

# **Henderson** CONNECTIONS

VIVIAN ANDERSON CASTLEBERRY

The William Lee Henderson and  
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Family of  
North Carolina, Alabama, and Texas

Last Updated May 13, 2017



William Lee Henderson, his wife, Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson, and their young children left their home in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in 1851–52 for Perry County, Alabama. Nearly two decades later, in 1879, they headed to land near Lindale, Smith County, Texas, where they established Bethesda Presbyterian Church, now a Texas Historic Landmark.

This is a story about connections—the thousands of individuals and their families whose beginnings can be traced back to the Henderson family.

It is their story—and our story.

# Henderson Connections

The William Lee Henderson and  
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Family  
of North Carolina, Alabama,  
and Texas

Vivian Anderson Castleberry

Researched with Curtis Wales Castleberry  
Stories submitted by Henderson family members  
Website, e-book, and additional research by Kerin Tate

Written 1989-1999  
Additional notes added 2014-2017

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For Curtis Wales Castleberry



Vivian Anderson Castleberry takes notes at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Lindale, Texas, in June 1989, during the early stages of writing this book.

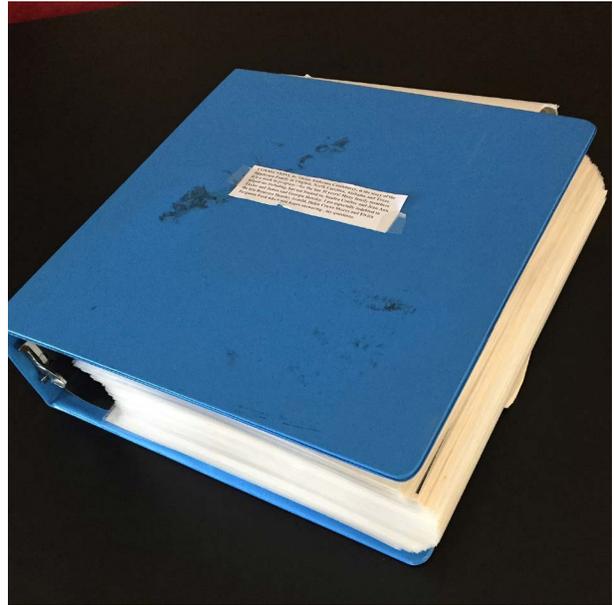
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*Left:* Vivian Castleberry with granddaughter Kerin Tate, August 2013

*Below:* Vivian Castleberry's original *Henderson Connections*, an impeccably organized binder, was passed around among family members and brought to reunions.



# Foreword

*By Kerin Tate*

**I**N THE 1990S, MY GRANDMOTHER, Vivian Anderson Castleberry, compiled and wrote a book detailing the history of the Henderson family, including genealogy she and other family members had been researching and collecting for decades. It was organized into a giant blue three-ring binder, brought to annual Henderson family reunions in Lindale, Texas, and passed around to family members.

Publishing the book proved to be expensive, so only one copy of it existed. Fast-forward to 2014, when I decided the Henderson Book was too important to be hiding in a binder. I'm always thankful when I find family history online, grateful that someone took the time to make it available, so I wanted to pay it forward.

With my grandmother's blessing, I published her book online at HendersonConnections.com, so Henderson descendants all over can supplement their research and enjoy it as much as we have. No need to borrow the big blue binder!

## About the Website and E-book

With a steady stream of visitors to the website, I wanted to make it available for 1) easier reading on a portable device and 2) printing if needed. So I've created this e-book. It is essentially the same as the website, with some formatting changes and slight reorganization of some material. You'll find my notes and additional research scattered throughout the website and e-book.

The Henderson Book was originally written with family reunions in mind, and it contained many pages about currently living family members and several 1990s-era photos. For privacy reasons, I have not

included those pages (with some exceptions). In most cases, I identified currently living people by first and/or middle name only.

I indicated my own contributions and notes with my name for clarity. Too often, family research is not accompanied by information on contributors and sources, and it simply "becomes fact" after a while. Genealogical research is subject to error, and I want to be precise about its origin and its researcher in case further questions arise. (And I wouldn't want my grandmother blamed for an error that was mine!)

If you have questions, comments, corrections, or can contribute more information, please contact me. I want this history to be as accurate as possible, so corrections and clarifications are very welcome. It's always great to hear from family, and I am really enjoying connecting with "new" family members who have stumbled upon HendersonConnections.com!

## About Vivian Anderson Castleberry

It is impossible to write a "short bio" about Vivian Anderson Castleberry. She has done so much. For 28 years, she was women's editor of the *Dallas Times Herald*, and was the first woman named to the editorial board. She transformed "women's news" from fluff into serious journalism, often covering heavy and controversial topics.

In 1984, Vivian was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. She founded Peacemakers Incorporated in 1987, organizing international women's peace conferences, and she is the namesake for the Castleberry Peace Institute at the University of North Texas. Vivian is a graduate of SMU, which also awarded her with an honorary doctorate degree. She is a published author of books in the biography

and history genres, including *Texas Tornado*, *Sarah The Bridge Builder*, and *Daughters of Dallas*. Vivian and her husband, Curtis Castleberry, reared 5 daughters. She lives in Dallas and has 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

A quick online search will give you an idea of her many accomplishments, so I won't list them all here. Instead, here's my personal take. My grandmother is the most energetic person I know. She is constantly working, writing, professionally speaking and lecturing, leading organizations and conferences, being an activist, and accepting well-deserved awards for her contributions.

Yet somehow she finds time to relax and have fun—reading, cooking, being with family, and taking on projects she finds interesting. She's never just slightly involved—she immerses herself. Her views are never old-fashioned or outdated; rather, they progress right along with the evolving world. She has the gift of always knowing exactly the right thing to say, and her advice is always spot-on. I am incredibly proud to call her “Grandmommy.”

## About Kerin

For the sake of connecting with family members, I want to add a bit about myself. I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, but my parents are from Texas.

After graduating with a journalism degree in advertising from the University of Missouri-Columbia, I moved to Kansas City, Missouri. I've been here ever since, working in newspaper advertising sales for years, and then building a freelance career in research and publishing.

## Thank You to Genealogists

Thank you to my grandparents, Vivian and Curtis Castleberry, who traveled across America doing genealogical research, and who spent countless hours writing and compiling it. And thank you to their ancestors, for keeping records and handing down stories.

I admit, my interest in genealogy began in the Information Age. I can research digitized records from my computer, share information and clues via

Ancestry.com, see gravestones on Findagrave.com, and “visit” towns on Google Earth. It's incredible having these tools available to piece together puzzles and expand on past research.

But I am indebted to my grandparents and other genealogists who actually visited cemeteries, churches and libraries in the towns of their ancestors, tracked down clues, and collected material. The stories, photos, and information they gathered are treasures you wouldn't find with a Google search today. Today's online genealogy tools wouldn't even be possible without the past hard work of family researchers and record keepers. Without them, Ancestry.com would be empty, and we wouldn't know where to start Googling!

I also thank Vivian and my mother, Carol, for writing impeccable notes and dates on the backs of family photographs! I have consulted these notes again and again while “getting to know” our family through this project.

## Use of Photos

You may use photos from the website on your Ancestry.com tree (or any other family-related website) if you credit HendersonConnections.com (just include it in the description box for the photo). Feel free to crop the photos as needed.

I say this because I will never get around to adding many of these photos to my own Ancestry.com tree (kerint8). This way we can share our efforts. I am hoping you have your tree set to “Public” so you can easily share back with me and other Ancestry users. (Public trees are only visible to other Ancestry.com members, and they don't show info on living people.)

For any other use, please e-mail me through HendersonConnections.com/contact.html where you'll find a contact form.

# Acknowledgments

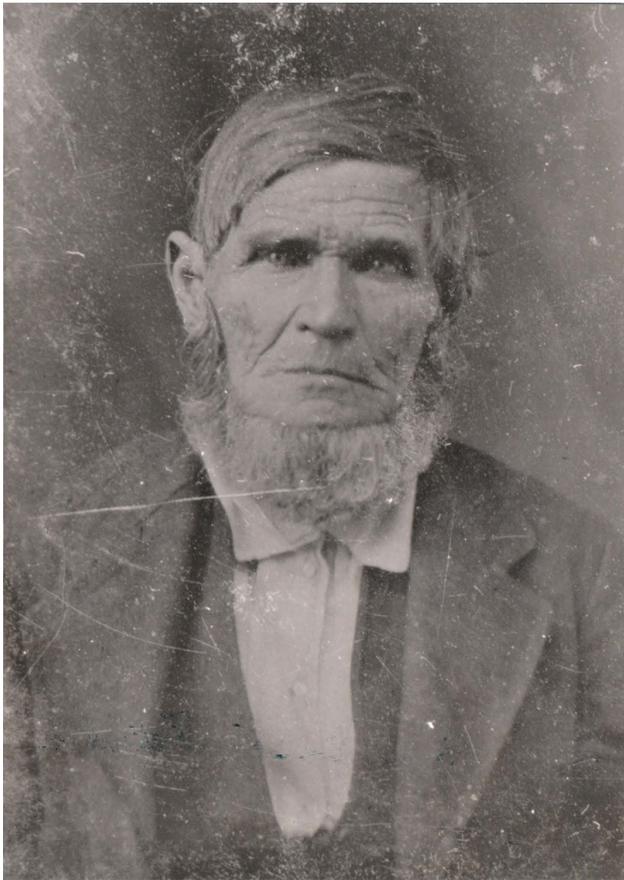
**T**HIS BOOK HAS BEEN A WORK in progress—for the last 30 years! Many family members helped me, including but not limited to Sandra Coulter, Jean Ann Taylor, and James and Georgia Hensley. I am especially indebted to Roserma Hensley Arnold, Helen Crews Shores, and Elvira Ferguson Ford, who spent hours answering my questions. –

*Vivian Castleberry, Dallas, Texas, 1999*



# PART 1

## Setting the Stage



*In 1851 or 1852, William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson migrated from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, with their young children to Perry County, Alabama, where they continued to grow their family. In the 1870s, the couple and their nine adult children migrated to Smith County, Texas.*

Kerin's Notes: Available photos of "Eleanor" have major discrepancies, but this photo is most likely to be her. See last section of this chapter, "Eleanor's Photo Mystery."

The spelling of Selina/Salina is also debatable. See Footnote 1 of "Family Outline" in this chapter.

