

The Moses Couch Family

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By

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Preface

Some readers will wonder how I am related to the Moses Couch family. I am not a descendant of Moses Couch. None of my direct ancestors were ever married to Moses Couch family members. But there are several marriages between siblings and cousins of my ancestors and the descendants of Moses Couch. It was these family connections which originally triggered my interest in the Couch family. Over the years, it has been an interesting family to research.

Since I don't descend from the Couch family, I have limited most of my research efforts to Moses, his children, and his grandchildren. I have not made any attempt to identify all of the descendants of Moses Couch, and have no plans to publish a genealogy of the family. I will leave that daunting task to members of the Couch family. Instead, my purpose is to share all the information that I have collected about the earlier generations of this family, in hopes that it will provide a solid foundation for other Couch family researchers, current and future, who may wish to further expand our knowledge of this family.

As readers will note, this history of the Moses Couch family contains a lot of unproven material. In the time and place where the subjects of this book lived, solid facts are often difficult to come by, and we often find ourselves making assumptions based on the limited information available. I have endeavored to carefully identify, by my words, any material that represents an assumption, a theory, or a suggestion, rather than a fact. Material presented as factual has met my own personal standards for proof. For example, we will usually accept a census record as proof that an individual lived in a certain place on a certain date. That same census record may suggest to us that a child born to that family three months after the census was enumerated was probably born in that place, but it does not prove place of birth. Land deeds may "suggest" where a family lived during a certain period of time, but they certainly don't "prove" that the family lived on that land. It is my hope that readers will not accept, or pass onto other researchers, as factual, the information described in this book with terms such as "suggests", "assume", "suspect", "may have", "possible", etc. Information that is likely to be true, but is not proven to be true, often helps us focus our research efforts as we attempt to discern the truth, but we need to remember that some of the information that is likely to be true will eventually be proven to be false.

In the same vein, I should describe my use of the terminology "next door" in this book. During the 19th century, extended families tended to settle and live in close proximity to each other. As census enumerators canvassed an area, neighbors who physically lived "next door" to each other (e.g. on adjoining farms, or in adjoining building on one tract of land) often appear next to each other in the census records (e.g. dwelling #85 and dwelling #86). Close proximity in the census records is often interpreted as an indication that the families in question resided in close physical proximity to one another. This was not always the case, but was true often enough to provide us with a basis for using that

close proximity in the census records as circumstantial evidence confirming a suspicion that the families in question were related. In this book, I will at times point out that two families are listed “next door” to one another in the census, thereby indicating that they were listed in successive dwellings in the census records, and probably (but not absolutely) lived in close physical proximity.

This book contains some material that will be considered mundane by some readers who are only interested in adding names and dates and places and relationships to their research files. But we know so little about our early ancestors, I appreciate anything that provides a hint as to their character, and what kind of a life they lived. Whether consciously or unconsciously, every bit of information we collect about the activities of an ancestor’s life helps us develop our image of what kind of a person that ancestor was, and what their life was like. Photographs, when they are available, are truly worth a thousand words. But there are so many other types of information that can help. Who raised our ancestors, at what age were they married, how many children did they have, whom did they name their children after, what were their occupations, did they buy land or rent, how often did they move their residence, whom did they choose to live near, did they serve in the military, were they involved in civic affairs, were they active in a church? I hope that others interested in the Couch family will find new information in this book that will help them better appreciate the lives of their Couch ancestors. Those readers who are simply interested in names, dates, places and relationships will find this information as well, but may have to dig a little to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Finally, the history of the Moses Couch family is still a work-in-progress. I’m not yet ready to close the book on this family. I plan to continue my research, and hope to publish an update to this book within the next two years. In fact, I have already unearthed some new material which I hope to include in the update.

If you have questions about any of the material in this book, or find an error (I’m sure there are some), or have additional information about any of the families featured in this book, I’d love to hear from you.

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Acknowledgements

Each of us who pursue family history as a hobby rely heavily on both the efforts, and the generosity, of others with like interests. Over the past 34 years, I have been blessed to have met so many other researchers who have been generous with their help. I want to thank each of you, and to extend a special thanks to a few whose assistance has been particularly valuable. They are:

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Moses and Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch

Relatively little factual information is available about the Moses Couch family. Most of what we know, or think we know, is based upon circumstantial evidence. I'm not aware of any probate records, family Bibles, or other family records, which clearly identify Moses Couch's wife, or his children. Family notebooks compiled by Sarah Literal (a descendant of Moses Couch) in 1940 provide the only description of the Moses Couch family that I have seen from an early family source. And the Couch family information provided by Sarah Literal's notebooks is incomplete. For further information about Sarah's notebooks, see "Appendix A. The Sarah Literal Notebooks" on page 117.

In her notebook, Sarah Literal wrote that "Moses Couch" and "Elizabeth Couch (called Betsy)" were her great-great-grandparents (see Figure 8 on page 120). Sarah identified the children of Moses and Elizabeth Couch (see Figure 10 on page 122) as:

"Delilia Couch married Charlie Literal"
"Linley Couch married to Susie Evans"
"Linnie Couch married to William Stogsdill"
"Ben Couch married to Celia Hall"

Sarah also penciled a brief note about the heritage of Linnie Couch. The note reads "Linnie Couch Stogsdill ½ Irish ½ English (see Figure 10 on page 122).

While I have not personally researched the identity of Moses Couch's wife, Lindley family researchers seem to agree that Moses Couch was married to Elizabeth Lindley, daughter of John Lindley and Sarah Pyle. I accept this identity of Moses Couch's wife, based on the research of others. Elizabeth Lindley, daughter of John and Sarah (Pyle) Lindley, was a member of a well-researched Quaker family. As my authority for the history of this Lindley family, I am relying on the Internet web site "The Quaker Collection", maintained by Jerry F. Richmond, of Downers Grove, Illinois. All of the Lindley family information in this chapter comes from Mr. Richmond's web site.

The identity of Moses Couch's parents remains a mystery. There is, however, circumstantial evidence which satisfies me that we can tie Moses into a particular Couch family that has been, and is being, researched by a number of Couch family descendants. Numerous books have been written about this Couch family, and the internet provides a plethora of information, as well. However, in spite of all the attention that has been given to the history of this Couch family, there are still lots of unknowns regarding the relationships between some of the early members of this family, and regarding the relationships between some of the primary branches of this family.

The Couch family I refer to is the family of a Thomas Couch, often referred to by researchers of this family as Ole Thomas Couch. He was born in Virginia, lived in Orange County, North Carolina and in Enoree, South Carolina. Many of the relationships

between members of the earliest two or three generations of this Couch family are strongly suspected by Couch researchers, but remain to be proven. As a result, in referring to relationships between other likely descendants of Ole Thomas Couch and our own Moses Couch, we must describe those relationships as “probable” rather than “certain”. Hopefully, with additional research, and with the assistance of new tools, like DNA, we can one day refer to those relationships with certainty.

One of the talented researchers of this family is Dr. Robert H. Couch. On the basis of his extensive research, Dr. Couch writes:

“It seems that the Couch family probably came to America in the seventeenth century. Although we have not yet learned who came to America and when, Cornwall County England and Ireland (Scotch-Irish) are most likely the ancestral home of the Couches. They may have settled first in Virginia, migrated down to upper North Carolina (Orange County) and on to northwest South Carolina. From South Carolina some went to Georgia and others to Tennessee. Then a sizable contingent of Couches went down from Tennessee into the Tennessee River Valley country of north Alabama around Huntsville when it was still the Mississippi Territory. Continuing to move westward, they were in Morgan, Lawrence and later Franklin and Marion Counties in Alabama and on into northeast Mississippi-particularly in Tishomingo and Chickasaw Counties. Others continued the western trek to Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas.”

Census records suggest that our Moses Couch was probably born in South Carolina about 1765-1770. I suspect that Moses Couch was a grandson of Ole Thomas Couch. But please note that this is no more than a suspicion at this point. And, Moses Couch’s parentage would not even be important to our work on the family of Moses Couch, were it not for one thing. As we look at the lives of Moses Couch and some of his children, the reader will note that Moses and his children uprooted and moved their families with some frequency. This was not an uncommon pattern as our country was being settled. It is my contention that families moving from one area to another rarely moved to an area that was not already the home of another family member. With that in mind, we will attempt to determine, as we identify the migration paths of Moses and his children, why they might have selected a particular area as their new home. And those reasons will, in some cases, involve the relationships between families who were certainly, or probably, descendants of Ole Thomas Couch.

Lindley family researchers report that Elizabeth Lindley was born in Orange County, North Carolina, on September 26, 1772, and that Moses and Elizabeth were married in South Carolina about 1792. On the basis of my own research, I believe that it is very likely that the children of Moses and Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch included the following five individuals. The best information that I have found at this point suggests the following places of birth, and dates of birth, for Lindley, Malinda, Avery, Delila, and Benjamin Couch.

Lindley Couch	South Carolina	7 Feb 1793
Malinda ‘Linnie’ Couch	South Carolina	1795
Avery Couch	Tennessee	ca 1805
Delila Couch	Kentucky	23 Dec 1812
Benjamin ‘Ben’ Couch	Alabama	13 Dec 1815

Some Moses Couch family researchers list two other children—Jacob Couch and Margaret Couch. I believe that a case can be made for at least four other daughters. But, I have chosen to limit my research to those five children of Moses Couch who were early settlers in Ripley County and Oregon County, Missouri.

If the dates of birth and places of birth listed above are correct for Lindley Couch and Malinda Couch, the Moses Couch family must have been living in South Carolina in February of 1793 and in 1795. In 1800, the Federal census of Greenville County, South Carolina, included the family of a Moses Couch. The household was described as being one male aged 26-44 (probably Moses), one female 26-44 (probably Elizabeth), one male 10-15 (perhaps a younger brother of Moses or Elizabeth?), one male under 10 (probably Lindley), and four females under 10 (probably Malinda, and three unidentified young daughters).

If Avery Couch was really born in Tennessee, that would place the Moses and Elizabeth Couch family in Tennessee some time around 1805. While it must be noted that our evidence regarding Avery’s place of birth is weak, migration from South Carolina to Tennessee would fit the migration pattern referred to earlier by Dr. Couch, who wrote that “From South Carolina some went to Georgia and others to Tennessee.” There is additional evidence to support the theory that the Moses Couch family moved from South Carolina to Tennessee. A biography of one of Moses Couch’s great-grandsons, George W. Couch (son of Simpson Couch, and grandson of Lindley Couch) appears in a book entitled Reminiscent History Of The Ozark Region, published by Goodspeed Brothers in 1894. That biography begins as follows:

“GEORGE W. COUCH, one of the county's most worthy citizens, is descended from substantial Virginia stock, for in that State his father and grandfather were born. The family afterward moved to North Carolina, thence to South Carolina, from there to Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri, in which State the grandfather, Lindley Couch, passed the closing scenes of his life, after a long and useful career.”

While the biography clearly contains some errors, the sequence of states through which the family is reported to have migrated matches other evidence available to us.

There are at least two Moses Couch families listed in the 1810 census. One was in Laurens County, South Carolina, and the other in Christian County, Kentucky. I believe, for three reasons, that our Moses Couch was in Christian County, Kentucky. First, the ages of the members of the Christian County household most closely match the family of our Moses Couch. Second, we know that our Moses Couch family was living in Pulaski

County, Kentucky, by 1812. And, third, Christian County, Kentucky, is a logical place to find Moses and Elizabeth in 1810. After Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch's father died in South Carolina in 1898, Elizabeth's widowed mother, Sarah (Pyle) Lindley, reportedly moved with her children to Christian County, Kentucky. Six of Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch's siblings were married in Christian County between 1800 and 1809.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Robert H. Couch's earlier description of the migration paths of the descendants of Old Thomas Couch does not mention Kentucky. Not many of the early Couch families moved to Kentucky. An index to the heads of households in the 1810 census lists nine Couch families in North Carolina, 17 Couch families in South Carolina, but only two Couch families in Kentucky. I think it is very likely that Moses and Elizabeth chose to follow Elizabeth's family, rather than Moses' family, when they left South Carolina in the early 1800's.

The 1810 Christian County census entry describes the Moses Couch family as consisting of one male aged 26-44 (probably Moses), one female 26-44 (probably Elizabeth), one male 16-25 (probably Lindley), two females 10-16 (probably Malinda and another unidentified daughter), one male under 10 (probably Avery), and two females under 10 (two more unidentified daughters?).

Christian County is located in southwest Kentucky, just north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border. The next move by the Moses Couch family was apparently to Pulaski County, Kentucky, about 175 miles east and slightly north of Christian County. We can't be certain of the date when Moses and Elizabeth migrated to Pulaski County. There is a record of the marriage of a Margaret Couch to a William Duncan in Pulaski County on November 26, 1810. Some researchers believe that Margaret Couch was a daughter of Moses Couch. I have no reason to doubt this, but have not sought, nor seen, any evidence of this relationship. The research files of Mary Ann (Duncan) Dobson indicate that William and Margaret (Couch) Duncan moved from Pulaski County, Kentucky, to Hickman County, Tennessee, before 1820, and spent most of their married lives in Hickman County. The 1850 Hickman County census records suggest that Margaret Couch was born in South Carolina about 1794. If true, Margaret could have been born after Lindley, and before Malinda, or she may have been a twin to either Lindley or Malinda. And Margaret would probably have been the unidentified female aged 10-16 in the Moses Couch household in the 1810 census. If Margaret Couch was, indeed, a daughter of Moses Couch, her marriage, at approximately 16 years of age, would seem to place the Moses Couch family in Pulaski County by November of 1810.

We feel confident that Moses and Elizabeth were in Pulaski County by October of 1812, when their eldest son, Lindley, was married to Susannah Inabnit. Moses and Elizabeth may have seen their family grow again, just two months later, as we believe that their daughter, Delila Couch, was born in Kentucky in December of 1812.

The early tax rolls of Pulaski County provide us with some information about the Couch family. These annual tax records begin in 1799. Surprisingly, I was unable to identify

any Couch entries in the Pulaski County tax records until 1814, when the name “Linley Couch” first appeared, about two years after his marriage.

The 1815 Pulaski County tax roll includes entries for both Moses Couch and Lindley Couch. The entry for Moses Couch indicates that he owned 70 acres of land in Pulaski County, on the water course of Flat Lick Creek. The land was originally entered in the name of J. Matthews, and was surveyed in the same name. Moses owned one “horses, mares, mules, and jennies”, with “total value except stud horses and jacks” of \$135. He valued his land at \$1.50 per acre.

Malinda ‘Linny’ Couch, daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Couch, was married to William Stogsdill in Pulaski County in June of 1815. But Moses and Elizabeth Couch may have moved from Kentucky to Alabama soon after Malinda’s marriage. We believe that Benjamin Couch, the youngest son of Moses Couch, was born in Alabama in December of 1815. There were no Couch entries in the Pulaski County tax rolls for 1816. In 1817, the Pulaski County tax rolls contain an entry for Lindley Couch, but Moses Couch was still missing from the rolls.

In 1818, Moses was still missing from the Pulaski County tax rolls, but Lindley Couch’s name appeared again. There was a second Couch entry in 1818, for a Jacob Couch. Jacob was listed as white, over 21, and the owner of three “horses, mares, mules, and jennies”, with total value of \$80. A year later, in 1819, Jacob Couch was listed as the owner of 150 acres of land on Pitman Creek, originally entered in the name of J. Elder. Jacob reported owning three “horses, mares, mules, and jennies”, with total value of \$540. Some researchers believe that Jacob Couch was a son of Moses Couch. Jacob may, indeed, have been a son of Moses Couch. I am a bit skeptical, however, as the 1820 and 1830 census records suggest that Jacob Couch was born about 1790-1794. The 1800 and 1810 census records we believe to be those of our Moses Couch family do not include a young male consistent with Jacob’s age.

Both Moses Couch and Lindley Couch were missing from the 1819 Pulaski County tax rolls. The omission of their names from the tax rolls for one year could be due to a number of causes. But Moses Couch’s name did not appear on any of the Pulaski County rolls between 1815 and 1822. Lindley’s name disappeared from the rolls after 1818, and did not reappear until 1821. The most obvious explanation would be that they were not residents of Pulaski County during these intervals. And there is some evidence to support the theory that both Moses and Lindley moved away from Pulaski County for a period of time, and later returned. It is possible that Moses and Elizabeth moved from Kentucky to Alabama about 1815, and that Lindley and Susannah joined Moses and Elizabeth about three years later. Lindley and Susannah could have moved from Alabama back to Pulaski County about 1821, and Moses and Elizabeth could have joined them a year later. All of this is pure speculation at this point, but it does fit the meager evidence we have available.

If Moses and Elizabeth Couch moved to Alabama about 1815, as we suspect, they technically moved into the Mississippi Territory. Until 1817, the Mississippi Territory

consisted of the area that today makes up the states of Alabama and Mississippi. The Alabama Territory was organized on March 3, 1817, when it was separated from the Mississippi Territory. The remainder of the Mississippi Territory was granted statehood shortly thereafter. Just two years later, on December 14, 1819, Alabama was admitted to the union as the 22nd state.

Floyd Couch, of Cooper, Texas, has done extensive research on the Moses Couch family, and has been a big help to me. Floyd provided me with a copy of an early land record which appears to indicate that Moses Couch, of Madison County [Alabama Territory], purchased 159.46 acres of land¹ from the U. S. Government on December 23, 1818. The price of the land was \$2.00 per acre. I believe that this land is located in the northeast corner of Morgan County, Alabama, just south of the Redstone Arsenal, which is located in southern Madison County, Alabama. The land is probably located near the small villages of Laceys Spring, Union Hill, and Morgan City.

I am not sure whether the reference to Madison County in this old land record signifies that the land Moses Couch purchased was then a part of Madison County, or whether it signifies that Moses was a resident of Madison County when he purchased the land. Morgan County, where the land is now located, was formed from Cherokee Indian lands in 1818, and was called Cotaco County until 1821. I believe, therefore, that the reference to Madison County in the land record is an indication that Moses Couch was a resident of Madison County, in Alabama Territory, when he purchased the land in December of 1818.

While we won't ever know the reasons why Moses and Elizabeth left Kentucky and migrated to the Mississippi Territory about 1815, one of the influences may have been Moses' family. The early land records of Madison County, where we believe Moses and Elizabeth lived in 1818, include purchases of public lands by three Couch men in 1809. Nicholas Couch, John Couch and Thomas Couch all purchased land in Madison County in 1809. John Couch apparently purchased an additional 160 acres on August 29, 1809. Nicholas Couch purchased another 162 acres on March 4, 1811, and yet another 162 acres on November 4, 1811. On December 16, 1820, Thomas and Elvy Couch sold 110 acres of land in Madison County.

Moses Couch may have been drawn to Madison County because of his relationship to some of these men. The Thomas Couch who sold land in Madison County in 1820 was married to Elvy Lynch in Madison County in 1817. Couch researchers report that this Thomas Couch was the son of John and Nancy Ann (Meredith) Couch, and was probably a great-grandson of Ole Thomas Couch. The John and Thomas Couch who purchased land in Madison County may have been this same Thomas Couch, and his father, John. This John Couch may have been a first cousin to Moses Couch.

¹ The Northeast ¼ of Section 22 in Township 6 South of Range 1 West.

Drury Couch was reportedly another son of John Couch, and brother to the Thomas Couch who married Elvy Lynch. So, he would be another cousin (possibly a first cousin, once removed) of Moses Couch. Drury Couch is reported by Dr. Robert H. Couch to have been a resident of Cotaco County, Alabama Territory, when he and John Couch purchased land from the U. S. Government in 1818. You will recall that the land Moses Couch purchased in 1818 was also located in Cotaco County.

When the Alabama Territory was organized in 1817, the lands immediately to the east of Madison County belonged to the Cherokee Indians. The lands east of Madison County were a part of the ancestral lands of the Cherokee Indians, which overlapped the boundaries of Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama. In a treaty of July 8, 1817, the United States made its first major attempt to resettle the Cherokees peacefully in the west. This treaty gave the Cherokees title to lands in Arkansas in exchange for an equal tract of land in the east.

By December of 1818, when we believe that Moses Couch was a resident of Madison County, quite a number of white squatters had moved in upon the Indian lands to the east of Madison County. On December 15, 1818, Major General Andrew Jackson was instructed to remove these intruders. Andrew Jackson delayed carrying out the order, probably because his sympathy lay with the squatters, some of whom had fought with him at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, or the Battle of New Orleans, in the War of 1812.

Dissatisfaction with certain provisions of the Cherokee treaty of 1817 led to a new treaty on February 27, 1819. In it, the United States agreed to pay for improvements left by Cherokees who vacated their homes in the ceded areas in the east.

On March 2, 1819, only three days after this second treaty was signed, Congress, by resolution, authorized the Alabama Territory to form a State. A Constitutional Convention would meet in Huntsville, in the Alabama Territory, in July.

Meanwhile, Major General Andrew Jackson had still not removed the squatters from the Cherokee lands. On March 25, 1819, the Department of War instructed the Indian Agent to "make out a list of the intruders, and require their departure within a fixed period and...select some of the most wealthy and influential from among them for prosecution..."

In the National Archives, Office of Indian Affairs, there is a document that lists the names of squatters who were living, in June of 1819, on those Cherokee lands, which included the area immediately east of Madison County. After some delay, the squatters had been ordered to vacate the area. Their reaction to the order has been preserved in an 1819 document addressed "To The Honourable The Secretary at War". The document, entitled "Memorial to The Secretary of War From the Cherokee Country", reads as follows:

"Your petitioners viewing the calamitous situation in which many of our Citizens are placed, owing to an order recently published by the agent for Indian affairs of the Cherokee Nation ordering all Intruders on their land to remove by the first day

of July 1819. Your Petitioners believing the same indulgence would be extended to them, as has been the constant practice to others in similar circumstances, induced them to settle on the lands lately ceded to the United States by the Cherokees, North of Tennessee River, nor did the order ever make its formal appearance until the 19th of June of the present year leaving a removal impracticable, if not impossible--Your petitioners are poor but industrious farmers, to deprive them at this season of the year of their hard earnings in the Wilderness and thus leave them destitute where will your petitioners apply for bread to support their starving families? It's notorious that all improvements made by your petitioners add real value to the land--this Order enforced, will involve at least One thousand families in total ruin! nor will the evil end here, your petitioners must subsist somewhere, they will thus become unwelcome guests to the frontier countries to beg (for they cannot buy) something for their little Children. This measure if carried into operation will produce alarming effects--The Indians on the North of Tennessee are not desirous of having the settlers driven off the land, these being few in number most of which have taken reservations and are good neighbors--Your petitioners knowing the lenity of their government and believing they will take our case into consideration will ever pray etc. etc."

The petition is not dated, but it appears certain that it was written in the summer of 1819. The petition was signed by approximately 230 settlers living in the Cherokee lands north of the Tennessee River. There seems to be general agreement that many of the signers of the petition were living on Cherokee land that would soon be organized as Jackson County, Alabama. Researchers also believe that some of the signers were living in the area which is today Marion County, Tennessee, and at least one source suggests that some of the signers were living in the area which is today Hamilton County, Tennessee. The names of Moses Couch and Lindley Couch were listed, one behind the other, among the signers of the petition.

If Lindley Couch was living in the Cherokee lands in northeast Alabama Territory in 1819, he apparently didn't remain there long. I was unable to identify any Couch entries in the 1820 Pulaski County, Kentucky, tax rolls. However, the 1820 census of Pulaski County contains two Couch entries. One was for the Lindley Couch family, and the other for the Jacob Couch family.

I have not been able to locate Moses Couch in the 1820 Kentucky census records. Perhaps Lindley returned to Pulaski County, while Moses and Elizabeth remained in Alabama. In 1821, the Pulaski County tax rolls once again includes the name of Lindley Couch. But Moses Couch was still not on the tax rolls. The Alabama land record provided by Floyd Couch appears to indicate that Moses Couch relinquished his Alabama land on September 22, 1821. The relinquishment of the land suggests that Moses may have been preparing to move away from the area. The record of relinquishment suggests to me that Moses also relinquished ownership of an additional 40 acres on the same date.

I suspect that Moses Couch relinquished his Alabama landholdings and moved back to Kentucky in 1821. In 1822, both Moses Couch and Lindley Couch appeared on the Pulaski County tax rolls. Moses listed no land, no horses, and no taxable value. Another Couch name appeared on the tax rolls for the first time. Avery Couch was listed immediately next to Moses Couch on the rolls. The column indicating “white over 21” was not marked, suggesting that Avery was younger than 21. Avery reported owning one horse, valued at \$40.

Moses and Elizabeth Couch may have left Pulaski County about 1822 or 1823. Moses Couch last appeared in the tax rolls of Pulaski County in 1822. There is evidence to suggest that the family’s next move might have been to Lincoln County, Tennessee. Lincoln County’s southern border abuts the northern border of Madison County, Alabama, where Moses Couch apparently lived just a few years earlier. Moses Couch’s son, Avery, was married in Lincoln County, Tennessee, about 1823. Some Lindley family researchers indicate that Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch died about 1824. We know nothing about either the date or place of Elizabeth’s death, but if she did die in 1824, it is possible that she died in Lincoln County.

While we don’t know where Moses and Elizabeth Couch lived after leaving Pulaski County about 1822 or 1823, we do know that they returned to that part of Kentucky by 1829. In the 1820’s, Whitley County, Kentucky, was located immediately southeast of Pulaski County, on the Kentucky-Tennessee border. Moses Couch appears in the tax rolls of Whitley County in both 1829 and 1830. The tax rolls suggest that Moses owned no land, nor any other taxable property.

The 1830 Federal census of Whitley County also contains an entry for Moses Couch. The Moses Couch household consisted of one male 60-70 (probably Moses), one female 50-60 (probably Elizabeth, if she was still living, or possibly a second wife of Moses Couch?), two females 15-20 (one was probably Delila, the other is unidentified), one male 10-15 (probably Benjamin), and one female under 5 (possibly an unidentified granddaughter?). While we believe that Moses was living in Whitley County in 1830 with two of his children, Delila and Benjamin, two of his older children, Malinda and Avery, were living with their families in Lincoln County, Tennessee. We don’t know where Lindley Couch and his family were living in 1830.

Moses Couch did not appear on any Whitley County tax rolls after 1830. The next stop for Moses and his family appears to have been about 435 miles to the west, in Madison County, Illinois. Madison County is located just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri. Lindley family researchers report that some of Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch’s family had been linked to Madison County for a number of years. One of Elizabeth’s younger brothers was married in Madison County in 1810. And Elizabeth’s oldest brother appears in the 1820 census of Madison County.

The earliest record that definitely links Moses County to Madison County, Illinois, is the record of the marriage of his daughter, Delila. Madison County marriage records document that “Charles Literall” and “Delilah Couch” were married on November 2,

1831. Since Delila would have been only 18 years old, and we assume that this was her first marriage, her marriage suggests that Moses moved his family from Whitley County, Kentucky, to Madison County, Illinois, in late 1830 or in 1831.

There is additional information to substantiate the presence of the Moses Couch family in Madison County, Illinois. U. S. Land Patent records indicate that a Moses Couch purchased 40 acres of land² in Madison County, Illinois. This land, reported to me as being located in Marine Township, northwest of Marine, Illinois, was purchased for cash at the Edwardsville land office. The issue date of the land patent was September 25, 1835. Typically, however, there was a delay of one or two years between the actual date of purchase at the local land office and the issue date of the land patent. Frank Watson reports that Moses purchased this 40 acres of land on June 25, 1834, for the standard price of \$1.25 per acre.

On page 70 of a Madison County deed book, there is a deed by which a Moses Couch, of Madison County, purchased three tracts of land³ on October 10, 1834, from David Taylor, also of Madison County, for \$900. The deed was witnessed by Will E. Starr and Wm T. Brown, and was signed by David Taylor.

My research indicates that the description of the third of the three tracts of land purchased on October 10, which states that the tract contained 50 acres, is incorrect, and that this tract only contained 40 acres. Assuming this to be the case, the land purchased by Moses Couch on October 10, 1834, totaled 130.17 acres. The second of the three tracts of land that Moses purchased consisted of 40 acres, and was situated immediately north of the 40 acres of public land which Moses Couch obtained by the land patent. The third of the three tracts of land also consisted of 40 acres, and was situated immediately south of the 40 acres Moses obtained by patent. The first of the three tracts of land, consisting of 50.17 acres, was either immediately west of the 40 acres Moses obtained by patent, or was located one quarter mile west of that 40 acres (depending upon which of two descriptions of the land was correct). We can't be certain that the Moses Couch who purchased this land was our Moses Couch. But, considering the fact that Delila Couch was married in Madison County only three years earlier, I believe that it is very likely that the purchaser was our Moses Couch.

About three months later, on January 26, 1835, Madison County records suggest that Moses Couch and a man named William Post signed notes or obligations borrowing money from a Benjamin K. Hart, and that Moses Couch mortgaged property to Benjamin

² The Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 7 in Township 4 North of Range 6 West.

³ The land was described as 1) the East half of the West half of the Northwest fourth of Section No. Seven, containing Fifty acres, and Seventeen hundredths of an acre, also 2) the North West fourth of the North-east fourth of Section No. Seven containing Forty acres; Also 3) the Northwest fourth of the South-east fourth of Section No. Seven, containing Fifty acres all in Township Four North, Range Six West of the Third Principal Meridian.

K. Hart guaranteeing that Moses would repay him \$200 six months after the date of the notes or obligations, at an annual interest rate of 12%. The land that Moses Couch mortgaged consisted of the second and third tracts described above, each consisting of 40 acres, as well as the 40 acres of land that Moses obtained by U. S. land patent. The mortgage was witnessed by William E. Starr and Will W. Torrence, and was signed by Moses Couch. A note appended to this mortgage indicates that B. K. Hart acknowledged receipt of \$212.50 from Moses Couch in full satisfaction of the mortgage on August 11, 1835.

It isn't difficult to determine where Moses Couch obtained the money needed to pay off his mortgage. On August 11, 1835, the same day that Moses Couch satisfied his mortgage to Benjamin K. Hart, Moses Couch and Mary A. Couch sold all of the lands described above as having been purchased by Moses Couch. Moses Couch and Mary A. Couch, both of Madison County, Illinois, sold their 170.17 acres of land to William Post, also of Madison County, for \$1000. The deed was witnessed by David Taylor and H. J. L. Sedgwick, and was signed by Moses Couch and Mary A. Couch. Assuming that this was our Moses Couch, this deed suggests that his first wife, Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch, may have died prior to August of 1835, and that Moses may have remarried.

After paying off his mortgage, Moses Couch apparently loaned out some of the proceeds he received from the sale of his farm. On August 21, 1835, only ten days after the sale of his farm, Moses loaned Zeri Foster \$300. To guarantee repayment of this loan, Zeri Foster mortgaged 80 acres of land to Moses. The land was located roughly two miles south and three miles east of the farm Moses Couch had just sold. The mortgage stipulated that Zeri Foster and George Foster were obligated to pay off two promissory notes they signed to Moses Couch for \$150. The notes required payment of \$150 in six months, and another \$150 in twelve months, with interest to be paid at an annual rate of 12%. The mortgage was signed by Zeri Foster.

There is an interesting power of attorney recorded in a Madison County deed book. The power of attorney is dated May 1, 1843, and was filed by William Post, the man to whom Moses Couch sold his farm in 1835. In this record, William Post described himself as "assignee of Moses Couch". William Post indicated that Moses Couch assigned to him, on October 3, 1835, the mortgage that had been given to Moses Couch by Zeri Foster on August 21, 1835. The power of attorney appointed J. G. Cameron to act as William Post's attorney in the matter of this mortgage.

Why did Moses Couch assign the proceeds of this mortgage to William Post on October 3, only six weeks after lending the money to Zeri Foster? When Moses sold all of his land on August 11, was he preparing to leave Madison County? Would it have been unusual to lend a Madison County resident \$300, anticipating that Moses would be living elsewhere when payment would be due. Does the assignment of the mortgage suggest that Moses sold the mortgage to William Post as a means of converting the mortgage into cash? Does the assignment on October 3, 1835, mark Moses Couch's departure from Madison County?

There is a note appended to the original record of this mortgage. The note reads:

“Received of Zeri Foster by his agent George Foster, the sum of Three Hundred dollars With the interest due on this Mortgage in full Satisfaction of the Same this 1st day of May 1843. Wm. Post By J. G. Cameron, his atty.”

This note appears to confirm that J. G. Cameron, an attorney acting on behalf of William Post, acknowledged on May 1, 1843 (the same day William Post signed the power of attorney) the receipt of the total payment due under the terms of the above-described mortgage from George Foster, who was acting as an agent for Zeri Foster. If this is the case, it would appear that the mortgage payments due William Post in February and August of 1836, as the assignee of the original mortgage to Moses Couch, were not made on the dates due, but were later paid, with interest, on May 1, 1843.

We are not aware of any record relating to Moses Couch after his assignment of the mortgage to William Post on October 3, 1835. If Moses Couch left Madison County, Illinois, where did he go? He was probably about 65-70 years old in 1835. At least four of his children (Lindley, Malinda, Avery and Delila) were married. Benjamin was about 19 years old, and still single.

We aren't sure where Lindley Couch was in 1835. If he was living in Arkansas Territory, as we have reason to suspect, Moses might have joined Lindley and Susannah there. We know that three of Moses Couch's sons, Lindley Couch, Avery Couch, and Benjamin Couch, were living in Ripley County, Missouri in 1840, and that Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill and her family arrived shortly thereafter. Moses Couch could have moved to Ripley County after leaving Madison County, Illinois.

Another possibility is worthy of consideration. I suspect that Benjamin Couch, son of Moses Couch, was still living in the Moses Couch household in Whitley County, Kentucky, in 1830. If Benjamin was born in December of 1815, as we believe, then Benjamin would have been about 20 years old in 1835, when we suspect that Moses left Madison County, Illinois. We know that both Benjamin Couch and his older brother, Avery Couch, enlisted for military service in central Alabama in 1836. The records indicate that Benjamin and Avery enlisted at Elyton, which in 1836 was the county seat of Jefferson County, Alabama. They were mustered into the service at Ft. Mitchell, Alabama, and were mustered out of service a few weeks later at Montgomery, Alabama. Their military service records suggest that Benjamin and Avery were living in or near Jefferson County, Alabama, in 1836. Was Moses Couch living in Alabama with his two sons in 1836?

I suspect that the assignment of the mortgage to William Post on October 3, 1835, was not the end of Moses Couch's paper trail, and that additional records exist. It is my hope that this biography of the Moses Couch family will help future family historians locate those records.

As we search for clues about our relatives who settled this nation, we sometimes form impressions of the character of those early relatives, based on the slimmest of evidence.

