counties in Missouri. In 1880 he was living in Claremore, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory.

Presley B. Riggs married Elizabeth Bridges and 1865 in Sebastian County, Arkansas. He and his family moved about quite a bit over the following ten years, living at various times in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri,

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and Indian Territory. He eventually settled in Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he resided until his death.

As of this time (2006) nothing is known after the war of James' sons Marion S. Riggs, Hiram F. Riggs, or Virgil F. Riggs, except that Virgil signed as a witness to Joseph's pension application in 1880 in Claremore, Indian Territory. Nor do we know what became of the brothers' sister, Sarilda.

JoNell Hayes, a great granddaughter of John Walker Riggs, related that there is a family tradition that James Riggs was kept hidden during the Civil War to keep him from being drafted into the military. The family felt that he was too old to fight. JoNell is also the person who provided us with the photo of John Walker Riggs and the tin-type of Joseph S. Riggs.^[63]

In 1870, Mary Riggs, 61, born in Virginia, resided in Milars, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., in the household of (her son) J. "N." Riggs, 39 (q.v.).^[64]

Children:

- + 38 i **JOHN WALKER³ RIGGS**, born 6 Sept. 1829, Scott Co., Va., married (1) **SUSAN EMALINE SHELBY**, and had at least four children, married (2) **MARY ELIZABETH (MOODY) VAUGHN**, and had at least four children.
- + 39 ii **JOSEPH S.³ RIGGS**, born Nov. 1833 or 8 Nov. 1832, Scott Co., Va, married (1) **SARAH ESTEP**, and had at least six children, married (2) **MARTHA (BOLENGER) FERGUSON**, and had at least one child.
- 40 iii **MARION S.³ RIGGS**, born about 1834, Virginia.
- 41 iv **VIRGIL F.³ RIGGS**, born about 1838, Virginia, died 6 Sept. 1898, buried in Confederate Cem., Higginsville, Lafayette Co., Mo.^[65] He served as a private in the Confederate Army in Company C of the 16th Arkansas Infantry.^[66]

63. From descendant Richard W. Rodgers, a genealogy supplied to me 14 Jan. 2007 as a Gedcom.

64. U.S. census, 1870, Milars PO, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., r. 64, p. 187A, dw. 88, fam. 89.

65. *Find a Grave*, no. 9124675, gravestone photograph, by Jane Anne Pennington, Confederate Cem., Higginsville, Lafayette Co., Mo., "Virgil F. Riggs | Sept. 6, 1898 | aged 61."

66. *Find a Grave*, no. 9124675, a digital photocopy of his service card is exhibited for Virgil Riggs, Co. C, 16 Arkansas Infantry (Confederate), private in, private out, five cards are indexed.

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- + 42 v **PRESLEY B.³ RIGGS**, born 28 May 1839, Virginia, married **ELIZABETH (BOLENGER) BRIDGES**, sister of brother Joseph's wife, and had at least two children.
- 43 vi **HIRAM F.³ RIGGS**, born about 1842, Virginia.
- 44 vii **SARILDA³ RIGGS**, born about 1842, Virginia.

7. **SARAH [SALLY]² RIGGS** (¹*William*) was born about 1807, Virginia. She married 8 May 1828, Scott Co., Va.,^[67] **ANDREW SHEPHERD [SHEPPERD]**, who was born about 1806, Virginia, son of Christena (–) Shepherd. *[He was perhaps son of Joseph Shepherd, neighbor of William Riggs, but he lived near Sampson Shepherd, 70–80, with a woman 60–70, who matches Christena, in the 1840 census of Lee Co., Va.]*^[68]

In 1850 Andrew Shepherd, 44, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, resided in Lee Co., Va., with Sarah, 43, born in Virginia, illiterate, and with Christena, 18, Sarah, 16, James, 14, Nancy, 12, Clarinda, 10, Andrew, 8, John P. B., 2, all seven born in Virginia, and with William Riggs, 85, and Christena Shepherd, 77, both born in Virginia, and both illiterate.^[69] The older Christena is assumed to have been Andrew's mother.

In 1850 Andrew Shepherd, 44, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, resided in Lee Co., Va., with Sarah, 43, born in Virginia, illiterate, and with Christena, 18, Sarah, 16, James, 14, Nancy, 12, Clarinda, 10, Andrew, 8, John P. B., 2, all seven born in Virginia, and with William Riggs, 85, and Christena Shepherd, 77, both born in Virginia, and both illiterate.^[70] The older Christena is assumed to have been Andrew's mother.

Children:

- 45 i **CHRISTENA³ SHEPHERD**, born about 1832, Virginia.

67. *Va. Marriages, 1740–1850*, Andrew "Shepperd" to Sally Riggs.

68. U.S. census, 1840, Lee Co., Va., r. 566, p. 97.

69. U.S. census, 1850, Lee Co., Va., r. 955, pp. 323–24, dw. 300, fam. 314.

70. U.S. census, 1850, Lee Co., Va., r. 955, pp. 323–24, dw. 300, fam. 314.

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- 46 ii SARAH³ SHEPHERD, born about 1834, Virginia.
- 47 iii JAMES³ SHEPHERD, born about 1836, Virginia.
- 48 iv NANCY³ SHEPHERD, born about 1838, Virginia.
- 49 v CLARINDA³ SHEPHERD, born about 1840, Virginia.
- 50 vi ANDREW³ SHEPHERD, born about 1842, Virginia.
- 51 vii JOHN P. B.³ SHEPHERD, born about 1848, Virginia.

8. **HIRAM² RIGGS** (¹*William*¹) was born about 1814, Scott Co., Va., and died 29 June 1882, Wise Co., Va., age 68.^[71] He married^[72] **LAVINA** —, born about 1816, Virginia.

In 1840 Hiram Riggs, 20–30, resided in Lee Co., Va., with a woman 20–30, and one boy and one girl under 5.^[73]

In 1850 Hiram Riggs, 30, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Lee Co., Va., with Lavina, 30, born in Virginia, illiterate, and with Fayette, 12, Minerva, 8, and Nancy, 4, all three born in Virginia.^[74]

In 1860 Hiram Riggs, 45, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Wise Co., Va., with, “Louisa,” 44, born in Virginia, and with Minerva, 20, Nancy, 14, Franklin, 8, and Florence, 11/12, all four born in Virginia.^[75] Louisa must be a corruption of Lavina.

In 1870 Hiram Riggs, 55, a physician born in Virginia with real and personal estates valued at \$1,500 and \$374, respectively, resided in Big Stone Gap, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with Lavina, 54, illiterate, born in Virginia, and with Franklin, 19, and “Florance” J., 11, both born in Virginia. Next door was Minerva C. Elkins, 30, born in Virginia.^[76]

71. *Va. Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912*, Hiram Riggs, 68, died 29 June 1882, Wise Co., Va., born 1814, Scott Co. Va., father “Wm.” Riggs, mother “Salie” Riggs, occupation “phycition,” was married [FHL 34394, items 2–4, Register of births, 1856–1871; register of deaths, 1856–1894 (Wise Co., Va.)].

72. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, lists marriages of four of their children, with Mrs. Riggs listed as “Viny,” “Vincy,” “Leovina,” and “Lovina.”

73. U.S. census, 1840, Lee Co., Va., r. 566, p. 95.

74. U.S. census, 1850, Lee Co., Va., r. 955, p. 325, dw. 314, fam. 328.

75. U.S. census, 1860, Wise Co., Va., r. 1384, p. 307, dw. 282, fam. 282.

76. U.S. census, 1870, Big Stone Gap PO, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., r. 1682, p. 335, dw. 85,

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In 1880 Hiram Riggs, 65, a retired and disabled physician born in Virginia with a father born in New Jersey and a mother in North Carolina, resided in Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., with his wife, Lavina, 65, born in Virginia of North Carolina natives, and with his granddaughter, Loretta Elkins, 11, born in Virginia of Virginia natives. Next door was John W. Stewart, 21, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, with his wife, Florence J., 20, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughter, Hannah M., 1, and son, Hiram S., 9/12, born in Aug., both born in Virginia.^[77]

[This from a correspondent, Richard W. Rodgers, email of 14 Jan 2007: "There is a Wise County, Virginia, death record regarding Hiram that I viewed at the Virginia State archives. It gave his death date as 29 June 1882, birthplace as Scott County, Virginia, age at death 68, occupation physician, and parents as William and Sarah Riggs. Unfortunately, I did not record the volume or page of the source."]

Children:

- + 52 i LAFAYETTE [FAYETTE] M.³ RIGGS, born about 1838, Virginia, married (1) PHEBE J. (—), and had at least four children, married (2) SARAH J. DEAN.
- + 53 ii MINERVA CAROLINE³ RIGGS, born about 1842, Virginia married WILLIAM ELKINS, and had at least four children.
- 54 iii NANCY M.³ RIGGS, born about 1846, Virginia, married 29 Nov. 1864, Wise Co., Va.,^[78] JESSE GILLY, son of George W. and Nancy (—) Gilly.
- 55 iv FRANKLIN³ RIGGS, born about 1852, Virginia.
- 56 v FLORENCE J.³ RIGGS, born 10 May 1859, Wise Co., Va.,^[79] married 18 Sept. 1877, Wise Co., Va.,^[80] JOHN W. STEWART, born about

fam. 85. Minerva resided in dw. 86.

77. U.S. census, 1880, Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., ED 102, r. 1394, p. 290A, dw. 42, fam.

42. Florence resided in dw. 41.

78. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Nancy M. Riggs to Jesse Gilly, 29 Nov. 1864, Nancy's parents: Hiram Riggs and "Lovina" Riggs, Jesse's parents: George W. Gilly and Nancy Gilly.

79. *Va. Births and Christenings, 1853–1917*, Florence Riggs, born 10 May 1859, Wise Co., Va.,

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1858, Scott Co., Va., son of James W. and Polly (–) Stewart. They had at least two children.

Third Generation

10. **WILLIAM³ RIGGS** (²*John*², *William*¹) was born about 1813, Russell Co., Va., and died 16 Jan. 1885, Russell Co., Va., aged 71.^[81] He married (1) **MARTHA** –, who was born about 1825, Virginia. He married (2) 29 Nov. 1860, Scott Co., Va.,^[82] **BARBARA (BRENDY) SALEN**, who was born about 1820, Russell Co., Va., daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (–) Brendy.

N.B. Scott Co. was formed from Russell, Lee, and Washington Counties in 1814.

In 1850 William Riggs, 37, a farmer born in Virginia with \$200 real estate, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Martha, 25, born in Virginia.^[83]

In 1860 William Riggs, 45, a carpenter born in Virginia with \$200 real estate, resided in Estillville, Scott Co., Va., in the household of Joseph C. Shepard, 36, and his wife, Sarah, 36, and their family of six children.^[84] This census was enumerated 20 Sept. 1860, shortly before William's sec-

white, father Hiram Riggs, mother "Lovina" Riggs [FHL 2048448]; *Va. Marriages, 1785–1940*, "Jo." W. Stewart, 19, born Scott Co., Va., father "Jas" W. "Stuart," mother "Polly Stuart," to F. J. Riggs, 18, born Wise Co., Va., father Hiram Riggs, mother "V." Riggs [FHL 34394 p. 21 no. 32].

80. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriage*, Florence J. Riggs to John W. Stewart, 18 Sept. 1877, Florence's parents: Hiram Riggs and "Viny" Riggs, John's parents: James W. Stewart and Polly Stewart.

81. *Va. Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912*, William Riggs, 71, died 16 Jan. 1885, Russell Co., Va., born 1814, Russell Co. Va., father John Riggs, was married [FHL 2048583, Death registers, 1853–1906 (Virginia)].

82. *Va. Select Marriages, 1785–1940*, William Riggs, male, widowed, 47, born 1813, Scott Co., Va., married 29 Nov. 1860, Scott Co., Va., Barbara Salen, female, widowed, 40, born 1820, Russell Co., Va., his parents John Riggs and "Elender," her parents Thomas Brendy and Elizabeth, FHL 337187.

83. U.S. census, 1850, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 975, p. 395A, dw. 604, fam. 604.

84. U.S. census, 1860, Estillville PO, Scott Co., Va., r. 1376, p. 465, dw. 1547, fam. 1547.

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ond marriage. This suggests that Sarah might have been a relative, even a sister.

In 1870 William Riggs, 58, a wheelwright born in Virginia with \$200 real estate, resided in Estillville, Johnston Twp., Scott Co., Va., with Barbara, 49, born in Virginia. They shared the dwelling with Sarah Dean, 28, and her four children.^[85]

In 1880 William Riggs, 68, a mechanic born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Johnson Dist., Scott Co., Va., with his wife, “Barbary,” 60, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his grandson, “Charels” Selsor, 15, born in Virginia of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Virginia.^[86]

11. RICHARD ASBURY³ RIGGS (*John², William¹*) was born about 1820, Virginia. He married (1) 16 Sept. 1840, Scott Co., Va.,^[87] **NANCY MCNEW**, who was born about 1817, Virginia, daughter of **William I.** and **Elizabeth** (Caywood) McNew, and who died after the 1860 census. Richard married (2) before the 1880 census **MARGARET CASTEEL**, who was born about 1832, Kentucky.

In 1850 Richard Riggs, 30, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Nancy, 33, born in Virginia, and with Joseph S., 8, John F., 6, William H., 4, Moses A., 4, and Sarah E., 1, all five born in Virginia.^[88]

In 1860 Richard Riggs, 42, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, with \$700 and \$300 worth of real and personal property, respectively, resided in McHee, My Division, Jackson Co., Ky., with Nancy, 44, born in Virginia, and with Joseph S., 18, John, 16, William H., 14, Moses A., 14, Elizabeth, 11, James E. 10, and Mary, 8, all seven born in Virginia.^[89]

85. U.S. census, 1870, Estillville PO, Johnston Twp., Scott Co., Va., r. 1677, p. 549A, dw. 90, fam. 90.

86. U.S. census, 1880, Johnson Dist., Scott Co., Va., ED 74, r. 1389, p. 188B, dw. 16, fam. 16.

87. *Va. Marriages, 1740–1850*, Richard Riggs to Nancy McNew.

88. U.S. census, 1850, Western District, Scott Co., Va., r. 975, p. 398, dw. 653, fam. 653.

89. U.S. census, 1860, McHee PO, My Division, Jackson Co., Ky., r. 374, “Page No. 11,” dw. 74,

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In 1870 Richard Riggs, 52, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, with \$700 and \$1,000 worth of real and personal estate, respectively, resided in Gray Hawk, Sturgeon Pct., Jackson Co., Ky., with John, 26, born in Virginia, and John's wife as of Nov., Margaret, 25, born in Kentucky, and with Sarah E., 21, and James E., 19, both born in Virginia, and Mary, 12, born in Kentucky.^[90]

In 1880 Richard Riggs, 62, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Kempers District, Laurel Co., Ky., with his wife, Margaret, 48, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, George W., 7, daughter, Ellen J., 5, and son, Hiram C., 2, all three born in Kentucky.^[91]

A posting 8 May 1998 by Marilyn Phillips Woodall:

I am looking for information on my great-grand father family from Scott County, Virginia. His name is James Elbert Riggs born Feb. 2, 1851 in Scott County to the parents of Richard Asbury Riggs born in 1820 and Nancy McNew born in 1822. Richard's children are: Joseph Stephen born Aug. 20, 1841, John F. born Nov. 24, 1843, Moses Asbury and William Harry born Feb. 10, 1846, Sarah E. born Oct. 22, 1853, James Elbert, Robert born Oct. 4, 1853, and Polly born June 26, 1857. Richard's parents are John Riggs and Druchania Stanley. Nancy's parents were William I. McNew and Elizabeth Betty Cawood. John Riggs' parents are William Miles-Riggs, and Sarah. We think that William was from North Carolina, but am not for sure.^[92]

Children of the first marriage, to Nancy:^[93]

fam. 74.

90. U.S. census, 1870, Gray Hawk PO, Sturgeon Pct. No. 6, Jackson Co., Ky., r. 471, p. 239, dw. 121, fam. 119.

91. U.S. census, 1880, Kempers District, Laurel Co., Ky., ED 58, r. 427, p. 307A, dw. 353, fam. 353.

92. Posting, Marilyn Phillips Woodall, 8 May 1998, <www.rootsweb.com/~vascott/queries/newer_queries.html> (accessed 2 Apr. 2005), "Note: Odys and Marilyn Woodall 1286 CR#2 Ira, Texas 79527, email: <odysmare@snydertex.com>. Note the Miles-Riggs surname confusion again.