# Family Tree and Other Documents

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## Timeline

*By Kerin*

**1808**—Birth of William Lee Henderson (WLH) in Mecklenburg County, NC.

**1817**—Birth of Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby in Mecklenburg County, NC.

**1838**—William Lee and Eleanor married. They lived in Hopewell community, about 10 miles northwest of Charlotte, in Mecklenburg County, NC.

**May 1840–Nov. 1850**—Their first five children born in Mecklenburg County, NC.

**Apr. 1849–Dec. 1850 (between)**—WLH's sister Amanda Ann Henderson Shelby and family moved to Perry County, AL. Amanda Ann was married to Eleanor's brother James Madison Shelby.

**1851 or 1852**—WLH and family moved to Perry County, Alabama, along with WLH's brother John Elam Henderson and family. The three families (WLH's, John Elam's, and Amanda Ann's) lived very close to one another, possibly on adjacent land.

**Jan. 1853–Mar. 1860**—Their last four children born in Perry County, AL.

**Apr. 1861–May 1865**—Civil War.

**1869**—WLH's sister Amanda Ann Henderson Shelby and family moved to Smith County, TX.

**Aug. 1870–July 1871 (between)**—WLH's niece Lorena Henderson Dunklin and family moved to

Smith County, TX.

**1872**—WLH's nephew Hugh Cunningham Henderson and family moved to Henderson County, TX. (Later to Smith County in 1875.)

**July 1873–Dec. 1874 (between)**—WLH's niece Laura Ann Henderson Horton moved to Smith County, TX.

**Apr. 1873–Apr. 1875 (between)**—Son Joseph Asmon Henderson and family moved to Smith County, Texas. Possibly traveled with cousin Laura Ann Henderson Horton and family, based on the dates.

**Apr. 1879**—Death of John Elam Henderson, brother and neighbor of WLH, in Perry County, AL.

**Nov.–Dec. 1879**—The rest of the WLH family moved to land near Lindale, Smith County, TX.

**Fall 1880**—Plans begin for a new church.

**Feb. 1881**—First grave on future church grounds for WLH's son Franklin Smith Henderson, age 21.

**March 1881**—Lindale Presbyterian Church established.

**Dec. 1883**—Death of WLH in Smith County, Texas.

**1885**—Church name changed to Bethesda Presbyterian Church, named for their former church in AL.

**July 1895**—New church building dedicated. It still stands today and is a Texas Historic Landmark.

**Oct. 1900**—Death of Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson in Smith County, TX.

# The Other Hendersons

## One Generation Back

By Kerin

We have a full Family Outline for William Lee and Eleanor in the next section, but let's go back one generation to William Lee's parents. Several

of these people are mentioned in this book, and I found myself referring to it frequently, so I thought it might help you, too.

I filled this in from information I've collected on Ancestry.com. It is not thoroughly researched or fully verified. Use for general reference only, not for official research.

### John Lee Henderson I 1779-1842 m. (in 1804) Ann Sample 1774-1830 Lived and died in Mecklenburg County, NC

- I. Betsey Henderson 1805-1807
- II. Robert Z. Henderson 1806-1880 m. Abigail A. Sample, moved to McNairy County, TN
- III. **William Lee Henderson 1808-1883 m. Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby, moved to Perry Co., AL, then Smith Co., TX (See separate outline.)**
- IV. James M. Henderson 1809-1871, m. Mary E. Hunter, moved to Chester County, TN
- V. John Elam Henderson 1810-1879, m. (1834) Abigail Smith Bradley 1814-\_\_, m. (1871) Mary A. Kellogg, moved to Perry Co., AL 1851 or 52.
  - A. Jane E Henderson 1836-\_\_, m. (1851) Samuel Watson Herron 1830-\_\_, b. NC, moved to Perry Co., AL, then back to Mecklenburg Co., NC after 1860?, but this history is unclear.
  - B. Rebecca Henderson 1838-before 1870?, b. NC, moved to Perry Co., AL. Her history and father of her child are unclear.
    1. Murray Elam Anderson 1866-1933
  - C. James McKnitt Henderson 1841-\_\_ m. Anna Thomas, b. NC, moved to Perry Co., AL, after that is unclear
  - D. Margaret S Henderson 1843-1869 m. (1863) Uriah Belton Dobbins 1838-1903,<sup>1</sup> b. NC, moved to Perry Co., AL, where she died.
    1. Alfa Viola Dobbins 1866-1938
    2. Luxie Leatus Dobbins 1867-1939
  - E. Lorena Isabella Henderson 1846-1875 m. (1865) George Thomas Dunklin 1844-1895,<sup>2</sup> born in NC to Perry Co., AL, to Henderson Co., TX
  - F. Hugh Cunningham Henderson 1848-1885, m. Mary Elizabeth Stephens 1844-1925, born in NC to Perry Co, AL to Henderson Co., TX then Smith Co., TX
    1. Knox Henderson 1871-1931
    2. Elam Henderson 1873-1947
    3. Emmett Mathis Henderson 1875-1941
    4. Leon Henderson 1877-1935
    5. Samuel Watson Henderson 1879-1952
  - G. Laura Ann Henderson 1853-1891 m. William Foster Horton 1851-1910, moved from Perry Co., AL, to Hamilton and Mills Co., TX (central TX)
  - H. Alice Satira Henderson 1856-1918 m. Thomas Mathias Nichols 1854-1930, died in Perry Co., AL
- VI. Jemima Narcissus Henderson 1812-1879. m. Milton Alexander 1801-1873, moved one county north to Iredell County, NC

1 After Margaret's death, Uriah Dobbins married her first cousin Mary Amanda Henderson. They moved to Smith Co., TX, then to Wynnwood, OK.

2 After Lorena Isabella's death, he married her first cousin Jane Eliza "Jennie" Shelby.

- 
- VII. McKnitt A Henderson 1813-1850 m. Catherine Louisa Herron 1822-1907, stayed in Mecklenburg Co., NC
- VIII. Isabella Elizabeth Henderson 1814-1883 m. Lorenzo Dow Porter, moved to Perry Co. then Dallas Co., AL.
- IX. Amanda Ann Henderson 1816-1896 m. James Madison Shelby <sup>3</sup> 1814-1889, moved to Perry Co., AL, then Smith Co., TX.
- A. James Adams Shelby 1843-1886 m. Mary Saphronia Mitchell <sup>4</sup>
  - B. Mary Eleanor "Mollie" Shelby 1844-1899 m. Raymond Robert Hawkins 1840-1923
  - C. Jane Eliza "Jennie" Shelby 1845-1902 m. (1867) John James Simons 1842-1869, m. (1876) George Thomas Dunklin 1844-1895
  - D. John McKnitt "Mac" Shelby 1849-1917 m. (1875) Josephine Jackson 1856-1888, m. (1889) Sarah Lou Bristow 1868-1919
  - E. Elvira Ann Shelby 1851-1862 (died in Perry Co., AL)
  - F. Rachel Lenora "Nora" Shelby 1853-1927 m. (1876) Alfred J. Horn 1852-1902
  - G. Martha Selina "Mattie" Shelby 1855-1925 m. (1873) John Allen Bell 1851-1920
  - H. Margaret Amanda "Maggie" Shelby 1858-1912 m. (1878) Archibald Smith Robbins 1855-1935
  - I. Susan Ella Shelby 1860-1911 m. Jefferson DeCal Horn 1861-1932

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<sup>3</sup> Brother of Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby.

<sup>4</sup> Sister of Dora Mitchell Henderson (Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins), who married William Daniel Henderson.

# Family Outline

By Kerin

**T**HIS IS NOT A FULL family tree. It started as a guide to the people mentioned and pictured in *Henderson Connections*, but I've continued to add to it.

When the book was written in the 1990s, only some branches of the family had been found, and only some of those families submitted information for the book. That's why some families are more "filled in" than others.

I took most of the information straight from *Henderson Connections*, but I filled in some things

from obituaries and emails from family members. If I noticed someone went by a middle name or nickname, I underlined it. I added most of the birth and death dates myself, but I found them via Ancestry.com, so not all have been verified.

For currently living people (and those I wasn't sure about): I identified you without last names or spouse names, for privacy. (I have a master copy with full names/dates if you are a family member who wants it.)

Thank you so much to those who have sent me updates to this outline. I would love to add more—email me with information and corrections!

Most living people on this outline are not included in the index.

## Descendants of William Lee Henderson 1808-1883 and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby<sup>1</sup> 1817-1900 (married 1838)

- I. **Mary Amanda Henderson** 1840-1911 married (1856) John F. McGahey 1828-1862, then (1870) Uriah Belton Dobbins 1838-1903
  - A. **Margaret Selina McGahey** 1858-1902
    1. Rosa Lee McGahey/Dobbins<sup>2</sup> 1891-1980 m. Forrest Marion Brewer
  - B. **William Kelsey McGahey** 1859-1869
  - C. **James Milton McGahey** 1861-1939 married Alice Sophia Way 1865-1939
    1. John William McGahey 1886-1948 m. Lilly Maud Graham
      - a. Ever Maurine McGahey<sup>3</sup> 1913-1992 m. John Thomas Hilburn
      - b. Jimmie Lee McGahey 1918-1994
      - c. Alice Pauline McGahey 1920-1980
    2. James Edward McGahey 1888-1964
    3. Thomas Ward McGahey 1891, died as infant
    4. Charlotte Rose McGahey (Rosa, Rosie)<sup>4</sup> 1892-1984 m. Wesley Vincent Robinson
      - a. Tommie Robinson (Evie Mae)<sup>5</sup> 1913-1992 m. Richard Lee Vines

1 The spelling of Selina/Salina is debatable. Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby, her granddaughter Margaret Selina McGahey, and her niece Martha Selina Shelby are all found with varying spellings. Both spellings were nearly equally common, with Salina ranking #225, Selina ranking #296, and the variation Celina ranking #461 in frequency on the 1850 census. In the NC census only, Selina yields 144 results and Salina has 175 results. There are no 1850 census listings for any variation ending in "-lena," so we can comfortably rule that out. For Eleanor, I've seen two records that include her middle name, and both spell it "Salina," but neither are dependable (1870 Census and Bethesda Church Roll 1924). The "Selina" spelling seems to be most popular with family researchers, and Vivian used that spelling in this book, so I have chosen to go with that spelling for consistency. But there are no "official" records (that I've seen) to confirm either spelling.