We know little, really, about the character of Moses Couch. He certainly moved around a lot, as did his children after him. Moses and his children were members of a culture where children were often named after their grandparents, their parents, and their uncles and aunts. In my files, I have the names of well over 1,000 descendants of Moses Couch. The maiden name of Moses Couch's wife, "Lindley", appears several times among his descendants. The name "Moses" was not an unpopular name in the culture in which this family lived. But, I find it very interesting that none of Moses Couch's descendants, to my knowledge, was ever named "Moses".

Lindley Couch

Lindley Couch was born in South Carolina on February 7, 1893. He was probably the first child born to Moses and Elizabeth Couch, and was undoubtedly named after the family of his mother, Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch. As a child, Lindley lived in Greenville County, South Carolina, possibly in Tennessee, and certainly in Christian County, Kentucky, before his parents settled in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

Lindley was married in Pulaski County, in 1812, to Susannah Atnip. Their marriage bond, filed in Pulaski County on October 6 of that year, was signed by Lindley Couch, Moses Couch, and Joseph Atnip. We believe that Lindley was 19 years old, and Susannah was 20. This marriage doesn't seem to square with the note in Sarah Literal's notebook indicating that "Linley Couch" was married to "Susie Evans" (see Figure 10 on page 122). Was Sarah mistaken about the maiden name of Lindley's wife? Lindley and Susannah (Atnip) Couch did have a daughter, Angelina Couch, who married a William Evans. Perhaps Sarah Literal mixed up the first name of Lindley's wife (Susannah) and the married name of Lindley's daughter, Angelina (Couch) Evans.

Elizabeth Marcello and Ann Jobe Brown have done a wonderful job of researching the Atnip/Inabnit family. It is from Elizabeth that I originally learned that Susannah Atnip was the daughter of Jacob Inabnit and Mary Parkerson, and that Susannah was born in Virginia on November 10, 1791. Susannah's grandfather, Hildebrand InAebnit, came to America from the German-speaking area of Switzerland about 1744. There are many variations in the spelling of the family name, but it was apparently spelled InAebnit (or similar) in Switzerland, and later changed to Inabnit, and then to Atnip by some branches of the family.

Celebrating his 19th birthday in February of 1812, Lindley Couch would have been a prime candidate to volunteer for service in the War of 1812. However, in searching the War of 1812 service records, I have not found anything to suggest that Lindley served in that war.

The tax lists for Pulaski County go back to 1799. Surprisingly, the earliest Couch entry that I could find in these tax lists was in 1814, when the name of "Linley Couch" first appeared, about two years after his marriage to Susannah. It was the same year that Lindley turned 21. Lindley was listed as white, and over 21 years of age. He owned no land, but owned four "horses, mares, mules, and jennies", with a "total value except stud" of \$50.

Lindley's name appeared again on the 1815 tax list. Lindley apparently owned no land, but owned one "horses, mares, mules, and jennies" with total value of \$30. In 1817, the Pulaski County tax list contains an entry for Lindley Couch, indicating that he owned six "horses, mares, mules, and jennies", with total value of \$159. And in 1818, Lindley's

name again appeared on the tax list, when he reported owning six “horses, mares, mules, and jennies”, with a total value of \$300.

We know that Lindley and Susannah were married in October of 1812. Yet their eldest child whom we can identify was reportedly born in January of 1819. It seems likely that Lindley and Susannah lost their first two or three children in infancy or childhood.

The eldest identified child of Lindley and Susannah Couch was Simpson Couch. Other Couch family researchers report that Simpson Couch was born on January 15, 1819, in Pulaski County, Kentucky. If this information is accurate, this would seem to place Lindley and Susannah in Pulaski County as late as that date. But Lindley’s name does not appear in the 1819 Pulaski County tax lists. I am not certain, but believe that these tax lists were usually prepared during the summer months, suggesting that Lindley may not have been in Pulaski County that summer. As discussed earlier, the "Memorial to The Secretary of War From the Cherokee Country" provides evidence that Lindley was living in Cherokee country, in the northeast corner of the Alabama Territory, during the summer of 1819.

Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but Susannah’s father apparently died in Pulaski County some time between October of 1818, when he wrote his last will, and March of 1819, when his will was probated. Within a period of a few months, it appears that Simpson Couch was born to Lindley and Susannah, that Susannah’s father died, and that Lindley (and Susannah?) briefly joined Moses Couch in the Alabama Territory.

Lindley didn’t remain long in the Alabama Territory. In 1820, Lindley was again enumerated in the 1820 census of Pulaski County, Kentucky. The Lindley Couch household in 1820 consisted of one male 26-44 years of age (probably Lindley), one female 26-44 years of age (probably Susannah), one female 16-25 years of age (possibly Lindley’s sister, or a sister-in-law?), one male 10-15 years of age (possibly Lindley’s younger brother, Avery?), one male under 10 years of age (probably Simpson), and one female under 10 years of age (an unidentified daughter, or possibly Lindley’s younger sister, Delila?).

In 1821, the Pulaski County tax list once again contained the name of Lindley Couch. Lindley reported ownership of 140 acres of land on Buck Creek, originally patented by J. Inabnet. I suspect that J. Inabnet was Lindley’s father-in-law, as we know that Jacob had land surveyed on Buck Creek in 1798. If I have correctly interpreted my notes, the tax list indicated that Lindley owned two “blacks”, valued his land at \$4.28 per acre, and was assessed a total taxable value of \$700.

Perlina Couch, the eldest identified daughter of Lindley and Susannah Couch, was probably born in Kentucky in 1821 or 1822. And, in 1822, Lindley Couch again appeared on the Pulaski County tax list. The records indicate that Lindley owned 14 acres [probably should be 140 acres] of land on Buck Creek, and two horses. He listed the total value of his assets for tax purposes to be \$665. Comparing Lindley’s 1822 tax list entry to the 1821 tax list entry, I strongly suspect that Lindley did not own two

“blacks” in 1821, but instead owned two horses. I may have erred in transcribing the tax list, or the County Assessor may have erred in recording the entry for Lindley.

There were no Couch entries in the 1823 Pulaski County tax list. However, Floyd Couch provided me with a copy of a deed made in Pulaski County on March 1, 1823. This deed appears to reflect the sale of property by three daughters of Jacob Inabuit, deceased, and their husbands. The three women, and their husbands, were Lindley and Susannah (Inabuit) Couch; Jesse and Sarah (Inabuit) Pointer; and Isaac and Rebecca (Inabuit) Sewell. It appears that Jacob Inabuit’s son, Joseph Inabuit, paid his three sisters “the sum of Three hundred dollars current money of Kentucky” for their interest in the land inherited from their father. Lindley signed the deed, and Susannah made her mark. Shadrack Stogsdill was one of the three witnesses to the deed.

Lindley’s name appeared in the Pulaski County tax lists for the last time in 1824. There is evidence that Lindley and Susannah Couch may have moved from Pulaski County to Whitley County, Kentucky, in 1824 or 1825. The 1825 tax list for Whitley County contains the name of “Linley Couch”. The entry indicates that Lindley did not own any land in Whitley County, and 1825 was the only year in which Lindley’s name appeared on the Whitley County tax lists. And, Lindley was the only member of the Moses Couch family listed in the 1825 Whitley County tax list.

A second daughter, Angelina, was reportedly born to Lindley and Susannah in Kentucky on September 20, 1825. But, I have not been able to find any trace of Lindley and Susannah between 1825 and 1840. In particular, I have not been able to locate the Lindley Couch family in the 1830 census. Oft-repeated tradition suggests that the Lindley Couch family moved to an area in Ripley County, Missouri, which would later be a part of Oregon County, and settled on Frederick Creek in the early 1800's. The only question seems to be the date when Lindley Couch arrived in Ripley County. I suspect that most, or all, of the stories about the arrival of the Lindley Couch family in Ripley County can be traced back to a biography of Alfred Perry Couch, which appeared in Reminiscent History Of The Ozark Region, a county history published by Goodspeed Brothers in 1894.

Alfred Perry Couch was a son of Simpson Couch, and grandson of Lindley and Susannah Couch. The introductory material in Alfred’s biography includes the following:

“It is thought that the father came originally from Virginia, but the family lived in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois, and long years ago, in the thirties, came to Fulton County, Arkansas. Soon after this family moved to what is now Oregon County, Missouri, and made the journey in a truck wagon, with wheels sawed from the end of a log, and oxen for motive power. On coming to Missouri the family located on Town Fork of Frederick River, and here the grandfather of our subject put up a little store that gave the creek the name of Town Fork. The grandfather, Lindley Couch, afterward went to Dade County and located in Rock Prairie, where he died soon after the war, when sixty years of age.”

The historical information in these biographies was provided by the individuals featured in the biographies, or by their families, and contain more than their share of factual errors. Nevertheless, they are often the best sources of information we have. In this case, I suspect that the information about the arrival of the Lindley Couch family in what would later be Oregon County, Missouri, is essentially correct.

It should be noted that IZARD County, Arkansas, was organized in 1825, and was originally a part of the Arkansas Territory. Arkansas became a state in 1836. FULTON County, Arkansas, was created from part of IZARD County in 1842. Today, FULTON County is located immediately south of the Arkansas-Missouri state line, and not far west of the area where the Lindley Couch family eventually settled in Missouri.

That part of Oregon County, Missouri, where we believe Lindley Couch settled was taken from Ripley County in 1845. Ripley County, in turn, was taken from Wayne County in 1833. So, if Lindley Couch came from Arkansas and settled on the Frederick River in the 1830's, his migration would have been from IZARD County, in either the Arkansas Territory or in Arkansas (depending on whether he migrated before or after 1836) to either Wayne County or Ripley County, Missouri (depending on whether he migrated before or after 1833). I have seen a number of reports that Lindley migrated to Oregon County from FULTON County, Arkansas, in 1830, but the information provided by Alfred Perry Couch's biography is the only real evidence I am aware of, and it is possible that all the references to Lindley's migration in 1830 stem from the biography's statement that Lindley moved to FULTON County "in the thirties". Lindley's name does not appear in the 1830 census records of either IZARD County, Arkansas Territory, or Wayne County, Missouri.

If Lindley Couch did settle on the Frederick River in the 1830's, and built a store, it appears likely that he remained in that immediate area for several years. We know that the Lindley and Susannah Couch family was listed in the 1840 census of Ripley County, Missouri. Lindley's household consisted of one male 40-50 years old (probably Lindley), one female 40-50 (probably Susannah), one male 20-30 (probably Simpson), one female 15-20 (probably Perlina), and one female 10-15 (probably Angelina).

Also listed in the 1840 census of Ripley County were the families of two of Lindley's younger brothers, Avery Couch and Benjamin Couch. The Benjamin Couch family was listed "next door" to the Lindley Couch family in the 1840 census, while the Avery Couch family was separated from Benjamin and Lindley Couch by seven pages in the census records. In 1840, the Couch families were undoubtedly living as "squatters" on public lands.

The marriages of Lindley's three children suggest that Lindley and Susannah remained in the area until 1846 or later. Lindley's son, Simpson, was married in Ripley County in December of 1841. Lindley's daughter, Perlina, was married in Ripley County in August of 1842. And Lindley's daughter, Angelina, was married in Oregon County in December of 1845.

Available evidence suggests that all of the children of Moses Couch who lived in the Oregon County area during the early 1840's left the area in the late 1840's. As mentioned earlier, the marriage of Angelina Couch suggests that Lindley and Susannah Couch was still living in Oregon County in December of 1845. But in October of 1850, Lindley and Susannah were listed in the census of Dade County, Missouri. The family of Lindley Couch's sister, Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, joined Lindley and Susannah in Ripley County in 1840 or 1841. The marriage of one of her sons in Randolph County, Arkansas, suggests that Malinda was still in the Oregon County area in November of 1845. But by October of 1850, all but the youngest of Malinda's children had moved to Dade County.

There is a marriage record that suggests that the family of Lindley Couch's brother, Avery Couch, may have been in Oregon County as late as April of 1846. But Avery and his family had moved to Monroe County, Illinois, by August of 1849. The family of Lindley Couch's sister, Delila (Couch) Literal, joined Lindley and Susannah in Ripley County about 1841. Delila's husband, in his position as Acting Justice of the Peace, performed a marriage in Oregon County in May of 1846. But Delila's husband reportedly died in Greene County, Missouri, about 1849. We don't know how long Benjamin Couch and his family remained in the Oregon County area after the 1840 census, but we believe that Benjamin and his family were living in Greene County, Missouri, when one of his daughters was born in November of 1849. The only two descendants of Moses Couch left in Oregon County in 1850 were Lindley Couch's son, Simpson, and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill's youngest daughter, Mary (Stogsdill) Lasley.

We don't know why so many members of the Moses Couch family moved to Dade County in the late 1840's. During the 19th century, families usually moved west, and almost always moved to an area where some relative had already settled. In this instance, it is interesting to note that the Lindley family records referenced earlier in this chapter indicate that Jonathan Lindley, a younger brother of Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch, and uncle to the children of Moses Couch, died in Dade County, Missouri, about 1843. So there was a family connection before the children and grandchildren of Moses Couch ever arrived in Dade County.

Most of Lindley Couch's family, all but one of Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill's children, and Delila (Couch) Literal were all listed in the 1850 census of Dade County, enumerated in October of that year. The 1850 Dade County census includes this cluster of Moses Couch descendants:

Family #420 – Josiah Stogsdill [Lindley’s nephew]
Family #421 – Archibald and Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill [Lindley’s nephew and daughter]
Family #422 – Lindley and Susannah Couch
Family #423 – Angelina (Couch) Evans [Lindley’s daughter]
Family #424 – Daniel Stogsdill [Lindley’s nephew]
Family #425 – Elizabeth (Stogsdill) Bennett [Lindley’s niece]
Family #426 – Delila (Couch) Literal [Lindley’s sister]
Family #431 – William Stogsdill [Lindley’s nephew]

Lindley’s brother, Benjamin Couch, was living nearby, in Greene County.

In the fall of 1850, Lindley and Susannah were “empty nesters”. Their son, Simpson, remained in Oregon County with his family. Lindley’s two daughters, Perlina and Angelina, were listed in the Dade County census records with their respective families in the two households immediately “next door” to the Lindley Couch household. Curiously, the 1850 census records include agricultural schedules describing the farm of Archibald and Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill, and the farm of William and Angelina (Couch) Evans, but no agricultural schedule for Lindley and Susannah Couch. The census records suggest to me that Lindley and Susannah did not have a farm of their own, but were assisting Archibald and Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill with their farm.

We presume that Lindley Couch, and his extended family, continued to live as squatters on public land the first several years they spent in Dade County. Then, on November 14, 1854, Lindley Couch paid cash for two 40-acre tracts of public land in southeast Dade County. One of these two 40-acre tracts⁴ was located about one-half mile south and one-quarter mile west of the present site of Everton, Missouri, and about one and one-quarter miles west of the Sinking Creek Cemetery. The second 40-acre tract⁵ was located one mile south of the Sinking Creek Cemetery. For a diagram depicting the locations of these two tracts of land, see #1 and #2 on page 123.

I make reference to “the present site of Everton”, because the village of Everton did not exist when Lindley and Susannah Couch lived in Dade County. Arthur Paul Moser, the compiler of A Directory of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets Past and Present of Dade County, Missouri, provides some history about Everton. Arthur Moser wrote that the birth of Everton dates back to the building of the K. C. Ft. S. & M. railroad in 1881. There was an early post-office in the area, called Rock Prairie, which dates back to 1850. The post-office was moved from house to house and accommodated only a sparsely settled community. Sometime in the 1850’s, a man named Sammy Jones had a little store at Cross Roads, located about one mile northeast of the present site of Everton, at a point where the Springfield and Ft. Scott wagon road was crossed by the Boonville and Sarcoxie wagon road. The Civil War for a time destroyed the aspirations of Cross Roads

⁴ The Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 17 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

⁵ The Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 21 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

ever becoming a city. At the close of the hostilities, Calvin Wheeler petitioned Congress for a re-establishment of the Rock Prairie post-office, and he was appointed postmaster in 1868, and located the office at Cross Roads, at which point he was conducting a small country store.

So, it would appear that Rock Prairie served as the post office for Lindley Couch and his neighbors from 1850 until the beginning of the Civil War. That same time period also appears to have been a decade of prosperity and relative calm for the Couch families in Dade County. In June of 1860, Lindley and Susannah Couch were listed in the census of Polk Township of Dade County. Lindley valued his personal property at \$1000, and his real estate at \$1000. Among their neighbors were his daughter, Angelina (Couch) Evans, and her family; Lindley's sister, Delila (Couch) Literal Harrell, with her second husband and her four children; and Lindley's brother, Benjamin Couch, and his family, including Benjamin's married daughter, Sarah, and her husband and daughter. Other neighbors included the families of Josiah Stogsdill and William Stogsdill, both nephews of Lindley Couch.

The two households listed immediately after the Lindley Couch household in the census records are worthy of comment. The occupants of the first household were Moses and Elizabeth Arthur, both age 30. Moses was born in Georgia, and Elizabeth in Tennessee. I suspect that this couple was living on the Lindley Couch farm, but know of no family relationship between Lindley or Susannah and this couple. Lindley and Susannah were 67 and 68 years old, with no children living at home, so I suspect that Moses and Elizabeth Arthur may have been hired help. The next household was that of Avery Couch's second wife (Lindley's sister-in-law), Martha Couch, and her six children from her marriage to James Hall. I suspect that Martha and her children were also living on the Lindley Couch farm. Avery Couch's whereabouts in 1860 are unknown. Lindley may have supplied Martha and her children with a place to live in return for the labor of Martha's three teen-aged sons.

The 1860 census records include a description of Lindley Couch's farm (see Figure 1 on page 30). Note that Lindley described his farm as consisting of 120 acres of land. The two 40-acre tracts of public land that Lindley purchased in 1854 account for 80 of the 120 acres. Some time between 1850 and 1860, Lindley also purchased an additional 40 acres⁶ which abutted one of the 40-acre tracts he purchased in 1854 (see tract #3 on page 123).

When the Civil War erupted in April of 1861, I strongly suspect that Lindley Couch and all the members of his extended family then living in Dade County were sympathetic to the cause of the Confederacy. And I assume, on that basis, that most of Lindley's neighbors were sympathetic to the Confederate cause. But we also know that there were others in the county who were strong supporters of the Union cause. Dade County was truly a divided county during the Civil War. On page 74 of History of Dade County and

⁶ Described as the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 21 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

Its People, published by Pioneer Historical Company in 1917, a summary of military affairs in Dade County during the war begins:

“The great majority of the people of Dade County have always been loyal to the Government of the United States, notwithstanding the fact that many of them were reared under the influences of the institution of slavery.”

LINDLEY COUCH FARM		
DESCRIPTION OF FARM		
Improved:	50 acres	
Unimproved:	70 acres	
LIVESTOCK ON JUNE 1, 1860		
Horses:	5	
Milch cows:	4	
Other cattle:	6	
Sheep:	15	
Swine:	6	
PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1860		
Indian corn:	600 bushels	
Oats:	100 bushels	
Wool:	50 pounds	
Peas and beans:	1 bushel	
Irish potatoes:	25 bushels	
Butter:	200 pounds	
Value of orchard production:		\$175
Value of home-made manufactures:		\$ 50
Value of animals slaughtered:		\$ 35
VALUES ON JUNE 1, 1860		
Cash value of farm:		\$1000
Value of farming implements and machinery:		\$ 45
Value of live stock:		\$ 600

Figure 1: Lindley Couch farm in 1860

The summary continues:

"When the late Civil War began, in 1861, the people of the northern half of the county were generally loyal to the Union, while many in the southern half were in full sympathy with secession and in favor of the Southern Confederacy; but, upon the whole, a great majority of the citizens of the county were loyal to the United States. Some of the recent immigrants from the Eastern states--especially Illinois--moved back, and there enlisted in the Union Army. Soon after the war began, John T. Coffee and other Southern sympathizers enlisted a number of men in Dade County, but, owing to the vigilance of the loyal citizens, who were forming organizations for the Union army, they were mostly taken beyond the limits of the county to be organized, and later a large number of men followed Price's army southward, and became Confederate soldiers, but there is no way of ascertaining their numbers."

All of southern Missouri, particularly near the Arkansas border, was a dangerous place to live during the Civil War. Dade County was no exception. One summary of some of the Civil War experiences of Dade County residents is provided on page 77 of History of Dade County and Its People. It reads:

"Dade County suffered terribly from the ravages of the war. On one occasion, during the early part, while the Union State Militia were occupying Greenfield, a party of guerrillas, in the interest of the Southern cause, and for the purpose of plunder, made a raid upon the town. So sudden was the charge that the militiamen had not time to assemble for defense, but each one, from the several houses where they happened to be, fired upon the enemy, killing one and compelling them to fall back. They fled southward and burned the houses of many Union men on their way. This and other depredations so enraged the militia that squads of them, sent into the country, soon surpassed their orders and resorted to desperate measures in retaliation, such as burning the houses which harbored bushwhackers, whereupon both sides became infuriated and more or less indiscriminately applied the torch and killed defenseless men. A number of citizens were killed in their fields, or at their homes, or on the public roads, by unknown bushwhackers, and many dwellings and much other property throughout the county was laid in ashes. The capture of Greenfield and burning of the courthouse has been mentioned elsewhere. Greenfield was occupied a portion of the time during the war by the militia, and at other times by detachments from the cavalry regiments previously noted. The many cruel depredations, the killing of individuals, and other atrocities committed in Dade County during the war period would furnish material sufficient in itself to fill a volume."

It appears that Dade County was home to a number of families with southern sympathies when the Civil War commenced, but that a large majority of the Dade County residents were aligned with the Union cause. Dade County must have been a dangerous place to live for those who sympathies lay with the Confederacy. The following is an excerpt from a letter written on March 17, 1863, to a family in Dade County. The letter was

written by a Union soldier from Dade County who was, at that time, stationed at Benton Barracks, near St. Louis. The excerpt reads:

“Our forces had a fight on the Yazoo River N. Carolina and captured 1,000 rebels and 26 transports. This is late news. Our gun boats also had a fight with the Rebel Boat Nashville after fighting some time the Rebel boat caught fire and the magazine blew up destroying most of the Rebel crew. If I can see rite the South has nearly played out. I think that we will send them up Salt river this summer. Let us all do our duty as soldiers and stand by the flag of our country as patrols. I tell you I have seen a nough of the conduct of rebels to turn the Devil against them. I hate them worse than any person living. I would like to be there with you to clean out and kill secesh in Dade County. I am a spider in their dumpling as long as I live and will give them hale where every I can find them. I am a soldier in the Union Army as long as there is fighting to do for the Union or tel I am killed. I would like to be there and have along talk with you. I could tel you a great many things of interest that I have neither time nor space to write. Our troops here is all in good spirits and think that we will do the work up brown this summer. We hear that the Rebel Gen. Price is in Arkansas. How true this is I do not know. But we will make him root hog or die. “

At 68 years of age when the war commenced, Lindley Couch was certainly too old to join the fight on the battlefield. But we assume that Lindley Couch’s sympathies lay with the Confederacy. In late 1862, Lindley’s support of the Confederate cause got him into some trouble with the Union Provost Marshal.

A little background on the role of the Provost Marshal may be helpful at this point. The web site of the Missouri Secretary of State explains the history of the Provost Marshal during the Civil War as follows:

“In September 1862, the federal Adjutant General's office issued General Order No. 140, appointing special provost marshals for each state. The special provost marshal had many responsibilities, which included investigating charges or acts of treason and arresting deserters, spies, and persons deemed disloyal. A reorganization of the War Department in 1863 eliminated the position of special provost marshal, but appointed an assistant provost marshal general (APMG) for each state, a provost marshal for each congressional district and a deputy provost marshal for each county. The duties remained much the same. In addition, the provost marshal assigned to the district was responsible for maintaining troop discipline, assuming custody of prisoners and deserters, administering punishment, and suppressing any depredations and disturbances caused by Army troops or individual soldiers.

“These provost marshals were assigned regardless of the level of active warfare within a state or district. In districts with active fighting, the provost marshal's primary duty was to limit marauding against citizens, prevent stragglers on long marches, and generally suppress gambling or other vices not conducive to good

order and discipline. However, in many districts, the war's fighting was somewhat removed and the area did not see battles. In these areas, the provost marshal's duties were more magisterial. The provost marshal had the power to administer and enforce the law when it came to regulating public places; conduct searches, seizures, and arrests; issue passes to citizens for movement in and out of Union lines; and record and investigate citizen complaints. It was not uncommon for the law to be suspended in many cases and for the provost marshal, mostly independent of any real supervision, to dispense with the rules of civil procedure."

The records of the Union Provost Marshal indicate that Lindley Couch, of Dade County, posted a bond of \$2000 on December 27, 1862, charged with giving aid and comfort to the enemy. W. B. Logan and Charles Hughes, of Greene County, served as sureties for Lindley.

After describing the surety bond, the standard one-page Provost Marshal's form went on to state:

"The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bounden Lindley Couch has been arrested on the charge of having given aid & Comfort to the enemies of the United States and has been discharged from imprisonment upon his Parole and this Bond. NOW, if the said Lindley Couch shall carefully and truly abstain from all words or deeds tending to aid, encourage or promote the existing rebellion against the authority of the United States or to disturb the existing Government of the State of Missouri, and shall not, directly or indirectly, furnish information, arms, money, provisions or any other commodity whatever to, or hold communication with, any person or persons engaged in hostilities against the Government of the United States or the State of Missouri, then this obligation is to be void. It is else to be in full force."

The form was signed by Lindley Couch, and by both his sureties. It is worth noting that the charge of giving aid and comfort to the enemy was not a common occurrence. The charge against Lindley Couch is contained in an index to some of the Union Provost Marshal records for Dade County. There are 136 Dade County entries in that index, and the charge against Lindley is the only charge of giving aid and comfort to the enemy contained in the index.

It is impossible to know whether the strife of the Civil War was connected in any way to Lindley's death. But we do know that Lindley Couch died in Dade County, Missouri, on March 9, 1863, less than three months after posting bond on the charges against him. Lindley was 70 years of age when he died. He was buried in the Sinking Creek Cemetery near Everton. We assume that Susannah remained in Dade County after Lindley's death, and that she died there on November 26, 1866, about 18 months after the end of the Civil War. Susannah was 75 years of age when she died, and she was buried beside her husband in the Sinking Creek Cemetery.

Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill, daughter of Lindley and Susannah Couch, died before her parents. Perlina's husband was Archibald Stogsdill, son of William and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, and Perlina's first cousin. On December 17, 1866, three weeks after the death of Susannah Couch, the Oregon County Probate Court appointed Archibald Stogsdill as the Guardian and Curator of the minor heirs of the estate of Lindley Couch, deceased. The Court then authorized Archibald Stogsdill to sell land in Dade and Lawrence Counties "for the purpose of Educating the minor children" of Archibald and Perlina Stogsdill. The land to be sold was real estate that Archibald's children inherited from their grandfather, Lindley Couch, through their deceased mother, Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill. This was apparently the land owned by Lindley Couch at his death.

The Lindley Couch estate included land in both Dade County and in Lawrence County. The Dade County land consisted of the two 40-acre parcels that Lindley purchased in 1854, as well as the adjoining 40-acre parcel that Lindley acquired some time in the 1850's. The Lawrence County parcel⁷ consisted of 113.59 acres of land that Lindley's brother, Benjamin, originally purchased as public land in the mid-1850's. Apparently, Benjamin conveyed the land to Lindley at some point. This land was located immediately south of the Lawrence-Dade County line, and approximately two miles west and four miles south of Everton. Archibald Stogsdill sold his children's one-third interest in the Lindley Couch estate to Lindley's son-in-law, William C. Evans, for \$450. On July 6, 1867, Lindley Couch's son and daughter-in-law, Simpson and Rebecca Couch, also sold their one-third interest in the Lindley Couch estate to William C. Evans.

⁷ Lot #8 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 1 in Township 29 North of Range 26 West.

Simpson Couch

Though Simpson was probably not the first child born to Lindley and Susannah Couch, he was apparently the eldest to survive childhood. Couch family researchers seem to agree that Simpson was born on January 15, 1819, though I am unaware of the source of this date. Based on what we know of his parents, it seems likely that Simpson was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

Simpson was married in Ripley County, on December 27, 1841, to Rebecca Roberts, daughter of Alexander Roberts and Polly Drummonds. Rebecca is reported to have been born on the Meramec River, in the Missouri Territory, on March 1, 1818. In 1824, Rebecca's family moved to what was then Wayne County, and settled near Thomasville. When Simpson and Rebecca married, Simpson was 22 years old, and Rebecca was 23.

Simpson and Rebecca set up housekeeping on a farm near the village of Webster (later renamed Couch), in what was then Ripley County (part of Oregon County after 1845). The first of their eleven children, Alfred Perry Couch, was born on November 28, 1842. Lindley Couch was born on October 22, 1843, and Mary Jane Couch on March 5, 1845. George Washington Couch was born on March 6, 1847, Francis Marion Couch in 1849, and Susannah Couch in August of 1850. In September of 1850, Simpson and his family were living on their Oregon County farm which Simpson valued at \$500. Perhaps it was the Roberts family which kept Simpson and Rebecca in Oregon County. Simpson's parents, along with all of his uncles and aunts and cousins (with the exception of one cousin) had moved further west to Greene County and Dade County.

Simpson's family continued to grow during the 1850's. Matilda Jane Couch was born in 1852, Benjamin Franklin Couch was born on March 2 of 1855, and Perlina Angelina Couch was born on March 8, 1858. Simpson served Oregon County as a County Judge for many years, and accumulated considerable wealth and influence within the county. In June of 1860, Simpson valued his real estate holdings at \$13,000, and his personal property at \$9718.

The Civil War erupted in April of 1861, and the last child we can identify was born to Simpson and Rebecca on November 10, 1861. They named this son Sterling Price Couch, after General Sterling Price, the popular commander of the Missouri State Guard. Simpson Couch survived the Civil War, but died three years later, on October 7, 1868. Simpson was 49 years old, and was buried in the Couch Cemetery, also known as the Hensley Cemetery, southeast of the village of Couch.

After Simpson's death, Rebecca continued to raise her children, as well as one of her granddaughters. In 1870, Rebecca valued her land at \$8000, and her personal property at \$650. Rebecca died on January 28, 1905, at the home of her son, George W. Couch, where she had been living for several years. Rebecca was 86 years old, and had been a widow for 36 years. Rebecca was laid to rest with Simpson in the Couch Cemetery.

Perlina Couch

Perlina Couch was born in Kentucky in 1821 or 1822. Based on what we know of her parents, it appears likely that she was born in Pulaski County. By 1840, Perlina was living with her parents in Ripley County, Missouri. The family of her uncle, Benjamin Couch, were close neighbors, and the family of another uncle, Avery Couch, were also residents of the county. We believe that her two aunts, Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill and Delila (Couch) Literal, arrived in Ripley County with their families in 1840 and/or 1841.

On August 7, 1842, Perlina was married to Archibald Stogsdill. Archibald was the son of William and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, and Perlina's first cousin. The couple was married in Ripley County when Archibald was about 22 years old, and Perlina about 18.

During the 1840's, Archibald and Perlina had at least three children, all born in Missouri. Daniel was born about 1843, Simpson was born about 1845, and John M. was born in 1848 or 1849. By 1850, Archibald and Perlina had migrated west to Dade County, Missouri, along with Perlina's parents, Perlina's sister, and all of Archibald's siblings. Archibald and Perlina and their three children were enumerated in the 1850 Dade County census, living "next door" to the family of Archibald's older brother, Josiah Stogsdill, and to Perlina's parents.

During the 1850's, Archibald and Perlina had at least three more children, all born in Missouri. Mary Catherine was born in 1851 or 1852, Josiah was born in 1854 or 1855, and Malinda Angelina was born in 1856 or 1857.

Some time during the 1850's, Archibald and Perlina moved their family back to Oregon County, where the family was enumerated in Oak Grove Township in June of 1860. Archibald owned a farm which he valued at \$1600, and personal property he valued at \$1023. The family consisted of Archibald and Perlina, their six children, as well as five-year-old "Martha J. Grisam". Another researcher reports that Martha Grisham, along with sisters Mary C. Grisham, Sarah E. Grisham, and Tennessee Grisham, were daughters of E. A. and Elvina Grisham. Elvina was reportedly killed in Oregon County in May of 1860 by jayhawkers, or bushwhackers. After her death, her four daughters, ranging in age from infancy to seven years, were reportedly taken in by four families--the Archibald Stogsdill family, the James W. Bruce family, the Gilbert Blankenship family, and the Jesse C. Morris family. E. A. Grisham reportedly died in 1862, during the Civil War, somewhere in Arkansas.

Another daughter, Susan Jane, was born to Archibald and Perlina some time after the 1860 census. I have seen information indicating that Perlina had eight children. We have only been able to identify seven children, so it is quite possible that Archibald and Perlina lost a child whom we have not identified. Perlina did not live to raise her children, as she apparently died some time between 1860 and 1864. For further information about Archibald Stogsdill, see "Archibald 'Arch' Stogsdill" on page 46.

Angelina Couch

Angelina Couch's gravestone is inscribed with a birth date of September 30, 1825. Census records consistently list her place of birth as Kentucky, though we don't know where she was born in Kentucky. We do know that her father's name appears on the Whitley County tax roll in 1825, the year in which we think that Angelina was born..

Angelina was married in Oregon County, Missouri, on December 28, 1845 . Angelina's husband was William C. Evans, a native of Tennessee. The couple was married by Charles Literal, an Oregon County Justice of the Peace, and the husband of Angelina's aunt, Delila (Couch) Literal. Angelina was apparently 20 years old when the couple married. We are less certain of William's age. His gravestone is inscribed with a birth date of January 5, 1821. If that date is accurate, William was 24 when he married Angelina. However, census records suggest that William may have been a year or two younger than his gravestone inscription indicates.

William and Angelina wasted no time in starting a family. Their first child, Emanuel B. Evans, was born on September 20, 1846. A daughter, Perlina Evans, was born in 1848 or 1849. During the late 1840's, William and Angelina moved west to Dade County, Missouri, along with Angelina's parents and her sister and her family. In October of 1850, William and Angelina and their two children were listed in the Dade County census, living "next door" to Angelina's parents.

We are only able to identify one child born to William and Angelina during the 1850's. A son, Samuel S. Evans, was born on May 14, 1854. In March of 1856, William was issued a land patent for a 40-acre tract of Dade County public land he had earlier purchased for cash. The land was located one mile south, and one-quarter mile west, of Everton. In June of 1860, William and Angelina and their three children were listed in the census of Dade County, living "next door" to Angelina's parents, and to the family of Angelina's cousin, William Stogsdill. A 67-year-old Polly Evans, whom we assume to be William's mother, was also living with the family. William reported owing real estate valued at \$2500, and personal property valued at \$1200.