93. Polly Carter's Family Bible, in possession of Pearl Whitson, Venice, Florida, as transcribed in

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

- + 57 i **JOSEPH STEPHEN⁴ RIGGS**, born 20 Aug. 1841, Scott Co., Va., and had at least one child.
- 58 ii **JOHN F.⁴ RIGGS**, born 24 Nov. 1843, Scott Co., Va., married Nov. 1869, **MARGARET** —, born about 1845, Kentucky.
- 59 iii **WILLIAM HARRY⁴ RIGGS** [twin], born 10 Feb. 1846 (gravestone), Scott Co., Va., died 23 Nov. 1926,^[94] buried in the Riggs Cem., Rye Cove, Scott Co., Va., married **NANCY M.** —, born 19 Dec. 1843 (calculated), died 25 June 1922, aged 78 years 6 months 6 days,^[95] and buried next to her husband, and had four children.
- 60 iv **MOSES ASBURY⁴ RIGGS** [twin], born 10 Feb. 1846, Scott Co., Va., died 11 Feb. 1926, Clintwood, Virginia, married 12 Aug. 1875 **POLLIE CARTER**, born 17 Oct. 1856 (gravestone), died 3 Apr. 1881,^[96] buried in Riggs Cem., Rye Cove, Scott Co., Va., and had two children, **including Maude⁵ Riggs, born 1886.**
- 61 v **SARAH ELIZABETH⁴ RIGGS**, born 23 Oct. 1848, Scott Co., Va.
- + 62 vi **JAMES ELBERT⁴ RIGGS**, born 2 Feb. 1851, Scott Co., Va., married **NANCY H. PUTT**, and had eight children.
- 63 vii **ROBERT L.⁴ RIGGS**, born 4 Oct. 1853, Scott Co., Va. He is not listed in any census.
- 64 viii **MARY [POLLY] B.⁴ RIGGS**, born 26 June 1857, Owsley Co., Ky.
Children of the second marriage, to Margaret:^[97]
- + 65 ix **GEORGE W.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1873, Kentucky, married **MARTHA A. JOHNSON**, and had four children.
- 66 x **ELLEN J.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1875, Kentucky.

Rita Kennedy Sutton, "The Riggs Fam. (A Partial Genealogy)," *The Appalachian Quarterly*, June 2002, 26, "Family record of Richard and Nancy Riggs."

94. Peterson (1984), 77, Riggs Cem., Clinchport #9, located in Rye Cove, "William Harry Riggs Feb 10 1846 – Nov 23 1926."

95. Peterson (1984), 77, Riggs Cem., Clinchport #9, located in Rye Cove, "Nancy M. Riggs Dec 19 1848 [sic] – June 25 1922 age 78 yrs 6 mo and 6 days [listed next to William Harry Riggs]."

96. Peterson (1984), 78, Riggs Cem., Clinchport #9, located in Rye Cove, "Pollie Riggs Oct 17 1856 – Apr 3 1881 wife of M. A. Riggs."

97. Polly Carter's Family Bible, in possession of Pearl Whitson, Venice, Florida, as transcribed in Rita Kennedy Sutton, "The Riggs Fam. (A Partial Genealogy)," *The Appalachian Quarterly*, June 2002, 26, "Family record of Richard and Nancy Riggs."

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67 xi **HIRAM C.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1878, Kentucky.

16. MIRIAM³ RIGGS (₂*John², William¹*) was born about 1834, Virginia, married 22 Mar. 1855, Scott Co., Va.,^[98] **JOHN WELLS [WILLS]**, who was born about 1834, Lee Co., Va., son of John and Elisa (—) Wells, and died 16 Sept. 1919, Big Stone Gap, Wise Co., Va.^[99] Miriam Riggs Wells was a Civil War widow.^[100] She filed a pension application on 21 Oct. 1919, age 92 [sic], from Big Stone Gap, Wise Co., Va., where she was residing with her daughter and son-in-law, John M. Dickenson. However, it appears to have been rejected.^[101]

Known children of 10:

- 68 i **JOHN⁴ WELLS**.
- 69 ii **ELLEN⁴ WELLS**.
- 70 iii **WILLIAM HENRY⁴ WELLS**.
- 71 iv **ELIZA⁴ WELLS**.
- 72 v **MANDY⁴ WELLS**.
- 73 vi **MATILDA⁴ WELLS**.
- 74 vii **JOSEPH⁴ WELLS**.
- 75 viii **DAVID⁴ WELLS**.
- 76 ix **TAYLOR⁴ WELLS**.

98. Miriam Wells Riggs Pension Application, by "Rev. John Riggs, my father," apparently gives her marriage as 22 Mar. 1841, Rye Cove, Scott Co., Va.; *Va. Select Marriages, 1785–1940*, John Wills, 21, born 1834, Lee Co., Va., son of John Wills and Elisa Wills, to "Mirim" Riggs, 19, born 1836, Scott Co., Va., daughter of John Riggs and "Enor" Riggs, married 22 Mar. 1855, Scott Co., Va., FHL 337187.

99. Miriam Wells Riggs Pension Application, having lived "all of life" in Virginia, and 52 years in the present residence.

100. *Wise Co. Confederate Pension Rolls, Veterans and Widows*, search on "Miriam Riggs," Miriam Riggs Wells, widow.

101. Miriam Wells Riggs Pension Application, "My husband served throughout the Civil War and was at Appomattox." He served, she claimed, in the cavalry under Col. Edmondson and Capt. Collins, but no record of him was found.

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17. **DAVID R.³ RIGGS** (₂*John*², *William*¹) was born about 1839, Virginia, and died after the 1910 census. He married about 1867 **MATILDA TACKET [TACKETT]**, who was born about 1845, Virginia, and died 12 Apr. 1930, Lawrence Co., Ky., aged 85.^[102]

[There was a Matilda Tackett, 14, born Virginia, in the household of William Tackett, 53, born in Virginia, and Elizabeth, 38, born in Virginia, in the 1860 census for Kanawha Co., Va.,^[103] but there was a Matilda Tackett, 6, born in Kentucky, in the household of Robert Tackett, 35, born Kentucky, and Amy, 25, born Tennessee, in the 1850 census for Carter Co., Ky.^[104] And in 1860 Matilda Tacket [sic], 15, born Kentucky, resided in the household of Rob Tacket, 44, born Kentucky, and Emy, 34, born Tennessee.^[105] I would bet on Robert and Amy [Emy] Tacket being Matilda's parents.]

In 1870 David Riggs, 31, a farmer born in Virginia with \$100 of personal estate, resided in Carter Co., Ky., with Matilda, 25, born in Virginia, and with William, 2, born in Kentucky. David and Matilda could not write, and Matilda could not read.^[106]

In 1880 David Riggs, 43, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in Tennessee and a mother in Virginia, resided in Carter Co., Ky., with his wife, Matilda, 37, born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Kentucky, and with his son, "W^m" M., 12, daughters, M. Elizabeth, 10, Rachel E., 8, Sarah Ann, 8, Nancy J., 6, and Louvena, 3, and son, "Wilferd," 1, all six born in Kentucky. David, Matilda, William, and Elizabeth are listed as unable to read or write. David's father, John Riggs, 88, widower, also resided in the household.^[107]

102. Ky. *Death Index, 1911–2000*, Lawrence Co., Ky., vol. 20, certificate 9896.

103. U.S. census, 1860, Kanawha Courthouse PO, Kanawha Co., Va., r. 1356, p. 17, dw. 124, fam. 124.

104. U.S. census, 1850, Carter Co., Ky., r. 195, p. 260, dw. 161, fam. 161.

105. U.S. census, 1860, Bruin PO, Carter Co., Ky., r. 361, "Page No. 190," dw. 1364, fam. 1250.

106. U.S. census, 1870, Carter Co., Ky., ED 6, r. 454, p. 154, dw. 107, fam. 100.

107. U.S. census, 1880, Carter Co., Ky., ED 16, r. 408, p. 566A, dw. 267, fam. 267.

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In 1900 David R. Riggs, 63, a farmer born Mar. 1837 in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 33 years, Matilda, 55, born Sept. 1844 in Kentucky of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Tennessee. She had had 10 children, with 10 surviving. In the household were David's daughters, Sarah A., 28, born Mar. 1872, and Rosa, 14 [15 crossed out], born June 1885, and daughter [sic], "Emm[et?]," 12, born Sept. 1887, all three born in Kentucky. Wilford Riggs, 21, born Feb. 1879, resided next to them.^[108]

In 1910 David Riggs, 73, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 43 years, Matilda, 65, born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Tennessee. She had had 10 children, with six surviving. In the household was David's son, "Emmit," 22, born in Kentucky. Nearby was Wilford R. Riggs, 30, and his family.^[109]

In 1920 Matilda Riggs, 75, a widow born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Tennessee, resided alone in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky. Close by were "Emmet" Riggs, 32, and W. R. Riggs, 40.^[110]

Children:

- 77 i **WILLIAM M.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1868, Kentucky.
- 78 ii **M. ELIZABETH⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1870 but after the census, Kentucky.
- 79 iii **RACHEL E.⁴ RIGGS** [twin], born Mar. 1872, Kentucky.
- 80 iv **SARAH ANN⁴ RIGGS** [twin], born Mar. 1872, Kentucky.
- 81 v **NANCY J.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1874, Kentucky.

108. U.S. census, 1900, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 72, r. 537, p. 100, sh. 9B, dw. 152, fam. 158. Wilford resided in dw. 153. Henry and Rebecca Riggs resided in dw. 116 on p. 98, sh. 7B.

109. U.S. census, 1910, Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 101, r. 491, part 1, p. 58, sh. 12B, dw. 172, fam. 172. Wilford resided in dw. 174.

110. U.S. census, 1920, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 135, r. 575, p. 215, sh. 3A, dw. 41, fam. 41. Emmet and W. R. resided in dw. 42 and 43.

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- 82 vi LOUVENA⁴ RIGGS, born about 1877, Kentucky.
- + 83 vii WILFORD R.⁴ RIGGS, born Feb. 1879, Kentucky, married FANNY [FANNIE] E. TILSON, and had six children.
- + 84 viii REBECCA⁴ RIGGS, born 18 Oct. 1881, Kentucky, married HENRY H.⁴ RIGGS (₂₇David C.³, David², William¹), and had at least eight children. See person 91 for continuation of this line.
- 85 ix ROSA⁴ RIGGS, born June 1885, Kentucky.
- + 86 x EMMETT⁴ RIGGS, born Sept. 1887 or 9 Sept. 1888, Kentucky, married BERTHA⁴ RIGGS (₂₇David C.³, David², William¹), and had five children.

19. WILLIAM³ RIGGS (₄David², William¹) was born about 1832, Virginia.

Children:

- 87 i DAVID A.⁴ RIGGS, born about 1853.
- 88 ii JOHN H.⁴ RIGGS, born about 1854.
- 89 iii MARY F.⁴ RIGGS, born about 1862, married RICHARD ["GUS"] BAKER, born about 1865.

27. DAVID C.³ RIGGS (₄David², William¹) was born about 1847, Virginia. He married 31 Mar. 1869, Wise Co., Va.,^[111] LURANA [LOURANIA] VANCE, who was born about 1852, Virginia, daughter of Absalom and Nancy (–) Vance.

In 1870 David C. Riggs, 23, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Gladeville Twp. [formerly Gladesville, now Wise], Wise Co., Va., with Lurana Riggs, 18, born in Virginia. Neither could read or write.^[112] Wise Co. was where John Riggs, father of David R., resided in 1860.

In 1880 David Riggs, 31, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, resided in Meadows, Magoffin Co., Ky., with his wife, Lourania, 25, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughter, Nannie, 10, son, Henry H., 8, and daugh-

111. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, David Riggs to "Lurany" Vance, 31 Mar. 1869, David's parents: David Riggs and [mother not listed], Lurany's parents: Absalom Vance and Nancy Vance.

112. U.S. census, 1870, Gladeville Twp., Wise Co., Va., r. 1682, p. 316A-B, dw. 48, fam. 48.

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ter, Margaret F., 5, all three born in Virginia. They shared a household with Louisa Riggs, 25, widowed or divorced, born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, and with her son, William H., 6, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia, and daughter, Mollie, 3, born in Virginia of a father born in Tennessee.^[113]

In 1920 the mother-in-law of Emmett Riggs, “– Riggs,” 70, born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a U.S.-native mother, resided in his household in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky.,^[114] This would have been Lurana Riggs.

Children:

- 90 i **NANNIE⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1870, Virginia.
- + 91 ii **HENRY H.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1872 (1880 census) or Aug. 1875 (1900 census), Virginia, married **REBECCA RIGGS** (₁₇*David R.³, John², William¹*), and had at least eight children.
- 92 iii **MARGARET F.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1875, Virginia.
- 93 iv **IONA⁴ RIGGS**, born 1883 (1900 census), Kentucky.
- + 94 v **BERTHA⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1888, Kentucky, married **EMMETT⁵ RIGGS** (₁₇*David R.³, John², William¹*), and had five children. See person 86 for continuation of this line.

38. JOHN WALKER³ RIGGS (*James², William¹*) was born 6 Sept. 1829, Scott Co., Va., and died 25 Feb. 1900, Arkansas.^[115] He married (1) **SU-SAN EMALINE SHELBY**, who was born about 1845, Arkansas. He mar-

113. U.S. census, 1880, Meadows, Magoffin Co., Ky., ED 125, r. 431, pp. 600D-601A, dw. 32, fam. 32.

114. U.S. census, 1920, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 135, r. 575, p. 215, sh. 3A, dw. 42, fam. 42. Matilda and W. R. resided in dw. 41 and 43.

115. From descendant Richard W. Rodgers, a genealogy supplied to me 14 Jan. 2007 as a Gedcom: “Copy of birth and death records from the Rogers fam. Bible, a copy of which was provided by JoNell Rogers Hays of Gentry, Arkansas, Route 2, box 174, circa 1985. Additional information provided by JoNell included copies of letters from other family members which refer to John Walker Riggs’ cousins in Claremore Oklahoma as well as a brother who lived there. One of these sources was Anita Nolen Pierce, great-granddaughter of John Walker Riggs.”

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ried (2) **MARY ELIZABETH (MOODY) VAUGHN**,^[116] who was born Apr. 1850 (1900 census), Tennessee. Mary married, first, 24 Nov. 1857, Gibson Co., Tenn.,^[117] S. H. C. Vaughan, and had at least one child.

In 1850 John W. Riggs, 21, a laborer born in Virginia, shared a dwelling with Joseph Duff, 46, a farmer born in Virginia with \$2,500 worth of real estate, who resided in Lee Co., Va., with Mary Duff, 46, born in Tennessee, and seven Duff children, all born in Virginia, ranging in ages from 1 through 19.^[118]

In 1860 John W. Riggs, 30, a laborer born in Virginia, shared a dwelling with B. N. Bugg, 45, a farmer born in Tennessee with \$850 personal estate, who resided in Milar, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with Annie Bugg, 46, born in Tennessee, and four Bugg children, all born in Arkansas, ranging in ages from 7 through 15.^[119]

In 1870 J. "N." Riggs, 39, a carpenter born in Virginia with \$200 personal estate, resided in Milars, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with Susan, 25, born in Arkansas, and with Laura, 9, "Marcus," 5, Walter, 1, all born in Arkansas, and Mary, 61, born in Virginia.^[120]

In 1880 John Riggs, 50, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with his wife, Mary, 31, born in Tennessee of Tennessee natives, and with his sons, Lafayette, 15, Walter, 12, Charles, 9, and "Hyrum," 3, all born in Arkansas of a mother born in Tennessee, and stepson, William Vaughn, 8, born in Tennessee of Tennessee natives. Nearby resided Jesse C. Riggs, 44, born in Missouri.^[121]

116. Her maiden name is from her son Hiram's Social Security application and her son Thomas's.

117. *Tenn. Marriage Records, 1780-2002*, Miss Mary E. Moody, to S. H. C. Vaughan, 24 Nov. 1867, Gibson Co., Tenn.

118. U.S. census, 1850, Lee Co., Va., r. 955, pp. 307-8, dw. 85, fam. 94.

119. U.S. census, 1860, Milar PO, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., r. 50, p. 1106, dw. 1092, fam. 1058.

120. U.S. census, 1870, Milars PO, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., r. 64, p. 187A, dw. 88, fam. 89.

121. U.S. census, 1880, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 186, r. 57, p. 711C, dw. 59, fam. 62. Jesse resided in dw. 62.

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Placeholder: In 1880 Jesse C. Riggs, 44, a farmer born in Missouri of a father born in Illinois and a mother in Tennessee, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with his wife, Nancy, 37, born in Missouri of Missouri natives, and with his son, Isaiah, 17, daughter, Catherine, 11, sons, Charles, 7, and Calvin, 5, daughter, Kate [sic], 9, and sons, Joshua, 2, and Henry, 6/12, born in December, all born in Arkansas. Nearby resided John Riggs, 50, born in Virginia.^[122]

In 1900 Mary E. Riggs, 50, a widow born Apr. 1850 in Tennessee of Tennessee natives, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with her sons, Hiram, 23, born Mar. 1877, "Tomie," 18, born Oct. 1881, "Ben-nie," 16, born Apr. 1884, and James, 14, born Sept. 1885, all born in Arkansas of a father born in Virginia, and a boarder. Mary had had eight children, with five surviving.^[123]

Known children of the first marriage, to Susan:

- + 95 i **LAURA ANN⁴ RIGGS**, born 26 or 28 Oct. 1861, Arkansas, married **JAMES WESLEY ROGERS**, and had seven children.
- + 96 ii **MARQUIS LAFAYETTE⁴ RIGGS**, born 23 Sept. 1864, Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark., married (1) **LELIA N. M. BOYLE**, married (2) **ELLA MAY** [or **MAE ELLA**] **ALLEN**, and had six children.
- 97 iii **WALTER⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1869, Arkansas. He resided with brother Marquis in 1910.
- 98 iv **CHARLES A.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1871, Arkansas, married about 1895 to an unknown woman. He resided with brother Marquis in the 1920 census.