2 The 1900 Census lists her as Rosa Lee McGahey, living with her grandparents (Mary Amanda and Uriah) and her mother, Margaret Selina McGahey. Margaret Selina died in 1902, and Rosa Lee was reared by her grandparents. On the 1910 census, she is recorded as Rosa Lee Dobbins, the daughter of Mary Amanda and Uriah.

3 Official birth certificate amendment from 1967 says "Ever," but Findagrave listing says "Eva." I assume the two spellings were pronounced similarly. She went by "Maurine," which is printed on her gravestone.

4 Charlotte Rose McGahey (1892-1984) is listed on some church records as "Rosa McGahey," making her easy to confuse with Rosa Lee McGahey/Dobbins (1891-1980). Rosa Lee, however, only lived in Oklahoma, never Texas.

5 Tommie was originally named Evie Mae, but she later changed her name to Tommie. Source: <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ROBINSON/1997-10/0877364545> .

5. Linnie Pearl McGahey 1894-1925 m. James Grady Kennedy
  - a. Eunice Sybil Kennedy 1911-2002 m. Bennie Clyde McKay 1901-1967
    - i. Jean Ann
    - ii. Sandra Joy
      - (1) Kathryn Lynn
        - (a) Tiffany Renee
  - b. Julia Louise Kennedy 1917-2005 m. Rufus Hall Fleming <sup>6</sup> 1908-1998
6. Lottie Mae McGahey 1897-1954 m. Fred M. Whisenhunt
7. Walter Allen McGahey 1902-1966
8. Henry Ernest McGahey 1905-1969
- D. **William Washington Dobbins (Willie) ("Buddy")** 1872-1896
- E. **Irma Teresa Dobbins** <sup>7</sup> 1874-1952 m. George Washington Griggs 1860-1900, then John Thomas Litchfield 1853-1939
  1. Willie Lorilla Griggs (Bill) (female) 1898-1990 m. Charles Franklin Talmadge 1901-1976
    - a. Charles Franklin Talmadge Jr. 1925-1977
      - i. Gwynne Ann
      - ii. Susi
  2. U.B. Griggs (female) ("Auntie B") 1899-1990 m. Elbert Peyton McCullers 1890-1984
    - a. Gerald
    - b. Teresa
  3. Rollen Thomas Litchfield 1903-1975 m. Margie Mae Harrison 1904-1997
    - a. Dale Irvn Litchfield 1938-2007
    - b. Alan Ray Litchfield 1940-1988
    - c. Opal Janey Litchfield 1945-2014 m. Larry
      - i. Angela
      - ii. Stacy
  4. Warren Wayne Litchfield 1908-1989 m. Mary Alva Austin 1910-1977
  5. Nolen Clay Litchfield 1910-1997 m. Vivian Lorene Stockton 1913-2011
  6. Irma Lee Litchfield 1916-1985 m. William Carlie McKay 1912-1983
  - F. **Essie Lorilla Dobbins** 1876-1967 m. William Bradley Hensley 1870-1954
    1. William Belton Hensley 1904-1994 m. Lydia Ann House
      - a. James Burl m. Georgia
      - b. William Bart
      - c. Linda Opal
    2. Rosema Hensley 1914-2002 m. Harry Louis Arnold 1896-1980
      - a. Harry Louis Jr.
        - i. Brent William
        - ii. Beth Anne
  - G. **Sallie Jane Dobbins** ("Aunt Pete") 1881-1944 m. Samuel W. Garner 1879-1930
    1. Ruth N. Garner 1916-1992
    2. Samuel Walter Garner 1922-1964

Uriah's children from first marriage:

Uriah's first wife was Margaret S. Henderson (Mary Amanda's cousin) <sup>8</sup> m. 1863. She died Aug 1867. His children from that marriage were:

- A. Alfa Viola Dobbins 1866-1938 m. Charles P. Matthews 1861-1927
- B. Luxie Leatus Dobbins <sup>9</sup> 1867-1939 m. Thomas Wesley Yates 1859-1941

## II. **Martha Elizabeth Henderson** 1842-1896 married (Dec. 1861) J. M. Shelby (d. by 1863), then (1867) William T. McGahey <sup>10</sup> 1834-1883

- A. **Lillie May McGahey** 1868-1950 m. William Forrest Ferguson 1864-1903
  1. William Prentiss Ferguson 1888-1945
  2. Ella Mac Ferguson 1890-1897
  3. Horace Neely Ferguson 1892 (died at 9 mos.)
  4. John Allen Ferguson 1893-1971
  5. Henry McLean Ferguson 1895-1953

<sup>6</sup> Rufus Hall Fleming was the son of Lovie D. Perkins (bottom of VIII), who was the sister of Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson (bottom of VIII and IV-B).

<sup>7</sup> This book had her name consistently spelled "Teresa," but most Ancestry.com records have "Teresa." I didn't officially confirm either spelling. I've noticed gravestones of other women in Perry County, AL, with the spelling "Teresa," so that might be correct.

<sup>8</sup> Margaret was the daughter of John Elam Henderson, William Lee's brother.

<sup>9</sup> The 1920 census lists her name as "Aluxia," but all other records have her name as either "Luxie," or varying spellings of "Leatus." Some family stories spell her middle name as "Lestus," but that was incorrect, a misinterpretation of old handwriting.

<sup>10</sup> William T. McGahey was the brother of John F. McGahey (Mary Amanda's first husband). Their McGahey kids were double first cousins..

6. Mary Elvira Ferguson 1897-1997 m. Victor Roe Ford 1898-1958
    - a. Otho Ferguson Ford 1921-1986
    - b. Mary Jo
    - c. Johnnie Mae Ford 1926-1933
    - d. Bettie Sue
    - e. Zaidée Margaret
  7. Wilson Forrest Ferguson 1899-1960
  8. Hubert Ferguson 1902-1975 m. Juanita Massey 1906-1999
    - a. Bennie Carolyn Ferguson 1933-2009 m. Oscar Jack Chastain 1929-2013
- B. **Eleanor Lee McGahey (Ella)** 1871-1953 m. Samuel Arthur Vernon 1867-1945

### III. **Margaret Isabelle Henderson (Belle)** 1845-1919 married (1867) John Wesley Arendell 1839-1900

- A. **Zoe Emma Arendell** 1868-1948 m. (1886) Robert Perry Wilson <sup>11</sup> 1866-1900, then m. (1901) Daniel Dupree Todd 1860-1919
  1. James Albert Wilson 1888-1980
  2. Thomas Clyde Wilson 1891-1965
  3. Eunice Gertrude Wilson 1893-1969
  4. Lena Belle Wilson 1895-1978 m. Henry Robert Crews 1881-1947 <sup>12</sup>
  5. Florence Etta Wilson 1897-1897
  6. Ada Matilda Wilson 1898-1966
  7. Jessie Lucille Todd 1902-1982 m. Frank Ivey
  8. Robert Todd 1904-1916
  9. Nellie Todd 1906-?
  10. Edna Mae Todd 1909 (died at 1 month)
  11. Daniel Rankin Todd 1910-1975
  12. Ralph Marshall Todd 1915-1996
- B. **Lela Gertrude Arendell (Gertie)** 1870-1957 m. (1889) Lee Marion Wilson 1869-1901
  1. Enoch Crawford Wilson, Sep 1890-1973 m. Maude Mae Vaughan 1895-1939, m. Pearl Oliver 1896-1969
    - a. Robert Clinton
    - b. Mary Nell Wilson 1932-2016 m. Hammer
      - i. James Glyn
        - (1) Amanda
        - (2) David James
      - ii. David Lynn (d. as infant)
  2. Atlee Sylvester Wilson, Feb 1892-1963 m. (1919) Bertha Mae Green 1901-1992
  3. Ethel Estelle Wilson, Dec 1893-1965 m. Jacob Harrison Horn 1889-1970
  4. Lela Bertha Wilson, Jan 1896-1979 m. George Hopkins
  5. Edith Wilson 1898-1900
  6. Ida Wilson 1900-1917
- C. **Virgella Arendell (Virgie)** 1872-1892 m. (1890) Willis W. Wilson 1861-1908
- D. **Leota Arendell** 1875-1881
- E. **Mathis Marvin Arendell** 1878-1947 m. Mary Alice George 1876-1934
- F. **Wesley Weightman Arendell** 1881-1912

### IV. **Joseph Asmon Henderson** 1847-1885 married (1872) Samantha Jane LaGrone 1854-1896

- A. **Effie Aletta Henderson** 1873-1890
- B. **John Lee Henderson II** <sup>13</sup> 1875-1930 m. (1895) Lillie Eva Perkins <sup>14</sup> 1878-1964 <sup>15</sup>
  1. Jessie Lee Henderson 1896-1964 m. (1919) William Clarence Anderson 1895-1956
    - a. Vivian Lou Anderson m. (1946) Curtis Wales Castleberry 1922-2013
      - i. Carol Janet
        - (1) Kerin Shawn
        - (2) Shannon Leigh
          - (a) Kaia, Eliana, Caden

11 Husbands Robert Perry Wilson, Lee Marion Wilson, and Willis W. Wilson were brothers, making their children double first cousins.

12 Lena's husband Henry is the son of Belle's sister, Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews, making the couple 1st cousins, 1x removed. You will also find them listed, with their children, under Section V—E of this outline.

13 John Lee was named for his great-grandfather John Lee Henderson I (1779-1842), father of William Lee Henderson.

14 Eva was pronounced like "ever" without the R.

15 John Lee and Lillie Eva were not related but were stepcousins.

John Lee - Joseph Asmon - William Lee.

Lillie Eva - stepfather William Daniel - stepgrand William Lee (see VIII - Dora's children from first marriage.)