Another son, Samuel S. Evans, was born to William and Angelina in 1866 or 1867. In August of 1870, William and Angelina and their two youngest sons, along with 15-year-old Sarah Fair, were listed in the census of Polk Township of Dade County. William valued his real estate at \$6000, and his personal property at \$2075.

William died on August 27, 1871, and was buried in the Sinking Creek Cemetery, near Everton. Angelina apparently remained in Dade County after William's death. The 1880 census of Rock Prairie Township includes the Angelina Evans household. Living with Angelina were two of her sons, Samuel and William, as well as Angelina's uncle and aunt, Archibald and Delila (Couch) Literal Harrell. Angelina died on December 7, 1886, at 61 years of age, and was buried with her husband in the Sinking Creek Cemetery.

Malinda 'Linny' Couch

Malinda 'Linny' Couch, daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Couch, was born in South Carolina about 1795. We assume that Malinda was raised by her parents, and believe that she was living with her parents in Greenville County, South Carolina, in 1800, and in Christian County, Kentucky, in 1810.

We believe that Malinda's parents settled in Pulaski County, Kentucky, by 1812. It was in Pulaski County that Malinda met and married William Stogsdill. Stogsdill family researchers report that Linny's husband, William Stogsdill, was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, approximately 1792. I cannot confirm this from my own research, but have no reason to doubt this date and place of birth. William is also reported by Stogsdill researchers to be the son of Vachel and Susannah (Bayles) Stogsdill. About 1814, at about 19 years of age, William Stogsdill volunteered at Somerset, in Pulaski County, Kentucky, for service in "the war with the British and Indians in Canada" (the War of 1812). About a year later, William Stogsdill and Malinda Couch were married. They were married in Pulaski County by a Baptist minister on June 17, 1815.

William and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill's eldest son, Josiah, was apparently born in Kentucky on January 13, 1817. We are dependent upon the 1850 and 1860 census records for Josiah's place of birth. Some researchers report that Josiah was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky, and I agree that it is very likely his place of birth, but I am unaware of any direct evidence that he was born in Pulaski County. William and Malinda Stogsdill were among the heirs of Vachel Stogsdill who signed a deed selling land on Flat Lick Creek, in Pulaski County, on August 12, 1817.

By 1819 or 1820, when their second son, Archibald, was born, William and Malinda Stogsdill may have moved south from Kentucky into Tennessee. His 1850 census record indicates that Archibald was born in Kentucky, while his 1860 census record indicates that he was born in Tennessee. It is quite possible that his parents moved from Kentucky to Tennessee shortly before or after his birth, and Archibald may not have known where he was born. And I am unaware of any other records which provide any clues as to Archibald's place of birth.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate the William Stogsdill family in the 1820 census. They may have been missed in Kentucky or Tennessee, or their name may have been badly misspelled in the census record, or they might have moved to Alabama with some of Malinda's family (and there is no 1820 census for Alabama).

By 1830, William and Linny Stogsdill were the parents of six children. William S. 'Billy' Stogsdill, was born on February 21, 1822. It has been reported by other researchers that William was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee. I am confident that William was born in Tennessee, and would not be surprised to learn that he was born in Lincoln County, but have not seen any direct evidence of the county in which he was born. Elizabeth 'Betsy'

Stogsdill was born in Tennessee in 1824 or 1825. Daniel Newton Stogsdill was apparently born in Tennessee in 1826 or 1827. Some researchers report that Daniel was born in Alabama on Mar 24, 1827. I don't know the source of this information. I suspect that date of birth is correct, but doubt that Daniel was born in Alabama. Mary 'Polly' Stogsdill was the last child born to William and Malinda. Her 1850 census record suggests that Mary was born in Alabama in 1829 or 1830. But that census record is the only evidence we have seen regarding Mary's birth place, and I would not be surprised to learn that she was born in Tennessee.

We are confident that the William Stogsdill family was listed in the 1830 census of Lincoln County, Tennessee, under the name of "Wm Stockdale". Lincoln County is located just north of the Tennessee-Alabama border, and immediately north of some of the Cherokee Indian lands where the petitioners, including Moses and Lindley Couch, were living in 1819. The "William Stockdale" household in the 1830 census was comprised of one male aged 30-40 (probably William), one female aged 30-40 (probably Malinda), one male aged 20-30 (possibly William's brother or a brother-in-law?), two males aged 10-15 (probably Josiah and Archibald), one male aged 5-10 (probably William), one female aged 5-10 (probably Betsy), one male under 5 years of age (probably Daniel Newton) and one female under 5 years of age (probably Polly). Only two households were listed in the census between the household of William and Malinda Stogsdill and the household of Malinda's brother, Avery Couch.

I am confident that William and Malinda Stogsdill moved their family across the state line into Alabama by February of 1834. Their new home was in Jackson County, Alabama, and was located just a few miles south and a few miles east of Lincoln County, Tennessee. Jackson County was created on December 13, 1819, from lands recently obtained from the Cherokee Indians. It was created as a county in the Alabama Territory, but the Alabama Territory was admitted to the Union as a state the very next day. When Moses and Lindley Couch signed the 1819 petition as squatters living on Cherokee lands, they were probably living in the area that was organized as Jackson County later that same year.

The William Stogsdill home was located in the northwest corner of Jackson County, on Larkin's Fork, a tributary of the Paint Rock River. My guess is that William and Malinda settled on Larkin's Fork in late 1833 or early 1834. While living in Jackson County, the William Stogsdill family was affiliated with an early Primitive Baptist Church, which we believe to have been located on Larkin's Fork, about three miles upstream from the confluence of Larkin's Fork with the Paint Rock River. The early minutes of this church indicate that the church "received Sister Melinn Stogsdill by Letter" in February of 1834. A few months later, Malinda's name appeared on a membership list as "Melinn Stogsdill", and on an 1836 membership list, her name was recorded as "Malinda Stogsdill".

The fact that Malinda Stogsdill was "received by letter" into the Primitive Baptist Church on Larkin's Fork indicates that Malinda came to the church with a letter of recommendation prepared for her by another church of the same faith. I believe that it

was common practice for church members moving to new homes in other areas to take with them letters of recommendation prepared by their former churches.

In January or February of 1836, "Archibald Stogsdill" (undoubtedly the son of William and Malinda) was received into the church on Larkin's Fork by baptism. In February or March of 1836, "Josiah Stogsdale" and "Elizabeth Stogsdale" (also, undoubtedly, the children of William and Malinda) were received into the church by baptism.

Malinda Stogsdill was apparently well-respected by the congregation of her church. The church minutes from the first Saturday in November of 1836 contain the following:

"Fellowship inquired for, and the Church took up accusation against Sister Manerva Moore and Sally Duncan and appointed members to go and talk to them and site them to come to next meeting and appoint Sisters Stogsdil and Bridges to talk to them and request them to come to next meeting."

The sale of public lands in Jackson County first began in the summer of 1830. Land sales were brisk in the Paint Rock Valley. It was six years later, in April of 1836, that William Stogsdill purchased 40 acres of public land in Jackson County⁸. The land was located on the west side of Larkin's Fork, about two miles north of the confluence of Larkin's Fork with the Paint Rock River, and about one mile south of the spot where we suspect that the Primitive Baptist Church was located.

The minutes of the Baptist Church on Larkin's Fork contain no mention of William Stogsdill as a member, even though Sarah Literal's notebook indicated that William was a Baptist minister himself. However, on the first Saturday in March of 1837, there was a discussion about building a new meeting house. One possible site was discussed, and then two other potential sites were nominated. One site was on William Stogsdill's land. Two months later, one of the other sites was selected as the favorite of the majority of the Church.

In March of 1838, William purchased an additional 40 acres of public land⁹, situated immediately south of his first 40-acre tract.

I believe that two of the children of William and Malinda Stogsdill, Josiah and Elizabeth, were married while the family lived in Jackson County. Josiah Stogsdill married Lydia Hall about August of 1836. Elizabeth Stogsdill probably married Welcome K. Bennett about 1839. And William and Malinda were undoubtedly present at another family wedding in the late 1830's. Malinda's youngest brother, Benjamin Couch, was living with William and Malinda when he was married, at the William Stogsdill home, in 1838 or 1839. Benjamin's bride was Celia Couch, who lived with her widowed mother about a

⁸ Described as the Northeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 8 in Township 2 South of Range 4 East.

⁹ Described as the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 8 in Township 2 South of Range 4 East.

mile west, and a half-mile north, of the William Stogsdill farm. Celia was a sister of Lydia (Hall) Stogsdill, the wife of Josiah Stogsdill and daughter-in-law of William and Malinda Stogsdill (see “Benjamin ‘Ben’ Couch” on page 83 for further information).

In the 1840 Federal Census of Jackson County, there are two Stogsdill families listed "next door" to each other. One was the William Stogsdill family, and the second the Josiah Stogsdill family. The census information for the William Stogsdill family matches our profile of the William and Malinda Stogsdill family rather well, and the census information for the Josiah Stogsdill family closely matches the information we have for the family of Josiah and Lydia (Hall) Stogsdill. These two families were enumerated with other families that lived in the Paint Rock Valley, in the vicinity of the confluence of Larkin’s Fork with the Paint Rock River.

We believe that in 1840 or 1841, William and Malinda Stogsdill followed the migration path to be followed by many residents of the Paint Rock Valley--to Ripley County, Missouri. Their two married children, Josiah and Elizabeth, also migrated to Ripley County about the same time. In Ripley County, William and Malinda joined Malinda’s three brothers who were already living there—Lindley, Benjamin, and Avery Couch.

Soon after their arrival, William Stogsdill died in Ripley County, on July 13, 1841, at approximately 51 years of age. His death left Malinda with four children living at home—Archibald was about 21, William was 19, Daniel was 14, and Mary was about 11. Malinda and some of her younger children apparently remained in the area for several years after William's death. Malinda’s son, Archibald, was married in Ripley County on August 7, 1842. Malinda’s youngest daughter, Mary 'Polly' Stogsdill, was married in Ripley County on September 14, 1844. And Malinda’s son, William, was married in Randolph County, Arkansas (just across the state line from Ripley County, Missouri) on November 23, 1845.

Between 1845 and 1850, all of the children of William and Malinda Stogsdill, with the exception of Mary (Stogsdill) Lasley, moved further west, to Dade County, Missouri. Some of the Stogsdill children made the move to Dade County in at least two steps, as it appears that Josiah Stogsdill was living in Cass Township of Greene County in December of 1846, and that William Stogsdill was living in the same township in March of 1847. Malinda Stogsdill's brother, Lindley Couch, and his wife also moved to Dade County between 1840 and 1850, where the Lindley Couch family and the Stogsdill families settled as close neighbors. Malinda’s sister, Delila, and her husband, Charles Literal, apparently moved to Greene County between 1846 and 1849. After Charles died, Delila moved to Dade County by 1850, when she was listed as another neighbor of Lindley and Susannah Couch; Lindley’s daughter, Angelina Evans, and her family; and the Stogsdill families. Migration from Ripley (or Oregon) County to Dade County was commonplace among the former residents of the Paint Rock Valley of Jackson County, Alabama, who had earlier migrated to Ripley County.

We have not been able to locate Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill in the 1850 census. Having been a widow for nine years, we would expect to find Malinda living with one of her

children in the 1850 census records. She was not. It is also possible that she remarried during the 1840's, and was listed with her second husband in the 1850 census, but we have not found any evidence of a second marriage. I suspect that Malinda was simply missed by the census, possibly because she was moving around between the homes of her five children in Dade County and her youngest daughter in Oregon County.

Malinda's youngest daughter, Polly, died during childbirth in April of 1851. We don't know whether Polly was still living in Oregon County when she died, or whether she and her family had followed the rest of the William Stogsdill family to Dade County. We know that Malinda was a resident of Dade County in 1851, when she made an application for bounty land, on the basis of her husband's service in the War of 1812. Malinda's second application, completed in 1852, was also made while she resided in Dade County. Malinda's brother and sister-in-law, Lindley and Susannah Couch, witnessed her application.

Apparently, the Stogsdill family's move to Dade County during the 1840's did not prove to be entirely satisfactory to the family. The families of two of Malinda's sons, Josiah and William, were still residents of Dade County in 1860. But, Archibald Stogsdill moved his family from Dade County back to Oregon County during the 1850's. Elizabeth (Stogsdill) Bennett and her husband, Welcome, may have moved back to Oregon County in 1853. The migration from Oregon County to Dade County and then back to Oregon County was a pattern that would become commonplace among the Missouri settlers from the Paint Rock Valley of Alabama. Daniel Stogsdill moved his wife and family east a shorter distance, from Dade County to Dallas County, during the 1850's.

Malinda apparently moved back and forth between Oregon County and Dade County with some frequency. We know that Malinda filed her second bounty land application as a resident of Dade County in 1852. In April of 1855, Malinda filed a third bounty-land application from Oregon County, and stated in her application that she was a resident of that county. Malinda was back in Dade County when she made a fourth bounty land application in 1858. The witnesses were, again, Lindley and Susannah Couch. And, finally, in 1860, the census indicates that Malinda was again living in Oregon County. On June 19, 1860, 65-year-old "Linna Stogsdell" was listed as the only resident in her household, immediately "next door" to the household of her recently-widowed daughter, Elizabeth Bennett, and her six children. While Malinda reported personal property valued at \$200, the census records indicate that she did not own any land, and she was undoubtedly living on her daughter's farm.

The 1860 census record for Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, enumerated less than a year before the outbreak of the Civil War, is the last record that I am aware of that identifies Malinda. We don't know what happened to her after that date. Some genealogists report that Malinda died in 1881, or died after 1881. I suspect that these dates stem from a family story related to me a number of years ago by Frank Watson, a great-grandson of Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill. Frank told me the family story that Malinda attended the wedding of her grandson, Jonathan Franklin Stogsdill, when he was married in Lawrence

County, Missouri, on May 1, 1881. Though the story could be true, Malinda would have been about 86 years old when she attended that wedding, and it would mean that she lived for more than twenty years after the 1860 census was recorded without leaving any evidence of her existence that we have been able to discover. I believe that it is more likely that Malinda died in Dade County or Oregon County some time between 1860 and 1870.

Josiah Stogsdill

Josiah Stogsdill was born in Kentucky on January 13, 1817. Josiah's parents were residents of Jackson County, Alabama, when Josiah married Lydia Hall, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Mily (Williams) Hall. Josiah and Lydia were probably married in 1836, when Josiah was 19, and Lydia was 18. Their first child, Emily Stogsdill, was born on June 10, 1837. James 'Jimmie' Stogsdill was born on December 7, 1838, and William 'Billy' Stogsdill was born on February 22, 1840. The 1840 census of Jackson County lists the Josiah Stogsdill family "next door" to the family of Josiah's parents.

Together with other relatives, Josiah and Lydia moved their family to Missouri in 1840 or 1841. After their arrival in Missouri, their family continued to grow. John Stogsdill was born on December 22, 1841, and Mary Lucinda 'Lucinda' Stogsdill was born on November 20, 1843. John died about 1844, at two years of age. Archibald 'Arch' Stogsdill was born on February 17, 1846. Some time during the 1840's, Josiah and Lydia moved their family from Ripley/Oregon County to Greene County, Missouri, where they were living in December of 1846. Another son, Benjamin R. 'Ben' Stogsdill, was reportedly born at Ash Grove, in Greene County, on March 10, 1848.

We know that Josiah served as a minister of the Sinking Creek United Baptist Church, located about one mile southeast of Everton, Missouri. The church was organized on August 28, 1847, by Elder Thomas J. Kelley and 22 other early settlers of the county. Josiah Stogsdill may have succeeded Elder Kelley as the second pastor of the church.

Elizabeth Ann 'Betsy' Stogsdill was born to Josiah and Lydia on February, 10, 1850. The 1850 Dade County census listed Josiah and Lydia and their seven children. Josiah and Lydia received an unexpected addition to their family in April of 1851, when Josiah's youngest sister, Mary, died in childbirth. Josiah and Lydia took Mary's newborn twin daughters in, and raised them as their own daughters. On November 17 of that same year, Josiah and Lydia added a tenth child to their household when Sarah Jane 'Jane' Stogsdill was born.

Between February of 1852 and February of 1858, Josiah accumulated land in southeast Dade County. As Josiah's land holdings expanded, his family also continued to expand. Jonathan Franklin Stogsdill was born on September 18, 1855, and Mary Adaline Stogsdill on June 7, 1858. In June of 1860, Josiah and Lydia appear in the census of Polk Township, in Dade County. The household consisted of Josiah, Lydia, nine of their children, the two 9-year-old Lasley twins, and Lydia's mother. Josiah reported the value of his real estate as \$3000, and the value of his personal property as \$1200.

Josiah Stogsdill died in Lawrence County, Missouri on December 1, 1867, at 50 years of age. He was buried in the Sinking Creek Cemetery near Everton. Lydia died in Lawrence County less than two years later, on October 17, 1869. Lydia was 51 years old when she died, and was buried next to Josiah in the Sinking Creek Cemetery.

Archibald 'Arch' Stogsdill

We believe that Archibald Stogsdill was born in either Kentucky or Tennessee in 1819 or 1820. Archibald was probably in his early teens when his family migrated to Jackson County, Alabama, where he was baptized in the Primitive Baptist Church in January or February of 1836. Archibald migrated to Ripley County, Missouri, with his parents about 1840 or 1841, where his father died in July of 1841. A year later, on August 7, 1842, Archibald was married to Perlina Couch. For further information about Perlina, and their lives together, see "Perlina Couch" on page 36.

Archibald and Perlina are reported to have had eight children. We are able to identify seven of those children. But Perlina died some time between 1860 and 1864. Following Perlina's death, Archibald married Elizabeth (Williams) Foust, daughter of Robert Williams and Jane Moore. Much of my information about Elizabeth Williams comes from Williams family research posted to the internet by Shirley Moore, of Ten Mile, Tennessee. Elizabeth Williams was born in Meigs County, Tennessee, on September 15, 1838, and appears in the 1850 census of Dade County, Missouri, living with her parents and siblings. Elizabeth's first marriage, in 1858, was to John Foust. I suspect that Archibald and Elizabeth were probably married in Dade County about 1863 or 1864, when Archibald was about 44 years old, and Elizabeth was about 25.

Dade County marriage records from December of 1864 and from 1865 indicate that Archibald served as an ordained Minister of the United Baptist Church of Christ in Dade County. A son, James Robert Stogsdill, was born to Archibald and Elizabeth in June of 1865. Another son, Archibald Stogsdill Jr., was born in February of 1868. Archibald, like some of the other Stogsdill family members, may have moved back and forth between Dade County and southern Oregon County. On September 19, 1869, "Elder A. Stogsdill" was one of three elders of the United Baptist Church who signed the Credentials of Ordination for H. C. Kirkpatrick in Randolph County, Arkansas, just across the state line from Oregon County.

We believe that Archibald and Elizabeth migrated to the Sandusky area, in Grayson County, Texas, about 1870. To date, I have not located Archibald and Elizabeth in the 1870 census, but we do know that Archibald's uncle, Benjamin Couch, was living in the Sandusky area in 1870. The 1871 tax rolls for Grayson County include an entry for an "A. Stogsdill", who owned eight horses, 14 cattle, 13 sheep and 12 other livestock. There were no entries for A. Stogsdill in the 1870 or 1872 tax rolls. A daughter, Dora Ellen Stogsdill, was born in Archibald and Elizabeth in May of 1871. She is reported to have been born at Sandusky. Archibald is reported to have died at Sandusky in August of 1871, and to be buried in the Mt. Tabor Cemetery.

Following Archibald's death, Elizabeth was married two more times, to Posey Rogers and William Ambrose. Elizabeth died at Duncan, Oklahoma, on January 9, 1912, and was buried in the Rock Creek Cemetery near Duncan.

William S. 'Billy' Stogsdill

William S. Stogsdill is reported by other researchers to have been born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, on February 21, 1822. William was about 18 years old when his family settled in Ripley County, Missouri, and was 23 when he married Sarah Catherine Justice in Randolph County, Arkansas, on November 23, 1845. Sarah, the daughter of John Dyer Justice and Sarah Nettles, was born in Missouri or Arkansas in 1825.

William and Sarah left Oregon County between 1845 and 1850. By 1847, they were residents of Greene County, Missouri. Of the twelve children born to William and Sarah, we are able to identify only nine. The first of these, James M. Stogsdill, was born in Missouri in 1846 or 1847. The second was John Walker Stogsdill, born in Greene County on May 25, 1848. From Greene County, William and Sarah and their two sons moved to Dade County, where they were enumerated in the census in October of 1850.

During the 1850's, William's family continued to grow. Mary Jane Stogsdill was born in Dade County in 1850 or 1851; Elizabeth Stogsdill was born in 1855; Sarah Ann Stogsdill was born in 1856 or 1857; and Evaline Stogsdill was born in October of 1859. It would not be surprising to learn that William and Sarah lost a child born about 1853. In June of 1860, the census of Polk Township, in Dade County, included the family of William and Sarah Stogsdill, along with their six children. William valued his farm at \$2000, and personal property at \$2000.

The 1860's was undoubtedly a turbulent decade for William's family. William's eldest son, James, died in his youth. We don't know whether his death was war-related. But William's family continued to grow during the 1860's. Ellen Stogsdill was born in 1860 or 1861; William Stogsdill was born in 1865 or 1866; and Jasper Stogsdill was born in 1867 or 1868. During the decade of the 1860's, William and Sarah also moved their family from Dade County back to Oregon County, where they were listed in the census of Moore Township in July of 1870. William's six youngest children were still living at home. William valued his personal property at \$600, but no longer owned a farm.

Sarah Catherine (Justice) Stogsdill died between 1870 and 1880. William apparently remained in Oregon County after Sarah's death. In June of 1880, William and two of his unmarried children were living with the family of his eldest son, John Walker Stogsdill, in Oak Grove Township of Oregon County. On April 9, 1896, William married Mary Adaline (Nicholson) McIntire, daughter of John A. Nicholson and Martha Malinda Berry, and widow of Absolom McIntire. William and Mary were married in Shannon County, Missouri. William was 74 years old, and Mary was 58. In 1900, William and Mary were residing in Johnson Township of Oregon County. William died on January 31, 1907, just three weeks short of his 85th birthday. He was the last surviving sibling in his family. William was buried in the Garfield Cemetery, in Oregon County. Mary Adaline (Nicholson) McIntire Stogsdill died at North Montier, in Shannon County, in January of 1928, and was buried beside her first husband in the Turkey Oak Cemetery at Montier.

Elizabeth 'Betsy' Stogsdill

Elizabeth 'Betsy' Stogsdill was probably born in Tennessee in 1824 or 1825. Elizabeth would have been a youngster when her parents moved to Jackson County, Alabama. Elizabeth undoubtedly met her husband, Welcome K. Bennett, while the two were living on Larkins Fork, in northwest Jackson County. Welcome, the son of William and Sarah E. Bennett, was probably born in Kentucky about 1820. We believe that William and Elizabeth were probably married in Jackson County, Alabama, about 1839. There is, however, no direct evidence of date or place of their marriage.

Welcome and Elizabeth were still living in Alabama when a daughter, Nancy Lucinda Bennett, was born in 1839 or 1840. In 1840, the Welcome Bennett family was listed in the census of Jackson County, living near Elizabeth's parents. Some time between 1840 and 1842, Welcome and Elizabeth moved their family to Missouri, where Louisa Bennett was born in 1841 or 1842; and William Bennett was born in 1845 or 1846.

The next child born to Welcome and Elizabeth was James Madison Bennett. His gravestone indicates that James was born on September 22 of 1845, but I believe it is more likely that he was born on that date in 1847. Hiram Thomas Bennett was born in March of 1850. Welcome and Elizabeth apparently followed Elizabeth's siblings to Dade County in the late 1840's, as the Welcome Bennett family is listed "next door" to the family of Elizabeth's brother, Daniel Stogsdill, in the 1850 Dade County census.

Simpson Perry Bennett was born to Welcome and Elizabeth in March of 1854. By 1855, I believe that Welcome and Elizabeth had moved their family back to Oregon County. McAlexander Bennett was born to Welcome and Elizabeth in 1856 or 1857; and Rebecca Jane Bennett was born in 1858 or 1859. Tragically, Welcome Bennett died of "fever" in May of 1860, at about 40 years of age. In June, the 1860 census of Oak Grove Township included the household of Elizabeth Bennett, now responsible for raising her six youngest children, ranging in age from one to 15. Elizabeth's mother, Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, was listed as the lone resident of the household "next door" to Elizabeth Bennett's household. I suspect that Elizabeth's mother was living on the Bennett farm, and helping Elizabeth cope with her recent loss.

Elizabeth apparently did not remarry after Welcome's death, and remained in Oregon County the rest of her life. She appeared in the 1880 census of Oak Grove Township, living "next door" to her son, James. Her youngest son, McAlexander was the only child still living at home with Elizabeth. Lanita Sconce Miller has searched the Oregon County Personal Tax lists, and reports that Elizabeth was on the list in 1901, but not in 1902, and speculates that she died in 1901 or 1902.

Daniel Newton Stogsdill

Daniel Newton Stogsdill was born on March 24, 1827. While various census records report his place of birth as Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, we believe that Tennessee is the most likely place for his birth to have occurred. Daniel was probably a youngster when his parents moved to Jackson County, Alabama, 13 or 14 years old when his family moved to Ripley County, Missouri, and 14 years old when his father died.

Daniel married Lorena Parlee Hayes, daughter of John Hays and Sarah Miles. Lorena is reported to have been born in Jefferson County, Illinois, on November 25, 1829. We have no direct evidence as to where or when Daniel and Lorena were married, but circumstantial evidence points to a marriage in Dade County, Missouri, in the summer or fall of 1849. Daniel was probably 22 years old, and Lorena was probably 19 years old, when they married.

In October of 1850, census records indicate that Daniel and Lorena were living in Dade County with their first child, Lafayette Washington Stogsdill, who was born on July 28, 1850. Their neighbors included several of Daniel's siblings. Daniel and Lorena had at least five more children during the following decade. William Marion Stogsdill was born on September 9, 1851; John Henry Stogsdill was born on April 5, 1853; Luticia Evelyn Stogsdill was reportedly born in May of 1853 (but was probably born in 1854); Levina C. Stogsdill was born in January of 1857; and available evidence suggests that Archibald F. Stogsdill was probably born in July of 1860.

Some time between 1850 and 1860, Daniel and Lorena moved from Dade County to neighboring Dallas County. In August of 1860, Daniel and Lorena and their six children were listed in the census of Miller Township, in Dallas County. To date, we have not found any information that suggests that Daniel served in the Civil War. If any children were born to Daniel and Lorena during the Civil War years, they must have died in childhood. The only other child we can identify was Freelin Milo Stogsdill, born on October 20, 1867.

As far as we are able to determine, it appears that Daniel and Lorena remained in Dallas County the rest of their lives. Daniel and Lorena, with their seven children, appeared in the 1870 census of Miller Township. Daniel valued his farm at \$1500, and his personal property at \$500. By 1880, their five older children were married, and Daniel and Lorena were listed in the census of Miller Township with their two youngest sons.

Daniel Stogsdill died on April 22, 1899, at age 72, and was buried in the Kirk Chapel Cemetery, near Leadmine, in Dallas County. Lorena Paralee (Hays) Stogsdill died on September 3, 1903, at age 73, and was buried with Daniel in the Kirk Chapel Cemetery.

Mary 'Polly' Stogsdill

Mary Stogsdill was the youngest child born to William and Malinda Stogsdill. Mary was probably born in 1829 or 1830. Our only clue to Mary's place of birth is found in the 1850 census, which indicates that Mary was born in Alabama. However, based on what we know about her parents, I believe that Mary was more likely born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, and moved with her family to Alabama as a youngster.

Mary was probably 10 to 12 years of age when her parents migrated to Ripley County, Missouri. Mary was about 11 or 12 years old when her father died, leaving her mother to raise Mary and three older siblings. It was in Ripley Couch that Mary met and married James 'Jim' Lasley on September 14, 1844. James Lasley, son of John Lasley and Martha 'Patsy' Thomas, is reported to have been born in Wayne County, Missouri, about 1826 or 1827. James may have been about 17 or 18 years old, and Mary about 14 or 15 years old, when the young couple married.

A daughter, Mary E., was born to James and Mary in 1848 or 1849. We don't know where Mary was born, but it seems likely that she was born in Oregon County, Missouri. In August of 1850, James and Mary and their daughter were enumerated in the census of Oregon County. Their family was listed "next door" to the family of John and Martha Lasley, whom we believe to be James' parents. Mary (Stogsdill) Lasley was the only child of William and Malinda Stogsdill left in Oregon County, as all five of her siblings had previously migrated to Dade County.

On April 15, 1851, Mary gave birth to twin daughters, Clarinda Lasley and Lucinda 'Cinda' Lasley. Mary was about 21 years old. Both of the twins survived, but Mary died soon after their birth. Of the twins, Sarah Literal wrote in her notebook, "Clarinda was two hours old and Cinda one hour old when Polly their mother died. Josiah was permitted to take the twins and raise them as his own from birth till they married." Josiah was Mary (Stogsdill) Lasley's eldest brother. Josiah, and his wife, Lydia, were living in Dade County, with the rest of Mary's siblings. We don't know where the twins were born, and Mary died. We know that James Lasley's father and siblings moved from Oregon County to Dade County between 1850 and 1860, but we don't know when their move took place. The fact that the twin Lasley girls were given to Josiah and Lydia to raise may suggest that James and Mary Lasley were in Dade County when the twins were born, but there is little evidence either way.

While we know that Josiah and Lydia raised the twins, we are less certain about what happened to Mary E. Lasley, the older daughter of James and Mary. One source reports that Mary went to Grayson County, Texas, with her uncle, Archibald Stogsdill. Another source reports that Mary was taken in by an aunt, who took her to western Texas. James Lasley is reported to have died between 1855 and 1857. I suspect that he died in Dade County, but have no evidence to support that suspicion. James was approximately 30 years old when he died.

Avery Couch

Sarah Literal's notebooks contain no mention of the Avery Couch family. And I am not aware of any public record or family document that identifies Avery Couch as a son of Moses and Elizabeth Couch. Our inclusion of Avery Couch among the children of Moses and Elizabeth Couch is based on strong circumstantial evidence accumulated over time.

The Avery Couch family has generally been ignored by Couch family researchers. In all the years I have been researching the Couch family, I have never encountered any evidence of interest in this family by other researchers. All of the information that follows regarding the Avery Couch family comes from my personal research, and any errors are mine alone.

As mentioned earlier, we are not certain where Avery Couch was born. Avery's 1850 census record lists Tennessee as his place of birth. The 1880 census record for Avery's son, John, indicates that John's father (Avery) was born in Tennessee, while the 1880 census record for Avery's son, Henry, indicates that Henry's father (Avery) was born in Georgia. We assume, for now, that Avery was born in Tennessee, but continue to look for further evidence of his place of birth.

Our earliest record of Avery Couch dates back to 1822. In 1822, both Moses Couch and Lindley Couch appeared on the Pulaski County, Kentucky, tax list. Avery Couch was listed next to Moses Couch in the list. The column indicating "white over 21" was not marked, suggesting that Avery was younger than 21. Avery reported owning one horse, valued at \$40.

There is a lot of variation in the ages listed for Avery Couch in census records and in written declarations that Avery made during the 1850's. My best estimate, based on those sources, is that Avery was born about 1804-1808. I believe that the appearance of Avery's name in the 1822 tax list indicates that Avery was at least 16 years old at the time, suggesting that he may have been born about 1805 or 1806. Finally, we believe that Avery was married about 1823. If that marriage date is accurate, it would suggest that Avery was probably born no later than 1805. So, we will assume a date of birth of approximately 1805, recognizing that we could be in error by two or three years.

The best available evidence indicates that Avery Couch was married to Nancy Tabor in Lincoln County, Tennessee, about 1823. The 1850 census suggests that Nancy was born in Kentucky about 1808 or 1809. So Avery was probably in his late teens, and Nancy may have been about 14 or 15 years old, when the couple married. I believe that their first child, a daughter they named Mary Ann, was born to Avery and Nancy in Tennessee about 1825.

There is evidence that Avery and Nancy were in Georgia in the late 1820's. Census records strongly suggest that their eldest son, John B. Couch, was born in Georgia. Our best available date of birth for John B. Couch is March of 1828.

Avery and Nancy may have been in Georgia only briefly. Our next record of Avery appears in the 1830 census, back in Lincoln County, Tennessee. The household of "Avory Couch" included a male aged 20-29 (probably Avery), a female aged 20-29 (probably Nancy), a male under five years of age (probably Avery's son, John Couch), and a female under five years of age (probably Avery's daughter, Mary Ann). Only two households separated the "Avory Couch" household from that of "Wm Stockdale", whom I suspect was Avery's brother-in-law, William Stogsdill.

Only three households separated the "Avory Couch" household from that of "Banister Couch", who was listed as 60-69 years of age. Separated by about two pages in the census records was the household of a Benjamin Couch, who was apparently aged 30-39. The relationship between these three Couch families, if any, is unknown to me at this point.

Avery and Nancy had another daughter, born about 1834 or 1835, whom they named Temperance. Our only record of her place of birth is the 1850 census, which lists her birthplace as Tennessee.

Avery relocated to Alabama by June of 1836. In declarations he filed in 1850, 1851 and 1855 for the purpose of obtaining bounty land warrants, Avery stated that he served as a Private in Captain James A. McAdory's Company of Alabama Mounted Volunteers in the Second Creek War. Both Avery, and his younger brother, Benjamin, enlisted at Elyton, in Jefferson County, Alabama, in June of 1836, and served in Captain McAdory's Company during the summer of 1836. For further information about Avery's service in the Second Creek War, see "Benjamin 'Ben' Couch" on page 83.

Avery and his family apparently remained in Alabama after his service in the Second Creek War. Avery's second son, Henry Couch, was probably born between 1837 and 1839. Throughout his life, Henry would consistently report his place of birth as Alabama.

The family of Avery's sister, Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, lived in Jackson County, Alabama, about 1834-1840. Avery's younger brother, Benjamin, was living with Malinda's family in Jackson County when he married in 1838 or 1839. It is possible that Avery and his family also resided in Jackson County in the late 1830's, though we have no evidence of his whereabouts during this time period.