Known children of the second marriage, to Mary:

- 99 v **HIRAM JACKSON⁴ RIGGS**, born 25 or 26 Mar. 1877, Sebastian Co., Ark.,^[124] died 10 Oct. 1944, buried Forest Park Cem., Ft. Smith,

122. U.S. census, 1880, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 186, r. 57, p. 711C, dw. 62, fam. 65. Jesse resided in dw. 59.

123. U.S. census, 1900, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 119, r. 7, p. 187, sh. 6A, dw. 89, fam. 93.

124. U.S. *Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*, Hiram Jackson Riggs, male, white,

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- Sebastian Co., Ark.,^[125] married 11 June 1903, Sebastian Co., Ark.,^[126] **LOLA A. KLINK**, born 18 Aug. 1884 (gravestone), died 14 Jan. 1953, buried with her husband.
- 100 vi **THOMAS JEFFERSON⁴ RIGGS**, born 9 Dec. 1881, Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark.^[127]
- 101 vii **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN⁴ RIGGS**, born 7 Apr. 1884, Arkansas.^[128]
- 102 viii **JAMES⁴ RIGGS**, born Sept. 1885, Arkansas.

52. JOSEPH S.³ RIGGS (*James², William¹*) was born Nov. 1833 (1900 census), 8 Nov. 1832 (calculated from marriage return), or (unlikely) 2 Mar. 1832, Scott Co., Va.^[129] and died 14 July 1902.^[130] He married (1) 18 Jan. 1855, Scott Co., Va.,^[131] **SARAH ESTEP**, who was born about 1833,

born 26 Mar. 1877, central Sebastian Co., Ark., father John W. Riggs, mother Mary E. Moody, SSN 432-05-9974.

125. *Find a Grave*, no. 51604993, gravestone photograph, Forest Park Cem., Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark., “Riggs | Hiram J. | Mar. 25, 1877 | Oct. 10, 1944 || June 1903 || Lola A. | Aug. 18, 1884 | Jan. 14, 1953.”

126. *Ark. County Marriages Index, 1837–1957*, Hiram J. Riggs, 26, residence Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark., spouse Lola Kirk, 18, residence Ft. Smith, licensed 8 June 1903, married 11 June 1903, Sebastian Co., FHL 1034045.

127. *U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*, Thomas Jefferson Riggs, male, white, born 9 Dec. 1881, Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark., father John Riggs, mother Elizabeth Moody, SSN 432-22-7829.

128. *WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Benj. Franklin Riggs, signed Benjamin Franklin Riggs, 34, born 7 Apr. 1884, residence Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark., nearest relative Mrs. B. F. Riggs of Ft. Smith [same address], registered 12 Sept. 1918, Ft. Smith.

129. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 21, “His [Lynn Riggs’s] grandfather, Joseph S. Riggs, was born March 2, 1832, the son of James Riggs and Polly Stewart, in Scott County, Virginia. In 1855, Joseph married Sarah Estep.”

130. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 22, “Joseph Riggs died on July 14, 1902, soon after his son’s second marriage.”

131. A digitized photocopy of the marriage return record from descendant Richard W. Rodgers, email 22 Apr. 2018: Joseph S. Riggs to Sarah Estep, both single, both born in Scott Co., Va., married 18 Jan. 1855 at George Johnstons, Joseph was 22 yrs. 2 mos. 10 dys. old, Sarah was about 22 yrs, his parents were James and Mary Riggs, her parent was Harriett Estep, married by Elisah W. Stewart MG; Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 21, “In 1855, Joseph married Sarah Estep. Soon they left the green mountain country and followed the railroad to LaCledde County, Missouri, where he worked on the construction crew. Among their children were James W., born February, 1857;

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Scott Co., Va., daughter of Harriett (—) Estep. He married (2) 3 Nov. 1878^[132] **MARTHA (BOLENGER) FERGUSON**, who was born Apr. 1837 (1900 census), Arkansas.

Repeated for convenience: In 1860 James Riggs, 50, a farmer born in Virginia with \$30 personal estate, resided in Piney, Perry Twp., Johnson Co., Ark., with his wife Mary, 45, born in Virginia, and with Joseph, 25, Sarah, 24, Jane, 4, James, 3, all five born in Virginia, “Wesley,” 2, born in Missouri, Virgil, 22, Presley, 21, and Hiram, 18, all three born in Virginia.^[133] Jane, James, and “Wesley” were Joseph and Sarah’s children. Virgil, Presley, and Hiram were Joseph’s brothers.

A **placeholder** note from Richard Rodgers:

Coincidentally, in 1860 a Reuben Riggs was living in Camden Co, MO, age 50, born in Virginia, along with wife Thursey. In the 1880 census, Reuben’s father and mother were noted to be from South Carolina and North Carolina respectively. In a later affidavit Joseph S. Riggs notes that he was treated after the war for his rheumatism by Dr. Reuben Riggs of Camden Co, MO. One of Joseph’s daughters was named Thursey. I’ve not found a connection with this Reuben.^[134]

On 30 May 1864 an order was issued in Washington, D.C., to release “rebel” Joseph S. Riggs, a private in Company D, 37th Virginia Regi-

Mary, born April 27, 1861; and William Grant, born January 14, 1869. Sarah died on October 1, 1874.”

132. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 21, “On November 3, 1878, Joseph Riggs, forty-six, married Martha Bolenger Ferguson, forty-two, a widow; and the united families moved in a covered wagon to Indian Territory. There Riggs built a house three miles southwest of Claremore on the Collinsville Road.”

133. U.S. census, 1860, Piney PO, Perry Twp., Johnson Co., Arkansas, r. 44, p. 1074, dw. 1003, fam. 1004.

134. Email from Richard W. Rodgers, 22 Apr. 2018; U.S. census, 1860, Right Point or Wet Glaize PO, Auglaize Twp., Camden Co., Mo., r. 611, pp. 108–109, dw. 258, fam. 271, lists “Rewbin” Riggs, 50, a “Farmer, Meth,” born Va., Thursey, 39, born Va., and nine children, ages 2–17, all born in Mo. N.B. Wet Glaize took its name from nearby Wet Auglaize Creek [Wikipedia for “Wet Glaize, Missouri”]. Note that daughter Thursey was named about 1867, just about the time Joseph would have been treated by Reuben.

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ment, a prisoner of war held in Ft. Delaware, Del.^[135] Placeholder: In the same source are papers showing that Reuben Riggs, held prisoner in a military prison in Baltimore, Md., was released on 3 May 1865 “to go to Richmond.”

In 1870 Joseph S. Riggs, 39, a farmer born in Virginia with \$250 personal estate, resided in Lebanon, Laclede Co., Mo., with Sarah, 35, born in Virginia, and with Sarilda J., 14, and James W., 13, both born in Virginia, Presley L., 11, born in Missouri, Mary E., 9, born in Arkansas, Thursey, 3, and Grant, 1, all born in Missouri.^[136]

On 3 Oct. 1884, in a Claimant’s Affidavit for Invalid Pension, Joseph S Riggs stated that for the four years immediately preceding his enlistment in the Union Army in October 1863, he resided 1858–1860 in Camden Co., Mo., PO address “Wetanglase” [perhaps West Auglaize], and he resided 1860–1863 in Johnson Co., Ark., PO address Little Piney. After the war Joseph again resided 1866–1874 in Camden Co, Mo.^[137] These facts are backed more-or-less by the 1860 and 1870 censuses, if it’s understood that Laclede County was formed from Camden and Pulaski Counties in 1849.

In 1900 “Jo” S. Riggs, 67, a farmer born Nov. 1833 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Twp. 21, Cherokee Nation, Indian Terr., with his wife of 22 years, Martha, 63, born Apr. 1837 in Arkansas of a father born in Arkansas and a mother in Tennessee, and with his son, “Jas” W., 43, born Feb. 1857 in Virginia of a mother born in Virginia, and daughter, Annie, 19, born Oct. 1880 in Indian Terr. of a mother born in Virginia [check this – looks wrong]. There was also a “visitor” in

135. NARA, M347, *Unfiled Papers and Slips Belonging in Confederate Compiled Service Records*, Joseph S. Riggs, image online at <fold3>. A second document for “Jos.” S. Riggs, dated 2 June 1864, suggests he was released on that date.

136. U.S. census, 1870, Lebanon, Laclede Co., Mo., r. 786, p. 31, dw. 67, fam. 67.

137. Joseph S. Riggs (Pvt. Co. F, 2nd Kansas Cavalry Volunteers, Civil War,); Invalid Pension Claim no. 384590; Increase Pension Claim no. 315121; Widow Claim no. 768762; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications 1861–1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C., all courtesy of Richard W. Rodgers, email, 23 Apr. 2018.

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the household. Martha had had 12 children, with five surviving. Next door resided “W^m” G. Riggs, 32, born in Missouri.^[138]

In 1910 Martha Riggs, 73, a widow born in Arkansas of Tennessee natives, resided in Peoria Twp., Ottawa Co., Okla., in the household of her nephew, Isaac E. Bridges, and with her sister, Elizabeth Riggs, wife of Presley B. Riggs (q.v.). Martha had had 12 children, with five surviving.^[139]

Children of the first marriage, to Sarah:^[140]

- 103 i [INFANT]⁴ RIGGS, a daughter of unknown birthdate.
- 104 ii SARILDA JANE⁴ RIGGS, born 6 Nov. 1855, Scott Co., Va.^[141]
- 105 iii JAMES WALKER⁴ RIGGS, born 15 Feb. 1857, Scott Co., Va.
- 106 iv PRESLEY LYNN⁴ RIGGS, born about 1858, Missouri. He was “Wesley” in the 1860 census.
- 107 v MARY ELIZABETH⁴ RIGGS, born 27 Apr. 1861, Ft. Smith, Ark., died 22 Aug. 1938, Claremont, Ok.,^[142] married (1)^[143] RAYMOND

138. U.S. census, 1900, Twp. 21, Cherokee Nation, Indian Terr., ED 22, r. 1844, [no page no. found], sh. 22B, dw. 408, fam. 409. William resided in dw. 409.

139. U.S. census, 1910, Peoria Twp., Ottawa Co., Okla., ED 165, r. 1267, p. 242, sh. 12A, dw. 258, fam. 259.

140. From descendant Richard W. Rodgers, as a gedcom file.

141. Scott Co., Va., Birth Register [FHL 337192], “Sarilda J. Riggs born Nov. 6, 1855, in Scout County to Joseph S. and Sarah; residence Scott County” (according to transcription by Richard W. Rodgers).

142. From descendant Richard W. Rodgers, as a gedcom file, “The Funeral Book of Mary E. (Riggs) Brice gives the following information: Born 27 Apr. 1861, at Fort Smith, Arkansas; died 22 Aug. 1938, at 1001 N. Cherokee, Claremore, OK, age 77 yr, 3 mon, 26 days; her parents were named as Joseph S. Riggs and Sally Eastep.; Ruoff, “Rolla Lynn Riggs,” 289, “Unhappy with his domineering stepmother, Riggs, while still a child, went to live with his aunt, Mrs. Mary Riggs Brice, who ran a boardinghouse in Claremore. Stepmothers are often depicted harshly in Riggs’s plays, but Mary becomes the lovable aunt in *Green Grow the Lilacs* and several other plays.”

143. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 26, photo caption, “Riggs’s Aunt Mary Thompson Brice, center, with her first husband, Raymond Thompson, and , from left to right, her daughters, Jessie, Doll, Goldie, Laura, and Lillie, who were important companions during Riggs’s childhood. Mary Brice was the model for Aunt Eller in Riggs’s play *Green Grow the Lilacs* and Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical version, *Oklahoma!*.”

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THOMPSON, and had 12 children, divorced 1905,^[144] married (2)^[145] JOHN BRICE.

- 108 vi THURSEY CLEMENTINE⁴ RIGGS, born 28 Apr. 1868 about 1867, Union Star, Dekalb Co., Mo.
- + 109 vii WILLIAM GRANT⁴ RIGGS, born Jan. 1868 or 14 Jan. 1869, Missouri, married (1) ROSE ELLA (BUSTER) GILLIS, and had five children, married (2) JULIETTE SCRIMSHER CHAMBERS, and had three children, married (3) MINNIE KIRKPATRICK.

Known child of the second marriage, to Martha:

- 110 viii HANNAH/ANNIE ADA⁴ RIGGS, born Oct. 1880, Indian Terr.

42. PRESLEY B.³ RIGGS (James², William¹) was born 28 May 1839 (gravestone), Virginia, died 25 Nov. 1909, and was buried in Woodlawn Cem., Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla.^[146] He married ELIZABETH (BOLENGER) BRIDGES, who was born 7 Mar. 1836 (gravestone), Arkansas, died 27 Dec., 1912, and was buried with her husband.^[147] Elizabeth was a sister of brother Joseph S. Riggs's wife, Martha.

On 22 Oct. 1869 Presley B. Riggs applied for a Civil War pension for service in Company E, 1st Arkansas Infantry, and it was granted. on 25 Jan. 1909 [sic, probably 1910] his widow Elizabeth Riggs applied for a widow's pension from Kansas, and it was granted.^[148]

144. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 24, "Bill's sister, Mary Riggs Thompson, after she was divorced in 1905, lived on Lynn's farm with her eight children and her brother Jimmy."

145. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 27, "Riggs wrote in 1947, 'Aunt Eller is based on my wonderful Aunt Mary (Mrs. John Brice) and some of the things I vaguely knew about my mother—who died when I was two. (Her name, too, was Ella, 'Eller' as people called her.)'"

146. *Find a Grave*, no. 8495356, gravestone photograph, by Dennis Wilson, Woodlawn Cem., Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla., "Come ye blessed | The gates ajar stand | free for all | Presley B. | Riggs | May 28, 1839 | Nov. 25, 1909 | . . . | Riggs."

147. *Find a Grave*, no. 8495351, gravestone photograph, by Dennis Wilson and Mary Ryder, Woodlawn Cem., Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla., ". . . | Elizabeth | Riggs | Mar. 7, 1836 | Dec. 27, 1912 | 76 Yrs. 9 M. 20 D. | . . . | Riggs."

148. *U.S. Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*, soldier Presley B. Riggs, widow Elizabeth Riggs, service "E 1 Ark Inf," invalid filing 22 Oct. 1869, application 149379, certifi-

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In 1870 “Pressly” B. Riggs, 32, a farmer born in Virginia with \$400 real and \$925 personal estates, resided in Greenwood, Bates Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with Elizabeth, 34, born in Arkansas, and with James T., 3, and Ulysses G., 1, both born in Arkansas. In the same household were Sarah Bridges, 13, born in Arkansas, Isaac Bridges, 10, born in Arkansas, “Sam¹” Bridges, 8, born in Alabama, and Mary C. Hall, 24, born in Alabama.^[149] The Bridges children were Elizabeth’s by a former marriage.

In 1910 Elizabeth Riggs, 74, a widow born in Arkansas of Tennessee natives, resided in Peoria Twp., Ottawa Co., Okla., in the household of her son, Isaac E. Bridges, 50, a farmer born in Arkansas of a father born in Tennessee, his second wife, of three years, Mary L., 55, born in Indiana of Indiana natives, his stepson, Earl Pickle, 14, born in Indiana of Indiana natives, and with his aunt, Martha Riggs, 73, a widow born in Arkansas of Tennessee natives. Mary had had eight children, with eight surviving. Elizabeth had had 11 children, with four surviving. Martha had had 12 children, with five surviving.^[150]

Known children:

- 111 i JAMES T.⁴ RIGGS, born about 1867, Arkansas.
- 112 ii ULYSSES G.⁴ RIGGS, born about 1869, Arkansas.

52. LAFAYETTE [FAYETTE] M.³ RIGGS (sHiram², ?William¹) was born about 1838, Virginia. He married (1) **PHEBE J. (—)**, who was born about 1841, Kentucky. He then married (2) 8 Sept. 1879, Wise Co., Va.,^[151] **SARAH J. DEAN**, who was born about 1836, Virginia, daughter of James H. and Lucinda (—) Dean.

icate 217403, widow filing 25 Jan. 1909, Kans., application 912342, certificate 704070.

149. U.S. census, 1870, Greenwood PO, Bates Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., r. 64, p. 82A, dw. 68, fam. 68.