- ii. Kenneth Anderson Castleberry, Jun 25–27, 1950
- iii. Chanda Elaine
  - (1) Jeffrey Philip
    - (a) Breck
  - (2) Sarah Whitney
    - (a) Braiden, Trennon, Aspen, Noble, Daylin, Valor
  - (3) Catherine Elizabeth (Libby)
- iv. Keeta Shawn
  - (1) Ryann Silke
  - (2) Heidi Catherine
    - (a) Taylor, Elsa
  - (3) Austin Jacob
    - (a) Wolf
- v. Kimberley Diana
  - (1) Heather Dawn
    - (a) Cordelia, Elanor, Olivia, Henry
  - (2) Mark Adam
  - (3) Gabriel Seth
  - (4) Mikaila Marie (Kailey)
- vi. Catherine Ann (Cathy)
  - (1) Curtis Ian
  - (2) Ashley Caroline
- b. Norman Owen Anderson 1924-1977 m. Emma Jean Battles 1928-2011
  - i. Ronald Owen
    - (1) Jason Phillip
    - (2) Jeffrey Norman
  - ii. Patsy Jean
    - (1) Wesley Owen
      - (a) Paxton
    - (2) Kimberly Michelle
      - (a) Mackenzie, Morgan
  - iii. Teri Lynn
    - (1) Corey Alan
    - (2) Christopher Aaron
    - (3) Crystal Ann
      - (a) Anna, Jacob
      - “Emma’s other great-grandchildren”:
      - (a) Lindzey, Elizabeth, Christina, Maria, Emma, Caleb, Luke, Eva
- c. Quinton Travis Anderson 1925-2000 m. Ramona Barnes, then m. Deanna Sue Robson (Dee) 1937-1994, then m. (1996) Elva Lou Dunklin Swift
  - i. Vicki Lynn [mom Ramona]
    - (1) Richard, Jessica, Stephen, Zachary, Emily
  - ii. Vance Randall [mom Ramona]
  - iii. Mark Robin [mom Deanna, dad prev marr]
  - iv. Suzan Jean [mom Deanna]
    - (1) Kali, Dalton
- 2. Archie Raymond Henderson 1898-1940 m. Vivian Meredith 1902-1997
  - a. Eva Catherine
    - i. Sharon
    - ii. Andrew
      - (1) Alexandra Meredith, Elizabeth Vivian
- 3. Charlie Perkins Henderson 1901-1966 m. Anna Mary Johnson 1904-1943, then m. (1945) Bettye Smith [Children are Anna’s]
  - a. Charles Anon Henderson 1925-1996, m. Mickie, then m. Betty, then m. Loveta Joyce Thompson 1941-2008
    - i. Randy Lee Henderson 1947-2016 [mom Mickie] m. (1968) Karen, then m. (1980) Rose
      - (1) Heather Lee [mom Karen]
      - (2) Ryan Lee [mom Rose]
      - (3) Robyn Lee [mom Rose]
    - ii. Shannon Lea [mom Betty]
      - (1) Katie Elaine
      - (2) Andrew Justin
    - iii. Charles Anon Jr. [mom Betty] m. Annie
      - (1) Callie
      - (2) Brian Anon [mom Annie]
      - (3) Charles Timothy [mom Annie]

- iv. James Truett [mom Betty]
        - (1) Alyson Irene
      - v. Cynthia Jolene [Joyce's dau. from prev. marr.]
        - (1) Tracy Michelle
          - (a) Jonah
    - b. Bennie Lee Henderson 1927-1928
    - c. Norma Jean Henderson 1932-2010 m. Gene Wilson Christopher 1931-1958, then m. Fred Regan Jr. 1929-1977
      - i. Mark Clayton [dad Gene]
        - (1) Sean Mitchell
        - (2) Lydia Janine
      - ii. Kenneth [dad Fred]
        - (1) Joshua
  - 4. Joseph DeWitt Henderson 1905-1967 m. Ira Velma Johnson 1911-2000
    - a. Wanda Sue Henderson 1927-2012 m. (1946) Charles Byron Swann 1926-2012
      - i. Charles Michael
      - ii. Richard Byron
      - iii. Melea Suzanne
        - (1) Lindsey Renee
        - (2) Lauren Rachel
    - b. Shirley Ann Henderson 1934-2005 m. Bill Thompson 1931-2013, m. Coke
      - i. John Marc
      - ii. Joe Bill
      - iii. Annette
      - iv. Melinda
        - (1) Silas
    - c. Bobbie June
      - i. Jeffrey Dean
      - ii. Julie Kristen
      - iii. Jill Robin
      - iv. Jennifer Lynn
        - (1) Courtney Ann, Shelby Alyssa, Morgan Ashton, Taylor Amanda
    - d. Jerry Max
  - 5. Mildred Loraine Henderson 1908-1994
    - a. Kris
      - i. Kelly Bill
        - (1) Drew
        - (2) Ben
        - (3) Caroline
          - (a) Camden
      - ii. Kristen Jill
        - (1) Alexandra
        - (2) Ethan
  - 6. Thomas Edgar 1911-1913
- C. **Etta Henderson** <sup>16</sup> 1876-1947 m. (1895) Charles Morton Hudson 1867-1944
  - 1. Ethel Hudson 1896-1903 (died at 7)
  - 2. Fred Asmon Hudson 1898-1989 m. Ruth Powell 1903-1969
    - a. Charlene Hudson m. Andrew Fred Kraemer 1922-1992
      - i. Kaye
        - (1) Kimberly
        - (2) Matthew Alan Hibbard 1979-2015
        - (3) Nicole
    - b. Dorothy Jane
    - c. Fred Asmon Hudson Jr. 1925-2011 m. Kathleen Covington 1927-2011
      - i. Paul Alonzo Hudson 1950-2010
        - (1) Paula
        - (2) Lauren
          - (a) Santiago
      - ii. Donna Hudson 1956-2010 m. Don Stewart
        - (1) Jason
      - iii. Fred Asmon III
      - iv. William
    - d. Robbie Mae

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<sup>16</sup> Etta's full name is listed on daughter Ina's death certificate as "Henrietta Henderson," but that is the only place I've seen that variation.

3. Ina Mae Hudson 1901-1970 m. Ford Evans Bridges 1895-1967
  - a. Jack Hudson Bridges 1924-1984
  - b. Benjamin Ford Bridges b.abt.1926
- D. **Jennie Henderson** 1878-1965 m. (1894) William Brinkley York 1874-1929
  1. Clyde York 1895-1903
  2. Minnie Lou York 1901-1988 m. John Grady Hagan 1898-1955
    - a. John Grady Hagan Jr. 1928-1984
    - b. Jennie Sue Hagan 1930-2004 m. Robert Porter Swann 1927-1989
      - i. Linda
      - ii. Mary Ann
      - iii. Bobby
    - c. Robert E Hagan
    - d. Joe Pat Hagan
 

Other grandchildren of Minnie: David, Mark, Jean
  3. Gladys Mildred York 1907-\_\_ m. Jessie Clyde Leatherwood 1907-1946, then m. Harold Elwood Pickel 1906-2001
    - a. Betty Jane
      - i. Carroll Ann
      - ii. Elizabeth Diana Adams 1965-2011
  4. Era Ann York 1911-1983 m. Robert Allen Callaway Sr. 1910-1995
    - a. Robert Allen Callaway Jr. (Bob) 1939-1997
    - b. William Callaway (Bill)
  5. Robert Earl York 1914-1973 m. Marie Louise Appleton 1912-1980
    - a. Marcia Louise
      - i. Lynda Kay
      - ii. Leslie Karol
      - iii. Mark Russell
- E. **Archie Henderson** 1880-1888
- F. **Franklin Smith Henderson II** 1883-1936 m. (1911) Nancy J Swayze 1891-1965
  1. Franklin Smith Henderson III 1917-1931 (died at 14)

#### Steps and Halfs—The Taft-Henderson Family

After Joseph Asmon Henderson's death, his wife Samantha remarried (1886) Julius Simpson Taft 1846-1923. He had children and stepchildren from his previous marriage—step-siblings of the Henderson children.

- A. David Meredith Green abt 1871
  - B. Frank Green abt 1873
  - C. Libbie Taft 1880-1941 m. (1899) Tom Pendleton Lyon <sup>17</sup> 1876-1959
    1. Parker Lyon 1900-1942
    2. Hubert Lyon 1903-1976
  - D. Julius Wellington Taft (Jay) 1883-1970 m. Lilly Belle Lyon <sup>18</sup> 1882-1964
    1. Florene Taft 1910-1993 m. Meek
  - E. Lydia Taft (Liddie) ? 1884-\_\_? (only record is on 1900 census at age 16)
  - F. Ettie Florence Taft ? (can't find any record except this book)
- Then Samantha and Julius had the following children together—half-siblings of the Henderson children:
- A. Ruby Anne Taft 1887-1956 m. (1915) Sam Brewer 1884-\_\_
  - B. Willie Della Taft 1889-1960 m. Oswalt
  - C. Alta Mae Taft 1892-1973 m. (1910) Albert Sidney Henderson 1885-1941 (see #VII-A)
  - D. Julius Roy Taft 1895-1965 m. Aileen Watkins

#### V. **Harriet Caroline Henderson (Hattie)** 1850-1929 married (1872) Jesse Edwin Crews <sup>19</sup> 1847-1883

- A. **Kirk Edwin Crews** 1873-1927 m. Annie Judson Owens <sup>20</sup> 1876-1929
  1. Herman Henderson Crews 1900-1957 m. (1949) Ada Bell McCollum 1915-2000
    - a. Judy Ann
      - i. Melissa Ann
    - b. Henry Calvin II

<sup>17</sup> Lyon or Lyons. This family was not consistent in their spelling. Tom is usually found as "Lyon," while his wife Libbie seemed to favor "Lyons." Their children used the "Lyon" spelling. Tom's sister Belle used "Lyons." Gravestones all read "Lyon," but some of their death certificates say "Lyons."

<sup>18</sup> Siblings Libbie and Jay Taft married siblings Tom and Lilly Belle Lyon, making their children double first cousins..

<sup>19</sup> Jesse Edwin Crews is the first cousin of Sallie's husband Henry Calvin Crews.

<sup>20</sup> Siblings Kirk Edwin Crews and Mary Emma Crews married siblings Annie Judson Owens and James Parris Owens, making their children double first cousins..