Avery and his family apparently migrated from Alabama to southern Missouri in the late 1830's. Census records indicate that Avery Couch's next child, a son that he and Nancy named Lindley, was born in Missouri about 1839-1840. Lindley was undoubtedly named after Avery's mother. Avery and his family appear in the 1840 census of Ripley County, Missouri. The Avery Couch household consisted of a male aged 20-29 (probably Avery),

a male aged 10-14 (probably his son, John), two males under five years of age (probably his sons, Henry and Lindley), a female aged 30-39 (probably his wife, Nancy), a female aged 10-14 (probably his daughter, Mary Ann), and a female under five years of age (probably a daughter born between 1835 and 1840 who would not survive childhood). I have no doubt that this was the same Avery Couch who was listed in Lincoln County, Tennessee, in 1830, even though there is an apparent error in the recording of Avery's age.

There is evidence that Avery and Nancy had at least three more children while living in Missouri: Perlina, born about 1841-42; Sarah, born about 1843-44; and Nancy, born about 1845-47.

We know that Avery's eldest daughter, Mary Ann 'Polly' Couch, was married to a John Renfro, and that their first identified child was born in Missouri about 1846-47. The marriage records of Oregon County contain a record of the marriage of "John Renfrow and Polly Ann Conlen of this County and State" on April 23, 1846. The couple was married by Charles Literal. Charles Literal was an Oregon County Justice of the Peace, and Avery Couch's brother-in-law. An examination of the marriage record confirms the spelling of "Conlen". I suspect that Polly Ann Conlen was actually Mary Ann 'Polly' Couch, and that Polly was Avery Couch's daughter. If true, this marriage would suggest that Avery and his family were still in the Oregon County area in 1846.

We believe that the families of Lindley Couch, Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, Avery Couch, Delila (Couch) Literal, and Benjamin Couch, were all residents of Oregon County, Missouri, when Oregon County was taken from Ripley County in 1845. And, it appears that all of these families left Oregon County between 1846 and 1849. It is interesting to note that four of these five Couch families moved west, from Oregon County to Greene County and Dade County, Missouri. Avery Couch, for some reason, chose to move east, to Illinois, rather than moving west with his siblings. Avery and his family apparently relocated to Monroe County, Illinois, no later than the summer of 1849. Monroe County is on the east side of the Mississippi River, just south of St. Louis, Missouri. Avery's daughter, Temperance Couch, was married in Monroe County in August of 1849.

The "Avary Couch" family appears in the 1850 census of Harrisonville Precinct, in Monroe County, Illinois. The census of the Avery Couch household was enumerated on September 14, 1850. The family appeared as follows:

Avary Couch	42	M	Laborer	Tennessee
Nancy	41	F		Kentucky
John	20	M		Georgia
Henry	12	M		Alabama
Lindley	10	M		Missouri
Perlina	8	F		Missouri
Sarah	6	F		Missouri

Comparing this 1850 census record to the 1840 census record for the Avery Couch household, we note that Avery apparently had two daughters who either married and left home, or died, between 1840 and 1850. I believe that one of the daughters missing from the household in 1850 was Mary Ann 'Polly' (Couch) Renfro, who appears elsewhere with her husband and son in the 1850 census of Harrisonville Precinct of Monroe County. We have no information about the other young female who was a member of the Avery Couch household in 1840, but is missing from the household in 1850.

Between 1847 and 1855 the Congress of the United States passed four land warrant acts which granted 60 million acres of land to veterans and their heirs. On October 29, 1850, just six weeks after being enumerated in the 1850 census of Monroe County, Avery made a written declaration before a Justice of the Peace of St. Clair County, Illinois. St. Clair County is located immediately north of Monroe County. Avery made his declaration for the purpose of obtaining a bounty land warrant under an Act of Congress approved September 28, 1850. The act provided for bounty-land warrants to be issued to officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted personnel, who served during the War of 1812 and Indian Wars since 1790, and for commissioned officers who served in the Mexican War. The act also provided for bounty-land warrants for the widows or minor children of those soldiers. Those who served nine months received warrants for 160 acres of the public domain, four months service received 80 acres, and one month of service received 40 acres. In his declaration, Avery stated that he was forty four years of age, and a resident of Monroe County, Illinois. He also described his service in Captain James McAdory's Company in the Second Creek War. Avery signed his declaration with his mark.

Avery apparently moved from Monroe County to St. Clair County in 1850 or 1851. Unsuccessful in his first attempt, Avery made a second written declaration in his pursuit of a bounty land warrant on September 7, 1851, in which he stated that he was a resident of St. Clair County, Illinois. In this second declaration, Avery declared his age to be 46 years old. With the help of an agent in Belleville, Avery obtained a bounty land warrant for 40 acres of land, and then legally disposed of the warrant.

In March of 1853, in St. Clair County, Nancy Couch filed for divorce from Avery Couch. A Bill for Divorce was written for Nancy by B. M Cox, who was apparently an attorney, and was directed to the Judge of the St. Clair County Circuit Court. The Bill for Divorce, referring to the writer as "your orator", and to Nancy as "your oratrix", reads as follows:

"To the Honorable William H. Underwood Judge of the Circuit Court in and for the County of St Clair in chancery (sitting?)

"Humbly (complinary?) showeth unto your honor your oratrix, Nancy Couch that about the year of A. D. 1823 she was lawfully married to one Avey Couch in the County of Lincoln in the state of Tennessee that they since Removed to the state of Illinois where she has since Resided up to the present time. She further showeth that about six years ago her said hisband Avey Couch forgetfull of his Mariage Vow deserted and abandoned your oratrix, leaving nine small children

without any support save that of your orator. That the said Avey Couch before and since his desertion became subject to intoxication and was a habitual drunkard for more than five years. That he was guilty of extreme and repeated cruelty toward your oratrix for more than five years previous to his desertion that the said Avey Couch has remained absent for the space of six years and is still absent. your oratrix avers that the said Avey Couch has no just cause for the said desertion and abandonment but that she has always conducted herself properly as a dutiful wife should do towards the said Avey Couch they she has always acted done and provided for him with kindness and frugality

“May it therefore please your honor in consideration of the (pences?) to order and decree that the bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between the said Avey and the said Nancy Couch be desolved and forever held at naught and your orator further prays that the (peoples writ of suporer?) may (issue?) directed against the said Avey Couch commanding him to be and appear before this honorable Court to be holden in the town of Belleville in the second monday in march next and answer all and singular the charges and allegations contained in your orators Bill, and may your honor grant all such other and further Relief and redresses as you shall deem (meat?) in the (presncors?), and your orator in duty bound will ever pray”

On March 28, 1853, Nancy swore that Avery was not then a resident of the state of Illinois. Nancy could not write her name, and signed her statement with her mark. Because Avery was considered to be a non-resident of the State of Illinois, an official notice of Nancy's Bill of Divorce was published on four successive weeks in December of 1853 in the Belleville Advocate, a weekly newspaper published in Belleville. The bill from the printer was for \$4.00.

A year later, on March 4, 1854, the Sheriff of St. Clair County reported that he had read and delivered an attested copy of "the within" (perhaps a summons to appear in court?) to the defendant (Avey Couch). The Sheriff's fee of \$1.80 consisted of \$.60 to serve the "returnable", \$.50 for one copy, and \$.70 for travel of 14 miles. This suggests that Avery was probably living in St. Clair County at that time. While I have no proof that the Judge of the St. Clair County Circuit Court granted Nancy the divorce she sought, the documents relating to her Bill of Divorce suggest that she probably received her divorce at the March, 1854 term of the court. Five witnesses were summoned to testify in her behalf. They were Sidney Todd (Nancy's son-in-law), Jacob Canman, John Renfrow (Nancy's son-in-law), Mary Ann Renfrow (Nancy's daughter), and John Couch (Nancy's son).

On March 3, 1855, Congress approved a new act relating to bounty land warrants. The 1855 act amended the prior acts governing bounty land service by making the minimum entitlement 160 acres regardless of rank and reducing the service requirement to fourteen days or participation in any battle during the war. A veteran or survivors who had previously received fewer than 160 acres could apply for the balance. On May 29, 1855, less than three months after passage of the new act, Avery applied for a second bounty

land warrant. In his declaration, Avery stated that he was a resident of Alexander County, Illinois. Alexander County is located in the extreme southern tip of the state. Avery declared his age to be 46 years old. His bounty land application was handled by an agent at Thebes, in Alexander County.

Avery was successful in his application, and was granted bounty land warrant #66689, for 120 acres of land, on or about March 27, 1856. But, we don't know whether Avery was still a resident of Illinois when the warrant was issued, or whether he had already relocated to Dade County, Missouri. In August of 1856, less than five months after his bounty land warrant was issued, we find our first solid evidence that Avery had rejoined his siblings in Dade County. On August 14, Avery purchased 120 acres of land in Dade County from the U. S. Government. To pay for the land, Avery used the bounty land warrant (#66689) issued to him in March of that same year.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that Avery was married, in Dade County, in 1855 or 1856, to a widow named Martha Hall. Unfortunately, most of the early marriage records of Dade County were lost when the courthouse was destroyed during the Civil War, so we have no proof of Avery's marriage. But there is strong circumstantial evidence of his marriage to Martha Hall. Martha Hall appeared in the 1850 census of Dade County, Missouri, as the wife of James Hall. Five Hall children were listed in the 1850 household of James and Martha Hall. No trace of James Hall has been located after the 1850 census, and I can only assume that Martha Hall was widowed during the 1850's.

The 120 acres that Avery purchased in 1856¹⁰ was immediately adjacent to one of two 40-acre tracts purchased less than two years earlier by Avery's older brother, Lindley Couch (see tract #4 on page 123). But Avery didn't retain ownership of this 120 acres of land very long. Less than a month after he purchased the land, "Avery Couch and his wife Marthy...of the County of Dade" sold that same 120 acres to Moses Eaton by a warranty deed dated September 8, 1856. It seems likely that the exercise of his bounty land warrant, followed by a quick sale of the land it purchased, was simply the method Avery chose to convert his bounty land warrant into cash. Avery and Martha received \$300 for the land. The fact that Martha's name appeared on this deed of sale as Avery's wife suggests that Avery and Martha were married between May 29, 1855, when Avery filed his application for a bounty land warrant in Alexander County, Illinois, and September 8, 1856, when Avery and Martha sold their land to Moses Eaton.

Avery and Martha Couch may have moved from Dade County to Oregon County soon after the sale of their 120 acres in September of 1856. The following deed appears on page 92 of one of the Oregon County deed books. It reads:

¹⁰ The North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 and the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 17 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

"Know all men by these presents that we Avery Couch and wife Martha Couch have this day bargained sold and conveyed all our right title and interest in a parcel or tract of land lying east of the road from Thomasville to Simpson Couchs being a conditional near the road to B. C. Phillips for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and sixty dollars all of the County of Oregon State of Missouri this the 11th day of December 1857".

Both Avery Couch and Martha Couch signed the deed by making their marks.

Only a few weeks later, on January 22, 1858, "Avey Couch" purchased 40 acres of land in Oregon County, Missouri, from the U. S. Government. The land he purchased¹¹ was located about two miles north and two miles west of the village of Webster, which was later renamed Couch. Avery paid cash for the land. Avery's purchase of this land in Oregon County in January of 1858 is the last direct evidence we have found of Avery Couch.

On September 1, 1859, a U. S. land patent for 80 acres of land in Oregon County was issued to "Avry Couch of Oregon County Missouri". The land granted to Avery by this patent was the 40 acres Avery purchased in 1858, as well as another 40 acres¹² which abutted the first 40 acres.

If Avery and Martha did move from Dade County to Oregon County in the late 1850's, it appears that they did not remain there long. In the 1860 census, Martha Couch appears in the census of Dade County, where I believe that she was living on the farm of her brother-in-law, Lindley Couch, and his wife, Susannah. Living with Martha Couch were her six children from her earlier marriage to James Hall. But Avery Couch was not listed in the household with Martha. And I have not been able to locate Avery anywhere else in the 1860 census.

Was Avery still alive in 1860, and if so, where was he? Is it possible that he served in the military during the Civil War (1861-65)? The compiled service records of Company K of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment include a record indicating that an "Averry Couch" served as a Private in that unit. The 27th Arkansas Infantry (also known as Shaler's Regiment, and later as Gaither's Regiment) was a Confederate infantry regiment, organized at Yellville, in Marion County, Arkansas, in July of 1862. The regiment was reportedly composed of a handful of companies of mounted volunteers, which were dismounted and reinforced with several companies of conscripts. If our Avery Couch served in the 27th Arkansas Infantry, he may have enlisted, or he could have been conscripted. Avery was probably in his mid-50's when the war began, so he was older

¹¹ The Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 21 in Township 23 North of Range 4 West.

¹² Described as the South West Quarter of the South West Quarter of Section Twenty Two in Township Twenty-Three North of Range Four West.

than most of the men who served during the Civil War. But some men his age, and older, did serve.

A review of the compiled service records of Company K of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment reveals that the only record linking the name of Avery Couch to that regiment was an entry in a Roll of Prisoners of War at Gratiot Street Prison. The Gratiot Street Prison was a Union prison in St. Louis, Missouri. One of the entries in that roll of prisoners, dated March 31, 1863, identified a prisoner named Avery Couch as a Private in Company K of Schalers Regiment. The entry indicates that Avery was captured in Marion County, Arkansas, on December 10, 1862, was received at the prison on March 29, 1863, and was sent to Washington, D.C., for exchange, on April 2, 1863.

After a detailed review of the compiled service records of the soldiers who served in the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, and of the records of the Gratiot Street Prison, I have come to doubt that there ever was a soldier in the 27th Arkansas Infantry by the name of Avery Couch. I believe that the entry on the Gratiot Street Prison roll of prisoners which identifies an Avery Couch as a member of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment was an error in the prison records. My reasoning follows.

There was a soldier in Company K of the 27th Arkansas Infantry named William Couch. This records of the Gratiot Street Prison indicate that this William Couch was captured in Marion County, Arkansas, on December 10, 1862, was received at the prison on March 29, 1863, and was sent to Washington D. C. for exchange on April 2, 1863. The information for William Couch exactly matches the information in the prison record for Avery Couch. A further review of the records of Gratiot Street Prison reveals that there was, in fact, another prisoner at that same time named Avery Couch. But this Avery Couch was the son of Benjamin Couch, and nephew of the Avery Couch who is the subject of this biographical sketch (see Avery Couch on page 107) . I believe that the prison record identifying an Avery Couch as a member of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment was an error, somehow linking the name of one prisoner (Avery Couch, son of Benjamin) with the information describing another prisoner (the William Couch who really was a member of Company K of the 27th Missouri Infantry Regiment).

I have presented this information about the appearance of the name Avery Couch in the compiled service records of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment for the benefit of any future Couch family historians who encounter this record, and wonder about its meaning. I encourage any researcher with a serious interest in Avery Couch to review the records, and draw their own conclusions, but I feel comfortable with the conclusion I have reached, based on the information currently available.

While I don't believe that Avery Couch served in the 27th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, we do have some evidence that Avery survived the Civil War. That evidence is found in a record of the Circuit Court of Oregon County, Missouri. The record of interest is an Action to Divest Title, and reflects a decision of the Circuit Court in a suit brought before the court on the 2nd day of the May, 1874, term of the court. The Plaintiff was Nelson Pierce, and the defendants were listed as Martha Couch, John Renfro, Polly A. Renfro,

John Couch, Tempe Couch, Henry Couch, Lindley Couch, Paulina Couch and Sarah Couch. The decision reads as follows:

“Now at this day comes the plaintiff by attorney and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that defendants have been notified of the commencement and pendency of this suit and the object and general nature thereof, as set forth in the petition of plaintiff by publication in the South Missourian a weekly newspaper printed and published in Oregon County Missouri, said publication having been published for four weeks successivly, and the last insertion of said publication having been four weeks before the commencement of the present term of the Court; And it further appearing to the satisfaction of this Court that plaintiff furnished one Avery Couch with one half of the money with which he, said Avery Couch some time during the year 1859, Entered at the United States land office at Jackson Missouri, the South East quarter of the South East quarter of Section twenty one in Township twenty three North of Range four west, and it further appearing that it was expressly understood and agreed between plaintiff and said Avery Couch that said land was to be entered in the name of said Couch and that he was to convey one half of said afore described tract lying west of the old Thomasville and Pochahontas road to plaintiff, and that said Avery Couch departed this life sometime during the year 1866, intestate leaving said defendants as his heirs at law, and without ever having conveyed said one half of said tract as he agreed and promised to do in his life time; And it further appering to the Court that plaintiff has made valuable and lasting improvements on the one half of said tract so agreed to be conveyed as aforesaid by said Avery Couch: It is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed that the legal title in and to the one half of said tract of land lying west of the Thomasville and Pocahontas road be, and the same is hereby directed out of and from the defendants and each of them, and that the same be, and is hereby, vested in plaintiff and his heirs forever, and it is further ordered that unless the defendants be and appear at the next term of this Court and on or before the sixth day of the term if the same shall so long continue and if not they before the end of the term, show cause to the contrary, this cause will be made final, and the same is continued.”

The case brought before the court involved a dispute over the ownership of the 40 acres of land purchased by Avery Couch in January of 1858, and granted to Avery by the federal land patent dated September 1, 1859. The Circuit Court record provides some valuable information. Of most importance, the judge’s statement that “Avery Couch departed this life sometime during the year 1866, intestate” provides our only evidence that Avery was alive after January of 1858, and our only evidence of Avery’s death. And the list of Avery’s heirs, consisting of his second wife, Martha, and his children from his first marriage, and one son-in-law, provides the most complete list of Avery’s children that I have located. The composition of the list also suggests that Avery and Martha Couch had little or no contact with Avery’s children after Avery and his first wife, Nancy, divorced in 1854. I assume that the list of Avery’s children was provided to the Circuit Court by Martha Couch, and was based on information provided to her by Avery at some point during their marriage. The list of Avery’s children and his son-in-law

accurately describes Avery's family between April of 1846, when Mary Ann Couch married John Renfro, and August of 1849, when Temperance Couch married Charles Quinlan. But, the list makes no reference to Temperance's marriage, or her husband.

What did happen to Avery's first wife, Nancy, after their divorce? We believe that their divorce was finalized in St. Clair County, Illinois, during the March, 1854 term of the Circuit Court. Days later, on March 28, 1854, Thomas Phelps and Mrs. Nancy Couch were issued a marriage license in St. Clair County. On March 30, the couple was married, in St. Clair County, by Levi Sharp, a Justice of the Peace. While we have no evidence to substantiate that the Nancy Couch who married Thomas Phelps was Avery Couch's ex-wife, the marriage record refers to her as Mrs. Nancy Couch, we know of no other Couch families in St. Clair County at that time, and the timing of the marriage (just days after Nancy Couch was granted her divorce from Avery) strongly supports our presumption that the bride was Avery's ex-wife.

Nancy and some of her children may have remained in St. Clair County through the 1850's. Nancy's daughter, Perlina, was married in St. Clair County in October of 1859. The 1860 census should provide us with our next record of Nancy and her children. However, after numerous nationwide searches of 1860 census indexes and census records, I have not been able to locate Nancy, or any of her children. There is strong evidence that several of her children were married, so it can not be a matter of one household being missed, or one surname badly misspelled. And the 1860 census of St. Clair County appears to be complete and legible.

I do have a strong suspicion about the apparent absence of Nancy and her children from the 1860 census. I know that Nancy and some of her children were in Bond County, Illinois, by 1870, and that Bond County served as home base to several of Nancy's children for a number of years. Bond County is located just a few miles northeast of St. Clair County. A Rootsweb internet site which provides the 1860 census of Bond County indicates that 47 of the original 291 pages of the 1860 Bond County census records have apparently been lost over the years. All of the surviving pages of the census are for Greenville Township, except for five pages from Mulberry Grove, and three pages from Pocahontas Township. I suspect that Nancy (Tabor) Couch Phelps and her children moved from St. Clair County to Bond County before the 1860 census, and that the enumerations of their households were among the missing Bond County census records.

There are probably a number of reasons why Nancy (Tabor) Couch and her children might have moved to Bond County. But it may be more than a coincidence that William Lindley, a brother of Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch and uncle of Avery Couch, was married in Bond County in 1818, and died in Bond County about 1835. Following Nancy's divorce from Avery Couch, it is possible that there may have been some family support available to Nancy and her children in Bond County

The 1870 census of McCord Township, in Bond County, includes the household of 26-year-old John Taylor. Listed in the household with John were 26-year-old Sarah Taylor, and 57-year-old Nancy Couch. I believe that this Nancy Couch was Avery's ex-wife,

Sarah was Avery's youngest surviving daughter, and John Taylor was Sarah's husband. A note in the census record indicates that Sarah was blind, so it seems reasonable that Nancy would live with the couple, and provide assistance to her daughter. Nancy's use of the name Couch, and the absence of Thomas Phelps in the household, suggest that Nancy's marriage to Thomas ended prior to 1870, through death, divorce or desertion. The 1870 census record is the last trace I have found of Nancy (Tabor) Couch Phelps. I suspect that she died, and was buried, in Bond County, but have no evidence to support that suspicion.

Mary Ann 'Polly' Couch

Mary Ann was probably the first child born to Avery and Nancy Couch. Both the 1830 and 1840 census records suggest that Mary Ann was born 1825-30. While the 1850 census suggests that she was born in Tennessee 1823-24, I suspect that she was born in Tennessee no earlier than 1825.

We know that Mary Ann married a John Renfro. The 1850 census suggests that John Renfro was born in Missouri in 1823-24. We suspect that Mary Ann's husband was a son of the Peter Renfro who was a resident of Wayne County, Missouri, in 1830, and Ripley County, Missouri, in 1840. The marriage records of Oregon County, Missouri, include a record of the marriage of "John Renfrow and Polly Ann Conlen of this County and State" on April 23, 1846. Though an examination of the record confirms the spelling of "Conlen", I believe that the marriage record is in error, and represents the marriage of John Renfro to Mary Ann 'Polly' Couch.

John and Mary Ann are listed in the 1850 census of Monroe County, Illinois, separated in the census records by about 75 households from the household of the Mary Ann's parents. John listed his occupation as "wood chopper". There were several "wood choppers", and more than one "wood merchant", in the area where John and Mary Ann lived.

When John and Mary Ann were summoned, on January 4, 1853, to testify in the divorce action filed by one of Mary Ann's sisters, John and Mary Ann were apparently living near Mascoutah, in St. Clair County, Illinois. In March of 1854, Mary Ann and John were summoned to testify on behalf of Mary Ann's mother at the court hearing regarding Nancy's Bill for Divorce. The summons was served by the Sheriff of St. Clair County, Illinois, suggesting that Mary Ann and John were still residents of that county. This is the last record we have located that mentions John Renfro.

On December 28, 1855, a marriage license was issued in St. Clair County to a "John M. Mason" and a "Miss Mary Ann Rinfrow". The couple was married by a St. Clair County Judge that same day. I suspect that "Miss Mary Ann Rinfrow" was Mary Ann 'Polly' (Couch) Renfro, but have only limited circumstantial evidence to support this theory.

The 1870 census of Greenville, in Bond County, Illinois, includes the household of John M. and Mary A. Mason. John M. Mason was listed as a 42-year-old miller, born in Tennessee. He reported personal property valued at \$1700, but no real estate. Mary A. Mason was listed as 43 years old, born in Tennessee. She indicated that she could not read or write. There were no children in the household. I suspect that this couple was the same couple who married in St. Clair County in 1855, but have little evidence to prove that suspicion. It is worth noting that Mary Ann (Couch) Renfro's mother, Nancy, and sister, Sarah, were also residents of Bond County in 1870. I also believe that Mary Ann (Couch) Renfro's two sons were both residents of Bond County in 1870.

John B. Couch

John B. Couch was born in Georgia. The inscription on his gravestone indicates that he was born on March 24, 1828. The 1900 census indicates that he was born in March of 1831, and other records suggest dates of birth in 1828, 1829 or 1830. I feel certain that John was born before the 1830 census, so a birth date of March 24, 1828 or March 24, 1829 seems most likely.

In 1850, John was still living at home with his parents in Monroe County, Illinois. In January of 1853, we know that John was a resident of St. Clair County, Illinois. On September 17, 1853, John and Delany Frances Peragin obtained a marriage license at Belleville, in St. Clair County. They were married in St. Clair County on September 22.

In March of 1854, John was still apparently a resident of St. Clair County when he was served a summons to testify on his mother's behalf in her action to divorce John's father. John may have moved to Missouri by 1858 or 1859, when his eldest identified child, a daughter named Frances A. Couch, was born.

On August 30, 1864, more than three years after the commencement of the Civil War, John enlisted in the Union Army. John enlisted at Benton Barracks, in St. Louis, Missouri, as a Private in Company C of the 40th Missouri Infantry. John's old brother, Henry, enlisted in the same unit on the same day. Both men served in Company C for eleven months, and were mustered out at the end of the war, on August 8, 1865.

We don't know when John married his second wife, Malvina, but suspect it may have been about 1869. We suspect that Malvina was the mother of John's second identified child, a son named John C. Couch, who was probably born in Missouri in October of 1869. In the 1870 census, John and Malvina and John's two children were listed as residents of Washington County, Missouri.

On March 20 of 1877, John was married to Elvira (Pitman) Boling. John and Elvira were married in Bond County, Illinois. Elvira had four children from her earlier marriage to William Boling. After their marriage, John and Elvira apparently moved to Arkansas, where a daughter they named Tempy M. Couch was born in 1877 or 1878. In June of 1880, John and Elvira appeared in the census of Crawford County, Arkansas.

John and Elvira apparently moved to Kansas between 1880 and 1882, where a son, Robert, was born in October of 1882, and another son, Henry, was born in 1886. John was still a resident of Kansas when he applied for a Invalid's Pension in 1889.

By June of 1900, John and Elvira had moved their family to Umatilla County, Oregon, where John apparently lived the rest of his life. John died in Umatilla County on August 19, 1912, and was buried in the IOOF Cemetery at Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Elvira died in 1917, and was buried with John in the IOOF Cemetery.

Temperance 'Tempy' Couch

Temperance Couch was apparently born in Tennessee about 1834 or 1835. On August 11, 1849, Temperance was married, in Monroe County, Illinois, to Charles Quinlan. The couple was married by Joseph Livers, Commissioner. Temperance was probably 14 years old, while Charles Quinlan was about 31 years old. One year later, the 1850 census of Moredock Precinct, in Monroe County, included the household of 32-year-old "Charles Quinlin" and 15-year-old "Tempsy Quinlin". Charles apparently owned no real estate, and listed his occupation as "wood chopper".

Oddly, a second record of the marriage of Charles Quinlan to Temperance Couch appears in the marriage records of Jefferson County, Missouri, where "Charles Quinlan" was married to "Tempe Couch" on December 3, 1850. Jefferson County, Missouri, is just across the Mississippi River from Monroe County, Illinois. I don't know why Charles and Temperance were married a second time, but I wonder if their first marriage, in Monroe County, proved to be illegal because of Temperance's age.

In any event, their marriage did not last long. On July 24, 1852, Temperance filed for divorce from Charles in St. Clair County, Illinois. In her filing, Temperance indicated that she had been residing in St. Clair County for more than a year prior to filing, and that she was lawfully married to her husband in Missouri. The date of their marriage was left blank. Temperance charged "that her said husband Charles has refused to support her since said marriage and has been drunk a great portion of the time since he married" her. Temperance further stated that "she has been compelled to live with her mother as the said Charles...wholly refused to suport her".

On January 4, 1853, Temperance's sister, Mary Ann Renfro, and Mary Ann's husband, John Renfro, and Temperance's brother, John Couch, were summoned to appear and testify on behalf of Temperance at the March, 1853 term of the St. Clair County Chancery Court. Nine days later, on January 13, "Tempy Quinlin" was married, in Monroe County, to "Sidney Todd". Temperance was probably 18 years old, and this was her second marriage. Sidney Todd was a Monroe County farmer, about 47 years old, and his marriage to Temperance was his fifth marriage.

How could Temperance marry Sidney Todd before she received her divorce from Charles Quinlan? Perhaps Charles died in January of 1853? At the March term of the Chancery Court, Temperance informed the court that she did not plan to further prosecute her suit, and the case was dismissed by the court. That was the last record we have of Temperance (Couch) Quinlan Todd. While we have no evidence of Temperance's fate, we assume that she probably died soon after her marriage to Sidney Todd. Eight months later, on September 7, 1853, Sidney Todd was married for the sixth time. Then, in March of 1854, Sidney was served a summons to testify on behalf of his former mother-in-law, Nancy Couch, regarding her Bill for Divorce. But Temperance was not summoned to testify, suggesting that she may have been deceased.

Henry Couch

While we feel confident that Henry Couch was born in Alabama, we have a number of choices for the date of his birth. We can calculate the date of his birth from his date of death, and his age at death, as it appears on his death record. The calculated date of birth is August 31, 1835. Census records suggest that Henry was born between 1837 and 1839. In June of 1890, Henry stated that he was 53 years old.

We suspect that Henry was first married about 1858, and that he and his first wife had at least one child, a son named Rufus, born in Arkansas about 1859 or 1860. Henry's second marriage, to Mary Ann Herel, or Harlen, probably occurred about 1863.

On August 30, 1864, more than three years after the commencement of the Civil War, Henry enlisted in the Union Army. Henry enlisted at Benton Barracks, in St. Louis, Missouri, as a Private in Company C of the 40th Missouri Infantry. Henry's old brother, John, enlisted in the same unit on the same day. Both men served in Company C for eleven months, and were mustered out at the end of the war, on August 8, 1865.

During the five years following the end of the war, we believe that Henry and Mary Ann had three children: John was born in Missouri about 1865 or 1866, Sarah was born in Missouri about 1866 or 1867, and Mary Martha Couch was born in Washington County, Missouri about 1868 or 1869.

In July of 1870, Henry and Mary Ann and their family appeared in the census of Oak Grove Township of Oregon County, Missouri. Henry and Mary Ann had another daughter, Etta May, who was born in Washington County, Missouri, about 1871 or 1872. Then, in 1873 or 1874, Henry Couch moved back to Illinois.

On April 15, 1876, Henry was married in Bond County, Illinois, to Milly C. Price. The marriage license lists Henry's age as 39, and Milly's age as 15. Two years later, on June 6, 1878, Henry was married again. His fourth bride was Elizabeth (Smith) Miller, daughter of Bartlett and Maria (Davis) Smith. Their marriage license lists Elizabeth's age as 24, and Henry's age as 34! Elizabeth had previously been married to Abraham Miller, and had two young daughters, Rosa and Clara Miller, from that marriage. Henry and Elizabeth were married at Elizabeth's home in Bond County.

In June of 1880, Henry and Elizabeth, and five of their children from their earlier marriages, were listed in the census of Ripley Township of Bond County. In June of 1890, Henry applied for an Invalid's Pension, based on his service in the 40th Missouri Infantry.

Henry died at Sorento, in Bond County, on February 6, 1898. He died of pneumonia, after a five-day illness, and was buried in the Brown's Cemetery, near Old Ripley, in Bond County. Henry was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth.

Lindley Couch

Lindley Couch, undoubtedly named after his paternal grandmother or his uncle, was apparently born in Missouri in 1839 or 1840. Lindley appeared in the Avery Couch household in the 1850 census at ten years of age. I have not located any record of Lindley after the 1850 census, and feel that it is unlikely that he survived childhood.

Perlina Couch

Perlina Couch was probably born in Missouri in 1841 or 1842. She would have been about 17 years old when she and Talbot C. Grubb went to Belleville, in St. Clair County, Illinois, to obtain a license to marry. They obtained their marriage license on October 17, 1859, and were married in St. Clair County the next day by Henry Barthel, a Justice of the Peace.

Perlina was about 17 years old, and this was her first marriage. Talbot C. Grubb, a farmer and native of Missouri, was about 39 years old, had previously been married, and had two young children.

The scant evidence available suggests that Perlina may have died during the first year of her marriage to Talbot Grubb. The 1860 census, enumerated in October of 1860, just one year after Talbot and Perlina were married, lists Talbot and his two children from his first marriage, living with a George Grubb family in Monroe County, Illinois. Perlina was not listed in the household, and we have not located any trace of her after her marriage to Talbot Grubb.

Less than four years after his marriage to Perlina, Talbot Grubb was married, for a third time, to Rebecca Disbrow. The couple was married in Monroe County, Illinois, on July 5, 1862.

Sarah A. Couch

Sarah A. Couch was apparently born in Missouri in 1843 or 1844. She was the youngest child of Avery and Nancy Couch.

We assume that Sarah was raised by her mother after her parents divorced when Sarah was about ten years old. After her appearance in the 1850 census in Monroe County, Illinois, we lose track of Sarah until November of 1864. On November 10, about six months before the end of the Civil War, "Sarah A. Couch" was married in St. Louis, Missouri, to "John A. Tayler". Both John and Sarah were about 23 years old when they married. They were married by J. W. Heath, a Justice of the Peace. Their marriage record indicates that both John and Sarah were "of St. Louis". However, it is worth noting that many of the brides and grooms who were being married in St. Louis at this time lived outside St. Louis, with many of them being from St. Clair County, Illinois.

Our next record of Sarah A. Couch appears in the 1870 census. The 1870 census of McCord Township, in Bond County, Illinois, includes the household of John and Sarah Taylor. Both John and Sarah were listed as 26-year-old natives of Missouri. The census record lists John's occupation as "farm laborer", lists the value of his personal property as \$200, and indicates that he owned no real estate. The census record also indicates that Sarah was blind. There were no children in the household. But, living with John and Sarah, and keeping house for them, was Sarah's mother, 57-year-old Nancy Couch.

I have been unable to locate any later records for John or Sarah Taylor, or for Nancy Couch.

Nancy Couch

The 1850 Mortality Schedule for Monroe County, Illinois, includes an entry documenting that a Nancy Couch died in July, at three years of age. Nancy died of pleurisy, after an illness of seven days. The Mortality Schedule indicates that Nancy Couch was born in Missouri. I assume that this Nancy Couch was a daughter of Avery and Nancy (Tabor) Couch, as I am not aware of any other Couch families who lived in Monroe County at that time. The 1850 Mortality Schedules were supposed to include a record of the deaths of those who died between June 1 of 1849 and June 1 of 1850. If the record of Nancy Couch's death was correctly recorded, she must have died in July of 1849. There is always the possibility that the census enumerator did not record the death correctly, and Nancy died in July of 1850.

Delila Couch

Like the Avery Couch family, Delila Couch and her family have been largely ignored by Couch family researchers. I suspect the lack of significant interest in Delila's family is reflective of the small number of her descendants living today. I hope that the biographical sketch that follows will be of interest to other family researchers interested in Delila's siblings, and to any descendant of Delila who one day decides to search for information about their ancestry.