150. U.S. census, 1910, Peoria Twp., Ottawa Co., Okla., ED 165, r. 1267, p. 242, sh. 12A, dw. 258, fam. 259.

151. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, L. M. Riggs to Sarah J. Dean, 14 July 1860, L. M.’s parents: Hiram Riggs and “Vincy” Riggs, Sarah’s parents: James H. Dean and Lucinda Dean.

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In 1870 Lafayette Riggs, 33, a farmer born in Virginia with real and personal estates valued at \$1,500 and \$177, respectively, resided in Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with Phebe, 29, illiterate, born in Kentucky, and with Amanda C., 10, Lavina C., 9, Nancy V., 7, and “Emmette” B., 7/12, born in Nov., all four born in Virginia.^[152]

In 1880 “Lafayatt” M. Riggs, 43, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., with his wife, Sarah “A.” 44, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughters, Amanda C., 20, born in Virginia, Lavina C., 19, born in Kentucky, and Nancy V., 18, born in Virginia, son, Emmett B., 10, daughter Arminda B., 9, sons, Hiram F., 7, and Lafayatt M., 5, and daughter, Florence S., 3, all five born in Virginia, and his stepsons, Walter L. Dean, 15, born in Ohio, John W. Dean, 14, born in Tennessee, and Calvin J. Dean, 9, born in Kansas, all three of Virginia natives.^[153] The three Dean males were related to Sarah somehow, of course.

Known children of the first marriage, to Phebe:

- 113 i **AMANDA C.⁴ RIGGS**, born 10 Nov. 1860, Wise Co., Va.,^[154] married 11 Mar. 1885, Wise Co., Va.,^[155] **JOHN J. SHIPLEY**, born about 1865, Hawkins Co., Tenn., son of John C. and Nancy M. (—) Shipley.

152. U.S. census, 1870, Big Stone Gap PO, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., r. 1682, p. 336, dw. 105, fam. 105. Hiram is on p. 335, dw. 85.

153. U.S. census, 1880, Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., ED 102, r. 1394, pp. 294B–295A, dw. 124, fam. 124.

154. *Va. Births and Christenings, 1853–1917*, Amanda C. Riggs, born 10 Nov. 1850, Wise Co., Va., father “Lafayett” Riggs, mother “Cornett” [FHL 216826 IT 3]. So either Phebe’s surname was Cornett, or Lafayette married someone else prior to Phebe.

155. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Amanda C. Riggs to John J. Shipley, 11 Mar. 1885, Amanda’s parents: L. M. Riggs and “Phiby” Riggs, John’s parents: John C. Shipley and Nancy M. Shipley; *Va. Marriages, 1785–1940*, John J. “Shiply,” 20, born Hawkins Co., Tenn., father “Jno” C. “Shiply,” mother Nancy M. “Shiply,” to Amanda C. Riggs, 23, born Harlan Co., Ky., father L. M. Riggs, mother Riggs, both single, on 11 Mar. 1885, Wise Co., Va. [FHL 34394, p. 33, no. 16].

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- 114 ii **LAVINA [LAVINIA] C.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1861, Harlan Co., Ky., married 31 Jan. 1881, Wise Co., Va.,^[156] **DOCTOR F. WILLIAMS**, born about 1859, Wise Co., Va., son of Pleasant W. and Patsey (–) Williams. Doctor might be a title rather than a name.
- 115 iii **NANCY V.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1863, Virginia, married 29 Dec. 1880, Wise Co., Va.,^[157] **FRANKLIN CREECH**, son of Ira and Usla Ann (–) Creech.
- 116 iv **[UNNAMED DAUGHTER]⁴ RIGGS**, born 13 June 1866, Wise Co., Va.^[158]
- 117 v **[UNNAMED SON]⁴ RIGGS**, born 8 Mar. 1867, Wise Co., Va.,^[159] died 9 Mar. 1867, Wise Co., Va.^[160]
- 118 vi **STONEWALL⁴ RIGGS**, born 25 Nov. 1868, Wise Co., Va.,^[161] died 25 Dec. 1868, Wise Co., Va.^[162]
- 119 vii **EMMETT B.⁴ RIGGS**, born 11 Oct. 1869, Wise Co., Va.^[163]
- 120 viii **ARMINDA B.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1871, Virginia.
- 121 ix **HIRAM F.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1873, Virginia.
- 122 x **LAFAYETTE M.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1875, Virginia.

156. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Lavinia C. Riggs to Doctor F. Williams, 31 Jan. 1881, Lavinia's parents: L. M. Riggs and "Pheba" J. Riggs, groom's parents: Pleasant W. Williams and Patsey Williams; *Va. Marriages, 1785–1940*, Doctor F. Williams, 22, born Wise Co., Va., father Pleasant Williams, mother Patsy Williams, to Lavina "A." Riggs, 20, born Harlan Co., Ky., father L. M. Riggs, mother "Pheba" Riggs, both single, on 31 Jan. 1881, Wise Co., Va. [FHL 34394, p. 28, no. 7].

157. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Nancy Riggs to Franklin "Crecch," 29 Dec. 1880, Nancy's parents: Lafayette M. Riggs and "Pheby" J. Riggs, Franklin's parents: Ira Creech and Usla Ann Creech.

158. *Va. Births and Christenings, 1853–1917*, unnamed daughter, born 13 June 1866, Wise Co., Va., father Lafayette Riggs, mother "Pheba" Riggs [FHL 34394].

159. *Va. Births and Christenings, 1853–1917*, unnamed son, born 8 Mar. 1867, Wise Co., Va., father "Lafayett" Riggs, mother "Pheba" Riggs [FHL 34394].

160. *Va. Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912*, unnamed son, born 1867, Wise Co., Va., died 9 Mar. 1867, Wise Co., Va., father Lafayette Riggs, mother Phebe Riggs [FHL 2048588 item 1, 34394 p. 9 no. 10].

161. *Va. Births and Christenings, 1853–1917*, Stonewall Riggs, born 25 Nov. 1868, Wise Co., Va., father "Lafayett" Riggs, mother Phebe Riggs [FHL 34394].

162. *Va. Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912*, unnamed son, born 1868, Wise Co., Va., died 25 Dec. 1868, Wise Co., Va., father "Lafayett" Riggs, mother Phebe Riggs [FHL 34394 p. 10 no. 13].

163. *Va. Births and Christenings, 1853–1917*, "Emmit" B. Riggs, born 11 Oct. 1869, Wise Co., Va., father L. M. Riggs, mother "Pheba" Riggs [FHL 34394].

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123 xi FLORENCE S.⁴ RIGGS, born about 1877, Virginia.

53. MINERVA CAROLINE³ RIGGS (₈Hiram², ?William¹) was born about 1842, Wise Co., Va., married 14 July 1860, Wise Co., Va.,^[164] WILLIAM ELKINS,^[165] born in Wise Co., Va., son of Larkin and Mary (—) Elkins.

In 1870 Minerva C. Elkins, 30, born in Virginia, resided in Big Stone Gap, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with William H., 9, Alpha C., 5, Lauretta, 3, and Nancy E., 1/12, born in May, all four born in Virginia. Next door was Hiram Riggs, her father.^[166]

In 1880 Minerva C. Elkins, 39, a widow washerwoman born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Big Stone Gap, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with her son, William H., 19, and daughters, Alpha C., 15, and Florence J., 5, all three born in Virginia.^[167]

Children:

124 i WILLIAM H.⁴ ELKINS, born about 1861, Virginia.

125 ii ALPHA CAROLIN⁴ ELKINS, born May 1866 (1900 census) or 27 May 1865 (death certificate), Big Stone Gap, Va., died 15 Jan. 1940, Benham, Harlan Co., Ky.,^[168] married about 1884 J. THOMAS JOHNSON, born Mar. 1861 (1900 census), and had at least seven children.

164. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Minerva Caroline Riggs to William Elkins, 14 July 1860, Minerva's parents: "Hiran" Riggs and "Leovina" Riggs, Williams's parents: Larkin Elkins and Mary Elkins.

165. His name is given as John Elkins in the death certificate of his daughter, Alpha, and his wife's name is given as "Mirnivia" Riggs [q.v.], both born in Wise Co., Va.

166. U.S. census, 1870, Big Stone Gap PO, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., r. 1682, p. 335, dw. 86, fam. 86. Hiram resided in dw. 85.

167. U.S. census, 1880, Big Stone Gap PO, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., ED 102, r. 1394, p. 300A, dw. 223, fam. 223.

168. Death certificate, Alpha Carolin Johnson, Commonwealth of Ky., Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, state file no. 1087, registrar's no. 22, reg. district no. 664, primary reg. district no. 5784, died 1 Jan. 1940, Benham, Harlan Co., aged 74 yrs. 7 mos. 19 dys., born 27 May 1865, Big Stone Gap, Va., white, female, widowed, husband, J. T. Johnson, housewife, father John Elkins, born Wise Co., Va., mother "Mirnivia" Riggs, born Wise Co., Va., informant "Misses D. D. Gellvay," of Madisinville [sic], Tenn, burial East San[?] [of? Va?], 16 Jan. 1940, no SSN.

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In 1900 Thomas “Johsen,” 38, a “hewer of wood” born Mar. 1861 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Big Stone Gap, Wise Co., Va., with his wife of 16 years, Alpha, 34, born May 1866 in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughters, Myrtle, 15, born Jan. 1885, Minnie F., 12, born Mar. 1888, and Vena F., 10, born Aug. 1889, son, Henry Clay, 6, born Aug. 1889, and daughter, “Geargie” G., 11/12, born June 1899, all five born in Virginia. Alpha had had seven children, with five surviving.^[169]

- 126 iii LAURETTA/LORETTA⁴ ELKINS, born about 1867, Virginia. She resided with her Riggs grandparents in 1880, aged 11.
- 127 iv NANCY E.⁴ ELKINS, born May 1870, Virginia.
- 128 v FLORENCE J.⁴ ELKINS, born about 1875, Virginia.

Fourth Generation

57. JOSEPH STEPHEN⁴ RIGGS (₁₁Richard A.³, John², William¹) was born 20 Aug. 1841, Scott Co., Va., and had at least one child: Glen Bruce⁵ Riggs, born 1891.

I was born in Scott Co., Va., Aug. 20, 1841. My father was Richard Riggs. He was born in the same county. My grandfather, John Riggs, was born in the same county. My great grandfather was William Riggs, born in New Jersey. The stock is English. He came to Virginia soon after the Revolution. My grandmother Riggs was a Stanley, the daughter of Richard Stanley, a Revolutionary soldier. He was in the service 7 years. He was at Brandywine, Eutah Springs and other engagements. My mother was a McNEW and her mother was a CAYWOOD and her father CAYWOOD, was in the battle of New Orleans. My grandmother McNEW's mother, Mrs. CAYWOOD's maiden name was ASBURY, she was a relative of Bishop ASBURY, a cousin. I do not know whether 1st or 2nd or 3rd. She came over in a vessel with the Bishop. I suppose her parents came; I do not know. The CAYWOODs of Harlan are her

169. U.S. census, 1900, Big Stone Gap, Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., ED 127, r. 1732, p. 111, sh. 4B, dw. 73, fam. 76.

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decedents. Old John **CAYWOOD**, the father of the Harlan family, was a brother of my grandmother **McNEW**, a son of Bishop **ASBURY**'s cousin. Mose Asbury **CAYWOOD** who was killed in Owsley County during the (Civil) War by order of Col. Anderson **CLARK**, was John **CAYWOOD**'s son. My father moved to Kentucky in 1856 and locate first in Owsley County but remained only one year when he moved to Jackson Co. near Tiner. He had 7 children then and 3 afterward by my step-mother. George, Hiram and Jane live in Laurel and Mrs. Polly **CASTEEL**, my full sister live in Rockcastle.^[170]

62. JAMES ELBERT⁴ RIGGS (₁₁*Richard A.*³, *John*², *William*¹) was born 2 Feb. 1851, Scott Co., Va. He married **NANCY H. PUTT**, who was born Apr. 1855 (1900 census), Kentucky.

In 1880 James E. Riggs, 29, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Rockcastle Co., Ky., with his wife, Nancy H., 24, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, Moses, 3/12, born Mar. 1880 in Kentucky. They resided in the household of his brother-in-law, Ira Putt, 28, a farmer born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives.^[171]

In 1900 James E. Riggs, 49, a farmer born Feb. 1851 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Palo Pinto Co., Tex., with his wife, Nancy H., 45, born Apr. 1855 in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, Charlie, 20, born Mar. 1880, Kentucky, daughter, Mary, 15, born June 1884, sons, James R., 14, born May 1886, William J., 12, born Feb. 1888, John O., 9, born Aug. 1890, and Thomas, 7, born Nov. 1892, and daughter, Josie B., 4, born Sept. 1895, all six born in Texas. Nancy had had eight children, with eight surviving. Next door was Ivory Putt, 49, born Apr. 1851 in Kentucky of Kentucky natives.^[172]

In 1920 James E. Riggs, 68, widower born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex., in the household of his son-

170. Excerpts from the John Jay Dickey Diaries.

171. U.S. census, 1880, Rockcastle Co., Ky., ED 95, r. 440, p. 356D, dw. 167, fam. 167.

172. U.S. census, 1900, Palo Pinto Co., Tex., ED 122, r. 1663, p. 156, sh. 13A, dw. 242, fam. 243.

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

in-law, Hudson L. Rucker, 26, a farmer born in Texas of Texas natives, Hudson's wife, Josie B., 24, born in Texas of a mother born in Kentucky, and son, Joseph D., 5, born in Texas. Next door was Ira Putt, 68, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives.^[173]

Children:

- 129 i **CHARLES MOSES⁵ RIGGS**, born Mar. 1880, Kentucky.
- 130 ii **MARY⁵ RIGGS**, born June 1884, Texas.
- 131 iii **JAMES R.⁵ RIGGS**, born May 1886, Texas.
- 132 iv **WILLIAM JOSEPH⁵ RIGGS**, born 22 Feb. 1888, Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex.^[174]
- 133 v **JOHN OLIVER⁵ RIGGS**, born 27 Aug. 1890, Palo Pinto Co., Texas.^[175]
- 134 vi **THOMAS⁵ RIGGS**, born 11 Nov. 1892, Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex.^[176]
- 135 vii **JOSIE B.⁵ RIGGS**, born Sept. 1895, Texas., married **HUDSON L. RUCKER**, born about 1894, Texas, and had at least one child: (1) Joseph D.⁶ Rucker, born about 1915, Texas.

65. GEORGE W.⁴ RIGGS (₁₁*Richard A.³, John², William¹*) was born about 1873, Kentucky. He married about 1891 **MARTHA A. JOHNSON**, born 15 June 1873, Laurel Co., Ky., daughter of John and Sarah (Proffitt) Johnson, and died 12 Sept. 1938, Fayette Co., Ky., buried 15 Sept. 1838 in Hillcrest Memorial Park.^[177]

173. U.S. census, 1920, Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex., ED 195, r. 1839, p. 87, sh. 5A, dw. 97, fam. 97. Ira resided in dw. 96.

174. *WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, William Joseph Riggs, 29, of Electra, Tex., born 22 Feb. 1888, Brazos, Tex., married with one child, 7 months old, registered 5 June 1917, Wichita, Tex.

175. *WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, John Oliver Riggs, 26, of Crowell, Tex., born 27 Aug. 1890, Palo Pinto Co., Tex., single, registered 5 June 1917, Crowell, Ford Co., Tex.

176. *WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Tom Riggs, 24, of Royal, Ok., born 11 Nov. 1892, Brazos, Tex., single, registered 5 June 1917, Stephens Co., Ok.

177. Death certificate, Martha A. Riggs, Commonwealth of Ky., file no. 21706, registered no. 201, registration district no. 500, primary registration district no. 5164, resident of Stone Rd., death 12

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

In 1910 George Riggs, 36, a farmer born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, resided in London, Laurel Co., Ky., with his wife of 19 years, Martha, 36, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, Richard, 18, daughters, Ollie, 14, and Sarah, 11, and son, John L., 7, all four born in Kentucky. Martha had had four children, with four surviving.^[178]

In 1920 George W. Riggs, 46, an express company workman born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Paris, Bourbon Co., Ky., with his wife, Martha, 46, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his daughter, Margaret, 21, and son, John, 18, an express company laborer, both born in Kentucky. Martha had had four children, with four surviving.^[179]

Children:

- 136 i RICHARD⁵ RIGGS, born about 1892, Kentucky.
- 137 ii OLLIE⁵ RIGGS, born about 1896, Kentucky.
- 138 iii SARAH MARGARET⁵ RIGGS, born about 1899, Kentucky.
- + 139 iv JOHN L.⁵ RIGGS, born 25 Mar. 1904, Kentucky, married (1) ULDEAN GIBSON, and had one child, married (2) LUELLA BELLE HARPER, and had three children.