- b. Robert Bruce Buckalew 1934-1996 m. Sarah
  - c. Mildred Louise Buckalew m. Rex Stell
- D. **Mary Emma Crews** 1879-1926 m. James Parris Owens 1879-1943
  - 1. Edythe Augusta Owens 1903-1976
  - 2. Nellie Cornelia Owens 1906-1945 m. John Douglas Campbell 1902-1963
  - 3. Thomas Watson Owens 1908-1909
  - 4. Julia Agnes Owens 1910-1973 m. Hicks
  - 5. Mary Evelyn Owens 1913-1991 m. (1932) Jesse Bell Smith, then m. (1953) Fred Dorough
  - 6. Harvey Milton Owens 1918-1991
- E. **Henry Robert Crews** 1881-1947 m. Lena Belle Wilson 1895-1978 <sup>21</sup>
  - 1. Hattie Maurine Crews, May 4–Dec. 2, 1915
  - 2. Zoe Evelyn Crews 1917-1972 m. Frank Clark
    - a. Linda
  - 3. Lena Louise Crews 1921-2003 m. (1942) William Chester Hogenson (W.C.) 1916-2006
    - a. Martha Louise
      - i. Eric Scott
    - b. Carol Ann Hogenson 1948-1976 m. Kenneth
      - i. Jessica Ann
- F. **Virgie Alma Crews** 1882-1954 m. Jasper Cheatom Taylor 1881-1942
  - 1. Virgie Beatrice Taylor 1911-
  - 2. Margaret Ethel Taylor 1914-
  - 3. Mabel Louise Taylor
  - 4. James Roy Taylor 1917-2002 m. Ruby Florence Wood 1924-1969
  - 5. Cora Ruth Taylor
  - 6. Fred Edwin Taylor 1925-1973

## VI. Sarah Jane Henderson (Sallie) 1853-1941 m. (1884) Henry Calvin Crews <sup>22</sup> 1857-1929

- A. **Walter James Crews**, 1885-1952 m. Lena Henry Todd 1892-1947
  - 1. Walter Daryl Crews 1922-2008 m. Natalie Blalock 1923-2010
    - a. Walter Paul
      - i. James
  - 2. Tommie Lee Crews 1924-2006 m. Emma Blanche Powell 1920-2004
    - a. James Powell (Jim)
    - b. Lena Jane
      - i. Margaret Ann (Meg)
      - ii. Elizabeth Joan
      - iii. Erin Lee
    - c. John Thomas (Jay)
      - “Tommie’s other grandchildren”:
      - i. Chris
      - ii. Clark
  - 3. Virginia Ruth Crews 1927-2007 m. Wayne Lofton Lyon 1927-2003, m. Robert Wood
    - a. Lyric Ann
      - i. Michael Steven
      - ii. James Philip
      - iii. Mary Kathryn (Katie)
    - b. Larry Wayne
    - c. Melody Ruth
- B. **Lizzie Lee Crews**, 1888-1964 m. Cornelius Lamar Howard 1889-1963
  - 1. Walter Ralph Howard 1911-1995
  - 2. Edgar Lamar Howard 1919-2002
  - 3. Bettie Jean
- C. **Unnamed boy**, July 10, 1890–Sep. 13, 1890
- D. **Jesse Crews**, Sep. 27, 1892, died at 3 days

<sup>21</sup> Henry Robert Crews’s wife, Lena Belle Wilson, is the granddaughter of Hattie’s sister Belle, making the couple 1st cousins, 1x removed. You will also find them listed under Section III—A—4 of this outline.

<sup>22</sup> Henry Calvin Crews is the 1st cousin of Harriet’s husband, Jesse Edwin Crews.

VII. **John Madison Henderson**, 1855-1939, m. (1884) Martha Jane Vining Chilcoat (Mollie)<sup>23</sup>  
1865-1913

- A. **Albert Sidney Henderson** 1885-1941 m. (1910) Alta Mae Taft 1892-1973<sup>24</sup>
1. son, died at birth
  2. Dorothy Jane Henderson 1913-1983 m. Joe Bailey Parker 1902-1987
    - a. James Robert (Jim Bob)
      - i. Joel Michael
      - ii. Daniel James
      - iii. John Patrick
    - b. Jo Nell
      - i. Scott
  3. Jack Nash Henderson 1914-1994 m. Willie Mae McIntyre 1912-1990
    - a. Patricia Ann
      - i. Henry Van Jr.  
(1) Henry Van III
      - ii. Julie Lynn
      - iii. Gregory
    - b. Dale Wayne
  4. Ruby Anne Henderson 1916-1988 m. George William Scroggins 1915-1959
    - a. George William
- B. **Lena Mae Henderson** 1886-1953 m. (1912) George Wallace Nash 1878-1944
1. Henderson Edward Nash 1913-1975

VIII. **William Daniel Henderson**, 1858-1929 m. (1889) Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins<sup>25</sup> 1859-1922<sup>26</sup>

- A. **Minnie Lee Henderson** 1889-1957 m. Solomon Robbins Hawkins 1879-1968
1. Quincy Bryan Hawkins 1912-1986 m. (1939) Lera Sue Anderson 1910-2005
    - a. Quincy Bryan Hawkins Jr. 1943-2009 m. Rosan
      - i. Lauran  
(1) Ashley
      - ii. Quincy III
    - b. William Robbins
      - i. Megan
      - ii. Heather
      - iii. Jane
  2. Dora Elaine Hawkins 1915-2003 m. (1940) Luther Curtis Gregg 1914-2002
  3. Mittie Lee Hawkins 1924-2013 m. (1942) William Edward Beard (Bill) 1919-1993
    - a. Timothy Greg Beard 1948-2011 m. Susan
      - i. Angus
      - ii. Jeff
      - iii. Diane
    - b. Michael Edward Beard 1943-2001?
    - c. Patsy Gail Beard 1946-2001 m. Williams  
"Mittie's grandchildren":
      - i. Miller
      - ii. Marilee
 "Mittie's great-grandchildren":  
(1) Lauren, Landon, Ashlyn, Alexa, Kendall, Nina, Marco
    - d. Kelsey

<sup>23</sup> Mollie's previous husband (surname Chilcoat) lived only 2 months after marriage.

<sup>24</sup> Albert Sidney Henderson and Alta Mae Taft were not related, but Alta's half-siblings were Sidney's first cousins. See bottom of IV: The Taft-Henderson Family.

<sup>25</sup> There is some discrepancy with Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora's full name. She was called "Dora" in her adult years, but here is how she is listed on census records: In 1860—Ann, 10 mos. In 1870—Sallie, 10. In 1880—Dovie, 20 (her husband's 15-year-old sister Doris Anna Perkins lived next door and was also called Dovie). In all later censuses, she is Dora. Her gravestone says "Dora E. Henderson." Some family members list her name as "Rebecca Isadora Elizabeth," but since her marriage record says "E. R. I. Mitchell," we have opted to use "Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora" as her official name.

<sup>26</sup> Vivian does not descend from William Daniel, but she does descend from Dora. Dora's daughter Lillie Eva Perkins married John Lee Henderson, who was not related but a stepcousin. Lee and Eva are Vivian's maternal grandparents.

- 
- B. **Thomas Ward Henderson** 1891-1968 m. (1924) Nora Haseltine Hicks 1891-1936, then m. (1944) Mamie Howard Richards 1892-1983. [Children are Nora's.]
1. Thomas Jean
  2. Mary Frances
  3. Nora Joyce Henderson m. James Malcolm Massey 1921-2013
    - a. Don
      - i. Kelly
      - ii. Katie
    - b. Gail
      - i. Jason
      - ii. Lindsey  
(1) Caylee
      - iii. Jacob
      - iv. Kyle
      - v. Seth
    - c. Janet
      - i. Emilee  
(1) Berkley, Halle, Paisley
      - ii. Chad  
(1) Annalynn
      - iii. Kendal
- C. **William Paul Henderson** 1894-1969 m. Thelma Louise Boaz 1903-1987
1. Eugenia Ann Henderson (Jean) 1924-2013 m. Oscar Vernon Stuckey 1924-1992
    - a. Daniel Edward
    - b. Donald Paul  
"Eugenia's grandchildren":
      - i. Daniel Joseph, Clint Donald, John Paul, Luke Edward, Helen Genette, Bridget Elizabeth, Emma Eugenia
      - ii. Jesse Vernon Stuckey 1981-2007 m. Angela
  2. Daphne Pauline Henderson m. James Blair Cocke 1924-2013
    - a. Charlotte
      - i. Timothy Steven
      - ii. Jeffrey Lee
    - b. James
      - i. Cami Jarrell, Jacob Neil, Teri Emille, Mariad DeLynn
  3. David Lee
    - a. Kendra Lee
- D. **Lewis Earl Henderson** 1896-1976 m. Trannie Walding 1899-1985
1. Leon Henderson 1921-1973
    - a. Cecil Leonard
      - i. Laci Linette
      - ii. Cole Wayne
  2. Lewis Earl Henderson Jr. 1924-1997 m. Joy Lee Cox 1931-1995
    - a. Dana Kay
    - b. Shari Ann Henderson 1951-2006
      - i. Lewis Wayne  
(1) Chynna D'Lynn
    - c. Dennis Kent Henderson 1957-2006 m. Vicky
    - d. Scott Alan
      - i. Teala Rene
      - ii. Dustin
- E. **Lois Pearl Henderson** 1896-1897 (twin of Lewis Earl, died at 8 mos.)

Dora Mitchell Perkins's children from first marriage

Dora's first husband William Basil Perkins <sup>27</sup> died about 1884. Her children from that marriage were:

- A. Lillie Eva Perkins 1878-1964 m. John Lee Henderson 1875-1930 (See also #IV – B) <sup>28</sup>
- B. Lovie Dora Perkins <sup>29</sup> 1881-1962 m. Columbus Washington Fleming 1852-1918, m. James W. McDowell 1867-1943
  - 1. stepchildren from husband CWF's first marriage were Lula Fleming 1874-1911, William Walton Fleming 1877-1942, and Archie Columbus Fleming 1885-1954
  - 2. Nora Fleming 1900-1986 m. Eric Derring Mallory 1894-1982
  - 3. Willie Mae Fleming 1904-1996 m. Thomas Calvin Pierce 1901-1971
  - 4. Bazle Perkins Fleming 1906-1969 m. Bertie Maude Phillips 1908-1999
  - 5. Rufus Hall Fleming 1908-1998 m. Julia Louise Kennedy 1917-2005 (See I–C–5)
  - 6. Lovie Dee McDowell 1923-2013 m. Earnest Pitt, m. Malone
  - 7. Other children
- C. Willie Mae Perkins 1885-1952 m. Cyrus Scott Crone 1876-1961

## IX. Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881

<sup>27</sup> William Basil Perkins's middle name is found with varying spellings on records and among his own family members. This book even had inconsistent spellings, including Basel and Bazel. However, I learned "Basil" was the first name of both his grandfather (Basil Andrew Woolley, 1777–1848) and his mother's brother (Basil Monroe Woolley, 1834–1917). Both men are well-documented with the spelling "Basil," including the name on their gravestones, but misspellings were prevalent. Judging by those misspellings, it was likely pronounced like "Bazzle" or "Bassle." Additional confusion stems from the fact that his daughter Lovie D. Perkins Fleming named her son Bazle Perkins Fleming (1906–1969), a name printed on both his birth certificate and gravestone.