Census records suggest that Delila Couch was born in Kentucky between 1811 and 1815. The date of birth inscribed on Delila's gravestone is December 23, 1812, and we accept this as the most accurate date for her birth. Based solely on what we know about Delila's parents, it seems likely that Delila was born in Pulaski County.

We assume that Delila was raised in the home of her parents. As Delila grew up, she would have spent parts of her childhood in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and, finally, in Madison County, Illinois. An early Marriage Register of Madison County documents that "Charles Literall" and "Delilah Couch" obtained a license to marry on October 29, 1831, and were married by Robert Aldrich, a County Commissioner, on November 2, 1831. We believe that Delila was 18 years old when she and Charles married.

Charles Literal's parents may have been Thomas and Rachel (Walters) Litteral. The 1850 census suggests that Thomas Litteral was born in Kentucky about 1776-77. Thomas and Rachel were married in Knox County, Kentucky, in May of 1806. Census records and tax lists suggest that the Charles Literal who married Delila Couch may have been the eldest of at least six children born to Thomas and Rachel (Walters) Litteral. If true, and I must stress that the only evidence I have seen is circumstantial, then the Charles Literal who married Delila Couch was probably born in Knox County, Kentucky, approximately 1807. Charles would have been about 24 years old when he and Delila married in November of 1831.

The Thomas Litteral family appeared in the 1810 census of Knox County. A search of the tax lists of Whitley County, Kentucky, reveals that the Thomas Litteral family was in Whitley County by 1819, and the family is listed in the 1820 census of Whitley County. So, the Thomas Litteral family arrived in Whitley County at least ten years before the Moses Couch family. The Thomas Litteral family continues to appear in the Whitley County tax lists through 1829. In 1829, the names of both Moses Couch and Charles Literal also appeared on the Whitley County tax list for the first time. We assume, therefore, that Moses Couch moved to Whitley County in late 1828 or early 1829. We assume that Charles Literal's name appeared for the first time because he attained 21 years of age in 1828 or early in 1829. This is consistent with our earlier assumption that Charles was born approximately 1807. The 1829 tax list entry for Charles Literal suggests that he did not own any land, or any other taxable assets.

Charles Literal appeared on the Whitley County tax list again in 1830. Charles owned no land, but did own a horse valued at \$20. Moses Couch also appears on the 1830 Whitley County tax list, but the name of Thomas Litteral is absent. None of these three names appears on the 1831 tax list. The tax lists suggest that Thomas Litteral left Whitley County in 1829 or 1830, and that Moses Couch and Charles Literal left Whitley County about a year later. A Thomas Litteral family, whom we suspect is the same Thomas Litteral family who lived in Whitley County, is listed in the 1830 census of Madison County, Illinois. This also suggests that the Thomas Litteral family migrated from Whitley County to Madison County, Illinois, before the Moses Couch family.

We know that both the Moses Couch family and Charles Literal were residents of Whitley County in 1829 and 1830, so Charles Literal and Delila Couch may have known each other while living in Whitley County. Or, the couple could have met after moving to Madison County, Illinois. In any event, a few years after their marriage, Charles and Delila moved from Madison County, Illinois, back to Whitley County, Kentucky. The 1832 Whitley County tax list is missing. In 1833, Thomas Litteral's name appears on the Whitley County tax list, but Charles Literal's name does not appear. The 1834 tax list is also missing. And, in 1835, both Thomas Litteral and Charles Literal appear on the Whitley County tax list. Also on the 1835 tax list for the first time is the name of John Literal, whom we believe to be a younger brother of Charles Literal. It appears that Charles and Delila may have moved back to Whitley County between 1833 and 1835 to rejoin the rest of Charles Literal's family. The 1835 tax list suggests that Charles did not own any land, or any assets with taxable value. In 1836, Charles reported owning a horse valued at \$25. In 1837 and 1838, his horse was valued at \$35. In 1839, Charles reported owning 100 acres of land on Lynn Camp Creek, valued at \$100, as well as three horses, valued at \$75. John Literal's name also appears on the Whitley County tax lists of 1836, 1837, 1838 and 1839. And John Literal also owned 50 acres of land on Lynn Camp Creek.

The first child of Charles and Delila Literal whom we can identify was a son they named John Literal. It seems quite plausible that Charles and Delila named their son after Charles' brother. Census records suggest that John was born in Kentucky about 1839-40. It seems logical that other children were born to Charles and Delila in the first few years of their marriage, but died in childhood.

Not surprisingly, a search of the index to the 1840 census of Whitley County reveals three "Litteral" households. The heads of those households were John Litteral, Charles Litteral, and Thomas Litteral. These three Litteral families fell within a cluster of fourteen households in the 1840 census, further suggesting a family relationship.

This description of the Charles Litteral household in the 1840 census exactly matches what we know of the family of Charles and Delilia (Couch) Literal. The household consisted of one male aged 30-40 (probably Charles), one female aged 20-30 (probably Delila), and one male less than five years of age (probably John). Charles Literal's name also appeared on the 1840 Whitley County tax list. Charles apparently owned 125 acres of land on Lynn Camp Creek, which were valued at \$125. He also owned two horses,

valued at \$50. In 1841, Charles was assessed for the same 125 acres of land, and two horses. In 1842, he reported owning 100 acres of land on Lynn Camp Creek, valued at \$110, and three horses, valued at \$100. John Literal was also listed in the Whitley County tax lists in 1840, 1841 and 1842.

Charles and Delila apparently migrated from Whitley County to Missouri in late 1842 or early 1843. In her notebooks, Sarah Literal wrote that “Charlie Literal ... had only been to Missouri less than 8 years from Whitley Co. Kentucky” when he died “about 1849” (see Figure 9 on page 121). Sarah’s statement suggests that Charles and Delila migrated from Kentucky to Missouri about 1841. The Whitley County tax lists help us pin down the date of their migration to Missouri. While the names of Thomas Litteral and John Literal continued to appear on the Whitley County tax lists after 1842, Charles Literal’s name appeared for the last time in 1842. Census records also provide evidence supporting the theory that Charles and Delila migrated from Kentucky to Missouri about 1842 or 1843. The 1850 census records suggest that James Literal, their second identified child, was born to Charles and Delila in Kentucky about 1841 or 1842. Census records indicate that their third child, Mary A. Literal, was born in Missouri about 1843 or 1844, and that their fourth child, Sarah Jane Literal, was born in Missouri in July of 1845.

It seems likely that Charles and Delila moved to Missouri to rejoin Delila’s family. It appears that Delila (Couch) Literal, like her four brothers and sisters, resided for a period of time in that part of Ripley County, Missouri, that was carved out to form Oregon County in 1845. Angelina Couch was Lindley Couch’s daughter, and Delila (Couch) Literal’s niece. When Angelina and William C. Evans were married in Oregon County, Missouri, on December 28, 1845, they were married by “Charles Literal”, an acting Justice of the Peace of Jobe Township of Oregon County. A few months later, on May 7, 1846, “Charles Literal, an acting Justice of the Peace” for Jobe Township performed the marriage of Jesse Jobe to Susan Ann McIntire.

The evidence suggests that Charles and Delila moved from Oregon County to Greene County, Missouri, some time between May of 1846 and 1849. Charles and Delila probably rented a farm in Greene County, or lived as squatters on public land. I have not found any record indicating that the couple ever owned any land in Greene County. Sarah Jane Literal wrote in her notebook that “Charlie Literal” died “about 1849”, and that he was “buried at Cave Spring 12 mi north west of Springfield” (see Figure 9 on page 121). Cave Spring is in Greene County, midway between Willard and Walnut Grove.

Delila (Couch) Literal and her children were listed twice in the 1850 census. The 1850 census of Greene County includes the family of “Delila Litteral”, listed “next door” to the family of Delila’s younger brother, Benjamin Couch. This census record is dated November 23, 1850. The family was comprised of Delila and her four children, as well as 12-year-old Joseph Sullivan. But some of the information provided to the census enumerator about ages and birthplaces of the family members was clearly inaccurate, raising questions about who provided the information to the census enumerator. At the

same time, I should note that some of the ages and birthplaces provided for members of the Benjamin Couch family were also clearly inaccurate.

The 1850 census records of Dade County, Missouri, also included the household of “Delila Litral”. The household consisted of Delila, her four children, and 24-year-old Moses Eaton (probably a hired hand). The family information provided is much more accurate than that provided by the Greene County census record. This census data was recorded on October 3, nearly two months before the Greene County record for Delila’s family. I believe the existence of the Dade County census record is evidence that Delila and her children moved from Greene County to Dade County in the fall of 1850, and were resident in their new Dade County home no later than October 3 of 1850. The Greene County census enumerator probably erred in recording Delila and her family as residents of Greene County in November of 1850, but one can imagine a number of circumstances which might have led to such an error.

Both Delila’s Greene County census record, and her Dade County census record, provide descriptions of Delila’s farm. The two descriptions are similar, but far from identical. This raises several questions. Who provided each of the descriptions? What farm was being described by each of the descriptions? Which description was the more accurate? If Delila did move from Greene County to Dade County in the fall of 1850, then I suspect that Delila provided a description of her Greene County farm to the Dade County enumerator. I assume that the description provided to the Greene County enumerator was of the same farm, but won’t speculate as to who provided the enumerator with that description. For a comparison of the two descriptions of Delila’s farm in 1850, see Figure 2 on page 75.

Delila’s new home in Dade County was only about fifteen miles west of the Literal home in Greene County. While the move was a short one, it is not difficult to imagine why Delila, recently widowed and responsible for the welfare of her four young children, made the move. Delila would have access to much more family support in her new home. The 1850 Dade County census includes a cluster of Moses Couch descendants which includes Josiah Stogsdill (Delila’s nephew), Arch Stogsdill (Delila’s nephew), Lindley Couch (Delila’s brother), Angelina (Couch) Evans (Delila’s niece), Daniel Stogsdill (Delila’s nephew), Elizabeth (Stogsdill) Bennett (Delila’s niece), Delila (Couch) Literal, and William Stogsdill (Delila’s nephew).

Moses Eaton, who was listed as a member of Delila’s Dade County household on October 3, 1850, may have been a friend of Delila’s family back in Kentucky. Like Delila and her late husband, Moses Eaton was from Whitley County, Kentucky. On December 24, 1850, less than three months after the census was recorded, Moses Eaton was married to 18-year-old Susan A. Harrell, daughter of Archibald and Celia (Jones) Harrell. Moses Eaton’s father-in-law, Archibald Harrell, along with Celia and their eight children, were listed as Delila’s neighbors in the 1850 Dade County census. Moses Eaton was undoubtedly courting Archibald Harrell’s daughter while he was a resident of Delila’s household. The marriage of Moses Eaton to Susan Harrell would be of little consequence to us, except that Susan’s mother, Celia Harrell, apparently died some time

after the 1850 census, and Delila (Couch) Literal then married Archibald Harrell some time before 1860.

DELILA LITERAL FARM		
DESCRIPTION OF FARM	Greene Co.	Dade Co.
Improved land:		12 acres
Unimproved land:		8 acres
LIVE STOCK ON JUNE 1, 1850		
Horses:	2	2
Milch cows:	2	2
Working oxen:	2	2
Other cattle:	2	
Sheep:	8	11
Swine:	10	11
PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1850		
Wheat:	10 bushels	
Indian corn:	150 bushels	250 bushels
Wool:		12 pounds
Peas and beans:		1 bushel
Irish potatoes:	10 bushels	10 bushels
Butter:	100 pounds	50 pounds
Value of orchard production		\$ 5
Value of home-made manufactures:	\$ 100	\$ 15
Value of animals slaughtered:	\$ 30	\$ 22
VALUES ON JUNE 1, 1850		
Cash value of farm:		\$ 100
Value of farming implements/ machinery:	\$ 10	\$ 8
Value of live stock:	\$ 160	\$ 135

Figure 2: Delila Literal farm in 1850

Archibald Harrell was born in Virginia on August 24, 1805. We don't know when Archibald and Delila were married, as the pre-Civil War marriage records for Dade County were destroyed when the courthouse was burned during the war. I suspect that

their marriage occurred during the later half of decade of the 1850's, as "Delila Litteral" was issued U. S. Government land patents on two adjacent 40-acre tracts of land in 1856 and 1859 (see tracts #5 and #6 on page 123). Delila was issued a patent for the first tract¹³ on March 10, 1856, and for the second tract¹⁴ on June 1, 1859. Delila purchased both tracts for cash some time before the patents were issued.

On September 1, 1858, Archibald Harrell was issued two U. S. Government land patents, providing him with title to two contiguous 40-acre tracts of Dade County land that Archibald had earlier purchased for cash¹⁵ (see tract #7 on page 123).

In the 1860 census, Delila's family consisted of Delila and Archibald, a 16-year-old son of Archibald from his prior marriage, and Delila's three youngest children from her first marriage. Archibald valued his real estate at \$2000, and his personal property at \$1000, so the family appears to have been rather comfortable from an economic standpoint. For a description of the farm operated by Archibald and Delila, see Figure 3 on page 77. The family was separated in the census records by only two other families from that of Delila's younger brother, Benjamin, who moved from Greene County to Dade County after Delila and her children made that same move. Delila's eldest son, John, and his wife, who were probably married about 1858 or 1859, were listed "next door" to the Benjamin Couch family.

During the Civil War, most of the Moses Couch family sympathies, and service, were with the Confederate forces. Delila's family was no exception. Both of Delila's sons served in the Confederate Army. James enlisted in September of 1862, and John enlisted less than a month later. Both served as Privates in Company A of the 6th Regiment of Missouri Cavalry. I believe that most of the men in Company A were residents of Dade County.

Some time between 1860 and 1867, Archibald and Delila Harrell followed the lead of a number of Delila's relatives, moving from Dade County back to Oregon County. Delila's youngest daughter, Sarah, was married in Oregon County in August of 1867. Archibald and Delila appear in the 1870 census of Oak Grove Township, in Oregon County, Missouri. They were "empty nesters"—there were no others listed in their household. Economically, the Civil War took its toll on the family, as it did on most. Archibald continued to farm, but he now valued his real estate at \$300, and his personal property at \$300.

¹³ Land described as the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 34 in Township 30N of Range 25 W.

¹⁴ Land described as the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 34 in Township 30 N or Range 25 W.

¹⁵ The two tracts were described as the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 29 in Township 30N and Range 25W, and the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the same section.

By 1880, Archibald and Delila were back in Dade County. In the 1880 census, it appears that 74-year-old Archibald Harrell and 67-year-old Delilah Harrell were living with Delila's niece, Angelina Evans, and two of Angelina's sons.

ARCHIBALD HARRELL FARM		
DESCRIPTION OF FARM		
Improved land:	100 acres	
Unimproved land:	100 acres	
LIVE STOCK ON JUNE 1, 1860		
Horses:	7	
Milch cows:	5	
Working oxen:	4	
Other cattle:	7	
Sheep:	20	
Swine:	15	
PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1860		
Wheat:	80 bushels	
Indian corn:	750 bushels	
Oats:	300 bushels	
Wool:	45 pounds	
Peas and beans:	1 bushel	
Irish potatoes:	10 bushels	
Wine:	30 gallons	
Butter:	200 pounds	
Flax:	5 pounds	
Molasses:	100 gallons	
Value of home-made manufactures:		\$ 55
Value of animals slaughtered:		\$ 75
VALUES ON JUNE 1, 1860		
Cash value of farm:		\$ 2000
Value of farming implements and machinery:		\$ 80
Value of live stock:		\$ 900

Figure 3: Archibald Harrell farm in 1860

Archibald's eldest son, David Jackson Harrell, married Narcissa Poindexter in Grayson County, Texas, in 1858. The couple appeared in the 1860 census of Lawrence County, Missouri, immediately south of Dade County. Some time after the 1860 census, David and Narcissa moved back to Grayson County, Texas. Narcissa died in 1868, at the age of 26, and was buried in the White Mound Cemetery, near Tom Bean, in Grayson County. David Jackson Harrell apparently remained in Grayson County after his wife's death, as he appears in the 1870 and 1880 Grayson County census records. David's father and step-mother, Archibald and Delila, apparently moved from Dade County to Grayson County in late 1880 or early 1881 to live with, or near, David. Delila (Couch) Literal Harrell died on April 2, 1881, at 68 years of age, and was buried in the White Mound Cemetery. Archibald Harrell died eleven years later, on May 30, 1892, at age 86, and was buried with Delila in the White Mound Cemetery.

John Literal was probably born in Kentucky in 1839 or 1840. Based on what we know about Charles and Delila, it seems likely that John was born in Whitley County. John was probably an infant when his parents migrated to Ripley County, Missouri, and was probably about nine or ten years old when his father died in Greene County, Missouri. John and his three younger siblings were apparently raised by their widowed mother until Delila married Archibald Harrell.

John was probably in his late teens, and still living at home with his mother and siblings, when he married. John's bride, Mary C. Walker, was the daughter of Nicholas G. and Mahala (Fine) Walker. Mary was born in Tennessee about 1840. Her parents were listed in the 1840 census of Monroe County, Tennessee, not long before Mary's birth. By 1850, the family had relocated to Greene County, Missouri, and during the 1850's, they moved to Dade County. Other researchers report that Mary Walker's mother died in 1859, while on a visit back to Monroe County, Tennessee, and that Mary's father died in Dade County soon thereafter. I suspect that John and Mary were married in Dade County in the late 1850's, shortly before, or shortly after, the deaths of her parents. When the census enumerator for Dade County stopped at the John Literal home on June 30, 1860, John reported personal property valued at \$150, but apparently owned no real estate. It appears that John and Mary had been married for at least a year. Only three households separated John and Mary from the household of John's mother and his siblings, and John and Mary were listed "next door" to the families of both John's uncle, Benjamin Couch, and Benjamin's daughter, Sarah (Couch) Hankins.

On October 10, 1862, about 18 months after the first shots of the Civil War were fired, John followed the lead of his younger brother, James, and enlisted in the Confederate Army. Like his brother, John enlisted as a Private in Company A of the 6th Regiment of Missouri Cavalry. While James had enlisted 27 days earlier, in Newton County, John enlisted in Dade County. One source indicates that the regiment in which John and James served was originally known as Colonel Coffee's Regiment of Missouri Cavalry, under the command of Colonel John Trousdale Coffee, a former Dade County attorney, and was later reformed as the 6th Missouri Cavalry Regiment under the command of Colonel Gideon W. Thompson. While I cannot confirm this, I do know that Colonel Coffee was actively involved in the enlistment of recruits for the 6th Missouri Cavalry Regiment. At various times, this regiment was also known as the 3rd Regiment of Shelby's Brigade, Smith's Regiment, Thompson's Regiment, and Hooper's Regiment.

John and James Literal both enlisted for a period of three years, or the duration of the war. And they both served for the duration. At the close of the war, John and James were among the soldiers in Company A of the 6th Missouri Cavalry who were surrendered at New Orleans on May 26, 1865. Following their surrender, they were paroled at Shreveport, Louisiana, on June 14, 1865. I have not found any trace of John, or of his wife, Mary, after the end of the Civil War.

James Literal

James Literal was born in Kentucky on December 3, 1841. Based on what we know of James' parents, it seems likely that he was born in Whitley County. James probably grew up in Ripley County, Oregon County, Greene County and Dade County, Missouri.

On September 13, 1862, at 20 years of age, James joined the Confederate Army. James enlisted, at Newton County, Missouri, as a Private in Company A of the 6th Regiment of Missouri Cavalry. His brother, John, enlisted in the same Company less than a month later. James and John served with that unit until the end of the war, when their Company was surrendered at New Orleans on May 26, 1865. The men in their unit were paroled at Shreveport, Louisiana, on June 14, 1865.

After the surrender, James returned to Dade County, where we believe that he married Louisa Bailey in 1865 or 1866. Most of my information about Louisa comes from an article entitled "The Amalgamated Bakers", compiled by Mary Ellen Gifford, and published on pages 45 and 46 of the Summer 1993 issue of Ozar'kin. Louisa was born in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, the youngest of five children of Methodist minister Isham Bailey and his wife, Martha McCord Hastings. Louisa's father died three months before Louisa was born, and Louisa's mother married John Baker, a recent widower with six young children. John and Martha would have seven children of their own, and raise a blended family of 18 children.

John and Martha Baker moved their family from Mississippi to Lawrence County, Missouri, about 1850. In "The Amalgamated Bakers", Mary Ellen Gifford consistently refers to Louisa Bailey as "Isa Bailey". I suspect that "Isa" was a nickname for "Louisa". Later in life, Louisa was often called "Icy". In her article, Mary Ellen Gifford stated that "the end of the war brought a flurry of marriages as veterans, both Union and Confederate, returned to civilian life. Isa Bailey married James Literal (Confederate)".

James and Louisa became parents for the first time on November 2, 1867, with the birth of their son, Charles F. Literal. Charles was born in Dade County, near Everton. In March of 1870, Harriet A. Literal was born. In August of 1870, James and Louisa were living in Smith Township of Dade County with their two young children. Mary Literal was born to James and Louisa in 1873 or 1874, and Delphia Pearl Literal was born in Dade County on March 30, 1880. In June of 1880, James and Louisa were living in Rock Prairie Township of Dade County with their four young children. Their last child, Elva Jane, was born on April 3, 1884. In 1900, James and Louisa were residents of South Township, in Dade County, living on a farm that James owned. Their two youngest daughters were still living at home.

Louisa (Bailey) Literal died on November 4, 1903, at age 57, and was buried in the Shiloh Cemetery, in Dade County. James Literal died on June 2, 1908, at age 66, and was buried with Louisa in the Shiloh Cemetery.

Mary A. 'Polly' Literal

Census records suggest that Mary A. Literal was born in Missouri in 1842 or 1843. Based solely on what we know of Mary's parents, it seems likely that Mary was the first of the children in her family to be born after the family settled in Ripley County.

Mary was listed in the household of her parents in the 1850 census, and in the household of her mother and step-father in the 1860 census. While I have no proof, I am convinced by circumstantial evidence that Mary A. Literal was the Mary Ann who married John T. Lasley approximately 1861. Assuming this to be true, John T. Lasley and Mary A. Literal were probably married in Dade County, as their respective families were neighbors in Dade County in 1860.

John T. Lasley was the son of John and Martha (Thomas) Lasley, and was born in Missouri about 1834 or 1835. The John and Martha Lasley family and the Charles and Delilah (Couch) Literal family had been acquainted for a number of years before John T. Lasley and Mary A. Literal were married. One of John T. Lasley's older brothers, James Lasley, was married to Mary A. Literal's first cousin, Mary Stogsdill, in 1844, when both the Lasley family and the Literal family were living in Ripley County, Missouri. Mary Literal was probably about 18 years old when she married John, and John was about nine years older than Mary.

John and Mary had a son, William Lasley, who was born in Missouri in 1862 or 1863. A daughter, Mary Jane Lasley, was born to John and Mary in Illinois in 1865 or 1866. While we can only speculate, it seems likely that John and Mary fled to Illinois to escape the ravages of war in southern Missouri during the Civil War (1861-65). Illinois served as something of a safe haven for many families from southern Missouri during the war, though I am under the impression that those who fled to Illinois tended to be those who sided with the Union, rather than those sympathetic to the Confederate cause.

John and Mary had apparently returned to Missouri by 1867 or 1868, when another daughter, Delilah E. Lasley, was born. But, it appears that the family may not have returned to the Dade County area. In August of 1870, John and Mary and their three children were listed in the census of Miami Township in Saline County, Missouri. John reported personal property valued at \$350, but apparently owned no real estate.

Another son, George Lasley, was born in Missouri in 1871 or 1872. John T. Lasley apparently died in the 1870's. By 1880, Mary and her four children had returned to Rock Prairie Township, in Dade County, where they were listed in the census living "next door" to the family of Mary's brother, James Literal. Mary was listed as a widow in the 1880 census records.

We have not located any further records relating to Mary Ann (Literal) Lasley, and there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that she died during the 1880's.

Sarah Jane Literal

Sarah Jane was the youngest identified child born to Charles and Delila (Couch) Literal. Census records suggest that Sarah was probably born in Missouri in 1844 or 1845, and the 1900 census lists Sarah's date of birth as July of 1845. Based on what we know of her parents, it seems likely that Sarah was born while her family was living in Oregon County.

Sarah was probably about four years old when her father died, and was probably raised by her mother until Delila married Archibald Harrell. Most of her teen years were probably spent in Dade County, living with her mother and step-father.

Sarah's mother and step-father moved from Dade County back to Oregon County some time during, or shortly after, the Civil War. And it was in Oregon County that Sarah was married to Stephen F. Myers. Sarah was 22 years old, and Stephen was 24, when they were married on August 15, 1867. I believe that Stephen was the son of Andrew M. Myers and Delila Davis. Stephen's death certificate indicates that he was born at Midville, Tennessee, on February 15, 1843.

It is possible that Stephen and Sarah lost their first child as an infant. We have only been able to identify five of the six children born to Sarah. The oldest child we can identify was Susan A. Myers, born in Missouri on March 1, 1870. Susan may have been born in Greene County. We know that Stephen and Sarah had moved from Oregon County to Greene County by the summer of 1870, when they were listed in the census of Boone Township. Stephen reported personal property valued at \$200, but apparently owned no land. Only one household separated the Stephen Myers household from that of Stephen's younger brother, William R. Myers. Stephen's mother, apparently a widow, was living with William and his recent bride.

During the 1870's, Stephen and Sarah had four more children. William A. Myers was born on December 3, 1872; John D. Myers was born on March 8, 1875; Mary E. Myers was born in 1877 or 1878; and Roxy P. Myers was born in October of 1879.

In 1880, Stephen and Sarah and their five children were enumerated in the census of South Township, in Dade County. Twenty years later, in 1900, Stephen and Sarah, and their youngest son, John, were again enumerated in South Township. The census indicates that the family was living on a Dade County farm that Stephen owned.

The 1900 Dade County census provides our last trace of Sarah (Literal) Myers. Our next record of Stephen Myers is found in January of 1920, when 76-year-old "S. F. Myers" and his 49-year-old wife, "Anna Myers" were listed in the census of Lockwood, in Dade County. It seems likely that Sarah (Literal) Myers died after the 1900 census, and that Stephen then married Anna before the 1920 census. Stephen died at Greenfield, in Dade County, on April 29, 1929, and was buried in the Shiloh Cemetery.

Benjamin 'Ben' Couch

Many family researchers list Benjamin Couch as a son of Lindley Couch, and grandson of Moses Couch, rather than as a son of Moses Couch. I once leaned in that direction as well. But, I now feel confident in asserting that Benjamin was a son of Moses Couch. There are several reasons for my confidence.

First, in both her notebooks, Sarah Jane Literal lists both "Linley Couch" and "Ben Couch" as sons of Moses Couch (see Figure 10 on page 122). Second, we believe that Benjamin Couch was born in 1815. The 1820 census record for the Lindley Couch family indicates that there was only one male less than ten years of age in Lindley's household. If Lindley Couch's son, Simpson Couch, was born in January of 1819, as we believe, then the male less than ten years of age in Lindley's household was probably Simpson, and Benjamin Couch was not a member of the household.

Third, all evidence currently available to us consistently points to Alabama as the birthplace of Benjamin Couch. There can be no doubt that Benjamin believed that he was born in Alabama. As noted earlier in our biography of Moses Couch, it is not difficult to make a case for the migration of the Moses Couch family to Alabama in 1815, just prior to Benjamin's birth. Based on evidence currently available to us, it is more difficult to make a case for the migration of the Lindley Couch family from Kentucky to Alabama before 1818 or 1819.

Finally, and most importantly, Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill, daughter of Lindley Couch, and granddaughter of Moses Couch, died before her father. After Lindley Couch's death, Perlina's widowed husband, Archibald Stogsdill, was appointed guardian of their minor children. On May 23, 1867, Archibald Stogsdill submitted an inventory of the real estate inherited by the children of Perlina (Couch) Stogsdill from their grandfather, Lindley Couch. The record indicated that the real estate was being held in coparceny by 1) Perlina's three minor children, 2) Simpson Couch (son of Lindley Couch), and 3) William and Angelina Evans (Angelina was a daughter of Lindley Couch). The inventory indicated that the minor children owned a one-third part interest in the real estate, and there was no mention of Benjamin Couch as an heir of Lindley Couch. Since Lindley Couch died intestate, there was no will that could have excluded any of Lindley Couch's descendants as legal heirs. Benjamin Couch would have shared an interest in Lindley Couch's real estate if Benjamin was Lindley's son.

Benjamin Couch was probably the last child born to Moses and Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch. I suspect that Moses and Elizabeth Couch moved from Pulaski County, Kentucky, to Alabama, during the summer or fall of 1815, and that Benjamin was born soon after their arrival in Alabama. Our limited information about Benjamin Couch's date of birth is consistent. In September of 1892, in her application for a Widow's Pension, Benjamin's widow reported that he was born in Alabama on December 13,

1815. That same date of birth appears on Benjamin's gravestone, and in the Emanuel Couch family Bible (see "Appendix C. Emanuel Couch Family Bible" on page 124).

We suspect that the Moses Couch family remained in Alabama until about 1821, when they moved back to Pulaski County. Moses and Elizabeth Couch moved their family to Whitley County, Kentucky, a few years later, and then to Madison County, Illinois, where the family lived in the early 1830's.

I don't know why Benjamin Couch returned to Alabama in the 1830's, but it is clear that both Benjamin, and his older brother, Avery, were in Alabama in 1836. In June of 1836, both Benjamin and Avery enlisted for military service in the Second Creek War. The Second Creek War was a conflict fought between the United States and factions of the Creek Nation in 1836 and 1837. The war took place in the border region between Alabama and Georgia along the Chattahoochee River. It resulted in a defeat for the Creek forces and the removal of the Creek people from their native lands to the Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

When Benjamin volunteered for military service, he was 20 years old, and single. Avery, on the other hand, was about 30 years old, and had a wife and at least three young children. Benjamin and Avery volunteered at Elyton, the county seat of Jefferson County, in north-central Alabama.

The settlement of Elyton was named for William H. Ely, a commissioner for the Connecticut Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, who went to Alabama in 1819 after the federal government gave land in that area to the institution. The village located there before 1820 was called Frog Level. The settlement was incorporated in 1820, and a Post Office was established in 1821. When the settlement was chosen to become a county seat in 1821, Ely donated land for a courthouse and jail. Birmingham replaced Elyton as the Jefferson County seat in 1873, and Elyton is now part of the western section of Birmingham.

The exact date(s) on which Benjamin and Avery volunteered are somewhat uncertain, and of little importance. In a declaration made in 1850, Avery would state that he volunteered at Elyton on or about the 6th day of June, 1836. Benjamin and Avery served as Privates in the company commanded by Captain James McAdory, and the term of their enlistments was three months.

Captain James McAdory was born in the York District of South Carolina in 1802, and was married in Jefferson County, Alabama in 1826. During the Second Creek War, James volunteered under General Andrew Jackson, and was commissioned a Captain. After his service in the Second Creek War, James returned to his plantation near Jonesboro, southwest of Elyton. It seems likely, based on what we know, that Captain McAdory, himself a resident of Jefferson County, enlisted other Jefferson County men to serve in his Company. It would be interesting to know whether Benjamin and Avery Couch were residents of Jefferson County (or an adjoining county) when they enlisted, or

whether they traveled to Jefferson County from homes more distant, for the express purpose of joining the fight against the Creeks.

Information about Captain McAdory's Company, obtained from the Ainsworth List, indicates that his company was one of six which comprised Lt. Col. McMillion's Regiment, in the 1st Battalion of the 4th Regiment of Alabama Mounted Volunteers. The records provided by the Ainsworth List indicate that the soldiers who served under Lt. Col. McMillion did not serve the full term of their enlistment. Each of the six companies in his regiment was mustered in near Ft. Mitchell, Alabama, and mustered out at Montgomery, Alabama. Captain McAdory's Company was mustered in on June 19, 1836, and mustered out on July 21, 1836. There were 77 men on the muster-in roll, and 74 men mustered out.

The information provided by the Ainsworth List is borne out by the information provided by an 1893 Treasury Department audit of Benjamin Couch's service records. The audit indicated that Benjamin was enrolled at Cowaga, Alabama, on June 12, 1836; that he was discharged with his Company at Montgomery, Alabama, on July 21, 1836; and that he was paid from June 12 to July 19, for one month and 19 days, including ten days for travel of 100 miles from place of rendezvous, and 100 miles from place of discharge. The audit also noted that there was no evidence of hostile engagement.

The reference to "Cowaga" should have read "Coweta", which was the name of an old Creek Indian town north of Ft. Mitchell, in Russell County, Alabama. Ft. Mitchell is on the Alabama-Georgia border, about 70 miles due east of Montgomery, and about 140 miles southeast of the site of Elyton, Alabama. I believe that Benjamin and Avery Couch enlisted at Elyton, then traveled by horseback with the rest of Captain McAdory's recruits to Coweta, or Ft. Mitchell, where they were mustered into service.

There is reason to believe that Benjamin Couch remained in Alabama for at least two years after mustering out of service with Captain McAdory's Company, and returning to Elyton, Alabama. For it was in Alabama that Benjamin Couch met and married his wife, Celia Hall.

We believe that Celia Hall was the last child born to Thomas and Sarah Mily (Williams) Hall. Celia may have been the last of the Thomas Hall children to marry, and apparently was the first of the Thomas Hall children to migrate from Alabama to Missouri.

There is some uncertainty as to Celia's date of her birth. Her gravestone indicates that she was born on January 24, 1819. But I suspect that date was in error. The 1830 and 1840 census records suggest that Celia was born between 1820 and 1825. The 1860 census suggests that Celia was born in 1821 or 1822, while the 1870 and 1880 census records suggest that Celia was born in 1820 or 1821. In an application for a Widow's Pension, dated September of 1892, Celia reported that she was born in Jackson County, Alabama, on January 24, 1822. . The Emanuel Couch family Bible also lists Celia's date of birth as January 24, 1822. In the 1900 census, recorded only 17 months before her death, Celia reported her date of birth as January of 1822. It appears evident that Celia,

in her later years, believed that she was born in 1822, and that is the date of birth that we accept as accurate. We also accept Celia's own statement that she was born in Jackson County, Alabama.

There is also some uncertainty as to Celia's full given name. Every record I have seen lists her name as Celia (or Cela or Ceilie). These records include census, land, pension, church and family Bible records, as well as her gravestone inscription. Yet, many researchers interested in the Benjamin Couch family list her name as Cecilia Caroline Couch. Was Celia just a nickname for Cecilia Caroline? The first time I ever saw the name Cecilia Caroline was on a family group sheet provided to me by Vernon and Donna O'Leary in 1994. Vernon is a grandson of Emanuel Couch, and great-grandson of Benjamin and Celia Couch. That family group sheet listed Celia's full name as "Cecilia Caroline Hawl". Vernon has generously shared his information with other researchers over the years, and I suspect that his record of Celia's full name is the original source of that name for most, if not all, of the researchers who have that name in their records. Once posted to the Internet, any family information, whether proven or unproven, finds its way into the records of other researchers with amazing speed!