83. WILFORD R.⁴ RIGGS (₁₇*David R.*³, *John*², *William*¹) was born Feb. 1879 (1900 census), Kentucky, died 14 Dec. 1947, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 68.^[180] He married about 1900 FANNY [FANNIE] E. TILSON, who was born May 1878 (1900 census), Kentucky, daughter of Caroline (—) Tilson, and who died 1 Sept. 1962, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 84.^[181]

Sept. 1938, [Vet. ?] Picadome, Fayette Co., female, white, married, spouse George W. Riggs, aged 65 years 2 months 27 days, born 15 June 1873, Laurel Co., Ky., father John Johnson, born Laurel Co., Ky., mother Sarah Proffitt, born Laurel Co., Ky., informant G. W. Riggs of Lexington, buried 14 Sept. 1938, Hillcrest Memorial Park, (probably) Lexington, Ky. (address of undertaker and of G. W.), signed by David C. Riggs DC, of Radio Bldg., Lexington.

178. U.S. census, 1910, London, Laurel Co., Ky., ED 118, r. 940, p. 20, sh. 3A-B, dw. 51, fam. 51.

179. U.S. census, 1920, Paris, Bourbon Co., Ky., ED 1, r. 560, p. 121, sh. 15A, dw. 334, fam. 360.

180. Ky. *Death Index, 1911–2000*, Wilford R. Riggs, vol. 52, certificate 25626, died 14 Dec. 1947, Boyd Co., aged 68, residence Boyd Co.

181. Ky. *Death Index, 1911–2000*, Fannie E. Riggs, vol. 39, certificate 19473, died 1 Sept. 1962,

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

In 1900 Wilford Riggs, 21, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 0 years, Fanny, 22, born May 1878 in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in North Carolina. Next door was Wilford's father, David R. Riggs [q.v.].^[182]

In 1910 Wilford R. Riggs, 30, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 10 years, Fannie, 31, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives. She had had four children, with three surviving. In the household were Wilford's sons, Virgil, 8, and Clyde, 4, and daughter, Goldie, 2, all three born in Kentucky. Nearby was David Riggs, 73.^[183]

In 1920 W. R. Riggs, 40, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife, Fannie, 41, born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Tennessee, and with his sons, Virgil, 18, and Clyde, 14, daughter, Golda, 11, son, "Emmit," 9, and daughters, Gladys, 7, and Esta, 5, all six born in Kentucky. Also in the household was Wilford's mother-in-law, Caroline Tilson, 75, born in Tennessee of a father born in Tennessee and a U.S.-native mother. Close by were Matilda Riggs, 75, and "Emmet" Riggs, 32.^[184]

Children:

- 140 i **VIRGIL⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1902, Kentucky. He was perhaps Virgil Riggs, born 7 Dec. 1901, died Jan. 1972, last residence Rosemead, Los Angeles Co., Calif.^[185]

Boyd Co., aged 84, residence Boyd Co.

182. U.S. census, 1900, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 72, r. 537, p. 100, sh. 9B, dw. 153, fam. 159. David resided in dw. 152.

183. U.S. census, 1910, district 5, Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 101, r. 491, part 1, p. 58, sh. 12B, dw. 174, fam. 174. David resided in dw. 172.

184. U.S. census, 1920, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 135, r. 575, p. 215, sh. 3A, dw. 43, fam. 43. Matilda and Emmett resided in dw. 41 and 42.

185. SSDI, Virgil Riggs, SSN 380-07-2232, born 7 Dec. 1901, died Jan. 1972, last residence 91770 Rosemead, Los Angeles Co., Calif., issued Mich. (before 1951).

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- 141 ii **CLYDE**⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1906, Kentucky.
- 142 iii **GOLDA** [**GOLDIE**]⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1908, Kentucky.
- 143 iv **EMMETT**⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1911, Kentucky.
- 144 v **GLADYS**⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1913, Kentucky.
- 145 vi **ESTA**⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1915, Kentucky.

86. EMMETT⁴ **RIGGS** (₁₇*David R.*³, *John*², *William*¹) was born Sept. 1887 (1900 census) or 9 Sept. 1888 (SSDI), Kentucky, died Aug. 1975, last residence Lawton, Carter Co., Ky.^[186] He married about 1912^[187] **BERTHA**⁴ **RIGGS** (₂₇*David C.*³, *David*², *William*¹), who was born about 1888, Kentucky.

In 1920 “Emmet” Riggs, 32, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife, Bertha, 32, born in Kentucky of Virginia natives, and with his son, Otis, 7, daughter, Viola, 5, and sons, William, 3 [5?]/12, and Wilford, 6/12, all four born in Kentucky. Also in the household was Emmet’s mother-in-law, “— Riggs,” 70, born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a U.S.-born mother. Next door were Matilda Riggs, 75, and W. R. Riggs, 40.^[188]

In 1930 Emmett Riggs, 41, a farm laborer born in Kentucky of Virginia natives, resided in Harrison Twp., Scioto Co., Ohio, with his wife, Bertha, 40, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, and with his son, Otis, 17, daughter, Viola, 16, sons, William, 13, and Wilfred, 10, and daughter, Lillian, 7, all five born in Kentucky,

186. SSDI, Emmett Riggs, SSN 403-20-5617, born 9 Sept. 1888, died Aug. 1975, last residence 41154 Lawton Carter Co., Ky., issued Ky. (before 1951).

187. Email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 31 Mar. 2005, “It was well known in the family that Henry H. [Jeanne’s grandfather] married Rebecca Riggs and Henry’s sister, Bertha Riggs, married Rebecca’s brother, Emmett Riggs. My dad’s brothers and sisters and Emmett and Bertha’s children (William, Otis, Wilford, and Lillian) always considered themselves ‘double first cousins.’”

188. U.S. census, 1920, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 135, r. 575, p. 215, sh. 3A, dw. 42, fam. 42. Matilda and W. R. resided in dw. 41 and 43.

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

and also his stepson, Frank Pennington, 22, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives. Emmett was first married at age 25, and Bertha at 24.^[189]

Children:

- 146 i OTIS⁵ RIGGS, born about 1913, Kentucky.
- 147 ii VIOLA⁵ RIGGS, born about 1915, Kentucky.
- + 148 iii WILLIAM DAVID⁵ RIGGS, born 14 Aug. 1916, Kentucky, and had at least two children.
- 149 iv WILFORD [WILFRED]⁵ RIGGS, born about 1920, Kentucky.
- 150 v LILLIAN⁵ RIGGS, born 22 Aug. 1922, Kentucky, died 7 June 1995, last residence Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio,^[190] married ED LEWIS.

91. HENRY H.⁴ RIGGS (₂₇David C.³, David², William¹) was born Aug. 1875 (1900 census), Virginia, and died 9 June 1930, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 55.^[191] He married about 1900, REBECCA⁴ RIGGS (₁₇David R.³, John², William¹), who was born 18 Oct. 1881, Kentucky, and died 25 Feb. 1924, Ashland, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 42.^[192]

In 1880 David Riggs, 31, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, resided in Meadows, Magoffin Co., Ky., with his wife, Lourania, 25, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughter, Nannie, 10, son, Henry H., 8, and daughter Margaret F., 5, all three born in Virginia. They shared a household with

189. U.S. census, 1930, Harrison Twp., Scioto Co., Ohio, ED 10, r. 575, p. 236, sh. 9A, dw. 167, fam. 169.

190. SSDI, Lillian Lewis, SSN 301-36-8379, born 22 Aug. 1922, died 7 June 1995, last residence 43206 Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio, issued Ohio (1958-1959).

191. Ky. *Death Index, 1911-2000*, Henry Riggs, vol. 27, certificate 13336, died 9 June 1930, Boyd Co., aged 55.

192. Death certificate, transcribed by granddaughter Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, email 31 Mar. 2005, "I have Rebecca Riggs' death certificate stating that she was born Oct. 18, 1881 and died in Boyd County Kentucky (a hospital in Ashland) on Feb. 25, 1924. Her father is shown on this document as David Riggs and her mother as "Tildy" Tackett (Matilda Tackett);" Ky. *Death Index, 1911-2000*, cites vol. 6, certificate 2800; email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 2 Apr. 2005, "Rebecca died having a miscarriage of her tenth [child]."

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Louisa Riggs, 25, widowed or divorced, born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, and with her son, William H., 6, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia, and daughter Mollie, 3, born in Virginia of a father born in Tennessee.^[193] Louisa's nati-
vities suggest she was David's sister-in-law.

In 1900 Henry Riggs, 24, a farmer born Aug. 1875 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife, Rebecca, 18, born Oct. 1881 in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, and with his sister, Iona, 17, born 1883 in Kentucky of Virginia natives.^[194]

In 1910 Henry H. Riggs, 34, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Little Fork, Elliott Co., Ky., with his wife of 10 years, Rebecca, 28, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, and with his son, Luther, 9, daughter, Lura, 7, sons, Walter, 4, and "Warna," 2, all four born in Kentucky. Rebecca had had four children, with four surviving.^[195]

In 1920 Henry H. Riggs, 44, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Maddox Pct., Carter Co., Ky., with his wife, Rebecca, 38, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, and with his son, Luther, 19, saw mill laborer, daughter, Lura, 16, sons, "Watler," 14, and Warren, 11, daughter, "Earia," 8, and sons, "Winford," 6, and Turner, 1 4/12, all eight born in Kentucky.^[196]

In 1930 Henry Riggs, 64 [sic], a widower first married at age 21, a brick salesman born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, resided in Grayson Pct., Carter Co., Ky., in the home of his son-in-law, Bert Blizzard, 30, and his daughter, Lura, 27 [q.v.]. Henry's children also resided in the

193. U.S. census, 1880, Fifth Pct., Meadows, Magoffin Co., Ky., ED 125, r. 431, pp. 600D-601A, dw. 32, fam. 32.

194. U.S. census, 1900, Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., ED 72, r. 537, p. 98, sh. 7B, dw. 116, fam. 122.

195. U.S. census, 1910, Little Fork, Elliott Co., Ky., ED 37, r. 473, p. 56, sh. 11A, dw. 169, fam. 169.

196. U.S. census, 1920, Maddox Pct., Carter Co., Ky., ED 68, r. 565, p. 193, sh. 1A, dw. 1, fam. 1.

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household: daughter, “Erie” Anderson, 19, married at age 15, son, “Winfred” Riggs, 15, son, Ellis Riggs, 13, daughter [sic], “Myrtle” Riggs, 11, and son, Hubert Riggs, 9, all five born in Kentucky.^[197]

Children:^[198]

- 151 i **LUTHER**⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1901, Kentucky, probably he who died 25 Mar. 1958, aged 57, Jefferson Co., Ky.,^[199] and probably he who enlisted 25 Mar. 1946 as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army for World War II, born 1900, Ky., resident of Breckinridge, Ky.^[200]
- + 152 ii **LURIA** [**LURA**]⁵ **RIGGS**, born 1903, Kentucky, married **BERT BLIZZARD**, and had two children.
- 153 iii **WALTER**⁵ **RIGGS**, born about 1906, Kentucky, married **EMMA SMITH**. Both were buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[201]
- 154 iv **WARREN**⁵ **RIGGS**, born 5 July 1908, Carter Co., Ky., died Aug. 1974, last residence Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio,^[202] and buried in Bowling Cem., Carter Co., Ky.^[203]
- 155 v **ERIA**⁵ **RIGGS**, born Feb. 1910, Carter Co., Ky., died Feb. 1972, Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio, and buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[204] She

197. U.S. census, 1930, Grayson Pct., Carter Co., Ky., ED 3, r. 739, p. 48, sh. 16A-B, dw. 270, fam. 273.

198. The list of children's names, according to granddaughter Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, email 31 Mar. 2005: “Luther, Luria, Walter, Eria, Winifred, Ellis, Turner Murrill, and Hubert.”

199. Ky. *Death Index, 1911–2000*, Luther Riggs, died 25 Mar. 1958, Jefferson Co., age 57, vol. 17, certificate 8208.

200. U.S. *WWII Army Enlistment Records, 1938–1946*, Luther Riggs, born 1900, Ky., resident of Breckinridge, Ky., enlisted 25 Mar. 1946, Louisville, Ky., grade master sergeant, branch Quartermaster Corps, “Enlistment for Hawaiian Department,” Regular Army, 3 yrs. Of high school, married.

201. Email from niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 3 Apr. 2005.

202. SSDI, Warren Riggs, SSN 405-07-9550, born 5 July 1908, died Aug. 1974, last residence 43206 Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio, issued Ky. (before 1951).

203. *Cem. Roll*, “Riggs, Warren 1908–1974 Bowling,” verified by niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, who attended the funeral and burial, email 31 Mar. 2005.

204. Email from niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 31 Mar. 2005. She attended the funeral and burial.

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married about 1926, **JOHN ANDERSON**, who was also buried in Sunset Gardens Cem.^[205]

- 156 vi **WINIFRED⁵ RIGGS**, male, born 12 May 1913, Kentucky, died 18 Nov. 1992, last residence Roderfield, McDowell Co., W. Va.^[206]
- 157 vii **ELLIS⁵ RIGGS**, male, born 8 Nov. 1915, Kentucky, died 4 Jan. 1999, last residence Roderfield, McDowell Co., W. Va.^[207]
- 158 viii **TURNER MURRILL⁵ RIGGS**, born 2 Sept. 1918, Carter Co., Ky.,^[208] died 25 May 1972,^[209] Ross Co., Ohio, last residence Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio,^[210] and was buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[211] He married^[212] **MYRTLE JENNINGS**. They divorced. Turner Murrill went by "Murrill" and is listed, coincidentally, as a female, "Myrtle," in the 1930 census.
- + 159 ix **HUBERT CLIFTON⁵ RIGGS**, born 14 Jan. 1921, Carter Co., Ky., married **HAZEL MAE FAIN**, and had three children.

95. LAURA ANN⁴ RIGGS (₃₈*John Walker³, James², William¹*) was born 26 Oct. 1861 (family record)^[213] or 28 Oct. 1861 (gravestone), Arkansas, died

205. Email from niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 3 Apr. 2005.

206. SSDI, Winifred Riggs, SSN 235-09-5597, born 12 May 1913, died 18 Nov. 1992, last residence 24881 Roderfield, McDowell Co., W. Va., issued W. Va. (before 1951); verified by niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, who attended his funeral, email 31 Mar. 2005.

207. SSDI, Ellis Riggs, SSN 232-12-1951, born 8 Nov. 1915, died 4 Jan. 1999, last residence 24881 Roderfield, McDowell Co., W. Va., issued N.C. or W. Va. (before 1951); verified by niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, email 31 Mar. 2005.

208. *Births 1911-1920, N-R*, "[certificate] 083 [child's name] Riggs Turner [mother's name] Riggs Rebecca [month] 9 [certificate no.] 41198 [day] 2 [year] 1918 [text31] 9 [text38] 1918."

209. SSDI, Turner Riggs, SSN 234-24-6616, born 2 Sept. 1918, died May 1972, issued W. Va. (before 1951).

210. *Ohio Deaths, 1958-2000*, Turner M. Riggs, vol. 20998, certificate 065255, died 25 May 1972, Ross Co., aged 53, residence Columbus, Franklin Co., marital status: divorced.

211. Email from niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 31 Mar. 2005.

212. Email from niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 31 Mar. 2005.

213. Rogers Family Bible (see Illustrations), "Laura Ann Riggs [born] Arkansas [born] 26. Oct. 1861. [married] 17. Oct. 1878. [died] March 8 1941." Since this record is written in logical order rather than date order, I believe it to be an after-the-fact record, not an actual Bible record of events as they occurred.

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8 or 18 Mar. 1941, Sebastian Co., Ark.,^[214] and was buried in White and Shelby Cem., Central City, Sebastian Co., Ark.^[215] She married 17 Oct. 1878, Sebastian Co., Ark.,^[216] **JAMES WESLEY ROGERS**,^[217] who was born 24 Oct. 1852 (gravestone), Ohio, died 12 Apr. 1928, and was buried near his wife.^[218]

In 1880 James Rogers, 27, a farmer born in Ohio of Virginia natives, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with his wife, Laura, 18, born in Arkansas of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Arkansas, and with his daughter, Jane, 10/12, born in Aug. in Arkansas, and his brother-in-law, Charles [Riggs crossed out], 7, with same nativities as Laura, and a boarder. John Riggs and Jesse C. Riggs were both listed on the preceding census page.^[219]

This is important because descendant JoNell Rogers claimed to be descended from both John Walker Riggs and Jesse Coleman Riggs, via Laura Ann, daughter of John Walker, and Lillie May, daughter of Jesse Coleman. The two daughters were JoNell's grandmothers.^[220]

In 1900 "Jim R." Rogers, 47, a farmer born Oct. 1852 in Ohio of Virginia natives, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with his wife

214. Ark. Death Index, 1914–1950, Laura A. Rogers, 79, female, white, died 8 Mar. 1941, Sebastian Co., Ark., vol. 22, r. 1941, certificate 1264.