<sup>28</sup> Dora's daughter Lillie Eva married stepcousin John Lee Henderson. See IV - B.

<sup>29</sup> She is often listed as "Lovie D," but it was her daughter Lovie Dee McDowell who had the "Dee" middle name. On a legal document, her daughter Nora entered her name as Lovie Dora Perkins. She married Fleming, then McDowell, and had children with both.

# Family List

**William Lee Henderson** (Jan 4, 1808 to Dec 10, 1883)  
 Married Apr 25, 1838  
**Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby** (Nov 27, 1817 to Oct 8, 1900)

Children	Married	Their Children
1. <b>Mary Amanda Henderson</b> 5-1-1840 to 4-11-1911	1. John F. McGahey on March 26, 1856 2. Uriah B. Dobbins on October 2, 1870	<b>McGahey</b> Margaret Selina McGahey William Kelsey McGahey James Milton McGahey  <b>Dobbins</b> William Washington Dobbins Irma Teresa Dobbins Essie Lorilla Dobbins Sallie Jane Dobbins Rosa Lee Dobbins (granddaughter but reared as daughter)
2. <b>Martha Elizabeth Henderson</b> 3-8-1842 to 10-3-1896	1. J. M. Shelby on Dec 3, 1861 2. William T. McGahey on Feb 5, 1867	<b>McGahey</b> Lillie May McGahey Eleanor Lee McGahey
3. <b>Margaret Isabelle Henderson (Belle)</b> 7-18-1845 to 12-2-1919	John <u>Wesley</u> Arendell on Nov 29, 1867	Zoe Emma Arendell Lela Gertrude Arendell ( <u>Gertie</u> ) Virgella Arendell ( <u>Virgie</u> ) Leota Arendell Mathis Marvin Arendell Wesley Weightman Arendell
4. <b>Joseph Asmon Henderson (Joe)</b> 3-25-1847 to 10-25-1885	Samantha Jane LaGrone on Jan 4, 1872	Effie Aletta Henderson John <u>Lee</u> Henderson Etta Henderson Jennie Henderson Archie Henderson Franklin Smith Henderson II
5. <b>Harriet Caroline Henderson (Hattie)</b> 11-10-1850 to 12-4-1929	Jesse Edwin Crews on July 27, 1872	Kirk Edwin Crews Adolphus Crews ( <u>Dolphia</u> ) Linnie Crews Mary Emma Crews Henry Robert Crews Virgie <u>Alma</u> Crews
6. <b>Sarah Jane Henderson (Sallie)</b> 1-12-1853 to 3-2-1941	Henry Calvin Crews on June 22, 1884	Walter James Crews Lizzie Lee Crews
7. <b>John Madison Henderson</b> 7-10-1855 to 1-27-1939	Martha Jane Vining Chilcoat ( <u>Mollie</u> ) on Feb 3, 1884	Albert Sidney Henderson Lena Mae Henderson
8. <b>William Daniel Henderson</b> 1-21-1858 to 2-5-1929	Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins ( <u>Dora</u> ) on Jan 6, 1889	Minnie Lee Henderson Thomas <u>Ward</u> Henderson William <u>Paul</u> Henderson Lewis Earl Henderson Lois Pearl Henderson
9. <b>Franklin Smith Henderson</b> 3-8-1860 to 10-15-1881	None	None

# How Are We Related?

## Calculating Family Relationships

By Kerin

Wondering how you're related to someone? There's not an easy-to-remember calculation method, so this should help.

## Method 1: Cheat Sheets

If you know where to start, use these mini cheat sheets for assistance.  
(If not, try method 2, next page.)

### About Cousins:

- 1ST COUSINS share the same Grandparents.
- 2ND COUSINS share the same Great Grandparents.
- 3RD COUSINS share the same Great x2 Grandparents.
- 4TH COUSINS share the same Great x3 Grandparents.

### What "Removed" Means:

You are in different generations.  
Once removed = 1 generation different.

COUSIN, ONCE REMOVED =  
Your Cousin's Child, or  
your Parent's Cousin.

COUSIN, TWICE REMOVED =  
Your Cousin's Grandchild, or  
your Grandparent's Cousin.

COUSIN, 3x REMOVED =  
Your Cousin's Great-Grandchild, or  
your Great-Grandparent's Cousin.

*if . . .*

**For Aunts/Uncles** (works vice-versa for niece/nephew):  
If her Parent is my Grandparent = She is my Aunt or Mother.  
is my Great Grandparent  
= Grand Aunt or Grandmother  
is my Great x2 Grandparent  
= Great Grand Aunt or Great Grandmother  
is my Great x3 Grandparent  
= Great x2 Grand Aunt or Great x2 Grandmother

**For Cousins** (these work vice-versa too):

Her Grandparent is my Grandparent = 1st cousins  
is my Great Grand = 1st cousins, 1x removed  
is my Great x2 Grand = 1st cousins, 2x removed

Her Great Grand is my Great Grand = 2nd cousins  
is my Great x2 Grand = 2nd cousins, 1x removed  
is my Great x3 Grand = 2nd cousins, 2x removed

Her Great x2 Grand is my Great x2 Grand = 3rd cousins  
is my Great x3 Grand = 3rd cousins, 1x removed  
is my Great x4 Grand = 3rd cousins, 2x removed

### About Aunts/Uncles:

A GRAND AUNT is in your Grandparent's generation.  
A GREAT GRAND AUNT is in your Great-Grandparent's generation, etc.

(Note: Most people say "great aunt," but the proper term is "grand aunt," and it's less confusing!)

### About Grandparents:

Count how many generations away they are, subtract 2, and that's how many "Greats" to use. (Don't count yourself.)

Me - Carol - Vivian - Jessie - John Lee - Joseph  
1 2 3 4 5

Joseph is 5 generations away, minus 2, makes him my Great x3 Grandfather.



# Census Records

Early census reports are rife with errors. Name spellings, places of birth, ages, and dates of birth vary from one report to another.

The family's matriarch, Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson, is a typical example. Both Eleanor and Selina are spelled a number of different ways. Even her Bethesda Cemetery gravestone reads "Elenor S.," a spelling variation that is also found in the 1850 census. On the 1860 census she is listed as Ellener; on the 1870 report as Salina; on the 1880 report as Ellen. Only in Shelby family records is she consistently referred to as Eleanor Ann Selina.

Errors in age are equally common. In 1860, Franklin Smith Henderson was listed as being three months old, which is accurate, but 10 years later, he was only 7 according to the census taker. The Jesses

become Jessie and the Marthas Mollie and the Margarets Maggie.

This lack of accuracy becomes especially critical when one is searching for lost family members. We discovered this when we were searching for our paternal great-grandfather and found that our grandfather's census records had listed his father, in separate accounts, as being born in five different states—Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. The poor man may have been a wanderer, but it is not possible that he could have been born in so many different places!

*KERIN'S NOTE: I compiled the following census records, which follow the William Lee & Eleanor Henderson family from 1840 to 1940. (Except 1890, which was destroyed by fire.) Page numbers correspond to the census records found on Ancestry.com.*

## 1840 Census

North Carolina – Mecklenburg County, Page 68 of 175. They are listed under “W.L. Henderson”

William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	1 Male in 30s
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	1 Female in 20s
Mary Amanda Henderson, May 1840-1911	1 Female under 5
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842-1896	(Not born yet)
Margaret Isabelle “Belle” Henderson 1845-1919	(Not born yet)
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	(Not born yet)
Harriet Caroline “Hattie” Henderson 1850-1929	(Not born yet)
Sarah Jane “Sallie” Henderson 1853-1941	(Not born yet)
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	(Not born yet)
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	(Not born yet)
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	(Not born yet)

## 1850 Census

North Carolina – Mecklenburg County – Centre District, Aug 15 1850, Page 3 of 4

Family Member	Name on Census	Age/Sex	Occup	Born in	School this yr?
William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	W.L. Henderson	42M	Farm	NC	
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	Elenor	33F		NC	
Mary Amanda Henderson 1840-1911	Mary	10F		NC	Yes
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842-1896	Elizabeth	8F		NC	Yes
Margaret Isabelle “Belle” Henderson 1845-1919	Isabella	5F		NC	No
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	Joseph	2M		NC	No
Harriet Caroline “Hattie” Henderson 1850-1929	(not born yet)				
Sarah Jane “Sallie” Henderson 1853-1941	(not born yet)				
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	(not born yet)				
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	(not born yet)				
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	(not born yet)				

William's brother John Elam Henderson and his family are next to them.

## 1860 Census

Alabama – Perry County – Jerico (Post office: Jerico),<sup>1</sup> June 28, 1860, Page 14–15 of 26  
The family lists their real estate value at \$2000, and personal estate value at \$1500.

Family Member	Name on Census	Age/Sex	Occup	Born in	School this yr?
William Lee Henderson 1808–1888	W.L. Hendison	52M	Farmer	NC	
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817–1900	Ellener S	42F	Domestic	NC	
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey 1840–1911	See below				
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842–1896	M.E.	18F	Domestic	NC	Yes
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson 1845–1919	M.H.I.	14F		NC	Yes
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847–1885	J.A.	12M		NC	Yes
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson 1850–1929	H.C.	9F		NC	Yes
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson 1853–1941	S.J.	7F		AL	Yes
John Madison Henderson 1855–1939	J.N. or J.R.	4M		AL	No
William Daniel Henderson 1858–1929	W.D.	2M		AL	No
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860–1881	F.S.	3mos. M		AL	No
J. M. Shelby <sup>2</sup>	J.M. Shelby	25M		TN	No

### Living elsewhere:

Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey 1840–1911	Age 20, living w/ husband J.F. McGahey 32, and kids M.S. 3, and Wm. K. 8mos. Next to Wm & Eleanor. (p15)
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- 1 Alternatively spelled Jericho, it was located only one mile northeast of today's Heiberger. An 1865 map shows Jericho but not Heiberger, which apparently did not exist at the time. The Jericho post office operated 1836–1907, while the Heiberger post office was not established until 1904. The two names may have been used interchangeably for a time, or perhaps the name Heiberger only gained popularity later on. As community names, they both referred to large areas of farms that stretched for miles. Sources: <http://aig-alabama.weebly.com/cahawba-oldtown.html>, [Wikipedia](#), [RuralSWAlabama](#), and [Geonames](#).
- 2 J. M. Shelby would marry Martha the following year, in 1861. He only lived till 1862 when he was killed in the Civil War. His full name is unknown at this time.