Vernon reports that he received family information from several relatives, and that the information he received included several variants for Celia's name. He believes that Cecilia was one of the variants he received. The youngest daughter born to Benjamin and Celia was Delila Couch. According to Vernon, her full name was Delila Caroline Couch. Vernon reports that one of Delila's granddaughters, Sylvia Payne Couch, told him that Delila was named Caroline after her mother, Celia Couch.

There is some circumstantial evidence to support the assertion that Celia's full name was "Cecilia Caroline Hall". Sherry Gassaway is a g-g-g-granddaughter of Benjamin and Celia Couch. When she started doing genealogical research, she solicited the help of her great-aunt, Idella Fargo, who was a great-granddaughter of Benjamin and Celia, and was born in 1905. Sherry's Aunt Idella filled in some names on pedigree charts for Sherry. One of those names was that of Benjamin Couch's wife. Sherry's aunt wrote the names in cursive, and Sherry had a little trouble reading the names, but interpreted the name of Benjamin's wife as "Collie". One of the common nicknames for Caroline in the 18th and 19th centuries was "Callie".

As mentioned earlier, Benjamin and Celia Couch named their youngest daughter Delila Caroline Couch. Family members report that her nickname was "Callie". Three of Celia (Hall) Couch's daughters used the name "Caroline" in naming their own daughters. Sarah (Couch) Hankins named one of her daughters Caroline Hankins, though her nickname was Carrie, rather than Callie. Lavisia (Couch) Morris named one of her daughters Nancy Caroline Morris, and her nickname was "Callie". And, Susannah (Couch) Morris named one of her daughters Lydia Caroline Morris. While I will continue to use the name Celia for Benjamin Couch's wife until further evidence is found, I think that it is likely that her full name was Celia Caroline Hall or Cecilia Caroline Hall.

Our earliest record of Celia Hall is found in the 1830 census of Jackson County, Alabama. The description of the members of the household of Celia's mother, Sarah Hall, includes a female aged 5-10. I believe that this female was Celia Hall. It appears likely that Celia spent all of her youth on Larkin's Fork, in northwest Jackson County. The minutes of the Primitive Baptist Church, which was located on Larkin's Fork, indicate that a "Celia Hall" was among 16 new members received into the church by baptism in February or March of 1836. If our assumption about Celia's date of birth is correct, Celia would have been 14 years old when she was baptized. That was a typical age for baptism in this early Primitive Baptist Church.

In her "Declaration of Widow for Pension", completed in September of 1892, Celia reported that she was married to Benjamin Couch in Jackson County, Alabama, on September 6, 1839, by George Griffin, a Justice of the Peace. She also reported that it was the first marriage for each of them. In support of Celia's claim, William Stogsdill signed a statement at Alton, Missouri, in December of 1892, stating the "he was at the Marriage of Benjamin Couch and Celia Hall it was the 6th day of Septemen 1838". William Stogsdill, son of William and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, was Benjamin Couch's nephew.

In June of 1893, 66-year-old Daniel Stogsdill, of Dallas County, Missouri, signed (with his mark) an affidavit on behalf of Celia Couch, stating:

"I am well and personally acquainted with the claimant, and have known her ever since the year of 1825 or as far back as I can remember, and the claimant and Benjamin Couch were married in the year of 1838, as the claimants husband, was then living at my Fathers house and they were married at my Fathers House and I futher state that the claimant was never married prior to the year of 1838, nor neither was her husband married prior to that date, 1838."

Daniel Stogsdill was also a son of William and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, and nephew of Benjamin Couch. So Benjamin Couch must have been living with the family of his sister, Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, on Larkins Fork, in the Paint Rock Valley of northwest Jackson County, Alabama, when he and Celia were married.

Should we accept Celia's own statement that she was married in on September 6, 1839, or the statement of William Stogsdill that Celia was married on September 6, 1838? One would think that Celia's recollection of the date would be the most accurate. However, we believe that the first child born to Benjamin and Celia was born on February 24, 1840. We will, therefore, accept the assertion of William Stogsdill that Benjamin Couch and Celia Hall were married at the home of William Stogsdill in Jackson County, Alabama, on September 6, 1838.

If our assumptions are correct about Benjamin's date of birth, Celia's date of birth, and the date of their marriage, Benjamin would have been 22 years old, and Celia would have been 16 years old, when they were married in September of 1838. In one of the

statements submitted by Celia Couch in pursuit of a pension, Celia described Benjamin as "about 5 feet 5 inches high with blue eyes dark hair & rather dark complexion".

The fact that Benjamin married Celia Hall, who was a neighbor of William and Malinda Stogsdill, and who attended the same church as the Stogsdill family, suggests that Benjamin lived with his sister's family long enough to meet, court and marry Celia Hall. But the marriage of Benjamin and Celia was not the first union between the Couch family and the Hall family. Josiah Stogsdill, eldest son of William and Malinda (Couch) Stogsdill, was only a year younger than his uncle, Benjamin Couch. And Josiah Stogsdill was married two years earlier, in 1836, to Lydia Hall, an older sister of Celia Hall. So, Benjamin Couch married the younger sister of his nephew's wife.

Benjamin and Celia probably left Jackson County soon after they were married. Their first child, Sarah Elizabeth, was apparently born in Missouri in February of 1840. And the 1840 census of Ripley County, Missouri, includes the family of Benjamin Couch. Lindley Couch was also a resident of Ripley County in 1840, and the census lists the Lindley Couch family and the Benjamin Couch family "next door" to each other. We believe that Lindley Couch was the first of the Moses Couch children to settle in Ripley County. If that assumption is correct, it seems likely that Lindley influenced Benjamin and Celia to move to Ripley County. Whether Benjamin and Celia settled on vacant land near Lindley Couch's farm, or settled on Lindley Couch's farm, is probably a moot point, as both families were squatters, living on public lands. The Avery Couch family was also listed in the 1840 Ripley County census, but was separated by several pages from the entries for Benjamin Couch and Lindley Couch. The 1840 census described the inhabitants of Benjamin's household as one male aged 20-30 (probably Benjamin), one female aged 15-20 (probably Celia), and one female under five years of age (probably their daughter, Sarah E. Couch).

Their next four children were probably born to Benjamin and Celia in Ripley/Oregon County. Josiah was born in June of 1842; Avery was born in January of 1844; Mary Jane was born in September of 1845; and James Madison was born in June of 1847, but lived only a few months.

We don't know when Benjamin and Celia moved further west, to Greene County, Missouri. A daughter born to Benjamin and Celia in November of 1849, Lavisia Jane, was reportedly born in Cass Township of Greene County. And Benjamin purchased a 40-acre farm in Greene County on June 3, 1850¹⁶. The farm was located about three miles north of the present site of Willard, Missouri. While living in Greene County, Benjamin and Celia were "next door" neighbors of Benjamin's brother-in-law and sister, Charles and Delila Literal, who also migrated to Greene County from Oregon County during the 1840's. Charles Literal is reported to have died about 1849, and to have been

¹⁶ Described as the North ½ of the East ½ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 11 in Township 30 North of Range 23 West.

buried at Cave Spring. The farm that Benjamin purchased in June of 1850 was less than two miles northeast of Cave Spring.

The 1850 Federal census of Cass Township of Greene County, dated November 23, included the Benjamin Couch family. The family was comprised of Benjamin and Celia and their five children. A description of Benjamin's farm, provided by the census records, is provided as Figure 4 on page 90. The description of Benjamin's farm did not include the size of the farm, in acres, or the cash value of the farm.

By 1850, quite a few members of Benjamin's extended family had already settled in Dade County, immediately west of Greene County. And, between 1851 and 1857, Benjamin made several purchases of public lands in Dade County. On January 27, 1851, Benjamin purchased the first 40 acres¹⁷, which was located about 13 miles west, and three miles south, of his Greene County farm (see tract #8 on page 123). Benjamin paid cash for this 40 acres of land. Benjamin would continue to own his Greene County farm for several years after he began acquiring land in Dade County. While we don't know when Benjamin actually moved his family from Greene County to Dade County, it seems logical that they would have made that move soon after their first land purchase in Dade County.

On May 21, 1852, Benjamin purchased a second 40-acre tract of Dade County public land¹⁸. The southeast corner of this second tract of land was ¼ mile west of the northwest corner of Benjamin's first purchase (see tract #9 on page 123). In Celia's application for a pension, filed after Benjamin's death, Celia reported that Benjamin had received a bounty land warrant for 160 acres of land, presumably based on his military service in the Second Creek War. I suspect that Benjamin, like his brother, Avery, actually received two bounty land warrants—the first for 40 acres of land, and the second for 120 acres. In a later statement, sworn April 4, 1893, Celia indicated that Benjamin "rec'd 80 acres of bounty Land warrant & located the same in Dade Co Mo. about 40 years ago where he resided at the time". I suspect that this was a reference to Benjamin's first bounty land warrant, for 40 acres of land, and that Benjamin used that warrant to pay for the 40 acres purchased in 1852.

Public lands in Missouri, like public lands in most Midwestern and western states, was surveyed and identified using the Public Land Survey System. This system divided the public land into survey townships, with each township described by a unique combination of Township number and Range number. Each survey township was six miles by six miles in size. Each of these survey townships was further subdivided into 36 Sections, with each Section being one mile by one mile in size. The Sections are identified by Section Numbers, with each survey township containing Sections numbered 1 through 36. When Missouri was admitted as a State, the federal government gave to

¹⁷ Described as the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 27 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

¹⁸ Described as the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 27 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

the State of Missouri the land in Section 16 in every survey township in the state, to benefit public education in the various counties. The land was later sold to the public by the State of Missouri, with profits going to build schools and/or pay teachers. Title to the land was conveyed to the purchasers via Missouri land patents, similar to the federal land patents issued by the federal government to convey title to federal public lands. On

BENJAMIN COUCH FARM	
DESCRIPTION OF FARM	
Improved land:	
Unimproved land:	
LIVE STOCK ON JUNE 1, 1850	
Horses:	8
Milch cows:	3
Other cattle:	8
Sheep:	12
Swine:	20
PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1850	
Indian corn:	300 bushels
Oats:	150 bushels
Wool:	25 pounds
Peas and beans:	3 bushels
Irish potatoes:	10 bushels
Sweet potatoes:	10 bushels
Butter	200 pounds
Value of home-made manufactures	\$ 50
Value of animals slaughtered	\$ 40
VALUES ON JUNE 1, 1850	
Cash value of farm:	
Value of farming implements and machinery:	
Value of live stock:	\$500

Figure 4: Benjamin Couch farm in 1850

September 12, 1854, a Missouri land patent was issued to Benjamin Couch for 40 acres of Township School Land located in Dade County¹⁹, about one-half mile northwest of the Sinking Creek Baptist Church. This land was located about two miles north and one mile west of Benjamin's home place (see tract #10 on page 123). Benjamin paid \$1.25 per acre for the land. The Missouri land patents, like federal land patents, were issued some time after the actual purchase of the land, so Benjamin probably purchased the land several months prior to the date the patent was issued.

Benjamin used cash to purchase an additional 80 acres of Dade County public land from the federal government on September 20, 1854²⁰ (see tract #11 on page 123). A month later, on October 21, 1854, Benjamin and Celia sold their 40-acre farm in Greene County.

On March 7, 1856, Benjamin made two additional land entries, paying cash for a total of 120 acres²¹. This additional land abutted the land previously purchased by Benjamin in 1851 and 1852, and the 80-acre tract purchased in 1854 (see tract #12 on page 123). It is interesting to note that Benjamin Couch and his nephew, William Stogsdill, both made land entries on March 7, 1856 for adjoining parcels of land. It is likely that they traveled together to the land office in Springfield, Missouri, to make their entries.

With the 120 acres of land that he purchased in 1856, Benjamin completed the acquisition of a 280-acre farm located about two miles south and two miles east of the current site of the village of Everton. The northern border of Benjamin's farm abutted a 160-acre farm purchased by John R. Brewer in 1851. John R. Brewer's wife and Benjamin's wife were sisters. The northwest corner of Benjamin's 280-acre farm was only one-quarter mile from the 40-acre tract of land purchased by Benjamin's brother, Lindley Couch, in 1854. And the northeast corner of Benjamin's farm was separated by little more than one-half mile from a sizable farm owned by Benjamin's nephew, Josiah Stogsdill.

Some time in the mid-1850's, Benjamin also made a cash entry on 113.59 acres of public land²² in Lawrence County, Missouri. This land was located immediately south of the Lawrence-Dade County line, and abutted the county line. The land was approximately two miles west and four miles south of Everton.

On February 16, 1857, Benjamin purchased another 160 acres (a quarter section) of Dade County land²³ from Robert C. Hastings and his wife, Sarah Emily. Benjamin paid \$1200

¹⁹ Described as the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 16 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

²⁰ Described as the North ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 27 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

²¹ Described as the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ and the South ½ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 27 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

²² Described as Lot #8 of the Northwest ¼ of Section 1 in Township 29 North of Range 26 West.

²³ Described as the Northeast ¼ of Section 33 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

in cash for the land, which was located immediately west, and one-half mile south, of Benjamin's 280-acre farm (see tract #13 on page 123). On the same day, Benjamin purchased 80 acres of land²⁴ from John H. Hastings and his wife, Rachel. Benjamin paid \$320 in cash for this land, which was located about three miles west and one and one-half mile south of Benjamin's 280-acre farm (see tract #14 on page 123).

On February 18, 1857, only two days after purchasing 240 acres of land from Robert C. Hastings and John H. Hastings, deed records indicate that "Benjamin and Sealy Couch" sold the 280-acre farm they had acquired between 1851 and 1856, along with the 40 acres of Township School Land conveyed to Benjamin by the 1854 Missouri land patent (tracts #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12 on page 123). Benjamin and Celia sold the 320 acres of land to James Harralson, of Greene County, Missouri, for \$1600 in cash. Benjamin and Celia both signed the deed with their marks. Combining the land transactions of February 16 and February 18, Benjamin and Celia sold 320 acres of land for \$1600, and purchased 240 acres for \$1520.

Another document in Celia's pension file indicates that Benjamin received Bounty Land Warrant No. 56166 for 120 acres, issued under the bounty land act of 1855. This would have been the second bounty land warrant issued to Benjamin for his service in the Second Creek War. We believe that Benjamin exercised this warrant to purchase land in Dade County, but have not yet determined what land he purchased with the warrant. We know that Benjamin purchased, at some point, 120 acres of land²⁵ located about one mile south, and two miles west, of his 280-acre farm (see tract #15 on page 123). It is possible that he used his 120-acre bounty land warrant to purchase that 120 acres. We will hereafter refer to this 120 acres as Benjamin's "Bounty Land Farm".

The Benjamin Couch family continued to grow during the 1850's. Emanuel was born in May of 1851, Lydia Ellen in March of 1853, William Riley in February of 1856, and Susannah in December of 1857. Benjamin's eldest child, Sarah Elizabeth, married James D. Hankins in 1857 or 1858. And, in March of 1860, Benjamin and Celia had another son, whom they named Samuel Benjamin.

By the summer of 1860, Benjamin and Celia had substantially expanded both their family and their farming operation. In June of 1860, the Benjamin Couch household consisted of Benjamin and Celia, and nine of their children, ranging in age from three months to 18 years. Benjamin Couch's land holdings had grown to 460 acres (tracts #5, #6, #13, #14 and #15 on page 123). Josiah was 18 years old, and Avery was 16, so they were old enough to be a big help to Benjamin and Celia with the farming. Benjamin's eldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, and Sarah's husband and baby daughter, lived near Benjamin

²⁴ Described as the Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ and the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 31 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

²⁵ Described as the North ½ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 32 and the Northeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 31, all in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

and Celia. Benjamin valued his real estate at \$4000, and his personal property at \$1500. For a more detailed description of the Benjamin Couch farm in 1860, see Figure 5 on page 93.

BENJAMIN COUCH FARM	
DESCRIPTION OF FARM	
Improved acres:	200
Unimproved acres:	260
LIVE STOCK ON JUNE 1, 1860	
Horses:	12
Milch cows:	5
Other cattle:	5
Sheep:	30
Swine:	5
PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1860	
Wheat:	133 bushels
Indian corn:	1500 bushels
Oats:	200 bushels
Wool:	80 pounds
Peas and beans:	1 bushel
Irish potatoes:	50 bushels
Sweet potatoes:	5 bushels
Butter:	100 pounds
Molasses:	30 gallons
Value of produce of market gardens:	\$ 12
Value of home-made manufactures:	\$ 80
Value of animals slaughtered:	\$ 125
VALUES ON JUNE 1, 1860	
Cash value of farm:	\$4000
Value of farming implements and machinery:	\$ 200
Value of live stock:	\$1200

Figure 5: Benjamin Couch farm in 1860

On April 10, 1861, Brig. Gen. Beauregard, in command of the provisional Confederate forces at Charleston, South Carolina, demanded the surrender of the Union garrison of

Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Garrison commander Anderson refused. On April 12, Confederate batteries opened fire on the fort, which was unable to reply effectively. At 2:30 p.m., April 13, Major Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter, evacuating the garrison on the following day. The bombardment of Fort Sumter was the opening engagement of the American Civil War. The Civil War would have a significant impact on the Benjamin Couch family, as it would on every family residing in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.

We are long on family stories about the involvement of Benjamin's family in the Civil War, but short on facts. I'll tackle this subject by concentrating first on what we know, then what we think we know. I'll then speculate about the family stories we've heard.

We know that Benjamin and his family were living in Dade County in June of 1860. And we know that their farm was located in the extreme southeast corner of the county, about three miles south of the present site of Everton. The Civil War erupted in April of 1861, and would last four years. On April 29, only sixteen days after the surrender of Fort Sumter, it appears that Benjamin and Celia Couch sold all of the land they owned in Dade County. The land was sold to three separate buyers. By one deed, they sold the quarter section (160 acres) that they purchased from Robert C. Hastings in February of 1857²⁶ (tract #13 on page 123), along with their 120-acre "Bounty Land Farm"²⁷ (tract #15 on page 123). This 280 acres of land was sold to David J. Harrell, of Lawrence County, for \$1600. David Harrell was the son of Benjamin's new brother-in-law, Archibald Harrell, who was married to Benjamin's sister, Delila.

By a second deed, Benjamin and Celia sold an 80-acre tract of land²⁸ located immediately east of the quarter section of land that they sold to David J. Harrell. This 80 acres consisted of two 40-acre tracts of land originally purchased by Benjamin's sister, Delila, before she married Archibald Harrell (tracts #5 and #6 on page 123). The Federal land patents granting ownership of these tracts to Delila were issued on March 10, 1856, and on June 1, 1859. I don't know, at this point, how ownership of these 80 acres passed from Delila to Benjamin. But, on April 29, 1861, Benjamin and Celia sold these 80 acres to James A. Harshbarger for \$600.

By a third deed, Benjamin and Celia sold the eighty acres of land they purchased from John H. Hastings in February of 1857²⁹ (tract #14 on page 123), along with the tract of

²⁶ Described as the NE ¼ of Section 33 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

²⁷ Described as the N ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 32 and the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 31, both in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

²⁸ Described as the N ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 34 in Township 30 North or Range 25 West.

²⁹ Described as the E ½ of the SE ¼ and the E ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 31 in Township 30 North of Range 25 West.

land they owned in Lawrence County³⁰, just south of the Lawrence-Dade county line. This land was sold to Henry F. Howard for \$500.

What are we to make of Benjamin's sale of all his Dade County land holdings on April 29, 1861? The most logical assumption is that Benjamin was selling his land in preparation for a move away from the Dade County area. And, I suspect that was the case. But, if Benjamin and his family left Dade County in the spring of 1861, where did they go? We know that Benjamin and his family settled in Grayson County, Texas, no later than 1865. If the family left Dade County in the spring of 1861, did they move directly to Texas, or did they make an interim move? Our earliest evidence suggesting that the family moved to Texas in 1861 is the enlistment of Benjamin's son, Avery Couch, in the Confederate Army. Avery enlisted as a Private in Captain M. J. Brinson's Company of the 4th Regiment of Texas Volunteers (CSA). Avery was mustered in at Camp Reeves, near Sherman, in Grayson County, on October 14, 1861.

A little background about Captain M. J. Brinson will be helpful to our discussion. Matthew Jackson Brinson moved to Fort Worth, in Tarrant County, Texas, in 1847. He was a business man, later became the first postmaster of Fort Worth, and was a leading citizen in the town. In 1861, he raised a company of troops to fight for the Confederate cause. The company was reportedly the second company raised in Tarrant County, and was the company in which Avery Couch served.

Avery Couch's entry on the muster-in roll for Captain M. J. Brinson's Company indicates that he traveled 100 miles to rendezvous. The drive today, from Fort Worth to Sherman, Texas, is 90 miles. I believe that Avery Couch was recruited by Matthew Brinson in Tarrant County, in the fall of 1861, and then traveled, with the rest of the Brinson's recruits, to Camp Reeves, in Grayson County, where they were formally mustered into service on October 14, 1861.

What conclusions might we draw from Avery Couch's recruitment in Tarrant County some time prior to October 14, 1861? If the date of birth recorded for Avery in the Emanuel Couch family Bible is accurate, Avery was only 17 years old when he signed up for military service (though he reported his age as 18). At that age, would Avery have left his family in Missouri, and traveled the 460 miles to Tarrant County alone, or with a brother or cousin? We don't recognize the name of any of Avery's relatives in Captain M. J. Brinson's Company. I lean toward the theory that Benjamin and his family were living in Texas when Avery enlisted.

While we don't know whether Benjamin and his family ever lived in Tarrant County, we have stronger evidence that they were residents of Grayson County, Texas, by the summer of 1863. We believe that Benjamin's daughter, Mary Jane Couch, was married

³⁰ Described as a part of Lot No. 8 of the NW fractional ¼ of Section 1 in Township 29 North of Range 26 West.

in Grayson County on June 28, 1863. Mary Jane was only 16 years old when she married, so her marriage provides strong evidence that Benjamin and his family were living in the area in the summer of 1863. As further evidence of the family's move to Texas during the Civil War, Delila Caroline Couch, the last child born in Benjamin and Celia, was born in Texas in August of 1863.

A family story passed down through Emanuel Couch, son of Benjamin and Celia, and passed to me by Vernon O'Leary, indicates that Emanuel moved to Texas with his parents at the age of eleven. There is some question about Emanuel's date of birth. The date of birth inscribed on his gravestone is May 11, 1850. The date of birth recorded in the Emanuel Couch family Bible is May 11, 1851.

We don't know why Benjamin and Celia moved from Missouri to Texas during the early months of the Civil War, but it seems logical to assume that the political climate in Dade County was a contributing factor. The family was undoubtedly sympathetic to the cause of the Confederacy, and that viewpoint was most certainly among the minority in Dade County. It must have been, at best, an uncomfortable situation, and there may have been serious concerns about the family's safety if they remained in Dade County.

For able-bodied men between 18 and 45 years of age, service in the Civil War, either in the Union Army or in the Confederate Army, was difficult to avoid. And both younger boys and older men often served, particularly in the latter stages of the war. Not surprisingly, there is evidence that several members of Benjamin Couch's family served.

We have already mentioned the enlistment of Benjamin's son, Avery, on October 14, 1861. Benjamin's eldest son was Josiah Couch. Josiah was not quite 19 years old when the war began. A study of Civil War records and 1860 census records leads me to the conclusion that Benjamin's son was the Josiah Couch who served in Company A of Capt. John Scanland's Squadron of Texas Cavalry (Confederate). The Muster Roll of this company includes the name of Josiah Couch, as well as the name of William Stogsdill. Josiah was enrolled as a Private by Captain Scanland at Ft. McCulloch, in Indian Territory, on June 23, 1862. William Stogsdill was also enrolled as a Private by Captain Scanland at Ft. McCulloch, but four days earlier, on June 19, 1862. I suspect that this William Stogsdill was the son of Josiah and Lydia Stogsdill. If true, William Stogsdill and Josiah Couch were neighbors from Dade County; first cousins once removed on the Couch side of their family; and first cousins through their mothers' family.

Josiah Couch's enlistment in the Texas Cavalry in June of 1862, provides additional circumstantial evidence that the Benjamin Couch family completed their move from Missouri to Texas prior to that date. At 20 years of age, Josiah Couch could have struck out on his own for any of a variety of reasons, and could have enlisted far from home. But, when you consider that he was the eldest son in the family, and that times were difficult, and when you consider that Ft. McCulloch was roughly 320 miles from the Benjamin Couch farm in Dade County, but was only 40 miles from the county seat of Grayson County, Texas, I lean toward the conclusion that the Benjamin Couch family

had already moved to Grayson County before Josiah's enlistment in the Texas Cavalry in June of 1862.

We know that Benjamin Couch's son-in-law and daughter, James D. and Sarah Elizabeth (Couch) Hankins, were neighbors of Benjamin and Celia in Dade County in 1860. We suspect that James and Sarah also migrated from Dade County to Grayson County about the same time that Benjamin and Celia moved their family. James and Sarah may have accompanied them, or may have joined them in Texas after they got settled. Census records indicate that James and Sarah had a son who was born in Missouri in March of 1861, and another son born in Texas in May of 1866.

We suspect that James D. Hankins fought for the Confederacy while he and Sarah lived in Texas. A soldier by the name of James D. Hankins is listed as a Private in Company B of Martin's Texas Cavalry (CSA). We have no information as to when or where this James D. Hankins enlisted. We do know that the 9th Texas Partisan Ranger Battalion (CSA) and the 10th Texas Cavalry Battalion (CSA) were organized in the fall of 1862. On February 6, 1863 these two units were consolidated at Fort Washita, Indian Territory, to form the 5th Texas Partisan Rangers, also known as Martin's Texas Cavalry. If the James D. Hankins who served in Martin's Texas Cavalry was Benjamin Couch's son-in-law, the date of organization of the units which were later consolidated to form Martin's Texas Cavalry are consistent with our suspicion that Benjamin Couch moved his family to Texas in 1861. It is also worth noting that there was a Confederate war veteran named James D. Hankins living in Grayson County, Texas, with three dependents, in February of 1865. There is little reason to doubt that he was the son-in-law of Benjamin Couch.

Keith Couch, a grandson of Benjamin's son, Emanuel Couch, and a Couch family historian, is our source for an interesting family story about the Benjamin Couch family in the Civil War. The story was passed from Keith to Vernon O'Leary, who passed the story on to me. The story from Keith Couch indicates that Benjamin Couch fought for the Confederacy, and that he was accompanied in battle by his young son, Emanuel. Keith reported that two of Benjamin's older sons, Josiah and Avery, served in the Union army, and that Benjamin and his three sons all participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas [on March 7 and March 8, 1862]. If the story is true, Benjamin Couch would have been 46 years old, Josiah would have been 19, Avery would have been 18, and Emanuel would have been only ten years old. Keith reported that Emanuel served as a drummer boy, or water boy. The story also relates that when young Emanuel Couch saw his father, and other men, fall wounded on the battlefield, Emanuel picked up a gun from one of the fallen soldiers, with a pledge to kill Yankees.

Most family stories, passed down by word of mouth for generations, change over time. Details are mixed up, or forgotten, or modified, but most family stories retain at least a kernel of truth. Can we make any sense of this family story? We do know that Avery Couch, son of Benjamin Couch, was a member of the 9th Texas Cavalry (CSA) when that regiment participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge. So it is very likely that one of Benjamin's sons participated in that battle. While he would have participated as a Rebel,

rather than as a Yankee, Avery's participation in that battle may have been one of the events behind the family story.

To date, I have been unable to locate any records which suggest that any member of the Benjamin County family served in the Union Army. I have also been unable to locate any service records, Union or Confederate, for Benjamin Couch. When the war broke out, Benjamin was 45 years old, and it is likely that nine of his children were still living at home. This was not the profile of a man whom we would expect to volunteer for military service. But anything is possible, and I certainly don't dismiss this family story in its entirety.

If Benjamin Couch and his family remained in southwest Missouri after the sale of their Dade County land in April of 1861, it is possible that Benjamin and some of his sons could have participated in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Fought on August 10, 1861, the site of the battle was near Republic, Missouri, south of Springfield, and only 30 miles from where Benjamin and his family lived in Dade County. This bloody battle was the second major battle of the Civil War, and the first major battle west of the Mississippi River. Many Missouri men fought in this battle as members of the Missouri State Guard, organized by the secessionist Governor of Missouri in 1861 to protect the state from "invasion" by Federal forces. Only a few records of service in the Missouri State Guard survive, so we don't know the names of most of the men who served in the State Guard and fought at Wilson's Creek. Though I think it unlikely, it is possible that Benjamin and his sons could have fought at Wilson's Creek on August 10, as members of the Missouri State Guard, and then deserted and moved to Texas in time for Avery to enlist in the 4th Regiment of Texas Volunteers (CSA) on October 14.

The earliest written record we have found of Benjamin and Celia in Texas is an entry in the 1865 tax list for Grayson County. This list was probably compiled near the end, or shortly after the end, of the Civil War. It should be noted at this point that I have not searched any Grayson County tax lists prior to 1865. In 1865, Benjamin Couch was assessed State taxes of \$1.13 and County taxes of \$.81 on 18 horses, valued at \$540; 54 cattle, valued at \$280, 18 sheep, valued at \$36; and miscellaneous property valued at \$50. There is no indication that Benjamin owned any land.

In 1866, the Grayson County tax list indicates that Benjamin owned 14 horses, valued at \$560; 40 cattle, valued at \$192; and miscellaneous property valued at \$100. Benjamin was assessed a total of \$2.98 in state and county taxes, as well as a poll tax of \$1.00. Again, it did not appear that Benjamin owned any land.

In 1867, Benjamin Couch's name again appeared in the Grayson County tax list. He was assessed taxes based on his ownership of 20 horses, valued at \$600; 75 cattle, valued at \$375; 27 sheep, valued at \$54, and miscellaneous property valued at \$115. He paid a total of \$4.22 in state and county taxes, as well as a poll tax of \$1.00. Again, there is no indication that Benjamin owned any land.

Benjamin's first purchase of land in Grayson County apparently occurred on October 3, 1867, when Benjamin purchased 10 acres of land³¹ from W. D. Fisher for \$200. A survey of old Grayson County plat maps reveals that this 10 acres of land was located about one mile east of the present site of Sandusky, Texas. Sandusky, in turn, is located seventeen miles northwest of Sherman, in northwestern Grayson County.

The Grayson County tax records for 1868 reflect Benjamin's purchase of the 10 acres of land in 1867. The 1868 tax records indicate that Benjamin was assessed taxes on 10 acres of land from the tract first assigned to Wm Fisher, and valued at \$30; as well as 70 acres of land from the tract first assigned to Wm Tolson, and valued at \$210. Benjamin was also assessed taxes for 10 horses, valued at \$250; 20 cattle, valued at \$100; 22 sheep, valued at \$33; and miscellaneous property valued at \$200. Benjamin paid total state and county taxes of \$3.78, as well as a poll tax of \$1.00. Note that the 10 acres of land Benjamin purchased in 1867 for \$200 was valued, for tax purposes, at \$30.

The land records back in Dade County, Missouri, include the sale, for delinquent 1868 taxes, of nine properties. The nine properties totaled 480 acres, and the delinquent 1868 taxes totaled \$19.02. The Collector of Revenue for Dade County advertised the real estate for sale on June 20, 1869. When the taxes were still not paid by July 31, the properties were sold to Samuel A. Harshbarger, in October of 1869, for the taxes due. Benjamin Couch was listed as the owner of record for two of the properties, totaling 120 acres³², which were sold for back taxes. These two properties were sold to Samuel A. Harshbarger for \$4.60. It should be noted, however, that Benjamin previously sold this 120 acres of land to David J. Harrell in April of 1861. While I suppose it is possible that Benjamin could have reacquired ownership of this land through some default by David J. Harrell, I think it is more likely that the land had been abandoned by David Harrell, and that David Harrell never recorded his purchase of the land from Benjamin Couch. By official records, the land would still be in Benjamin Couch's name. Benjamin's nephew, William Stogsdill, was the owner of record of two of the other nine properties sold to Samuel A. Harshbarger.

The following year, back in Texas, the 1870 Grayson County tax records indicate that Benjamin was assessed taxes on 50 acres of land from the tract first assigned to William Tolson, and valued at \$150; as well as 62 acres of land from the tract first assigned to Carmon, and valued at \$186. Benjamin was also assessed taxes for 5 horses, valued at \$250; 22 cattle, valued at \$88; and miscellaneous property valued at \$230. He paid total state and county taxes of \$2.52, as well as a poll tax of \$1.00.

³¹ The land was "situated on the divide between Breshy [Brushy] and Sandy Creek, taken out of Qr. No. 2, section No. 7, League 42, University lands."

³² Described as the North ½ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 32, and the Northeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 31, all in Township 30 West of Range 25 North.

On October 8, 1870, Benjamin and Celia sold 30 acres of land to James R. Findley, of Grayson County, for \$450. James R. Findley was the father of William R. Findley, who had married Benjamin's daughter, Lydia Ellen, only six months earlier. The land that Benjamin sold to James Findley was "out of the N. E. corner of a 160 acre survey Patented to W. D. Tolson assignee of David Fisher."

Some time between 1866 and 1870, Benjamin's eldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, moved from Grayson County back to Dade County, Missouri, with her husband and children. In November of 1870, Benjamin and Celia and their four youngest children appeared in the 1870 census in Grayson County. Benjamin valued his real estate at \$1000, and his personal property at \$500.

Researchers reviewing the 1870 Grayson County census record for the Benjamin Couch family will note that S. P. Couch and Nancy Couch, aged 37 and 27, were listed "next door" to Benjamin and Celia in the 1870 census. One would assume that S. P. Couch and Benjamin Couch were probably related. To date, I have not been able to establish a relationship between these two men. My limited research, much of which is unproven, suggests that S. P. Couch was Sidney Pinckney Couch, son of Jacob Bull Couch and Elizabeth Clanton. My research suggests that Sidney Pinckney Couch was born in Pulaski County, Arkansas, on September 8, 1835, and that he married Nancy Jane Norwood in Grayson County, Texas, on February 6, 1859. Some Couch family researchers report that Jacob Bull Couch was the son of a Thomas Couch Jr., and was born in Orange County, North Carolina, about 1800. Jacob Bull Couch reportedly married Elizabeth Clanton in Pulaski County, Arkansas, on September 6, 1829.