215. *Find a Grave*, no. 29860834, gravestone photograph, White and Shelby Cem., Central City, Sebastian Co., Ark., "Mother | Laura Ann | Rogers | Oct. 28, 1861 | Mar. 18, 1941 | . . ."

216. Ark. *Compiled Marriages, 1851–1900*, James W. Rogers to Laura A. Riggs, 17 Oct. 1878, Sebastian Co., Ark.

217. His middle name from Rogers Family Bible (see Illustrations), "James Wesley Rogers [born] Ohio [born] 24. Oct. 1852. [married] 17. Oct. 1878. [died] April 12 1928." See caveat above.

218. *Find a Grave*, no. 29860826, gravestone photograph, White and Shelby Cem., Central City, Sebastian Co., Ark., "Father | James W. | Rogers | Oct. 24, 18[5?]2 | Apr. 12, 1928 | . . ."

219. U.S. census, 1880, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 186, r. 57, p. 711D, dw. 78, fam. 78.

220. Email from Richard W. Rodgers, 9 Mar. 2018, "In the 1980's I met JoNell Hays from Gentry, Arkansas. Her paternal great-grandfather was John Walker Riggs. Her maternal great-grandfather was Jesse Coleman Riggs. She provided me with tintype photos of John Walker Riggs and his brother, my great-grandfather, Joseph S Riggs. I believe JoNell died around 2000. Last I knew she had not found a connection between her paternal and maternal Riggs lines."

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of 21 years, Laura A., 38, born Oct. 1861 in Arkansas of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Arkansas, and with his daughters, Telia A., 18, born Dec. 1881, and Maud, 14, born Sept. 1885, sons, George H., 11, born Mar. 1889, and Joe W., 9, born Dec. 1890, all born in Arkansas, daughter, Emma M., 7, born Dec. 1892 in Oklahoma, and son, David T., 7/12, born Nov. 1899 in Arkansas. Laura had had seven children, with seven surviving.^[221]

In 1910 James W. Rogers, 56, a farmer born in Ohio of Virginia natives, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with his wife of 31 years, Laura Ann, 48, born in Arkansas of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Arkansas, and with his sons, George, 20, and Joseph, 18, both born in Arkansas, daughter, Emma, 16, born in Oklahoma, and son, David, 10, born Arkansas. Laura had had seven children, with seven surviving.^[222]

In 1920 J. W. Rogers, 67, a farmer born in Ohio of Virginia natives, resided in Central, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with his wife, "Lara" A., 58, born in Arkansas of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Arkansas, and with his sons, George H., 30, and Joseph W., 28, both born in Arkansas, daughter, Emma M., 26, born in Arkansas, and son, David T., 20, born Arkansas.^[223]

In 1930 Laura A. Rogers, 68, a widow dairy farmer born in Arkansas of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Arkansas, first married at 17, resided in Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., with her daughter, Emma M. Thompson, 37, born in Oklahoma, first married at 33, and her granddaughter, Flora M., 11/12, born in Arkansas.^[224]

221. U.S. census, 1900, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 119, r. 7, p. 183, sh. 2B, dw. 38, fam. 39.

222. U.S. census, 1910, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 143, r. 65, p. 237, sh. 3B, dw. 49, fam. 49.

223. U.S. census, 1920, Central, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 139, r. 81, p. 231, sh. 10A, dw. 4, fam. 4.

224. U.S. census, 1930, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 31, r. 7, p. 209, sh. 5A, dw. 93, fam. 94.

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In 1940 Laura Rogers, 77, a widow born in Arkansas, resided in Central City, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., in the household of her son-in-law, J. D. Pickett, 55, a farmer born in Georgia, his wife (her daughter), Emma “Mae” Pickett, 47, born in Oklahoma, and her (Laura’s) granddaughter, Flora Mae, 10, born in Arkansas. J. D. had resided in Okmulgee Co., Okla., in 1935. The others had resided in the same place in 1935.^[225]

Children (full names and dates from Rogers Family Bible):

- 160 i **LETHA JANE⁵ ROGERS**, born 18 Aug. 1879, Arkansas.^[226]
- 161 ii **TELIA ALICE.⁵ ROGERS**, born 1 Dec. 1881, Arkansas.
- 162 iii **MAUD HELLEN⁵ ROGERS**, born 24 Sept. 1885, Arkansas.
- 163 iv **GEORGE HARRISON⁵ ROGERS**, born 4 Mar. 1889, Arkansas.
- 164 v **JOSEPH WALKER⁵ ROGERS**, born 17 Dec. 1890, Arkansas.
- 165 vi **EMMA MAY⁵ ROGERS**, born 14 Dec. 1892, Cushing, Payne Co., Okla.,^[227] died 22 Oct. 1953,^[228] and was buried in White and Shelby Cem., Central City, Sebastian Co., Ark.,^[229] married (1) 10 Jan. 1926 **FRANK THOMPSON**, and had a child: (1) Flora May⁶ Thompson, born 27 Apr. 1929, Massard (now part of Ft. Smith), Sebastian Co., Ark.^[230] Emma married (2) **J. D. PICKETT**, born about 1885, Georgia.

225. U.S. census, 1940, Central City, Sulphur Twp., Sebastian Co., Ark., ED 66-31, r. 283, p. 209, sh. 1B, dw. 24.

226. Rogers Family Bible (see Illustrations), “Letha Jane Rogers [born] Arkansas [born] 18. Aug. 1879. [married] 14. March 1897. | 25. March 1900.” See caveats in footnotes above.

227. U.S. *Social Security Applications and Claims Index*, 1936–2007, Emma May Pickett aka Emma May Roger, female, white, born 14 Dec. 1892, Cushing, Payne Co., Okla., father James W. “Roger,” mother Laura A. Riggs, SSN 429-50-0814, name listed July 1946 as Emma May Pickett.

228. Rogers Family Bible (see Illustrations), “Emma May Rogers [born] Oklahoma [born] 14. Dec. 1892. [married] 10 Jan 1926 [died] Oct 2[?]-1953.” See caveats in footnotes above.

229. *Find a Grave*, no. 29860841, gravestone photograph, White and Shelby Cem., Central City, Sebastian Co., Ark., “Emma May Pickett | Dec. 14, 1892 | [?] 22, 1953.”

230. *Find a Grave*, no. 168945421, obit. (no newspaper cited): “Flora May Summers, age 87, of Fort Smith, passed away Wednesday, August 24, 2016 in Fort Smith. | She was born April 27, 1929 in Massard, Arkansas to Frank and Emma (Rogers) Thompson. | . . . | She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband of 66 years, Manning L. ‘Buck’ Summers. | She is survived by two

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166 vii DAVID TOM⁵ ROGERS, born 22 Nov. 1899, Arkansas.

96. MARQUIS LAFAYETTE⁴ RIGGS (₃₈*John Walker³, James², William¹*) was born 23 Sept. 1864, Ft. Smith, Sebastian Co., Ark., died 14 Nov. 1933, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa,^[231] and was buried 17 Nov. 1933, Pine Hill Cem., Des Moines, Iowa.^[232] He married (1) 2 Nov. 1892, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa,^[233] **LELIA N. M. BOYLE**, who was born about 1868, Iowa, daughter of H. S. and Matilda (Durst) Boyle. Marquis married (2) 28 Nov. 1897, Blair, Washington Co., Nebr.,^[234] **ELLA MAY [or MAE ELLA] ALLEN**, who was born May 1876 (1900 census), Iowa, daughter of David C. and Abigal (Long) Allen, and who died 1941, and was buried near her husband.^[235]

daughters, Brenda J. Smith of Greenwood, and Karen ‘Sam’ Clark-Briscoe (and husband, Rick) of Springdale; and her granddaughter, Mary Katherine Smith of Lawrence, Kansas. | Funeral service will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 27, 2016 at St. Paul United Methodist Church. | Burial to follow at Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery . . .”

231. *Iowa Death Records, 1920–1940*, death certificate, no. 1520, image online, Marquis Lafayette Riggs, died 14 Nov. 1933, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, aged 69 yrs. 1 mo. 21 dys., male, white, married (to Mae Ella Riggs), machinist, born 23 Sept. 1864, Ft. Smith, Ark., father John Walker Riggs, birthplace unknown, mother Susan Emaline Shelby, born Arkansas, informant Dorrence Riggs Lackey, of Des Moines, Iowa, buried 17 Nov. 1933, Pine Hill, Des Moines, Iowa.

232. *Find a Grave*, no. 95092970, gravestone photograph, by Katie Lou, Pine Hill Cem., Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, “M. L. Riggs | 1864–1933.”

233. *Iowa Marriage Records, 1880–1940*, image online, Pottawattamie Co., 1893, 78–1185, “[license no.] 7047 [groom] Marguis [sic] L. Riggs [residence] Co Bluffs Ia [occupation] machinist [age] 29 years [color] W [no. marriage] 1st [birthplace] Arkansas [father] J. W. Riggs {mother} Susan E. Shelby [bride] Lelia N. M. Boyle [residence] Council Bluffs [age] 24 years [color] W [no. marriage] 1st [birthplace] Iowa [father] H. S. Boyle [mother] Matilda Durst [married] at Council Bluffs Nov 2 1892 [witnesses] Walter G Riggs Mary L Boyle [by] H. P. Dudley [registered] Nov 4 1892.”

234. *Nebr. Marriage Records, 1855–1908*, image online, Washington Co., 375, no. 7422466, licensed 27 Nov. 1897, Mr. Marquis L Riggs, 33, white, born Ark., of “Mo Valley,” Iowa, to Miss Ella May Allen, 22, white, born Iowa, of Blair, Nebr. his parents John W. and Susan E. Shelby, her parents David C. and Abigal Long, married 28 Nov. 1897, Blair, Nebr., by Elder J. L. Keil, witnesses Cora Stricklett and Mrs. Ives Stricklett.

235. *Find a Grave*, no. 95093001, gravestone photograph, by Katie Lou, Pine Hill Cem., Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, “Ella May | Riggs | 1876–1941.”

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In 1900 “Marcus” L. Riggs, 35, a can factory superintendent born Sept. 1864 in Arkansas of a father born in New York and a mother in Arkansas, resided in Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co., Wisc., with his (second) wife of three years, “Mary” E., 24, born May 1876 in Iowa of Iowa natives, and with his daughter, Faye T., 6/12, born Jan. 1900 in Illinois. Ma[r]ly had had one child, and it survived.^[236]

In 1910 “Marcus” L. Riggs, 45, a cement contractor born in Arkansas of U.S. natives, resided in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, with his (second) wife of 13 years, May, 33, born in Iowa of Iowa natives, and with his son, Fay, 10, born in Illinois, daughters, Dorrence, 7, born in Wisconsin, and Abby, 5, born in Nebraska, and son, Dallas, 2, born in Iowa, and with his brother, Walter, 43, born in Arkansas of U.S. natives.^[237]

In 1920 “Marcus” L. Riggs, 54, a machinist born in Arkansas of Arkansas natives, resided in Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, with his wife, May, 44, born in Iowa of Iowa natives, daughter, “Dorence,” 17, born in Wisconsin, and sons, Edwin, 5, and Gene, 3/12, both born in Iowa. Aretta Riggs, 22, a single woman born in Illinois of Illinois natives, resided next door as a boarder.^[238]

In 1930 “Chas” A. Riggs, 59, and his brother Marquis L. Riggs, 65, both machinists born in Arkansas of a father born in West Virginia and a mother in Arkansas, resided in Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, with his [she appears to be Charles’s wife, but she must be Marquis’s] wife, Ella M., 53, born in Iowa of a father born in Indiana and a mother in Iowa, and with his sons [again, this appears to be Charles but must be Marquis], Edwin C.,

236. U.S. census, 1900, Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co., Wisc., ED 25, r. ?, p. 108, sh. 17B, dw. 352, fam. 353.

237. U.S. census, 1910, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, ED 139, r. 421, p. 68, sh. 9A, dw. 176, fam. 190.

238. U.S. census, 1920, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, ED 125, r. 508, p. 253, sh. 8B, dw. 191, fam. 192.

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

15, and Gene M., 10, both born in Iowa, and with eight roomers. Charles was first married at 35, Ella at 21, and Marquis at 32.^[239]

In 1940 Ella Mae Riggs, 63, a widow born in Iowa, resided in Saylor Twp., Polk Co., Iowa, in the household of her son-in-law, Clifford Lackey, 42, manager of the shoe department in a department store, born in Iowa, his wife, Dorrence, 38, born in Wisconsin, and his brother-in-law, Gene Riggs, 20, born in Iowa. They all resided in the same place in 1935.^[240]

Children of the second marriage, to Ella May:

- 167 i **FAYE T.⁵ RIGGS**, born Jan. 1900, Illinois.
- 168 ii **DORRENCE IVA⁵ RIGGS**, born 12 July 1902, Dodgeville, Iowa Co., Wisc.,^[241] married 30 June 1924, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa,^[242] **CLIFFORD C. LACKEY**, born about 1897, Marshalltown, Marshall Co., Iowa, son of C. H. and Gertrude (Stevens) Lackey.
- 169 iii **ABBY/ABBIE⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1905, Nebraska, or St. Paul, Minn., married (1) — **LUNDY**, married (2) 22 Mar. 1924, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa,^[243] **JOHN WINTERS**, born about 1898, probably McGregor, Clayton Co., Iowa, son of James and Harriett (Smally) Winters.

239. U.S. census, 1930, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, ED 58, r. ?, p. 138, sh. 12B, dw. 206, fam. 258.

240. U.S. census, 1940, Saylor Twp., Polk Co., Iowa, ED 77-30, r. 1192, p. 348, sh. 37B, dw. 704.

241. *Wisc. Births and Christenings Index, 1801–1928*, Dorrence Iva Riggs, female, white, born 12 July 1902, Dodgeville, Iowa Co., Wisc., father Marquis Lafayette Riggs, mother Ella Mae Allen, FHL 1302877.

242. *Iowa Marriage Records, 1880–1940*, image online, no. 77–14467, groom Clifford C. Lackey, residence 1022½ Pleasant St., Des Moines, occupation salesman, age next birthday 28 yrs., color white, birthplace Marshalltown, Iowa, father C. H. Lackey, mother Gertrude Stevens, no. of marriage first, bride Dorrence I. Riggs, residence 617 Oak Park, Des Moines, age next birthday 22 yrs., color white, birthplace Dodgeville, Wisc., father M. L. Riggs, mother Ella Mae Allen, no. of marriage first, witnesses Charles W. Kenyon and Esther Callman, married 30 June 1924, Des Moines, by a minister.

243. *Iowa Marriage Records, 1880–1940*, image online, John Winters, of Des Moines, Iowa, pipe coverer, 27 (next birthday), white, Caucasian, born McGregor Co. [sic], Iowa, to Abbie Lundy, maiden Abbie Riggs, of Des Moines, 20 (next birthday), white, Caucasian, born St. Paul, Minn., married 22 Mar. 1924, Des Moines, his parents James Winters and Harriett Smally, her parents Marquis Riggs and Mae Allen, second marriage for both, witnesses, Mr. and Mrs. George Winters.

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- 170 iv **DALLAS ALLEN⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1908, Iowa, died Sept. 1915, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, buried Blair Cem., Blair, Washington Co., Nebr.^[244]
- 171 v **EDWIN CONRAD WALKER⁵ RIGGS**, born 25 May 1914, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa,^[245] married 7 June 1936, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa,^[246] **JEANNE FRANCES SHORT**, born about 1914, Anthon, Woodbury Co., Iowa, daughter of John Harrison and Garnett (Strother) Short.
- 172 vi **GENE MILES⁵ RIGGS**, born 2 Oct. 1919, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa, died 4 or 13 Aug. 1989, Alameda Co., Calif.^[247] He resided with his sister Dorrence in 1940.

109. WILLIAM GRANT⁴ RIGGS (₃₉*Joseph S.³, James², William¹*) was born Jan. 1868 (1900 census) or 14 Jan. 1869,^[248] Missouri (probably in Lebanon, Laclede Co.), and died **6 Sept. 1951, Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla.**

244. *Find a Grave*, no. 118166414, gravestone photograph, Blair Cem., Blair, Washington Co., Nebr., "Dalla Allen | son of | M. L. & Mae Riggs." Also quotes an obit. in *The Pilot*, 15 Sept. 1915, "Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Riggs brought the body of their little son, Dallas Allen, up from Council Bluffs Friday evening for burial in the Blair cemetery the following day. The little fellow died Thursday morning of quinsy, followed by heart trouble. The funeral was held from the Louis Stricklett home in North Blair at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon."

245. *Iowa Delayed Birth Records, 1856–1940*, image online, no. 460408, Edwin Conrad Walker Riggs, born 25 May 1914, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, male, white, father Marquis Lafayette Riggs, born Ark., mother Ella Mae Allen, born Iowa, subscribed and sworn 11 Mar. 1942, by Edwin C. Riggs, of Marshalltown, Iowa, cites four records.