## 1870 Census

Alabama – Perry County – Twp 21 Range 8 (Post office: Marion), July 29, 1870, Page 9 of 21

Family Member	Name on Census	Age/Sex	Occup	Born in	School this yr?
William Lee Henderson 1808–1888	W.L. Henderson	62M	Farm laborer	NC	
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817–1900	Salina	52F	Keeping house	NC	
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey 1840–1911	Mary <sup>1</sup>	30F	At home	NC	
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842–1896	Martha <sup>2</sup>	28F	At home	NC	
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson 1845–1919	Bella	26F	At home	NC	
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847–1885	Joe	22M	Farm laborer	NC	
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson 1850–1929	Hattie	20F	At home	NC	
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson 1853–1941	Sallie	17F	At home	NC	
John Madison Henderson 1855–1939	John	15M	Farm laborer	AL	
William Daniel Henderson 1858–1929	William	12M		AL	Yes
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860–1881	Smith	7M		AL	Yes
Mary's dau – Margaret Selina McGahey 1857–1902	Lina	13F		AL	Yes
Mary's son – James Milton McGahey 1861–1939	James	7M		AL	Yes
??	Jessie <sup>3</sup>	17M	Farm laborer	AL	

- 1 Mary's husband John F. McGahey had died in 1862, and she and her kids were living with her parents. Three households away (as listed on the census) is the widowed Uriah Dobbins with children Alfa and Letus. He and Mary would get married later that year, in October 1870. His wife Margaret (Mary's cousin) had died in 1867. Mary's son William Kelsey had died in 1869.
- 2 Martha was remarried by this time to William T. McGahey (m. 1867) and had a daughter, Lillie May, b. June 20, 1868, so it is unclear why her husband and daughter are not listed here with her. In fact, they are not readily found on any 1870 census, so it may have been an oversight by the census taker.
- 3 I thought this might be Jesse Edwin Crews (1847–1883), who would marry Hattie in 1872, but if so, his age is wrong (he'd be 23), and he is counted twice—the other time with his family (p13). He did live close by, so it's possible. The census taker wasn't exactly accurate with last names—he has everyone as "Henderson," even though Mary and her children are McGaheys, so this isn't necessarily "Jesse Henderson."

## 1880 Census

Texas – Smith County – Precinct 6 – Sub District 100, June 15, 1880, Page 27 of 60

Family Member	Name on Census	Age/ Sex	Relat to head of house	Occup	Born in	Father born in	Mother born in	School this yr?
William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	Wm Henderson	72M	Head	Farmer	NC	NC	NC	
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	Ellen	62F	Wife	Keeping house	NC	NC	NC	
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins 1840-1911	See below							
Martha Elizabeth Henderson McGahey 1842-1896	Martha McGahey	38F	Dau	Keeps house	NC			
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell 1845-1919	See below							
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	See below							
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews 1850-1929	See below							
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson 1853-1941	Sallie	26F	Dau	At home	AL			
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	John	24M	Son	Works on farm	AL			
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	William	22M	Son	Works on farm	AL			
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	Franklin	20M	Son	Works on farm	AL			
William T. McGahey 1834-1883 (Martha's husband)	William McGahey	47M	Son-in-law	Works on farm	NC	NC	NC	
Lillie Mae McGahey 1868-1950 (Martha & Wm's dau)	Lilla May McGahey	12F	Grand- daughter	At home	AL			Yes
Eleanor Lee McGahey 1871-1953 (Martha & Wm's dau)	Eleanor McGahey	9F	Grand- daughter	At home	AL			Yes

### Living elsewhere

Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins 1840-1911	M.A. Dobbins, Age "35", living w/ husband U.B. Dobbins and kids M.S. McGahey 23, James McGahey 19, and A.V. 13, L.L.12, W.W. 7, I.T 6, E.L 4. Living in TX-Smith Co-Precinct 7, Subd 101, p33
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell 1845-1919	Margret Arendell, Age 34, living w/ husband John Arendell 40, and children Zoe 11, Lela Gertrude 9, Virgilla 8, Leota 5, Marvin 2 (p26)
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	Joseph Henderson, Age 30, living w/ wife Samantha 24, and children Effie 7, Leroy [John Lee] 5, Etta 4, Jennie 2. (p26)
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews 1850-1929	Harriet Crews, Age 29, living with husband Jesse Crews 31, and children Kirk 7, Adolphus 5, Linnie 3, Emma 1. (p26)

The families of Belle, Joseph, and Hattie are listed one after another, right next to William Lee & Eleanor.

## 1900 Census

Where they were in 1900

Family Member	Where they are
William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	Died 1888
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	(Not found on census, but she lived until October, possibly with Sallie's family.)
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins 1840-1911	Indian Terr (OK) - Chickasaw Nation - Twp 2 - Dist 136 (p17). MARY A DOBBINS 60, lvg w/ husb Uriah B Dobbins 62, mrrd 30 yrs, and kids Margaret S [McGahey] 42, Essie L 23, Sallie J 18, and granddaughter Rosa McGahey 8. Mary has 6/7 living children. Margaret has 1/1 living children.
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842-1896	Died 1896
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell 1845-1919	TX - Milam Co - Pct 3 - Dist 20 - p23. ISABELLA ARENDELL 54, lvg w husb John W Arendell 60, mrrd 33 yrs, and kids Marvin 22, and Weightman 18.
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	Died 1885
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews 1850-1929	TX - Smith Co - Pct 6 - Dist 109 - p36. HATTIE C CREWS 49 wdw, w/ kids Emma E 21, Henry R 19, Alma V 17. She has 6/6 living children.
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson Crews 1853-1941	TX - Smith Co - Pct 6 - Dist 109 - p36. SARAH J CREWS 44, w/ husb Henry Crews 45, mrrd 16 yrs, and kids Walter J 14, and Lizzie 12. She has 2/4 living children.
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	TX - Smith Co - Pct 6 - Dist 109 - p34. JOHN M HENDERSON 44, w/ wife Mary J Henderson 34, mrrd 16 yrs, and kids Lina M 12, and Albert S 14. Mary has 2/2 living children.
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	TX - Smith Co - Lindale - Dist 109 - p33. WILLIAM HENDERSON 43, w/ wife Dora 40, mrrd 11 yrs, and Dora's daughter Willie Perkins 14, and their kids Minnie L 10, Thomas L [Ward] 8, Paul 6, Lewis 3. Dora has 7/8 living children.
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	Died 1881

## 1910 Census

Where they were in 1910

Family Member	Where they are
William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	Died 1888
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	Died 1900
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins 1840-1911	OK - Garvin Co - Wynnewood Ward 3 - Dist 84 (p3). MARY A DOBBINS 69 wdw, w/ daughter Sallie J 22, and daughter Rosa L 18. Mary has 5/8 living children.
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842-1896	Died 1896
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell 1845-1919	(Not found)
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	Died 1885
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews 1850-1929	TX - Smith Co - Pct6 - Dist 84 - p16. HATTIE CREWS 59 wdw, was mrrd 38 yrs, w kids Henry 29, and Alma 27. Has 6/6 living children.
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson Crews 1853-1941	TX - Smith Co - Pct6 - Dist 84 - p16. SALLIE CREWS 56 w/ husb Henry Crews 54, mrrd 24 yrs, w/ son Walter 24. Has 2/4 living children.
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	TX - Smith Co - Pct6 - Dist 84 - p16. JNO HENDERSON 55, w/ wife Mary 45, mrrd 26 yrs, w/ kids Sidney 23M, and Lina 22F. Mary has 2/2 living children.
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	TX - Smith Co. - Pct 6 - Dist 84 - p16. WILL HENDERSON 53, w/ wife Dora Henderson 50, mrrd 22 ys (Dora's 2nd mrrg, his 1st), w/ kids Minnie 20, Ward 18, Paul 16, Lewis 13. Dora has 7/8 living children.
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	Died 1881

## 1920 Census

Where they were in 1920

Family Member	Where they are
William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	Died 1888
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	Died 1900
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins 1840-1911	Died 1911
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842-1896	Died 1896
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell 1845-1919	(Not found)
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	Died 1885
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews 1850-1929	TX - Smith Co - Lindale - Dist 98 - p13. HATTIE CREWS 69 wdw, w/ daughter Linnie York 43 and her husband John H York 43, and John's mother Maria York [Mariah] 74 wdw.
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson Crews 1853-1941	TX - Smith Co - Lindale - Dist 98 - p16. SALLIE CREWS 66, w/ husb Henry C Crews 62, and son Walter J 33 wdw.
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	TX - Smith Co - Lindale - Dist 98 - p15. JOHN M HENDERSON 64 wdw. Living alone.
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	TX - Smith Co - Lindale - Dist 98 - p18. WILLIAM D HENDERSON 61, w/ wife Dora 57, and son William P 24.
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	Died 1881

## 1930 Census

Where they were in 1930

Family Member	Where they are
William Lee Henderson 1808-1888	Died 1888
Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby 1817-1900	Died 1900
Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins 1840-1911	Died 1911
Martha Elizabeth Henderson 1842-1896	Died 1896
Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell 1845-1919	Died 1919
Joseph Asmon Henderson 1847-1885	Died 1885
Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews 1850-1929	Died 1929
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson Crews 1853-1941	TX - Smith Co - Pct 6 - Dist 38 - p7. SALLIE CREWS 77 wdw, w/ grandson Tommie L 6. <u>Next to</u> dau Lizzie Howard 41 and her family.
John Madison Henderson 1855-1939	TX - Anderson Co - Pct 1 - Dist 9. JOHN M HENDERSON 74 wdw, living alone, Farmer.
William Daniel Henderson 1858-1929	Died 1929
Franklin Smith Henderson 1860-1881	Died 1881

## 1940 Census

Where they were in 1940

Family Member	Where they are
All have passed away except Sallie	
Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson Crews 1853-1941	TX - Smith Co - Pct 5 - ED 212-48 - p5. SALLIE J CRUES 87 wdw, highest grade completed: 6th. <u>Same page as</u> son Walter J 54 w/ wife Lenah H 48. and kids Daryl 17, Tommie L 16, Virginia R 12. All are on "Dallas and Shreveport Road."