Reviewing the 1870 Grayson County census, the reader may also note that only six dwellings separated the household of S. P. and Nancy Couch from the household of 65-year-old E. Couch, and his 58-year-old wife, Julia Ann Couch. Was E. Couch related to either Benjamin Couch or Sidney Pinckney Couch? Again, my research on this Couch family should be considered as unverified. This E. Couch was identified in the census as a minister, and was born in South Carolina. I believe the E. Couch was actually Ezekiel Couch. I believe that I have located Ezekiel Couch and his wife in the 1830 census of Hardin County, Tennessee, and in the 1840 census of Tippah County, Mississippi. There is a land transaction in Tippah County dated November 20, 1840, reflecting the sale of property in the town of Ripley by Ezekiel Couch and Juliann Couch. In 1842, an Ezekiel Couch was issued a land grant for 160 acres in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. I have not been able to locate Ezekiel and Julia Ann in the 1850 census, but suspect that they may have been living in the Indian Territory. In 1852, when the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded a school called the Colbert Institute at Perryville, in the Choctaw Nation of the Indian Territory, a man named Ezekiel Couch was in charge of the school. Ezekiel and Julia appear in both the 1860 and the 1870 census of Grayson County, are buried in the Sandusky Cemetery, in Grayson County. I believe that Ezekiel was born on May 1, 1805, and died on April 21, 1880. Julia Ann was apparently born on February 4, 1812, and died on December 18, 1887. At this point, I have not found any evidence of a relationship between Benjamin Couch, Sidney Pinckney Couch, and Ezekiel Couch. It may just be a coincidence that they lived so close to one another in Grayson County.

After living in Grayson County for nearly ten years, Benjamin and Celia moved their family again. The records relating to Celia Couch's application for a Widow's Pension include a promissory note, dated June 19, 1871, and signed in Grayson County, Texas by Benjamin Couch's mark. The note promised

"to pay Samuel A. Roberts on order nine hundred and ninety Dollars specie with interest at 10 per cent from date, on the first day of January 1872 it being in part payment of a tract of land this day purchased by me from said Roberts off of the Chas. Scarborough Head Right Cook Co Texas".

It appears that Benjamin, still a resident of Grayson County, was purchasing land in Cooke County. Another note indicated that \$355 was paid on the note on July 29, 1871, and \$500 was paid on October 30, 1871. There is also a note indicating that the promissory note had been paid in full.

There is an interesting, and possibly related, document among the land records of Grayson County. It reads as follows:

"Know all men by these presents. That I have this day for and in considration of the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars. Bargained Sold and conveyed. And by these presents do bargain sell and convey unto P. B. Scarbrough all of my labor that I may have put on the said P. B. Scarbrough's Land. Situated in the north west Part of Grayson County between the waters of Sandy & Brushy creeks Including Houses Fencing & Fruit trees Excepting select rails enough to make a good & lawful fence beginning at the S. E. corner of Benj Couche's cow lot & running with said Couche's Line to the Head of a Branch at or near the S. E. Corner of the said Couches tract of land.

Given under our hands & C Aug 10 1871

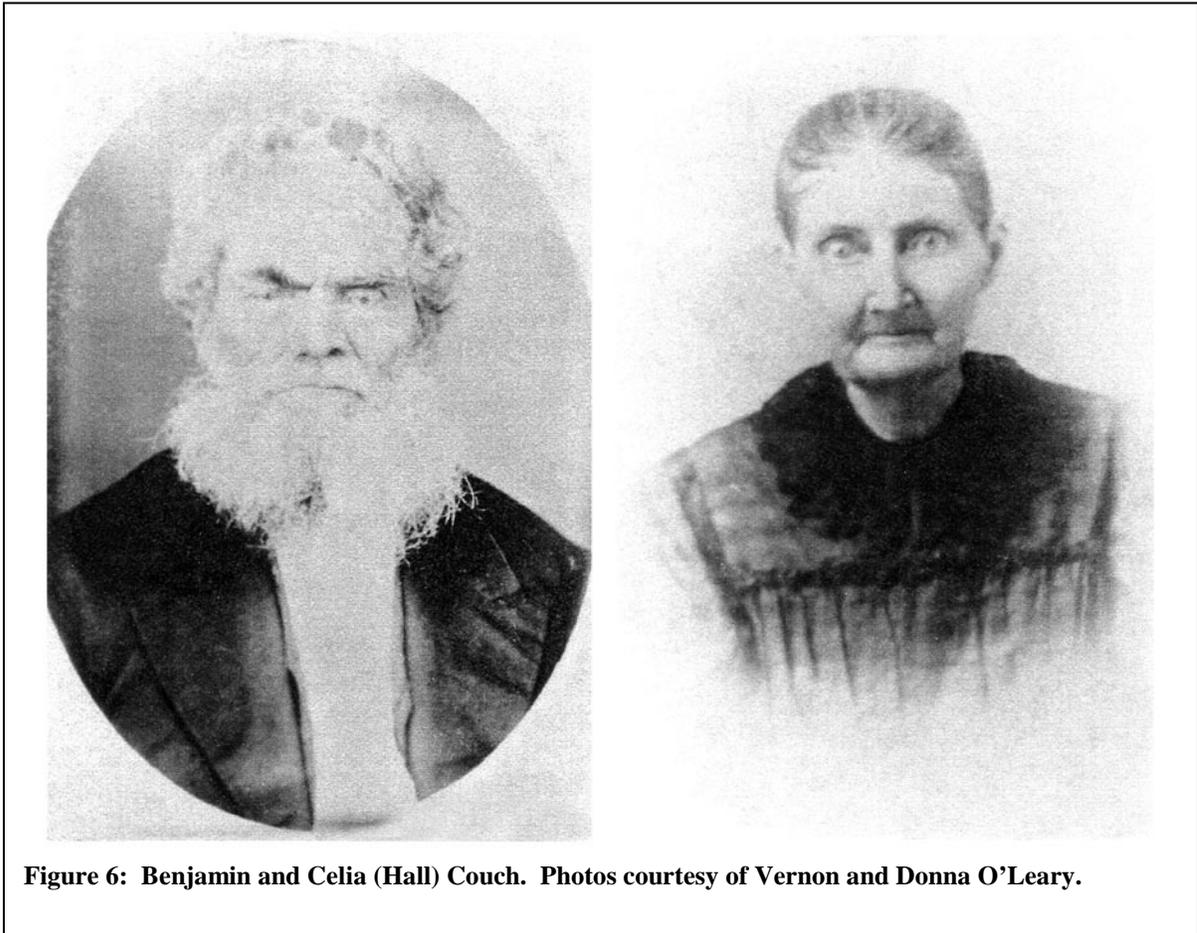
Witness. We Benj Couch & Celia Couch both agree to give the said Scarbrough possession of the houses by the 25th day of Dec. 1871.

Benj X Couch
Celia X Couch"

While the exact nature of the document is unclear, I suspect that Benjamin and Celia had been living on P. B. Scarbrough's land, and had been asked to leave. The reference to "Couche's Line" and "said Couches tract of land" suggests that the land on which the houses being vacated were situated may have been immediately adjacent to land owned by Benjamin Couch. And, indeed, the two dwellings listed immediately prior to Benjamin Couch's dwelling in the 1870 census were occupied by the "B. Scarbrough" family, and the "G. W. Scarbrough" family. B. Scarbrough was 53 years of age, and valued his real estate at \$1300. G. W. Scarbrough was 38 years of age, and valued his real estate at \$600. I suspect that G. W. Scarbrough was a son of B. Scarbrough, and that B.

Scarborough was the P. B. Scarbrough who was apparently repossessing houses located on his property. B. Scarborough had eight children living at home, so perhaps he had reached the point where his family needed the dwellings that Benjamin and his family were occupying.

It appears that Benjamin and Celia agreed to vacate the houses once Scarbrough paid Benjamin \$350 for the improvements that Benjamin had made to the land. The reference to “houses” may suggest that Benjamin and Celia were agreeing to the move of multiple families. It would not be surprising to learn that the family of S. P. Couch, who apparently lived in a dwelling listed “next door” to Benjamin and Celia in the 1870 census, was also involved in this relocation.



The 1871 tax rolls for Grayson County document that Benjamin was assessed for five horses, valued at \$400; 22 cattle, assessed at \$110; 26 sheep, assessed at \$39; other live stock assessed at \$30; merchandise assessed at \$128; and other articles assessed at \$75, for a total of \$782. He paid \$4.31 in state taxes, and \$9.39 in county taxes, as well as state poll tax of \$2.50, and county poll tax of \$.25. Benjamin was also assessed \$4.13 in state taxes, and \$9.00 in county taxes, on 50 acres of land valued at \$750. The land was located on the plat originally surveyed for William Tolson.

It does appear that Benjamin and Celia were making plans, in August of 1871, to move from Grayson County to Cooke County. On December 1, 1871, Benjamin and Celia Couch, of Cooke County, Texas, sold 50 acres of land³³ in Grayson County to George L. Scott for \$1200.

In 1872, Benjamin again appeared on the Grayson County tax rolls. He was assessed for 160 acres of land first assigned to Samuel Craig, and valued at \$960. He had six horses valued at \$200, ten cattle valued at \$60, money on hand of \$170, and miscellaneous property valued at \$30. Benjamin was assessed state and county taxes of \$23.80. Benjamin Couch's name disappeared from the Grayson County tax rolls after 1872.

Our next record of Benjamin and Celia is dated June of 1880, when the couple was enumerated in the census of Cooke County. Listed "next door" to Benjamin and Celia was the family of their 30-year-old daughter, Lavisia, and her husband and six children. And listed "next door" to Lavisia's family were Benjamin's 20-year-old son, Samuel, and Samuel's wife and daughter.

But Cooke County would not be the final stop for Benjamin and Celia. They made one final move, to Montague County, Texas. We don't know when they made the move to Montague County, but it must have been after the 1880 census was enumerated, and before November of 1884, when Benjamin Couch paid \$5.72 in County and State taxes in Montague County.

There are a number of deeds filed in Montague County involving Benjamin and Celia Couch, and Benjamin's son, Samuel Couch. At least 13 of these deeds, dated between 1881 and 1889, involve the purchase and sale of land in Titus County, Texas. On the surface, these deeds seem to suggest that Benjamin and Samuel may have been speculating in Titus County land.

In her pension application, Celia stated that Benjamin died at Salona, in Montague County, Texas, on June 23, 1889, at the age of 71. We believe that Benjamin was 73 years old when he died. A statement filed by "J. Younger, Physician & Surgeon", of Sunset, Texas, certified that Dr. Younger attended Benjamin Couch in his last illness, and confirmed the date of Benjamin's death. Keith Couch reports that Benjamin died of pneumonia. Benjamin was buried in the Salona Cemetery, a church grave yard near Salona, about five miles southeast of Bowie, Texas. Benjamin's gravestone lists his date of birth as December 13, 1815, and his date of death as June 22, 1889.

³³ The land was "on the waters of Brush Creek and being a part of the ¼ section No. 2 of fraction section No. 7 and League 42 of University land, the same being patented to W. D. Tolson on the 22nd day of Oct 1863".

We believe that Celia was 67 years old when Benjamin died. She did not remarry. The wonderful photos of Benjamin and Celia (see Figure 6 on page 102) were generously provided by Vernon O'Leary. We don't know when the photos were taken, but are fortunate to have them. The photo of Benjamin was obviously taken in his later years. With his full head of hair, his beard, and his piercing eyes, the photo leaves the impression of a strong individual—a man to be dealt with! The photo of Celia may have been taken at the same time as Benjamin's photo, but I suspect that it was not. It could have been taken after Benjamin's death.

On September 12, 1892, Celia filed a "Declaration of Widow for Pension" under the Indian War Pension Act of July 27, 1892, which made pensions available to survivors of the various Indian Wars and their widows. Celia listed her residence as Salona, Texas, where she had continued to live after Benjamin's death three years earlier. Celia was unable to write, and signed all of her papers with her mark. She also stated that Benjamin "could not write, he always made his mark". Celia was granted a Widow's Pension on November 2, 1893. The pension paid her the standard rate of \$8.00 per month, retroactive to July 27, 1892, which was the effective date of the government act authorizing the pension.

In June of 1900, Celia was living in Montague County with the family of her youngest daughter, Delila. Celia was probably living with Delila and her family when Celia died on November 13, 1901. Celia was buried with Benjamin in the Salona Cemetery. We believe that Celia was 79 years old when she died. Her grave stone, however, lists her date of birth as January 24, 1819, and her date of death as November 13, 1901.

Sarah Elizabeth Couch

The Emanuel Couch family Bible lists the date of birth of “Sarah Alesabeth Couch” as February 24, 1840. Census records consistently indicate that Sarah was born in Missouri, and we know that Sarah’s parents were listed in the 1840 census of Ripley County, Missouri. We also know that Sarah’s parents were in Greene County, Missouri, in 1850, and moved to Dade County shortly thereafter.

We don’t know where Sarah was married, but believe that her family was living in Dade County when Sarah married James D. Hankins in 1857 or 1858. James was the son of George Washington and Margaret Hankins. I believe that James was born in Ohio in March of 1836. The George Washington Hankins family migrated to Missouri in the early 1840’s, and was in Dade County in 1850 and 1860. Sarah was about 18 years old when she and James married, and James was about 22.

In June of 1859, James received a land patent for 40 acres of Dade County land located one mile south and 1/2 mile west of Everton. And, about July of 1859, James and Sarah had a daughter they named Mary Margaret Hankins. James and Sarah and their daughter are listed in the 1860 census of Dade County. James valued his farm at \$150, and his personal property at \$300. Their household was separated in the census records by only one other household from that of Sarah's parents, Benjamin and Celia Couch.

James and Sarah were still in Missouri when their second child, Benjamin Franklin Hankins, was born in March of 1861. We believe that James and Sarah moved to Grayson County, Texas, soon after Benjamin’s birth. While living in Texas, we believe that James served the Confederacy as a soldier in Company B of the 5th Texas Partisan Rangers (Martin's Texas Cavalry). James and Sarah were apparently still living in Grayson County when a second son, George W. Hankins, was born on May 8, 1866.

A daughter, Annis Elizabeth Hankins, was born to James and Sarah back in Missouri in February of 1870. And in July of 1870, James and Sarah and their four children appeared in the census of Polk Township, in Dade County. Their farm, which was valued at \$600, was listed “next door” to the Dade County farm of James Hankins’ parents.

Two more daughters were born in Missouri. Angelina Hankins was born in January of 1872, and Caroline Hankins in March of 1874. Then, in 1874 or early 1875, James and Sarah moved to Kansas, where another daughter, Ella Hankins, was born in May of 1876. In June of 1880, James and Sarah and their seven children were enumerated in the census of Osage Township, in Crawford County, Kansas. James and Sarah apparently remained in Osage Township of Crawford County for the rest of their lives, as they also appear in the 1900 Osage Township census, when Sarah listed her occupation as “carpet weaver”, and in the 1910 Osage Township census. James died at McCune, Kansas, on January 15, 1915, and was buried in the McCune Cemetery. Sarah died at McCune on August 6, 1916, at age 76, and was buried beside James in the McCune Cemetery.

Josiah Couch

According to the Emanuel Couch family Bible, Josiah Couch was born on June 1, 1842. When the Civil War began in April of 1861, Josiah would have been 18 years old. Family tradition relates that Josiah served in the Civil War as a Yankee, was wounded, and had to use a cane as a result of his injuries. To date, no evidence has been located to suggest that Josiah ever fought for the Union cause. To the contrary, there is strong evidence suggesting that Josiah fought for the Confederacy. The Muster Roll of Captain John Scanland's Squadron, Company A, Texas Cavalry (Confederate), includes the name of Josiah Couch. Josiah was enrolled as a Private by Captain Scanland at Ft. McCulloch, in Indian Territory, on June 23, 1862.

There is some evidence to suggest that Josiah was married before, or during, the Civil War. A list of families of Confederate soldiers who were eligible for Texas state aid and were living in Grayson County, dated February 13, 1865, includes the family of a Josiah Couch. The entry indicates that there were two dependents in Josiah's family. If the Josiah Couch whose name appears on this list was Benjamin Couch's son, as we suspect, the reference to two dependents suggests that Josiah had a wife and a child in 1865. Vernon O'Leary reports a family tradition that Josiah had a son, named Frank Couch, who was raised by Josiah's sister, Mary Jane (Couch) Morris, and her husband, after Josiah's death. If true, it is possible that Frank Couch was one of the two dependents referenced by the 1865 list of dependents eligible for state aid.

The marriage records of Grayson County include the marriage of Josiah Couch to Minerva E. Morris on April 7, 1870. This marriage was performed on the same day that Josiah's sister, Lydia, was married. The Emanuel Couch family Bible indicates that Josiah died in 1873. Family tradition suggests that Josiah died in a fall from a tree while coon hunting. He is reported to have landed on his cane, killing him.

There is some circumstantial evidence to suggest that Josiah may have had another son. Additional research will be needed to establish whether this was actually the case. For now, I will simply present some facts that need to be studied more closely. First, a Mrs. Minerva Couch was married to Littleton M. Waldrum in Montague County, Texas, on February 6, 1880. Second, the L. M. Waldrum family is listed in the 1880 census of Precinct 1, Montague County. L. M. Waldrum was 56, and born in Tennessee. His wife was M. E. Waldrum, age 40, born in Arkansas. The children in the household, all born in Texas, were Surena Waldrum, daughter, age 13; A. M. Waldrum, son, age 9; and Benone Couch, stepdaughter, age 2. It would appear that either the Josiah Couch who married Minerva Morris was not Benjamin Couch's son, or that Josiah died later than 1873. The L. M. Waldrum family also appears in the 1870 census of Grayson County. Third, in 1900, the census of Fannin County includes the household of "Ben??? Couch", a male, born in Texas in 1877, with his wife, Ella, his daughter, Mary, and his mother, Miner?? Waldrum, who was born in Arkansas in 1841. Fourth, Benonie Couch and his wife, Ella, and their two daughters, appear in the 1910 census of Grayson County, Texas.

Avery Couch

According to the Emanuel Couch family Bible, Avery Couch was born on January 27, 1844. Avery would have been 17 years old when the Civil War commenced. There is a family tradition that Avery served in the Civil War as a Yankee, and that he was killed in combat during the war. The available facts do not substantiate that family tradition. Avery was enrolled as a Private in Captain M. J. Brinson's Company of the 4th Regiment Volunteers (Confederate) at Camp Reeves, in Grayson County, Texas, on October 14, 1861, only six months after the war began.

If Avery's date of birth in the Emanuel Couch family Bible is correct, he may have lied about his age when he enrolled, as his age is listed as 18. It is interesting to note that the Muster-in Roll indicates that it was "100 miles to rendezvous". I believe that Avery, and the other men in his company, were actually recruited by Captain Brinson at Fort Worth, in Tarrant County, Texas, where he was a leading citizen, and that Captain Brinson and his recruits then traveled from Tarrant County to Camp Reeves, in Grayson County, for enrollment. The distance from Fort Worth to Camp Reeves was about 90 miles. Captain M. J. Brinson's Company of the 4th Regiment Volunteers subsequently became Company D of the 9th Regiment of Texas Cavalry (Confederate).

The service of the 9th Texas Cavalry is well documented, for anyone who has an interest in learning more about the regiment's activities during the war. The unit participated in a number of major battles and campaigns, including the Battle of Pea Ridge in March of 1862. Avery was slightly wounded in the Battle of Corinth, fought on October 3-4, 1862. During the Battle of Middleburg, Tennessee, on December 24, 1862, Avery was captured by Union forces near Bolivar, Tennessee. On January 24, 1863, Avery was admitted to a Union hospital in St. Louis with a fever. A few days later, Avery was diagnosed with variola (smallpox), and was sent to the Smallpox Hospital in St. Louis. He was returned from the Smallpox Hospital to the Provost Marshal General on March 9, 1863, and imprisoned in the Gratiot Street Prison, a Civil War Union prison in St. Louis. On April 2, 1863, Avery was among several hundred prisoners sent to Allen's Point, Virginia, for a prisoner exchange. Avery must have been successfully exchanged, as he was marked as present on his Company's muster roll at the end of April.

Avery continued to serve in Company D, and was apparently promoted from Private to 3rd Sergeant in July or August of 1863. Avery was marked as absent from his Company due to sickness at the end of June, 1864. We do not have any record to substantiate his service after that date. The 9th Texas Cavalry surrendered in Alabama in May of 1865.

The Emanuel Couch family Bible records that Avery died on December 24, 1865, a month shy of his 22nd birthday, and only a few months after the end of the Civil War. We can only assume that he returned home to Grayson County, Texas, during or after the war, where he probably died of injuries suffered, and/or disease contracted, during the war.

Mary Jane Couch

Mary Jane Couch remains, for the most part, a mystery. The date of Mary Jane Couch's birth was recorded in the Emanuel Couch family Bible, along with the dates of birth of all her siblings. However, a portion of the entry listing Mary Jane's date of birth is missing. Two snippets remain. The entry now reads "___ Jaine Couch was ___ 2th of September ___". The Bible records and census records provide logical arguments for both 1845 and 1846 as the year of Mary Jane Couch's birth. Though we have no direct evidence of her birthplace, census records indicate that she was born in Missouri, and we presume that she was born in Oregon County.

As a child, Mary Jane would have migrated with her family from Oregon County, Missouri, to Greene County, then to Dade County, and then to Grayson County, Texas. We suspect that Mary Jane was the first of Benjamin Couch's children to marry after the family moved to Texas. The marriage records of Grayson County include two marriages of interest to us. The first record indicates that a Mary J. Couch married Geo Morris on June 28, 1863. The second record indicates that a Mary J. Couch married R. T. Hailey (or Bailey) on April 1, 1864.

Either, or both, of these Grayson County marriage records could represent the marriage(s) of Benjamin and Celia Couch's daughter. We have had no success in locating either of these married couples in the 1870 census. Our sole basis for selecting one of the two marriages as that of Benjamin Couch's daughter is family information passed along to us by Vernon O'Leary. Vernon indicated that Mary Jane Couch, daughter of Benjamin Couch, was married to Nation George Morris.

We know very little about Nation George Morris. Was George related to the Morris men married by Mary Jane's sisters, Lavisa and Susannah? Kathy Knickmeyer has researched the Morris family connections, and finds no relationship. Why was Mary Jane's husband called "Nation" George Morris. Kathy speculates that George may have lived in one of the Indian Nations, in Indian Territory, before or after his marriage to Mary Jane Couch. "Nation" George may have been a nickname used within the family to avoid confusion with the George Kelly Morris who married Mary Jane Couch's sister, Susannah.

We are aware of one early record that may be a reference to Nation George Morris. A list of families of Confederate soldiers who were eligible for Texas state aid and were living in Grayson County, dated February 13, 1865, included the family of a George Morris. The list indicates that this George Morris had two dependents. This George Morris could have been the husband of Mary Jane Couch, as it is certainly reasonable to assume that he and Mary Jane would have had one child prior to February of 1865.

The Emanuel Couch family Bible indicates that Mary Jane died on September 1, 1877. While the date is a bit difficult to read, we accept this as the correct date for Mary Jane's death. We know nothing about where she died, or where she is buried.

James Madison Couch

James Madison Couch was born in 1847. Based on what we know about his parents, we believe that it is likely that James was the last child born to Benjamin and Celia in Oregon County, Missouri. James died as an infant, and our only information about him comes from the Emanuel Couch family Bible. The Bible records his date of birth as June 6, 1847. The date of his death, as recorded in the Bible, is difficult to read. It appears that James died on either September 3, 1847, or October 3, 1847.

Lavisa 'Visa' Couch

The Emanuel Couch family Bible indicates that Lavisa 'Visa' Couch was born on November 10, 1849. She was probably born in Greene County, Missouri, shortly before her parents moved to Dade County. She would have been approximately twelve years old when her family moved to Texas.

Lavisa was married in Grayson County, Texas, on March 17, 1864, to John T. Pettygrew. John and Lavisa had at least two children. William Monroe 'Will' Pettygrew was born in Grayson County on March 31, 1865. Sarah Elizabeth 'Sally' Pettygrew was probably born in Grayson County on October 18, 1868.

Between 1868 and 1871, Lavisa's marriage to John T. Pettygrew ended. It is likely that John died. And something apparently brought Lavisa back from Texas to her childhood home in Dade County, Missouri. Perhaps she moved her two children back to Dade County to live with the family of her older sister, Sarah (Couch) Hankins. On November 30, 1871, Lavisa was married in Dade County to John Wesley Morris, son of Jesse Elender Morris and Anna Harriet 'Ann' Mathews. John, born in Missouri on March 16, 1849, was only eight months older than Lavisa, and they may have been childhood friends. In 1860, only five households separated the Jesse Morris household from the Benjamin Couch household in the Dade County census. In the 1870 Dade County census, a year before John and Lavisa married, only six households separated John and his widowed mother and five of his siblings from Lavisa's sister, Sarah, and her family.

Soon after their marriage, John and Lavisa started their own family. A daughter, Anna Cecilia 'Annie' Morris, was born in Dade County on November 10, 1872. By December 10, 1875, when their son, Benjamin Kelly Morris, was born, John and Lavisa had moved their family to Cooke County, Texas, where we believe the rest of their children were born. Nancy Caroline 'Callie' Morris was born on December 31, 1877; Frances Hannah 'Fannie' Morris was born on December 31, 1879; John Thomas 'Tom' Morris was born on October 26, 1881; Nora Delia Morris was born on January 18, 1884; Samuel James 'Sam' Morris was born in April of 1886; and Lydia Bethany 'Liddie' Morris was born on May 21, 1888. Lavisa also had two children we have not yet identified.

Some time between 1888 and 1891, John and Lavisa moved their family from Texas to Indian Territory. Kathy Knickmeyer reports that John Wesley Morris died in the Chickasaw Nation of Indian Territory on November 10, 1891. John's death, on Lavisa's 42nd birthday, left Lavisa with at least ten children between the ages of three and twenty-seven. In 1900, the census of the Chickasaw Nation indicates that Lavisa was living on a rented farm with her two youngest children, Sam and Liddie. By 1910, both Sam and Liddie had married, and Lavisa was living with Sam and his new bride in Carter County, Oklahoma. Kathy reports that Lavisa died on March 21, 1927, soon after falling in her garden and breaking her hip. Kathy also reports that Lavisa is buried in the Bomar Point Cemetery, near Wilson, Oklahoma.

Emanuel 'Bud' Couch

Our best source for Emanuel 'Bud' Couch's date of birth is the Emanuel Couch family Bible, which provides a date of May 11, 1851. Emanuel was probably ten or eleven years old when he moved to Texas with his family. On April 26, 1869, Emanuel was married in Grayson County, Texas, to Sarah Wilson 'Sally' Bowen.

Sarah Bowen, the daughter of Stephen and Mary Ann (Wilson) Bowen, was born in North Carolina on June 24, 1850. The 1850 census places the Stephen Bowen family in Dulpin County, North Carolina, in the summer of 1850. After spending a few years in Georgia during the 1850's, the Stephen Bowen family was living in Louisiana in 1860, and in Grayson County, Texas, by 1870.

Emanuel and Sarah never seemed to stay in one place very long. Their first child, James Avery Couch, was not born until August 27, 1875, six years after their marriage. James was born in Grayson County. A daughter, Nancy Ellen Couch, was born at Van Buren, Arkansas, on April 16, 1878. Vernon O'Leary reports that Emanuel moved his family to Indian Territory in 1879. Luther R. Couch was born on June 2 of 1880.

By December 17, 1883, when Laura Ruth Couch was born, Emanuel and Sarah were living in Montague County, Texas. Their next son, Lemuel Leonard Couch, was born at Mountainburg, Arkansas, on January 4, 1890. When their last child, George Delmer Couch, was born on August 30, 1892, the family was living at Durwood, in the Chickasaw Nation in Indian Territory. Emanuel and Sarah apparently remained in the Durwood area for several years, as their son, Luther, was buried near Durwood when he died in January of 1898 at 17 years of age.

In June of 1900, the Emanuel Couch family were living on a rented farm in the Chickasaw Nation. When a lottery was used to allocate approximately 2,000,000 acres of former Indian lands in southwest Oklahoma on August 6, 1901, Emanuel's eldest son, James, was one of the fortunate applicants who had their names drawn. In 1902, Emanuel and Sarah and four of their children moved by covered wagon from Durwood to Texowa (later renamed Davidson), in the Commanche Nation, to help settle the land allocated to James by the lottery.

In April of 1910, census records indicate that Emanuel and Sarah, along with their youngest son, George, were living on a farm that Emanuel owned in Mountain Park Township of Kiowa County, Oklahoma. In April of 1930, Emanuel and Sarah were living with their son, James, on a farm that James owned in Hidalgo County, Texas. Sarah died at Donna, in Hidalgo County, on October 17, 1930. She was buried at Donna. After Sarah's death, Emanuel lived with his son, James, until James died in March of 1932. Emanuel then lived with his youngest son, George, near Davidson, in Tillman County, Oklahoma, until Emanuel died on March 30, 1934. Emanuel was buried in the Davidson Cemetery.

Lydia Ellen 'Liddie' Couch

The Emanuel Couch family Bible indicates that Lydia Ellen Couch was born on March 28, 1853. We are confident that Lydia was born in Missouri, and suspect that she was born in Dade County. Lydia moved to Texas with her family when she was about eight or nine years old.

Lydia was married to William Robertson 'Bill' Findley in Grayson County, Texas, on April 7, 1870. William Findley, the son of James R. and Martha Jane (Moore) Findley, was born in Alabama on October 12, 1851. Census records suggest that the James R. Findley family migrated from Alabama to Texas between 1851 and 1855, and the family is listed in the 1860 census of Grayson County. William was 19 years old, and Lydia was 17, when the couple married.

It is quite possible that William and Lydia lost their first child, or perhaps their first two children. The first child whom we can identify was John Edd Findley, born on July 29, 1874. Their next child, Victoria C. Findley, was born in 1876 or 1877, and James Benjamin Findley was born on December 13, 1878. In June of 1880, William and Lydia and their three children were listed in the census of Grayson County. William reported that he worked as a laborer, and the census enumerator noted that William suffered from rheumatism. The William Robertson Findley household was separated in the census records by only two households from the household of William's parents.

Aquilla Findley was born to William and Lydia on August 3, 1881, and Mary Findley was born in January of 1884. By the time that Albert Bradley Findley was born on November 3, 1889, William and Lydia were living near Callisburg, in Cooke County, Texas. Lydia Ellen (Couch) Findley died on June 3, 1895, at 42 years of age. She was buried in the Berry Cemetery, located near Gordonville, in Grayson County.

Following Lydia's death, William married Temperance Loooper, a widow with three young children. Between 1895 and 1900, William and Temperance had two children of their own. Ollie M. Findley was born in October of 1896, and Asa M. Findley was born in February of 1899. In June of 1900, William and Temperance were living on a farm that William owned in Cooke County, with William's three youngest children from his first marriage, the two children born to William and Temperance, and Temperance's three children from her first marriage.

Dora D. Findley was born to William and Temperance in 1901 or 1902, and Willa Findley was born in 1903 or 1904. In April of 1910, William and Temperance and six of their children were living on William's Cooke County farm. In February of 1920, William was still living on his Cooke County farm, but listed his occupation as a merchant in a drug store. William Robertson Findley died in Cooke County, Texas, on December 28, 1922, at 71 years of age, and was buried with Lydia in the Berry Cemetery. Temperance died in Cooke County on November 23, 1929.

William Riley 'Billie' Couch

From the old Emanuel Couch family Bible, we learn that William Riley Couch was born on February 1, 1856. We are confident that William's parents were residents of Dade County, Missouri, when William was born. Just five years old when the Civil War began, William saw his older brothers go off to war, but did not experience the war as a soldier.

On January 12, 1878, shortly before his 22nd birthday, William was married to 23-year-old Mary E. Brown. We are indebted to Evelyn Franklin, a descendant of the William S. Brown family, for her assistance in identifying William Couch's wife. Mary Brown, the daughter of William S. and Nancy J. Brown, was born in Indiana on October 31, 1854. The William S. Brown family was in Putnam County, Indiana, in 1860, and in Pike County, Illinois, in 1870. We don't know where William Couch and Mary Brown were married, but note that Mary's widowed father, and four of Mary's siblings, were living in Grayson County, Texas, in 1880, only two years after William and Mary were married.

A son, Arville Artist Couch, was born to William and Mary on November 18, 1879. In June of 1880, William and Mary and Arville were listed in the census of Cooke County, Texas, the same county where William's parents were living. On February 26, 1887, William and Mary became parents again with the birth of a daughter, Willie Couch. The gap of more than seven years between the births of Arville and Willie suggests that William and Mary lost at least two or three children.

We don't know when William Riley Couch died. Family tradition indicates that he died near Salona, in Montague County, and is buried in an unmarked grave just one rock west of his father in the Salona Cemetery. William probably died shortly before, or soon after, the birth of his daughter, Willie Couch. Evelyn Franklin reports that William's wife, Mary E. (Brown) Couch, was married to J. P. Jones in Fannin County, Texas, on October 21, 1888. Mary's marriage to J. P. Jones produced at least two children, both born in Texas. Fannie Jones was born in July of 1892, and Lee Jones was born in June of 1897.

J. P. Jones apparently died between 1897 and 1900. In June of 1900, Mary E. (Brown) Couch Jones was enumerated in the census of Fannin County. Mary reported that she was a widow, that she was the mother of eleven children, and that four of her children were still living. Living with Mary were four step-children, aged 18 to 25, from her marriage to J. P. Jones, her two children, aged 20 and 13, from her marriage to William Riley Couch, and her two children, aged 7 and 2, from her marriage to J. P. Jones. Mary and her eight children were living on a rented farm in Fannin County.

Mary died a few months later, on February 9, 1901, at 46 years of age. We have not located Mary's grave, nor do we know who cared for her children after her death.

Susannah 'Susie' Couch

Susannah Couch was born on December 23, 1857. While we can't be sure, we assume that she was born in Dade County, Missouri. Susannah was probably only three or four years old when her family moved to Texas, where she was undoubtedly raised in Grayson County, and then Cooke County. It was in Cooke County that Susannah was married to George Kelly Morris on February 3, 1876.

George Kelly Morris was the son of Jesse Elender Morris and Anna Harriet Mathews. According to Kathy Knickmeyer, George was born in Lawrence County, Missouri, on July 14, 1853. By 1860, the Jesse Morris family was living in Dade County, where only five households separated the Jesse Morris household from the Benjamin Couch household in the 1860 census. So we can be confident that George and Susannah first met as young children. But it appears that the two children were separated for a number of years. While Susannah moved to Texas with her family in the early 1860's, George's family remained in Dade County. Susannah's older sister, Lavisia, returned to Dade County about 1870, and married one of George's brothers, John Wesley Morris.