246. *Iowa Marriage Records, 1880–1940*, image online, Edwin Conrad Riggs, of Des Moines, Iowa, typewriter mechanic, 23, white, born Council Bluffs, Iowa, father Marquis L. Riggs, mother Mae Allen, first marriage, to Jeanne Frances Short, of Des Moines, Iowa, 23, white, born Anthon, Iowa, father John Harrison Short, mother Garnett Strother, first marriage, witnesses Ruby Pascoe, George Malaney, married 7 June 1936, Des Moines.

247. *U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*, Gene Miles Riggs, male, white, born 2 Oct. 1919, Des Moines, Iowa, died 4 Aug. 1989, father Marquis L. Riggs, mother Ella M. Allen, SSN 478-16-3042, disability denied; *Calif. Death Index, 1940–1997*, Gene Miles Riggs, SSN 478-16-3042, male, born 2 Oct. 1919, Iowa, died 13 Aug. 1989, Alameda Co., Calif., mother's maiden name Allen.

248. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 21, "William Grant, born January 14, 1869."

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He married (1) 28 Oct. 1890^[249] **ROSE ELLA (BUSTER) GILLIS**,^[250] who was born 5 Oct. 1868 or Nov. 1870 (1900 census), Cooweescoowee District, Claremore area, Indian Terr. (Oklahoma),^[251] daughter of John and Mattie (–) Buster, and died Nov. 1901.^[252] He married (2) 22 June 1902^[253] **JULIETTE SCRIMSHER CHAMBERS**, who was born 28 Nov. 1873, Oklahoma. **He married (3) MINNIE KIRKPATRICK.**

In 1900 “W^m” G. Riggs, 32, a farmer born Jan. 1868 in Missouri of Virginia natives, resided in Twp. 21, Cherokee Nation, Indian Terr., with his wife of 10 years, Ella, 30, born Nov. 1870 in Indian Terr. of parents born in Indian Terr., and with his daughter, Mattie, 4, born June 1895, and his sons, Edgar, 2, born Nov. 1897, and Rolla, 8/12, born Sept. 1899, all three born in Indian Terr. Ella had had five chil-

249. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 22, “On October 28, 1890, Joseph Riggs’s son William Grant, aged twenty-one, married Rose Ella Buster Gillis, a widow, whose frail two-year-old daughter, Hattie Gillis, died a few months later. A small, quiet woman with delicate features, Rose Ella (‘Rosie’) was one-eighth Cherokee through her mother, Mrs. John (‘Mattie’) Buster.”

250. Ruoff, “Rolla Lynn Riggs,” 289, “He was born Rolla Lynn Riggs on August 31, 1899, in the Verdigris Valley three miles south of Claremore, in the Indian Territory, then one of the most isolated areas in North America. His father, William Grant Riggs, was a cowboy-turned-banker and his mother, Rosa Gillis Riggs, was one-eighth Cherokee. Because of this ancestry, Riggs later received a government land allotment near Claremore, Oklahoma.”

251. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 22, “Rosie Buster had been born October 56, 1868, in Cooweescoowee District in the Claremore area of Indian Territory, into the Go-Sa-Du-I-Sga clan of the Cherokee Nation. According to to Indian census records, she bore W. G. (‘Bill’) Riggs five children, three of whom lived past infancy: Mattie A. M. (Mary Martha) in 1896; William Edgar, 1898; and Rollie Lynn, August 31, 1899. Ethel F., born in 1891, died a year later; Joseph B. H., 1892, died in 1895. Rosie’s short, sad life was ended by typhoid fever in November, 1901, . . . She and her daughter Hattie, who died in infancy, are buried in the Buster family Indian cemetery, a small plot on the old Buster farm north of Claremore.”

252. Ruoff, “Rolla Lynn Riggs,” 289, “His mother died when he was a year old, and his father remarried.”

253. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 22, “On June 22, 1902, six months after Rosie’s death, Bill Riggs married Juliette Scrimsher Chambers, twenty-eight, who was one-fourth Cherokee. Born near Claremore on November 28, 1873, Juliette had . . .”

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dren, with three surviving. Next door resided “Jo^s” S. Riggs, 67, born in Virginia.^[254]

In 1910 William G. Riggs, 42, a bank president of the Bank of Oklahoma born in Missouri of Virginia natives, resided in Twp. 4, Rogers Co., Okla., with his (second) wife of eight years (her first marriage), Juliette, 36, born in Oklahoma of Oklahoma natives, and with his daughter, Mattie, 14, and his sons, Edgar, 12, and Linn, 10, all three born in Oklahoma of a mother born in Oklahoma, and with his son, Lee Grant, 1, born in Oklahoma of a mother born in Oklahoma. Juliette had had one children, with it surviving. William had three surviving children.^[255]

In 1920 William G. Riggs, 50, a farmer born in Missouri of Virginia natives, resided in Verdigris, Rogers Co., Okla., with his wife, “Juliett” S., 49, born in Oklahoma of Oklahoma natives, and with his sons, Lee G., 11, and Joe V., 5, both born in Oklahoma of a mother born in Oklahoma.^[256]

Known children, of five, of the first marriage, to Ella:

- 173 i **MATTIE MARY⁵ RIGGS**, born June 1895, Indian Terr., married **LESTER BRYANT CUNDIFF**, and had two children (birth order not known): (1) Leo⁶ Cundiff; and (2) Bernice⁶ Cundiff, born 21 Sept. 1921, Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla., died 21 Apr. 2007, married 1940 Robert Lee Hodges, and had two children.^[257]

254. U.S. census, 1900, Twp. 21, Cherokee Nation, Indian Terr., ED 22, r. 1844, [no page no. found], sh. 22B, dw. 409, fam. 410. Joseph resided in dw. 408.

255. U.S. census, 1910, Twp. 4, Rogers Co., Okla., ED 173, r. 1273, p. 136, sh. 11B, line 26, dw. 21, fam. 53.

256. U.S. census, 1920, Verdigris, Rogers Co., Okla., ED 163, r. 1482, p. 176, sh. 3A, dw. 49, fam. 51.

257. The information in this paragraph is from an obit. for Bernice (Cundiff) Hodges, in the *Claremore Daily Progress*, 25 Apr. 2007, “William Grant Riggs, a Claremore pioneer who helped establish the first bank and hospital in town, was Bernice’s grandfather, and she is the niece of playwright Lynn Riggs, who is most notable for ‘Green Grow the Lilacs’ written in 1931 from which Rodgers and Hammerstein made the musical ‘Oklahoma!’ Bernice was active . . . supporting The Lynn Riggs Museum in Claremore. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her brother Leo Cundiff. She is survived by sons Robert Hodges, Jr. and James Lynn Hodges of Tulsa,

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- 174 ii **EDGAR⁵ RIGGS**, born Nov. 1897, Indian Terr.
+ 175 iii **ROLLA/ROLLIE LINN/LYNN⁵ RIGGS**, born Sept. 1899 or 31 Aug. 1899, Indian Terr. Poet and playwright.

Known children of four of the second marriage, to Juliette:^[258]

- + 176 iv **LEE GRANT⁵ RIGGS**, born 1908, Oklahoma, married **DOROTHY (—) SMITH**, and had at least two children. A DNA contributor descends from this line.
177 v **JOSEPH VANN⁵ RIGGS**, born 1914, Oklahoma.

Fifth Generation

139. JOHN L.⁵ RIGGS (₆₅George W.⁴, Richard A.³, John², William¹) was born 25 Mar. 1904, Kentucky.^[259] He married (1) 1926, Hazard, Ky., **ULDEAN GIBSON**, who was born in Paris Co., Ky., and died in Ky. He married (2) 10 Sept. 1936, Harrisonburg, Va., **LUELLA BELLE HARPER**, who was born 21 Nov. 1915, Donora, Washington Co., Pa., daughter of Joseph C. and Rose (Hay) Harper,^[260] and who died 2 June 1960, Concord, Contra Costa Co., Calif.

Child of the first marriage, to Uldean:^[261]

- 178 i **NETA MAE⁶ RIGGS**, born 1928.

Children of the second marriage, to Luella:^[262]

nephew Gary Cundiff and wife Katherine of Tulsa, niece Sally Hoffman & husband Kirby of Claremore, along with many other relatives and friends.”

258. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 27, “Two sons were born to him and Juliette: Lee Grant, in 1908, and Joseph Vann, in 1914. Two daughters died in infancy.”

259. All information in this paragraph, unless otherwise stated, is from email from Sherry Dawn (Fee) Riggs, wife of Robert Asbury⁶, 21 Feb. 2009.

260. U.S. census, 1930, Bullskin, Fayette Co., Pa., ED 4, r. 2038, p. xx, sh. 10B, dw. 198., fam. 199, lists Joseph C. Harper, 43, born Pa., wife Rose, 34, born Pa., and four children including Luella B., 14, born Pa.

261. Email from Sherry Dawn (Fee) Riggs, wife of Robert Asbury⁶, 21 Feb. 2009.

262. Email from Sherry Dawn (Fee) Riggs, wife of Robert Asbury⁶, 21 Feb. 2009.

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- 179 ii **JACQUILIN ANN⁶ RIGGS**, born 9 July 1937, George Town Pike, Fayette Co., Ky.
- 180 iii **PATRICIA LOU⁶ RIGGS**, born 4 June 1939, Bluefield, W. Va.
- 181 iv **ROBERT ASBURY⁶ RIGGS**, born 2 Mar. 1941, Bluefield, Mercer Co., W. Va., married 8 Oct. 1966, Concord, Calif., **SHERRY DAWN FEE**, born 22 Oct. 1942, Vancouver, Clark Co., Wash., daughter of Charles and Wilma (Ashby) Fee, and had two children. Robert is a contributor to my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.

148. WILLIAM DAVID⁵ RIGGS (₈₆*Emmett⁴, David R.³, John², William¹*) was born 14 Aug. 1916, Kentucky,^[263] died 7 Oct. 1991.^[264]
Known children:^[265]

- 182 i **OTIS DAVID⁶ RIGGS** [twin], born 30 June 1944, married **LINDA —**. John is a participant in my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.^[266]
- 183 ii **HAROLD LEE⁶ RIGGS** [twin], born 30 June 1944, died at birth.

152. LURIA [LURA]⁵ RIGGS (₉₁*Henry H.⁴, David C.³, David², William¹*) was born 1903, Kentucky, died 1992, and was buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[267] She married about 1923 **BERT BLIZZARD**, who was born about 1900, Carter Co., Ky.^[268]

In 1930 Bert Blizzard, 30, a brick plant worker born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, resided in Grayson Pct., Carter Co., Ky., with his wife, Lura, 27, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives. Bert first married at 23,

263. Full name and dates from Linda Riggs, wife of William's son, David⁶, transmitted to the author via email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 10 Apr. 2005.

264. SSDI, William D. Riggs, SSN 403-20-5618, born 14 Aug. 1916, died 7 Oct. 1991, issued Ky. (before 1951).

265. From Linda Riggs, wife of David⁶, via email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 10 Apr. 2005.

266. His genetic signature matches that of Edward Riggs, 1633 immigrant to Roxbury, Mass., on 33 of 37 markers.

267. Gravestone reading from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, email 3 Apr. 2005.

268. Bert's birthplace from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, email 3 Apr. 2005, who believes he died in 1946.

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

and Lura at 20. Bert's daughters were also in the household: Jeneva, 5, and Verneda, 3, both born in Kentucky. Lura's father, Henry Riggs, and several of her siblings also resided in the household.^[269]

Known children:

- 184 i GENIVIEVE [JENEVA]⁶ BLIZZARD, born 15 Feb. 1925, Carter Co., Ky.^[270]
- 185 ii VERNEDA⁶ BLIZZARD, born about 1927, Kentucky. She was buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[271]
- 186 iii WYONIA⁶ BLIZZARD, born 27 Oct. 1930, Carter Co., Ky.^[272]
- 187 iv WILBERTA [BERTIE]⁶ BLIZZARD, born 1932.^[273]

159. HUBERT CLIFTON⁵ RIGGS (₉₁Henry H.⁴, David C.³, David², William¹) was born 14 Jan. 1921, Carter Co., Ky.,^[274] died 30 Dec. 1998, Gallia Co., Ohio,^[275] last residence, Bidwell, Gallia Co.^[276] He was buried 4 Jan. 1999 in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[277] Hubert married^[278] **HAZEL MAE FAIN**, who was

269. U.S. census, 1930, Grayson Pct., Carter Co., Ky., ED 3, r. 739, p. 48, sh. 16A-B, dw. 270, fam. 273.

270. *Births 1921-1930, A-B*, "[certificate] 013 [child's name] Blizzard Genivieve [mother's name] Riggs Lura [date] 02 15 1925 [text28] 06164."

271. Email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 3 Apr. 2005.

272. *Births 1921-1930, A-B*, "[certificate] 094 [child's name] Blizzard Wyonia [mother's name] Riggs Lura [date] 10 27 1930 [text28] 46560."

273. Email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 3 Apr. 2005. Bertie lived in Georgia.

274. *Births 1921-1930, N-R*, "[certificate] 002 [child's name] Riggs Hubert [mother's name] Riggs Rebecca [date] 01 14 1921 [text28] 00770."

275. *Ohio Deaths, 1958-200*, Hubert C. Riggs, death 30 Dec. 1998, aged 77, widowed, birth 14 Jan. 1921, Kentucky, vol. 31803, certificate 103995, SSN 294-12-8215, residence Ohio; emails from daughter, Jeanne⁶ Workman, 30 and 31 Mar. 2005, "My dad, Hubert Clifton Riggs (Jan. 14, 1921-Dec. [30], 1998) lived with me when he died (Gallia County, Ohio)."

276. SSDI, Hubert C. Riggs, SSN 294-12-8215, born 14 Jan. 1921, died 30 Dec. 1998, last residence 45614 Bidwell, Gallia Co., Ohio, issued Ohio (before 1951).

277. Email from daughter Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 31 Mar. 2005. She notes that Hubert's brother, Ellis, died the day of Hubert's funeral.

278. Email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 3 Apr. 2005.

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born 18 May 1925, died 4 Jan. 1980, and was buried in Sunset Gardens.^[279]

Children:^[280]

- 188 i **JEANNE SUE⁶ RIGGS**, born 3 Nov. 1945, Premier, McDowell Co., W. Va., married — **WORKMAN**. Jeanne is the author's correspondent on this family.
- 189 ii **LARRY ALAN⁶ RIGGS**, born 19 Aug. 1947, McDowell Co., W. Va.
- 190 iii **JOHN CLIFTON⁶ RIGGS**, born 14 Sept. 1964, Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio. John is a participant in my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.^[281]

175. ROLLA/ROLLIE LINN/LYNN⁵ RIGGS (₉₁*William Grant⁴, Joseph S.³, David², William¹*) was born 31 Aug. 1899, Indian Terr., near what is now Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla. He died 30 June 1954, New York City, N.Y.^[282] Author of the play which became the movie *Oklahoma!* Screenwriter of the Western movie, *The Plainsman*. The following is excerpted from *A Handbook of Oklahoma Writers*:

279. Email from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 3 Apr. 2005.

280. Emails from Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, 2 Apr. 2005.

281. His genetic signature matches that of Edward Riggs, 1633 immigrant to Roxbury, Mass., on 36 of 37 markers.

282. *The Internet Movie Database*, Lynn Riggs, born 31 Aug. 1899, Claremore, Okla., died 30 June 1954, New York City, N.Y., of cancer, birth name Rollie Lynn Riggs, "Inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in 1965. Famous playwright and poet. Riggs is most famous for writing 'Oklahoma!' which became a monster musical hit on Broadway (and later hit film) which ran for a then-astounding 5+ year, 2212-performance run at The St. James Theatre from 194532-48. Ironically, the show was a reworked musical version of the flop 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs* . . . Has a section of Route 66 named after him. It runs through his birthplace, Claremore, Oklahoma."

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA



LYNN RIGGS

Attracted toward the stage, Lynn Riggs hitched his wagon to Pegasus and rode into the theatre with an output of poetic and regional plays that has brought him outstanding success as a dramatist—a success secondary only to his ability as a scenarist and director.

The son of a cattleman, and of Cherokee Indian blood, Riggs was born in 1899 on a farm near Claremore, Oklahoma, during territorial days. As a boy he drove a grocery wagon and read lurid tales. Upon graduation from the Oklahoma Military Academy in 1917 he caught a freight train to Chicago where he was employed for a time by the Adams Express Company. From there he went on to New York where he swept out Wall Street offices, reported on the *Wall Street Journal*, and sold books at Macy's for \$10 a week. For entertainment, he saw as many plays as possible.

Returning to Oklahoma in 1919, Riggs worked in Tulsa as a reporter on the *Oil and Gas Journal*. The poetry and the romantic death of Alan Seeger gave him the desire to write and he took up the study of modern poetry. The stage was foremost in his mind, however, and he went to Los Angeles in the fall, where he worked as an extra with such favorites as

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Pauline Frederick, Jack Pickford, Wallace Reid, and Hobart Bosworth. Forced into other work, he read proof on the *Los Angeles Times*. This paper published his first poem, but any satisfaction in seeing it in print was destroyed by the editor who, in jest, named the poem *Spasm*.