The Morris family moved from Dade County to Texas some time between 1871 and 1875. When George and Susannah were married in 1876, George was 22 years old and Susannah was 18. Following their marriage, George and Susannah began married life together in Cooke County, where William Jesse Morris was born on January 14, 1877, and Henry Morris was born on September 26, 1878. The 1880 Cooke County census lists George and Susannah and their two young sons, living "next door" to the family of George's sister and her husband, Ambrose and Sarah Pirtle, and "next door" to George's mother and youngest brother. They were separated by only one household from the family of Susannah's brother, William Riley Couch. George and Susannah had one more child while living in Cooke County, as Sarah Frances Morris was born there on November 13, 1880. By the time Mary Ann Morris was born on February 24, 1883, George and Susannah had moved their family to a farm near Salona, in Montague County, Texas. Also born near Salona were Charles Wesley Morris, born on February 15, 1885, and Lydia Caroline Morris, born on April 17, 1887. In 1889, George and Susannah moved their family to Canadian County, in the Oklahoma Territory. While living in Oklahoma, Rosa Ellen Morris was born on May 18, 1889, and James Thomas Morris was born on May 5, 1892.

After farming for a few years in Oklahoma, George and Susannah moved their family back to the Salona area, where Samuel Alfred Morris was born on June 9, 1895, Minnie May Morris was born on January 25, 1900, and Tennie Omas Morris was born on July 18, 1901. In 1910, George and Susannah and three of their children were residents of Archer County, Texas. In 1920, George and Susannah were residents of Throckmorton County, Texas, and in 1930, they were residents of Hidalgo County, Texas. Susannah died at Donna, Texas, on March 19, 1931, at the age of 73. She was buried in the Donna City Cemetery. George died at Donna on January 26, 1932, at the age of 78.

Samuel Benjamin 'Sam' Couch

When Samuel Benjamin 'Sam' Couch was born, on March 20, 1860, his parents were still living in Dade County, Missouri. Samuel would be the last of the children born in Missouri, and would have been an infant or toddler when the family migrated to Texas. Samuel undoubtedly grew up in Grayson County and in Cooke County, where he and Rachel Lucinda Cross were married in 1877.

Rachel was the daughter of Elkanah and Mary Margaret (Hawkins) Cross, who were married in Ralls County, Missouri, in November of 1854. Rachel was born some where in Missouri on August 14, 1857. In 1860, the Cross family was living in Bates County, Missouri, and in 1870 in Barry County. Samuel and Rachel were married on November 1, 1877, when Samuel was 17, and Rachel was 20.

After their marriage, Samuel and Rachel apparently began married life together in Cooke County. Their first daughter, Maulcy Gertrude Couch, was born on July 26, 1878. The young couple and their daughter appeared in the 1880 census of Cooke County, living "next door" to the family of Samuel's sister, Lavisia (Couch) Morris, who in turn lived "next door" to Samuel's parents.

Over the next twenty years, Samuel and Rachel became parents nine more times. Gilbert Couch was born on November 6, 1880; Lilla L. Couch on April 6, 1883; Lamatin Couch on September 12, 1885; and Ethel Alto Couch on April 8, 1889. Gladys T. Couch was born on January 8, 1892. Twins Virgil L. Couch and May Cleo Couch were born on March 16, 1895, Gasaway Benjamin Couch was born on December 22, 1897, and Ruby Eleanor Couch was born on May 16, 1900.

Some time between 1880 and 1900, Samuel and Rachel moved their family from Cooke County to Montague County, Texas. It would not be surprising to learn that they made the move about the same time that Samuel's parents made a similar move. When the census of their neighborhood was enumerated in June of 1900, the Samuel Couch family consisted of Samuel and Rachel and their nine youngest children. The family was living on a farm that Samuel owned. Their eldest daughter, Gertrude, was listed "next door" to Samuel and Rachel, living with her husband and three young children.

In 1920, the Montague County census records indicate that Samuel and Rachel and their five youngest children were living on a farm that Samuel owned on the Lower Bowie-Denver Road. In 1930, Samuel and Rachel were still in Montague County. Gladys was the only child left at home. Their farm, which Samuel owned, was located on the Bowie Road.

Samuel died at Salona, in Montague County, on March 28, 1936, at 76 years of age, and was buried with his parents in the Salona Cemetery. Rachel lived to 97 years of age. She died at Bowie, on January 28, 1955, and was buried with Samuel in the Salona Cemetery.

Delila Caroline 'Callie' Couch

The Emanuel Couch family Bible records that Delila Caroline Couch was born on August 22, 1863. While some census records suggest that Delila Caroline Couch may have been born earlier, I accept the Bible record as our most accurate record of her date of birth. Delila was the last child born to Benjamin and Celia Couch, and their only child born after their move to Texas. It seems likely that Delila was born in Grayson County, though we have no proof of her birthplace.

Delila's parents were living in Cooke County, Texas, when Delila was married to John Franklin 'Frank' Williams, son of John E. V. and Sarah E. Williams. John grew up in Georgia, where he was born on July 7, 1859. John's family was listed in the 1860 census of Washington County, Georgia, and the 1870 census of Cobb County, Georgia. John and Delila were married in Cooke County, Texas, on January 30, 1878, when John was 18 years old, and Delila was only 14.

Following their marriage, John and Delila began farming in Cooke County, where their first daughter, Celia Elizabeth Williams, was born on December 1, 1878. John and Delila were still farming in Cooke County in 1880. Sarah Jane Williams was born to John and Delila on March 22, 1881, and Rubin Hansel Williams was born in February of 1883. Eugene L. Williams was born on October 28, 1886, John Franklin Williams was born on June 14, 1890, and Andy L. Williams was born in March of 1897.

Some time between 1880 and 1892, John and Delila moved from Cooke County to the Salona neighborhood, in Montague County. In June of 1900, the John Williams family was living on a farm that John owned (with a mortgage) in Montague County. Living with John and Delila and their five youngest children were both John's mother, Sarah E. Williams, and Delila's mother, Celia Couch.

John's mother and mother-in-law would not live with John and Delila much longer. On November 13, 1901, Celia Couch died, and was buried in the Salona Cemetery beside her husband, Benjamin. Two months later, on January 23, 1902, Sarah E. Williams died, and was also buried in the Salona Cemetery.

Some time before the 1910 census, John and Delila moved to San Antonio, Texas. In April of 1910, John and Delila and their three youngest sons, now aged 23, 19 and 13, were living in a rented house at 1005 Victoria Street, in San Antonio. John had given up farming, and was working as a house carpenter.

John Franklin Williams died on July 13, 1916, less than a week after his 57th birthday. Delila Caroline (Couch) Williams died less than a year later, on March 30, 1917, at age 53. Their place of death, and place of burial, are unknown to me at this time.

A special thanks to Kathy (Tally) Knickmeyer for all her help with this family.

Appendix A. The Sarah Literal Notebooks

The process of identifying all of the members of our ancestral families is seldom easy. Most of us can go back two or three generation through personal knowledge, or the knowledge of other living family members. As we go back further in time, identifying all of the members of earlier families becomes more problematic. Some families have been well-documented by family historians in the past, and their work can be invaluable to our search. But most families have not been documented, or have been poorly documented, and we must depend on our skills as family historians to locate records which identify and prove the relationships between various family members. When the civil records do not exist, or can not be located, we are left dependent on written records which exist within the family. These elusive, but invaluable, records can take many forms. They are often in the form of family Bibles, old letters, or other family records recorded by a relative, long gone, who cared enough about the history of their family to leave a written record for subsequent generations.

Our effort to identify the members of the Moses Couch family has been aided by the interest and effort, more than two generations ago, of Sarah Jane (Watson) Literal (1869-1945). Sarah's relationship to the Watson, Stogsdill, Hall and Couch families is illustrated by the pedigree chart provided as Figure 7 on page 118.

Sarah Jane (Watson) Literal was the wife of Charles F. Literal. It is interesting to note that both Sarah and her husband were descended from Moses Couch. Sarah was a great-great-granddaughter of Moses and Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch, descended through their daughter, Malinda 'Linnie' (Couch) Stogsdill.. Sarah Literal's husband, Charles F. Literal, was a great-grandson of Moses and Elizabeth (Lindley) Couch, descended through their daughter, Delila (Couch) Literal. Sarah Jane (Watson) Literal and her husband were second cousins, once removed.

In 1993, Frank Watson, of Moberly, Missouri, provided me with a copy of a notebook, compiled by Sarah Literal, and dated January 30, 1940. Sarah's notebook contains twenty-seven pages of handwritten notes about her family. About 35% of the notebook is about Sarah's parents, Gilbert and Elizabeth (Stogsdill) Watson, and their descendants. Another 28% of the information in the notebook is about Gilbert Watson's ancestry, and the families of his brothers and sisters. About 16% of the information in the notebook is about the family of Sarah's grandparents, Josiah Stogsdill and Lydia Hall. Another 12% of the information in the notebook is about Josiah Stogsdill's ancestry, and the families of his brothers and sisters. About 6% of the information in Sarah Literal's notebook is about her Couch family ancestry, and about 3% of the information is about her Hall family ancestry.

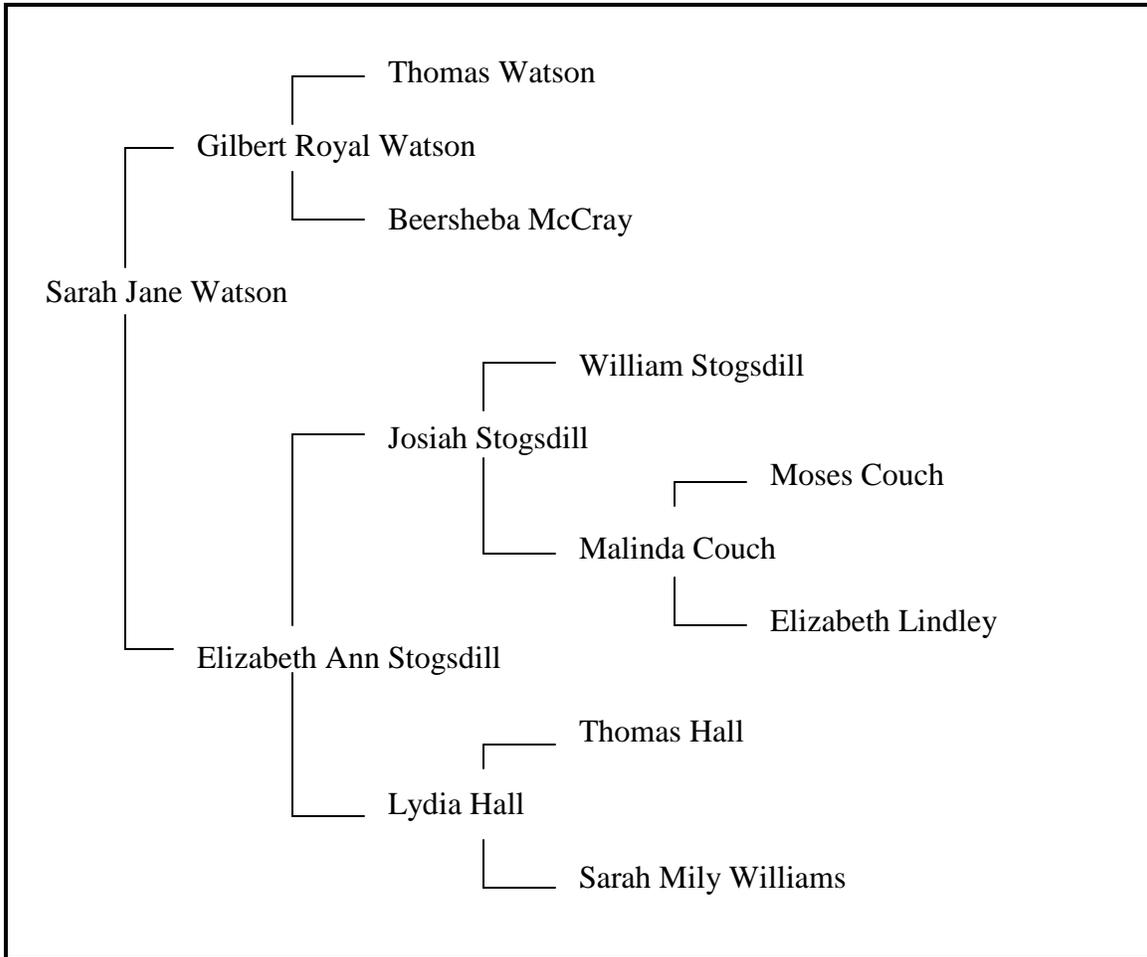


Figure 7: Pedigree Chart for Sarah Jane Watson

Sarah’s handwriting is very legible. Much of the information in the notebook consists of lists of family members and their spouses, followed by lists of their children’s names. Dates of birth are often provided, as are a few place names. There are also a few comments regarding nationality, and causes of death. And there are a few brief family stories. The notebook also contains a considerable amount of redundancy, with some information repeated two or three times at various points in the notebook.

Sarah was 70 years old when she compiled the notebook. The information about the more recent generations of the families covered by her notebook appears to be very accurate. The very limited information about the earlier generations (her great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents) appears to be less accurate. Several apparent discrepancies have been noted. I would guess that Sarah had some Watson and Stogsdill family records available to her, providing her with names and dates of birth, as well as a few dates of marriages and deaths, but that most of the other information in her notebook was based on information she had heard from older family members. I see no evidence that Sarah referred to Federal census records, or other public records, in the compilation of her family notebook.

About four years after locating this notebook, I was very surprised, and pleased, to locate a second family notebook compiled by Sarah Literal. A copy of this second notebook was provided to me by Rebecca Ferrell, of Denver, Colorado. The second notebook is thirty-three pages in length, and reflects some improvement in organization over the first. A note at the top of the first page of the Rebecca Ferrell copy of the notebook indicates that her copy was originally written for McLellan Watson, who was a nephew of Sarah Literal. A note at the top of page three provides a date of July 5, 1940, just a few months after the date in the first notebook. It appears that the second notebook was based on the first, but that Sarah added some additional material to the second notebook which was not included in the earlier copy.

While Sarah's notebooks devote very little space to her Couch ancestry, they have provided some evidence that has been helpful in our documentation of the Moses Couch family. Three of the pages from the notebook provided by Rebecca Ferrell are reproduced here for reference purposes.

Gilbert Royal Watson born (2.)
 Some $4\frac{1}{2}$ or 5^{mi.} Northeast of Republic Mo.
 at what was then known as Little York.
 died May 6. - 1915. Buried at Republic Mo.

Great Great grand parents of Elizabeth A.
 Stogsdill Watsons Children

Moses Couch
 Elizabeth Couch (called Betsy)

Great Great grand parent Holland Dutch
 Shady Stogsdill ^{direct from Holland a} single young man
 His son - Great grand father
 William Stogsdill Holland Dutch
 Linnie Couch Stogsdill $\frac{1}{2}$ Irish $\frac{1}{2}$ English

Great grand parents
 Thomas Hall. Irish direct from Ireland
 Sarah or Sally Mily Williams Hall, Penn. ^{Dutch}
 Grand parents, Josiah - died Dec. 1st 1867 ^{103 yrs. -}
 Josiah Stogsdill Born Jan. 13 - 1817 in Tenn. ^{8 months old}
 Lydia Hall Stogsdill died Oct. 17 - 1869 ^{Born in} Alabama

Figure 8

Charlie Literal Grand father of Charles
 F. Literal Ethel's Great grand father buried
 at Cave Spring 12 mi northwest Springfield
 about 1849. He had only ^{one} ~~of~~
 been to Missouri less than 8 years from
 Whitley Co. Kentucky.
 Ethel Literal's Ancesters that are related to
 her father and mother both.

Moses Couch
 Elizabeth () Couch

Delilia Couch Literal	Linnie Couch Stogsdill
James Literal	Josiah Stogsdill
Charles F. Literal	Elizabeth A. Stogsdill ^{Watson}
M. Ethel Literal	Sarah J. Watson ^{Literal}
	M. Ethel Literal

Delilia and Linnie were sisters and these are
 the decendants down to Ethel Literal on both
 of her parents sides of ^{the} house

Figure 9

(19.)

Elizabeth Hall married ^{p. 23} a Reed, Polly Hall Ralph Reed married to

Celia Hall Ben Couch. Jos. Hall Cynthia Hall.

John Brewer, her mother lived with

Cynthia and John Brewer when she died at 103 yrs

lived in Ill. Tenn. ^{in Stogsdills Literal's mostly in Ala. Kentucky}

The Halls and Couchs and Stogsdills and Literal's

Moses Couch and Elizabeth's children

Delilia Couch married Charlie Literal

Linney Couch married to

Linney Couch Sue Evans Whitley Co. Kentucky

Linnie Couch married to William Stogsdill

Ben Couch, Celia Hall } William Stogsdill
 married to } my great grand father

Josiah Stogsdill's Parents and Grand parents

Moses Couch Elizabeth Couch ^{his wife}

grand parent Shady Stogsdill Holland Direct from

His sons William Stogsdill, Holland Dutch

William Stogsdill Josiah's Parents

Linnie Couch, Stogsdill & Irish 1/2 English from

Great grand parent Thomas Hall Irish Ireland

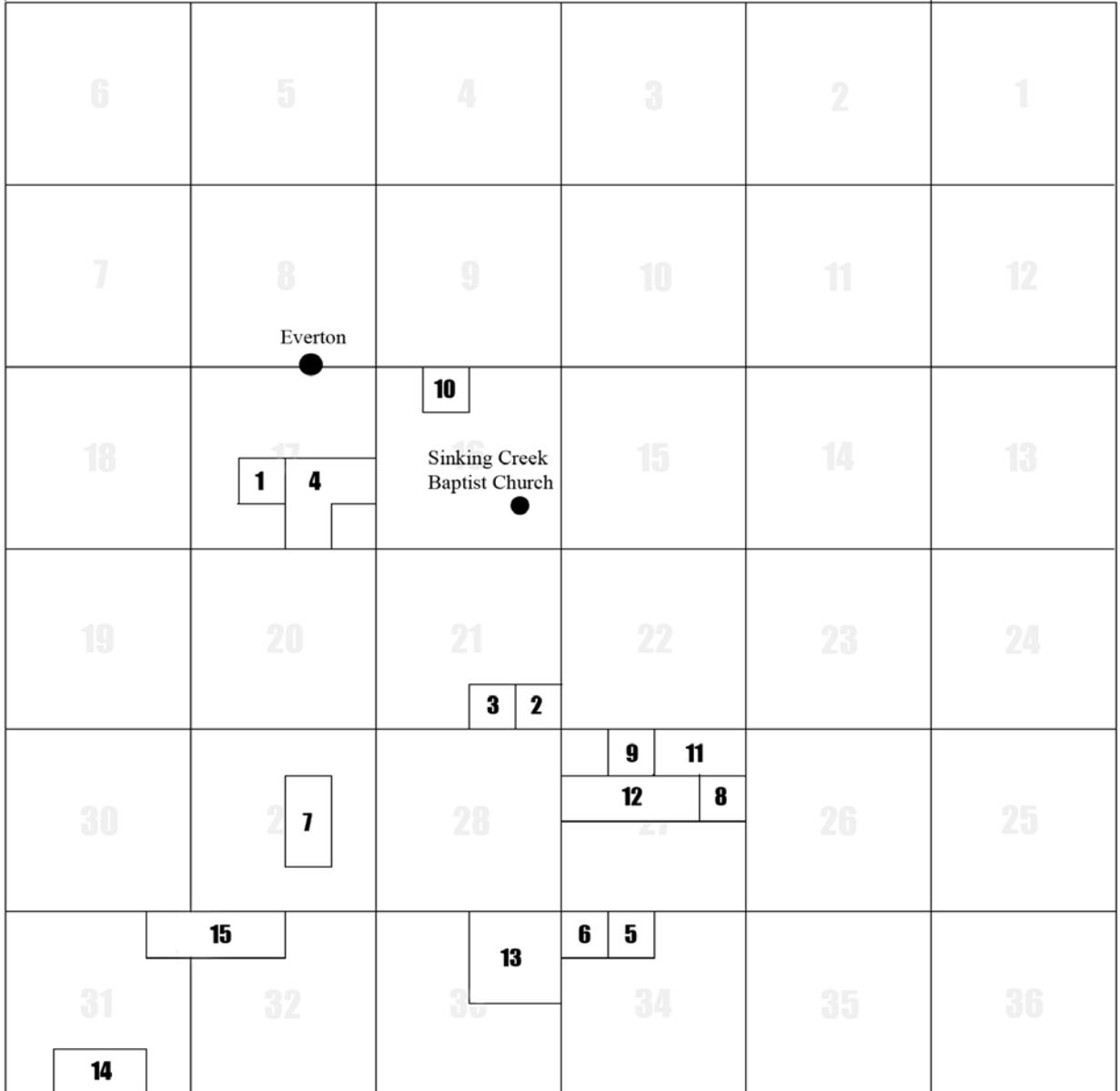
Sarah Mily Hall his wife is my Grand mother Stogsdill's mother. Josiah Stogsdill Born Jan. 13-1817 in Tenn. Died Dec. 1-1867

Grand Parents Lydia Hall Stogsdill Born Feb. 10-1818 in Tenn. died Oct. 17-1869 Ala.

Figure 10

Appendix B. Dade County Farm Locations

Township 30 North, Range 25 West



Each of the 36 numbered Sections is one mile by one mile square, and contains 640 acres of land.

Figure 11

Key to Dade County Farm Locations

#1 – Lindley Couch purchased this 40 acres of public land from the United States on November 15, 1854. After Lindley's death, Lindley's heirs sold this land to Lindley's son-in-law, William C. Evans.

#2 – Lindley Couch purchased this 40 acres of public land from the United States on November 14, 1854. After Lindley's death, Lindley's heirs sold this land to Lindley's son-in-law, William C. Evans.

#3 – Lindley Couch purchased this 40 acres of public land from the United States between 1850 and 1860. After Lindley's death, Lindley's heirs sold this land to Lindley's son-in-law, William C. Evans.

#4 – Avery Couch purchased this 120 acres of public land from the United States on August 14, 1856. Avery and his wife sold this land to Moses Eaton on September 8, 1856.

#5 – Delila (Couch) Literal purchased this 40 acres of public land, and received a Federal Patent on the land dated March 10, 1856. Title to the land later passed to Delila's brother, Benjamin Couch. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James A. Harshbarger on April 29, 1861.

#6 - Delila (Couch) Literal purchased this 40 acres of public land, and received a Federal Patent on the land dated June 1, 1859. Title to the land later passed to Delila's brother, Benjamin Couch. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James A. Harshbarger on April 29, 1861.

#7 – Archibald Harrell purchased this 80 acres of public land, and received a Federal Patent on the land dated September 1, 1858.

#8 – Benjamin Couch purchased this 40 acres of public land from the United States on January 27, 1851. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James Harralson on April 29, 1861.

#9 - Benjamin Couch purchased this 40 acres of public land from the United States on May 21, 1852. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James Harralson on April 29, 1861.

#10 – Benjamin Couch purchased this 40 acres of Township School Land from the State of Missouri, and received a Missouri Patent on the land dated September 12, 1854. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James Harralson on April 29, 1861.

#11 – Benjamin Couch purchased this 80 acres of public land from the United States on September 20, 1854. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James Harralson on April 29, 1861.

#12 - Benjamin Couch purchased this 120 acres of public land from the United States on March 7, 1856. Benjamin and wife sold this land to James Harralson on April 29, 1861.

#13 - Benjamin Couch purchased this 160 acres of land from Robert C. Hastings and wife on February 16, 1857. Benjamin and wife sold this land to David J. Harrell on April 29, 1861.

#14 - Benjamin Couch purchased this 80 acres of land from John C. Hastings and wife on February 16, 1857. Benjamin and wife sold this land to Henry F. Howard on April 29, 1861.

#15 - Benjamin Couch purchased this 120 acres of land, date unknown. Benjamin and wife sold this land to David J. Harrell on April 29, 1861.

Appendix C. Emanuel Couch Family Bible

Old family Bibles, when they can be located, usually provide important family information that can be found no where else. We are fortunate that at least one old family Bible has survived in the Benjamin Couch family. And I am grateful to Vernon O'Leary for providing me with a copy of the family information recorded in that family Bible.

This family Bible was passed down through the family of Emanuel Couch, son of Benjamin and Celia Couch. The oldest entries in the Bible list the dates of birth of Benjamin and Celia Couch and each of their children, as well as the date of death for one son who died in infancy.

Descendants familiar with the Bible believe that the first entries in the Bible were recorded by Sarah Wilson (Bowen) Couch, wife of Emanuel Couch. However, it is interesting to note that all of the early entries up through William Riley Couch's birth in 1856 appear to have been written by the same person at a single point in time. Later entries, beginning with Susannah Couch's birth in 1857, appear to have been recorded by other family members. Emanuel Couch and Sarah Wilson Bowen did not marry until 1869. In 1856 or 1857, when the handwriting suggests that the earliest entries may have been recorded, the Benjamin Couch family was living in Dade County, Missouri, and their eldest child, Sarah, was 16 or 17 years old. Neither Benjamin nor Celia could write, but Sarah could. Might Sarah have recorded the earliest entries in the Bible?

In the pages that follow, I am providing a copy of the family information copied from the Emanuel Couch family Bible, and provided to me by Vernon and Donna O'Leary. Following the copies of the Bible records, I am also providing transcripts of the information contained on those two pages, reflecting my best efforts to interpret the family information recorded so many years ago.

Oma Lee said she thinks that Grandma Sarah Wilson Causen filled out this page. That is why names are not spelled right she could not tell plain and the spelling was not good.

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

Benjamin Couch was born the 13th of December in the year of our Lord 1815.

Helie Marvel was born the 24th of January 1822

then is seen

Sarah Elizabeth the third must was born the 21st of February 1840

Asiah Couch the second was born the 15th of June 1842

Fanny Couch the third was born the 4th of January 1844

Jaine Couch was born the 2nd of September

DEATHS.

James Madison Couch was born June the 10th 1849

Larisa Couch was born November the 10th 1849

Maryal Couch was born May the 11th 1851

Sida Ellen Couch was born church the 28th Feb. 3

William Riley Couch was born Virginia the 1st 1856

Susan A Couch was Born Dec 23 1857

Samuel Couch was Born March 20 1860

Delilia C Couch was Born Aug 22 1863

Figure 13

Oma Lee

FAMILY RECORD.	
BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
Sarah W Couch Born June the 24 1830	James Madison Couch He started this life in the 3 rd 1844
James Avery Couch Born August the 27 1875	Avery Couch depar- ted this life the 24 th day of December in the year of our lord 1885
Nancia E. Couch was Born 16 of April 1878	Mary Couch Departed this life Sept 1884
Luther J. Couch was Born June 2 nd - 1880	The 1874
Larry A Couch Born Dec 17 th 1853	Josiah Couch Departed this life 1873
Samuel Leonard Couch was born the fourth of January 1890	Benjamin Couch Departed this life June the 23 1887
George Delmer Couch was born August the 30, 1892 died Sept 7, 1965	

Figure 14

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

Benjamin Couch was born the 13th of december in the year of our lord 1815

Celia Hawl was born the 24th of January 1822

thar issuie

Sarah Alizebeth thar Fust was born the 24th of february 1840

Josiah Couch ther second was born the 1st of June 1842

Avery Couch thar 3rd was born the 27th of January 1844

[torn] Jaine Couch was [torn] 2th of September

DEATHS

James Madison Couch was born June the 6th 1847

Lavisa Couch was born November the 10th 1849

Manyeal Couch was born may the 11th 1851

Lida Ellon Couch was born March the 28th 1853

William Riley Couch was born Februaria the 1st 1856

Susan a Couch Was Bornd Dec 23 1857

Samul Couch was Bornd March 20 1860

Delilia C Couch was Bornd Aug 22 1863

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

Sarah W Couch born June the 24 1850

James Avry Couch Born August the 27
1875

Nancia E. Couch Was Bornd 16 of
Aprile 1878

Luther R Couch Was Bornd June 2^{and}
1880

Larry R Couch [torn] Bornd Dec 17th
1883

Lemuel Leonard Couch was born the
fourth of January 1890

George Delmer Couch was bornd
August the 30, 1892
Died Sept 7, 1965

DEATHS

James Madison Couch departed this
life October the 3rd 1847

Avery Couch departed this life the 24th
day of December in the year of our lord
1865

Mery Couch Departed this life
September the 1 1877

Josier Couch Departed this life on 1873

Benjamin Couch Departed this Life June
the 23 1889

Appendix D. John Knight and Polly Couch

I have spent a little time searching for clues as to the identity of the Polly Couch who married John Knight in Madison County, Illinois, on June 12, 1831. The couple obtained their license to marry on June 11, and were married by County Commissioner Robert Aldrich. While I haven't yet discovered any information that I can definitely tie to this couple, I have located information worthy of review by other researchers interested in this couple.

The 1850 census of Fayette County, Illinois, contains a census record for a John and Polly Knight family. The family is listed in dwelling #445, and appears as follows:

John Knight	41	M	Ky
Polly	41	F	Ky
Sarah E	15	F	Tenn
Joseph	12	M	Ala
Benjamin	10	M	Ala
Sina	7	F	Ala
Elita J	6	F	Mo
Angeline	4	F	Mo
Francis M	2	M	Mo

Note the similarities between this family's migration path and those of some of the other Moses Couch family—Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama in the late 1830's and early 1840's, and Missouri in the mid and late 1840's. John Knight reported real estate valued at \$500 in 1850, so there should be deed records available in Fayette County.

I have not had any success in locating John and Polly in the 1860 census. However, in the 1870 census of Macoupin County, Illinois, I located the following family:

John Knight	(60?)	M	Ky
Mary	(58?)	F	Ky
(Thomas?)	18	M	Ill
Francis	22	M	Ill

The 1860 census of Fayette County includes the household of a Joseph C. Knight. While there is a slight difference in age between the 1850 and 1860 census records, this Joseph could be the son of John and Polly Knight. The family appears as follows:

Joseph C. Knight	24	M	Ala
Mary Ann	24	F	Tenn
James A.	5	M	Mo
Sarah E.	3/12	F	Mo

The 1870 census of Chariton County, Missouri, includes the household of this same Joseph C. Knight. The family appears as follows:

Joseph C. Knight	34	M	Tenn
Kate	34	F	Tenn
James A.	14	M	Mo
Sarah E.	10	F	Mo
Agnes S.	8	F	Mo
John A.	5	M	Mo
Thomas J.	3	M	Mo

The 1880 census of Chariton County includes the household of this same Joseph C. Knight. The family appears as follows:

Joseph Knight	43	M	Ala – Ky - Ga
James	23	M	Ill – Ala - Tenn
John	15	M	Ill – Ala - Tenn
Thomas	13	M	Ill – Ala - Tenn
Grace B.	6	F	Mo – Ala - Tenn
Henry	4	M	Mo – Ala - Tenn

I have not located Joseph C. Knight after 1880. However, the 1910 census of Chariton County includes the household a James Knight who could be the son of Joseph Knight. The family appears as follows:

James Knight	53	M	Ill – Ala - Tenn
Octavia	40	F	Mo – Vir - Mo
Mary E. Robins	70	F	Mo – Ky – Ky

The census record indicates that the couple had been married for 22 years. Octavia was the mother of one child, who was no longer living. Mary E. Robins was listed as James' widowed mother-in-law.

James A. Knight died in Chariton County, Missouri, on December 11, 1914. His death certificate indicates that he was the son of Jos. C. Knight and Mary Witt, and was born in Illinois on September 25, 1856. Burial was at Brunswick, Missouri.

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the marriage of a Joseph Knight to a Catherine Wit in Marion County on June 11, 1855. Note that Joseph's wife was listed as Mary Ann in the 1860 census, but as Kate in the 1870 census. I suspect that the wives in the 1860 and 1870 census records were the same person.

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the marriage of Miss Angeline Knight to George Burge in Macoupin County on October 9, 1864.

The 1880 census of Madison County, Illinois, includes the household of a Francis M. Knight. The family appears as follows:

Francis M. Knight	30	born Apr	M	Mo – Ky - Ky
Laura A.	28	born Jul	F	Ill – Ky - Ky
Thomas L.	8	born Jun	M	Ill – Mo - Ill
Benjamin M.	6	born Oct	M	Ill – Mo - Ill
Ira M.	2	born Aug	F	Ill – Mo – Ill

A 28-year-old Thomas L. Knight is listed in the 1900 census of Madison County as a servant in the home of Joseph Maye. Thomas was listed as born in Illinois, with parents born in Missouri and Illinois. His date of birth is listed as June of 1871.

The 1900 census of Staunton Township of Macoupin County, Illinois, includes the following household:

Melinda Bayless	Head	67	F	Apr 1833	Ky – Vir – Ky
Benj. M. Knight	G-Son	26	M	Oct 1873	Ill – Mo – Ill
Bertha Olive	G-Dau	14	F	Jan 1886	Ill – Ill – Ill

The 1880 census of Macoupin County, Illinois, includes the following household:

Melinda Bailes	Head	47	Ky - ? – Ky
Ed.	Son	21	Ill – Tenn – Ky
(Juli?)	Dau	18	Mo – Tenn – Ky
Two boarders			

Next door to the Melinda Bailes household was the following household:

T. J. Knight	Head	26	Ill – Ind - ?
(Jessy?)	Wife	17	Ind – Ohio - ?

This could be Francis M. Knight's brother. This couple was married during the census year.

A World War I draft registration card for Perry Knight, of Bethalto, in Madison County, Illinois, indicates that Perry was born on July 25, 1884. He could be a son of Francis M. and Laura A. Knight, who appeared in the 1880 Madison County census. As his nearest relative, Perry listed Laura Spencer, of Bethalto. The 1900 census of Madison County includes a Spencer family. I am unable to interpret the given name of the husband. The wife is Laura Spencer, born in Illinois in July of 1851. Both her parents were reported to have been born in Kentucky. She and her husband reported that they had been married for nine years. Living with them was a 7-year-old daughter, Grace E. Spencer, and a 15-year-old stepson, Perry W., born in July of 1884. Also living with the family were two wards: 12-year-old Frances C. Olive, and nine-year-old Benjamin Olive. Both Laura

Spencer and Perry Knight appear in both the 1910 and the 1920 census of Madison County.

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index includes the marriage of John Spencer to Mrs. Laura A. Perry Knight, in Madison County, on September 1, 1891.

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index lists the marriage of Thomas J. Knight to Fannie Snell in Macoupin County on January 29, 1875.