Lynn Riggs entered the University of Oklahoma in 1920, and taught freshmen English there in 1922-23. While there, he corresponded with John McClure, whose poetry had influenced him, and who, like himself, was a literary protege of H. L. Mencken, then editor with George Jean Nathan, of *Smart Set*. Riggs had been selling poetry to the better magazines since 1919, and exerted a direct influence on the group of poets then in the university.

Another writer with whom Riggs enjoyed close friendship was W. S. Campbell. They encouraged each other in their work, and later were to experience national recognition the same month of the same year.

When the poet, Witter Bynner, lectured at the University of Oklahoma in 1922, he and Riggs became friends, and the following year, upon Bynner's suggestion, Riggs moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to recover from an illness.

By 1926 Riggs was back in New York hoping to crash Broadway. In the meantime he had worked on a chicken ranch, in a glass factory, sung in a Chautauqua quartet and in a picture show, and had written poetry. The play he was offering was *The Domino Parlor*. He showed it to Eugene O'Neill who showed it to Zoe Akins, supervisor for the Schuberts. Miss Akins had the negotiations for purchase under way within twenty-four hours. Lionel Barrymore said it was the best play he had read in twenty years.

In all, Lynn Riggs has written some fifteen plays of which at least ten have been produced or bought for production, or published, and most of which are about Old Indian Territory.

His first play was *Cuckoo*, written during the Christmas holiday at the university in 1920. It was a farce with a college fraternity setting and was produced at the university in the spring of 1921, and again in the summer. *Knives from Syria* (1928), a one act play, was produced by the Santa Fe Players in 1925. It received a reading in Chicago through the influence of Altha Leah Bass, but was not produced. *Sump'n Like Wings* was scheduled for

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production in New York in 1926 by a theatre group backed by Otto Kahn, but the plans failed. When *Big Lake* (1927), Riggs's first Broadway production, opened at the American Laboratory Theatre, April 7, 1927, Burns Mantle predicted that something fine would come of the talent shown.

Riggs's next offerings were *A Lantern to See By*, published in 1928; *Rancor*, produced by a repertory theatre in Philadelphia; *Domino Parlor*, tried out by the Schuberts in 1928, but failed to reach Broadway; and *The Lonesome West*, which had a like fate.

Borned in Texas, written between Hollywood assignments, and produced by Arthur Hopkins under the title, *Roadside* (1930) was a failure. Just before it opened at the Dallas Little Theatre in 1936, John Rosenfield, Jr., writing in *The Dallas News* of June 5, 1936, said, "*Borned in Texas* is the original but discarded title of a play known as *Roadside*, which was such a thumping failure on Broadway when Arthur Hopkins produced it that the debacle lent a curious prestige to the piece." Hopkins, one of the most discriminating of Broadway producers, still calls *Roadside* the greatest of American dramas.

Green Grow the Lilacs (1931), produced by the Theatre Guild in New York, was rated one of the ten best plays of the year. Lynn Riggs started writing it in the Cafe De Deux Magots on the Left Bank in Paris, when he was there in 1928 on a Guggenheim Fellowship. He finished the play five months later in the south of France. It was an outstanding production at the Dallas Little Theatre during the week of March 7, 1932, and was again produced in Dallas at the Festival of Southwestern Plays, on May 10, 1935, at the Twentieth Anniversary of Southern Methodist University.

Cherokee Night, deals with the vanishing Indian tribes of the Southwest. *Son of Perdition* is a dramatization of James Gould Cozzens' book. *More Sky* was produced by Riggs at the Northwestern University Theatre during the summer of 1934.

Russet Mantle (1936), which opened in New York City, January 16, 1936, Riggs's first attempt at a contemporary subject, was a success artistically and financially. It was a satirical comedy concerned with the difficulties with which modern youth is faced. Brooks Atkinson, drama critic of the *New York Times*, said in his review; "It was gorgeously acted last evening at the Masque Theatre, where it ought to hang its hat for a long time. For

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this is a fragment of the *comédie humaine*—wise, fresh and incorrigibly ridiculous, and by all odds the best thing Mr. Riggs has done . . . The spirit is gay and the thinking is sane . . . It is a temptation to say that *Russet Mantle* is a priceless comedy, but that phrase might be misconstrued and sound like patronizing comment. Let us say merely that it is modest, light, sensible and funny. Pure comedy, in fact.”

Riggs creates successfully for both screen and stage, and has spent much time in Hollywood with the Pathe Studios. The scenarios of “*Garden of Allah*,” with Marlene Dietrich and Charles Boyer, and “*The Plainsman*,” with Gary Cooper and Jean Arthur, both have the Riggs touch. In his scenario work he prefers to free-lance and is not under contract to any one studio.

His poetry has been collected under the title, *The Iron Dish* (1930). Many of the poems had appeared in *The Nation*, *The Bookman*, *The New Republic*, *New York Herald-Tribune*, *Palms*, *American Mercury*, *Contemporary Verse*, and *The Reviewer*. He is also editor of *Cowboy Songs*, *Folk Songs and Ballads* (1932).

When not in New York or Hollywood, he shares a Spanish house, at 770 Acequia Madre, Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a black German shepherd dog, Franz, the gift of Francis Lederer, and a Scottie, Baron, given to him by Joan Crawford.^[283]

The Lynn Riggs Memorial is located in Lynn Riggs Park in Claremore, Okla. The Lynn Riggs Award is presented each year to artistic contributors who are Oklahomans by birth (or choice).

176. LEE GRANT⁵ RIGGS (₉₁William Grant⁴, Joseph S.³, David², William¹) was born **21 June 1908** (gravestone probably) about 1909, **Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla.**, died **21 July 1989**, and was buried in **Rose Hill Memorial Park, Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla.**^[284] He married about 1929 **DORO-**

283. Marable and Boylan, *Handbook of Okla. Writers*, 93–96.

284. *Find a Grave*, no. 19077269, **unsourced**, “Son of William Grant Riggs b. 14 Jan 1869 in Laclede Co., MO, and Juliette Schrimsher Chambers b. 25 Nov 1873. He married Dorothy Smith (buried at this cem.); they had the following children: Bill Valjean b. 9 Mar 1927, Patrica Ann Riggs b. 1929, and Gerald Lee Riggs (buried at this cem.).”

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THY/DOROTHEA (—) SMITH, who was born 17 July 1910, Oklahoma, died 15 Sept. 2000, last residence Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla.,^[285] and had first married about 1926. A DNA contributor, a son, belongs to this family.

In 1930 Lee Riggs, 21, a bookbinder born in Oklahoma of a father born in the U.S. and a mother in Oklahoma, resided in Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla., with his wife, Dorothy, 19, born in Oklahoma of a father born in Kansas and a mother in Missouri, and with his daughter, Patricia, 1/12, born in Oklahoma, and his stepson, Val Jean Smith, 3, born in Oklahoma of a father born in California. Lee was first married at age 20, and Dorothy at 15.^[286]

Relatives listed for Lee G. Riggs of Broken Arrow, Okla., in 2010 at <inteli.us.com> are Bill V. Riggs, Dorothea S. Riggs (99), Edith L. Riggs (51), and Gerald L. Riggs. And for Lee Grant Riggs, 60, born 19 Apr. 1950, of Tulsa, Okla. are Grant Grant Riggs (60), Kathy Jo Riggs (48), Wanda N. Riggs, Gavin C. Riggs (50), and Winchell Kathy Riggs (48). Jeff L. Riggs, 54, of Broken Arrow, Okla., in 2010 at <inteli.us.com> has listed relatives: Dorothea S. Riggs (99), Lee G. Riggs (92), and Lynda Jane Riggs (54). The latter appears to be living with Lee G. Riggs, born about 1918 and Dorothea S. Riggs born about 1911. If Lee G. Riggs's birth is off by 10 years then he was born about 1908. <www.wholookingfor.com> lists Dorothea S Riggs of Broken Arrow and Tulsa, Okla., with these relatives: Caprice Leanne Tyner, Bill V. Riggs, Edith C. Adcock, Lee G. Riggs, Jeff L. Riggs, Barbara Diane Riggs, Gerald Lee Riggs, Lynda Jane Riggs.

Royalties assignment documents of 17 Nov. 2005, for the copyright document to *Oklahoma!* which was executed 31 Dec. 1969, lists "as co-personal representatives of the Estate of Dorothea S. Riggs. Jeffrey Lee Riggs & Barbara Diane Nuckolls-Riggs."^[287]

285. SSDI, Dorothea L. [sic] Riggs, SSN 445-20-5828, born 17 Jul 1910, died 15 Sept. 2000, last residence and benefit, 74145 Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla., issued Okla. (before 1951); *U.S. Public Records Index, Vol. 1*, Dorothea S. Riggs, born 17 July 1910.

286. U.S. census, 1930, Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla., ED 94, r. 1935, p. 283, sh. 6B, dw. 57, fam. 87.

287. *A good year & 1 other title, Oklahoma, Night at the museum*, <www.faqs.org/copyright/a-good-year-and-1-other-title-oklahoma-night-at-the-museum/#id8690983> (saved 30 June 2010).

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Children:

- 191 i **BILL VALJEAN**^{6*} **SMITH [RIGGS]**, born **9 Mar.** about 1927, Oklahoma. He was Dorothy's child by her first marriage, and may have been adopted into the Riggs family.
- 192 ii **PATRICIA ANN**⁶ **RIGGS**, born **1929** about 1930, Oklahoma.
- 193 iii **?GERALD LEE**⁶ **RIGGS**, born 30 June 1931, **Oklahoma**, died 3 Dec. 1997, last residence Chelsea, Rogers Co., Okla.,^[288] buried Rose Hill Memorial Park, Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla.,^[289] married **BARBARA DIANE NUCKOLLS**, and had **three** children.^[290] **One of them is perhaps the following:**
 - JEFFREY LEE**⁷ **RIGGS**, born about **1956**, married **probably LYNDIA JANE —**, born about **1956**. He is DNA contributor to my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.

288. SSDI, Gerald L. Riggs, SSN 441-20-7744, born 30 June 1931, died 3 Dec. 1997, last residence 74016 Chelsea, Rogers Co., Okla., issued Okla. (before 1951).

289. *U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006*, Gerald L. Riggs, service U.S. Navy Korea, born 30 June 1931, died 3 Dec. 1997, cem. Rosehill Memorial Park, Tulsa, Okla.

290. *Find a Grave*, no. 19077214, **unsourced**, "He married Living Female Nuckolls; they have 3 living Riggs children. Occupation: truck driver"; *Find a Grave*, no. 7636133, Gerald L. Riggs, Rose Hill Memorial Park, "Death Notice - Tulsa World (December 7, 1997, A30) Age: 66. Occupation: Truck Driver."

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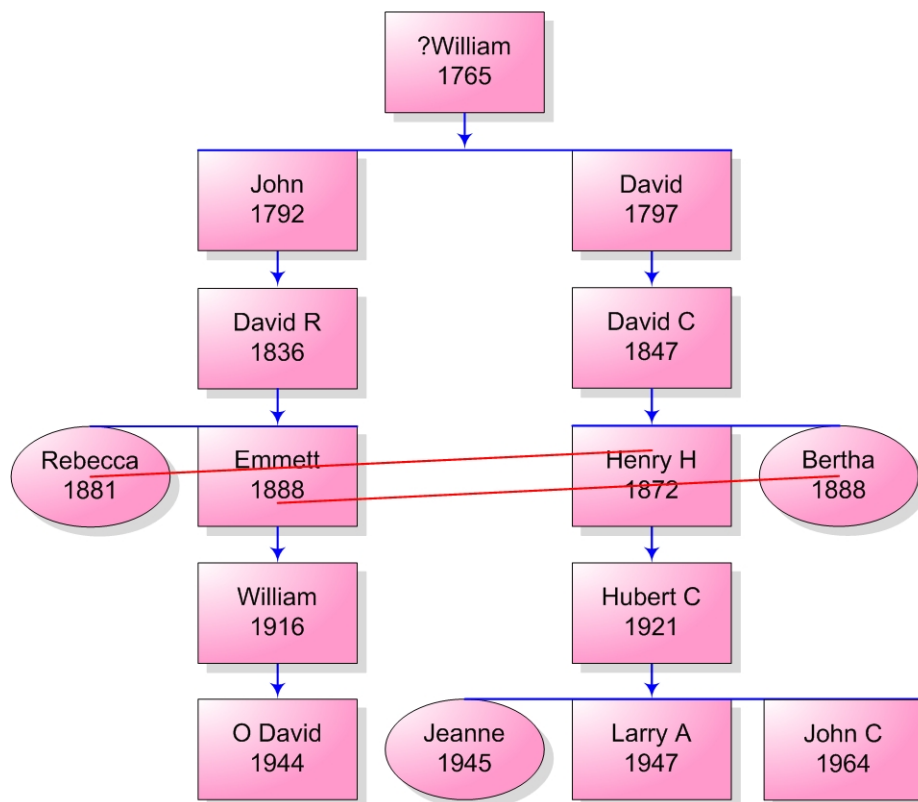


Figure 1. Partial genealogy

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RIGGS CEMETERY - Clinchport #9
(Additional Information on Vol 1 Pg 143 & Vol 3 Pgs 77,78)

By MURIEL T. COOTER

Letter Dated May 17, 1985

"I am sending you what information that I have on the Riggs family that is buried there. Wm. E. DAVIDSON published 2 books on the DAVIDSON family. The following is from Volume I."

iv. NANCY MELFORD DAVIDSON. The dau of JAMES DAVIDSON and his wife, MARY BACH DORTON.

NANCY MELFORD DAVIDSON, born December 13 1843; died 1922; married Sept 20, 1867 to WILLIAM HARRY RIGGS in Scott Co, Va. He was born on Stony Creek, Scott Co, Va on February 10, 1846 and died 1926. He was the son of RICHARD ASBURY RIGGS and his wife, NANCY McNEW.

WILLIAM HARRY RIGGS was descended from WILLIAM MILES-RIGGS, born 1760-5, who came to Washington Co, Va from North Carolina and he married SARA _____. A son of WILLIAM MILES-RIGGS was REV. JOHN RIGGS (ME), born 1792 married DRUCHANIA STANLEY. A son of REV. JOHN RIGGS was RICHARD ASBURY RIGGS, born 1820 and he married NANCY McNEW; a son of RICHARD RIGGS was our WILLIAM HARRY RIGGS.

The twins MOSES and WILLIAM HARRY RIGGS were reared by their Aunt POLLY McNEW CARTER. At the age of 14, the two were wagon boys in the Union Army in Kentucky. Back in Scott Co, Va they had a little log school house built and themselves paid the teacher until their school was finally taken over by the county.

The Riggs ME church stands on the site. MOSES as "PROF. MOSES A. RIGGS" taught 56 years in Scott and Wise Counties, Va.

WILLIAM HARRY RIGGS lived on a farm at Rye Cove, Scott Co, Va and after the death of his uncle, HARRY CARTER before the Civil War was a center of interest for Rye Cove, a landmark, the largest mill in Virginia because of a small stream that turned it. The lower floor ground corn, the second wheat, and on the third was a device for picking thrash from wool. During the season it was operating day and night. HARRY RIGGS when 12 years had the fingers of his right hand torn off leaving only the thumb. HARRY RIGGS continued to operate the mill until it was closed from lack of water and the building was at length torn down. Of the entire family HARRY RIGGS lived out his entire life in Scott Co, Va. He served one term as County Commissioner and two terms as Clerk of County Court.

ISSUE: (5)

- a. JAMES RIGGS, died young
- b. MARY ELIZABETH RIGGS married 1899 RUBEN GILLY. They had 2 children
- c. NANCY ALICE RIGGS m. 1889 JAMES MONROE EGAN, the son of JAMES & ELIZABETH EGAN. They had 4 children.
- d. ESTER MARGARET RIGGS, born Nov 9, 1874; died May 13, 1938; md in 1890 to HIRAM GILLY, died 1896. She taught school in Rye Cove, Scott Co. for 35 years. They had 3 children.
- e. LAURA BELLE RIGGS married WORLEY CARTER. They had 2 children.

The above was published: THE DAVIDSON FAMILY. DESC OF HENRY DAVIDSON OF RYE COVE, SCOTT COUNTY, VA. 1947-54 pub. By WM. E. DAVIDSON. Bk I. A supplement was published in 1954 by WM. E. DAVIDSON. Bk II.

"Additional information: HENRY P. DAVIDSON born 1800, died May 16 1866. (1st) wife MARY "POLLY" TAYLOR, born 1799, Va & died 1858, Rye Cove, Scott Co, Va. Daughter of NIMROD TAYLOR and MARY LOTZ. HENRY's (2nd) wife, MRS. SUSAN LONG THOMPSON, a widow

* * * * *

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Figure 2. Unvetted genealogy of William¹ Riggs, whom Davidson calls William Miles-Riggs, a common surname confusion in Riggs genealogy.