# Eleanor's Photo Mystery

By Kerin

Want to help me with a puzzle? These are five photos labeled “Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby” (1817–1900). You’ll find some of these same photos out there online with the same label.

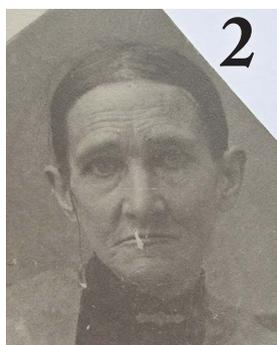
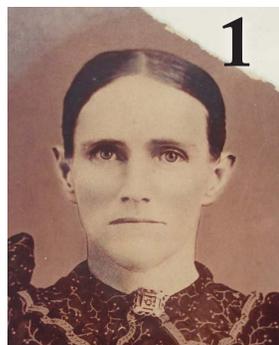
The fifth photo (wearing bonnet) is definitely Eleanor in 1900, but the others are debatable:

## Matching photos:

- Photos 1 & 3 do *not* look like the same person. The top of the head has a totally different shape, among other differences.
- Photos 1 & 2 could be the same person.
- Photos 2 & 3 could *maybe* be the same person, but the top of the head is different.
- Photo 4 seems to match Photo 3, based on ears and top of head.

## Photo age:

- Eleanor was born in 1817, and in Photo 1, she looks no older than 30, which she would have been in 1847, or *maybe* 40, which she would have been in 1857. It would be extremely rare to have an 1840s photo of a non-famous person. (The photography process was invented in 1839.) I don’t see many 1850s photos either.
- In fact, none of the Henderson or Shelby photos I’ve ever seen were taken before 1880, and none



were taken in Alabama. (Both on Ancestry.com and in this book, as far as I can tell. Please let me know if I’m wrong.) That means the woman in Photo 1 would have to have been *born* in the 1840s or 50s.

## Eleanor's children:

- The first photo bears a striking resemblance to her daughter Sallie (1853–1941). However, I don’t think photo 2 is Sallie, as she didn’t look like that at that age (see her photos next page).
- We don’t have a photo of Sallie’s sister Martha Elizabeth (1842–1896),



but the clothing and ages in 1 and 2 might fit for her *if* #2 was taken before her death at age 54 in 1896. (This woman looks older than 50s, though)

**My guesses:** We know #5 is Eleanor. I believe #3 is Eleanor based on her resemblance to her brother James Madison Shelby. I think #4 is probably Eleanor. I think #1 could be either Sallie or her "unphotographed" sister Martha Elizabeth. #2 is probably not Sallie, but it could be Martha, or possibly Eleanor. Let me know if you can help with this one!

### Eleanor's daughter Sallie

*Right:* Four photos of Eleanor's daughter Sallie (1853–1941). Note the resemblance to the first two "Eleanor" photos? These were taken in 1896, 1900, before 1919, and 1925. They are all definitely Sallie.



### Family Resemblances

At right, the first photo is Eleanor's brother James Madison Shelby (1814–1889). He married (second photo) Amanda Ann Henderson (1816–1896)—William Lee's sister.

Note the resemblance of James Madison Shelby to the third "Eleanor" picture—these two could certainly be siblings!

The four other women are their daughters Mary Eleanor "Mollie" (1844–1899), Jane Eliza "Jennie" (1845–1902), Rachel Lenora "Nora" (1853–1927), and Margaret Amanda "Maggie" (1858–1912). They are double first cousins with William and Eleanor's children. (Names and dates from Ancestry.com, accuracy not verified.)

The Shelby daughters strongly resemble their Henderson double cousins. However, the Shelby girls' hair and attire are a bit fancier in their photos, leading me to believe they are not a match for "Eleanor" 1 or 2. But seeing these family resemblances makes me sure that "Eleanor" 1 and 2 are certainly family members.

(Shelby daughter photos courtesy of Sonya Manderson at <http://boards.rootsweb.com/thread.aspx?mv=tree&cm=669&cp=surnames.shelby>. I didn't have her email address to thank her personally, so thank you, Sonya!)



# 2

## Beginnings

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### Vivian's Connections with the Hendersons

**T**HIS IS A STORY ABOUT CONNECTIONS—the thousands of individuals and their spouses and the families they brought along with them—whose beginnings can be traced back to William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson of Bethesda Presbyterian Church near Lindale, Smith County, Texas.

The Hendersons were not, of course, “the beginning.” There were generations before them just as there will be generations yet to come. If we go back far enough, we could find branches of the family rooted in Adam and Eve, no doubt. For those who wish to trace back and back and back, this effort should be a help to get them started, but that is not the purpose of this effort. This is to help us know how we connect.

For years, as my mother hauled me off to Memorial Services on sweltering July days at

Bethesda, I have met people—tall people and short people, fair complexioned people and dark people, old people and young people, children and octogenarians, affable people and dour folk, blue-eyed people and brown-eyed and green-eyed individuals, ramrod straight people and round-shouldered folk, fat people and people as thin and straight as the fishing poles their progenitors tossed into the Sabine River to catch the elusive catfish.

I have been told that all of these people are “connected.” They are aunts and uncles, in-laws, and cousins to the fifth and sixth generations. The way they were connected was a mystery. I didn’t listen carefully to my mother and grandmother. I didn’t get the connection. The truth is I wasn’t interested. In my very young days I wanted nothing more than the sermon to be over so that I could play with my cousins under the giant oaks that surrounded that little white

church and sample all of the fried chicken, potato salad, fresh sliced tomatoes, blackeyed peas, home-baked bread, berry cobbler, chocolate cake and iced tea for which the women in “my” family were famous.

It always mattered that my roots were there—born on April 8, 1922, not more than two miles from that little church, when my parents had been but three years married. It always mattered that my infant brother, stillborn a year before my birth, rested in the cemetery behind the church along with countless family members.

It always mattered that, from time to time, throughout the years when I was growing through adolescence to young womanhood, to a young married woman and having children of my own, that I could go back from time to time. Mostly it was funerals that took me “home.” I missed many of those last rites as more pressing matters—or so I thought at the time—kept me busy with my career, running a home and rearing my own five daughters.

I remember with a smile and appropriate nostalgia that my own religious faith is rooted in that place. Bethesda was my first church home, and though I left it at age six never to go back for anything other than reunions and funerals, it made a profound and lasting influence on my life.

The story of connections could begin “once upon a time,” and perhaps it will . . . eventually.

# Henderson History

The first known Henderson to arrive in the American Colonies was Thomas Henderson, who emigrated from Scotland in 1607 and settled in Virginia. His son was Samuel Henderson and his son William Henderson. There followed a five-generation gap in the family until about the beginning of the eighteenth century when data began to be more accurately recorded.

The first Henderson of certain direct lineage in the family was John Lee Henderson I, who was born about 1780 and married Ann Sample on April 5,

1808, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. It is believed that he came as a child from Virginia to North Carolina.

Since records are sparse and incomplete, it is not certain that the Hendersons of North Carolina, Alabama and Texas are direct descendants of Thomas, but the repeated names in succeeding generations, even though they are mostly common names—William, John, Thomas, Joseph—indicate that the family heritage is accurate.

On the Shelby side of the family, connections to earlier generations are more complete. They date from 1734 when Evan Shelby migrated from Wales to the Colonies. His family included Moses Shelby, who was then 7 years old. They lived for a time in Pennsylvania, then moved to Maryland and later settled in Clear Creek, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Moses married Isabel Alexander and they had eleven children, nine of whom lived to adulthood, married and produced families. The oldest was named Thomas, who married Sarah Helms. Thomas and Sarah’s oldest son was Moses II, named for his grandfather. This Moses grew up to wed Mary Ann Knox. Moses II and Mary Ann Shelby had nine children between 1807 and 1820. Their third was James Madison Shelby, who wed Amanda Ann (or Ann Amanda as some records state) Henderson, and their seventh was Eleanor Ann Selina, who married William Lee Henderson.

The children of Eleanor and William are fifth certified generation American on their mother’s side of the family—their mother Eleanor to Moses II, to Thomas to Moses I—and a third certified generation on their father’s side of the family—their father William Lee to John Lee I. They are quite possibly a seventh or eighth generation Henderson if the gaps from Thomas to John Lee I can be closed.



## History of the Henderson Name in Scotland

From the Clan Tartan Centre at James Pringle Weavers of Inverness, Scotland

### Henderson

In the 14th and 15th centuries this name was found in various parts of Scotland. The Hendersons of Glencoe claim to have occupied that glen before the advent of the MacDonalds, and further allege that the ancestress of the MacDonalds was the daughter of the Henderson chief. In the north the Hendersons are septs of Clan Gunn and claim to be descended from Henry, son of George Gunn the famous “crownner” of the 15th century. From the Hendersons of Fordell in Angus descended the noted divine, William Henderson (1583–1646). In the Highlands the name is often rendered as MacKendrick from the Gaelic MacEanruig meaning “son of Henry.”

Badge—Cotton Grass.

# Henderson Sampler

*By Kerin*

William Lee Henderson’s sister, Isabella Elizabeth Henderson, embroidered a family sampler when she was a student at Hopewell Female Academy near Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. It lists their parents and siblings.

Our family only has a photocopy of a photo of this sampler. The last we knew (in the 1980s), the original was owned by direct descendants of Isabella E. Henderson in Selma, Alabama.

A photo is on the next page, but the text is transcribed as follows:

## A Family Register

John Henderson and Ann Sample were married Apr 5 1804

Their first child

Betsey [Middle initial is either a T, I, or J] was born Sept 1st 1805 Dep Aug 1807[?]

Robert Z Henderson was born Oct 26th 1806 Married Apr 25th 1832

William L Henderson was born Jan 4th 1808 Married Apr 26th 1838

James M Henderson was born Apr 4th 1809 Married Oct 13th 1836

John E Henderson was born Nov. 9th [or 7th?] 1810 Married Dec 4th 1834

Jemima N Henderson was born Apr 5th 1812 Married Dec 4th 1838

McKnitt A Henderson was born July 14th 1813

Isabella E Henderson was born Dec. 22nd 1814 Married Dec 21st 1837

Ann A Henderson was born Mar 3rd 1816

Wrought by Isabella E Henderson at Hopewell Female Academy Oct 18th 1836 Mrs Williamson

## 1984 Genealogical Journal Article

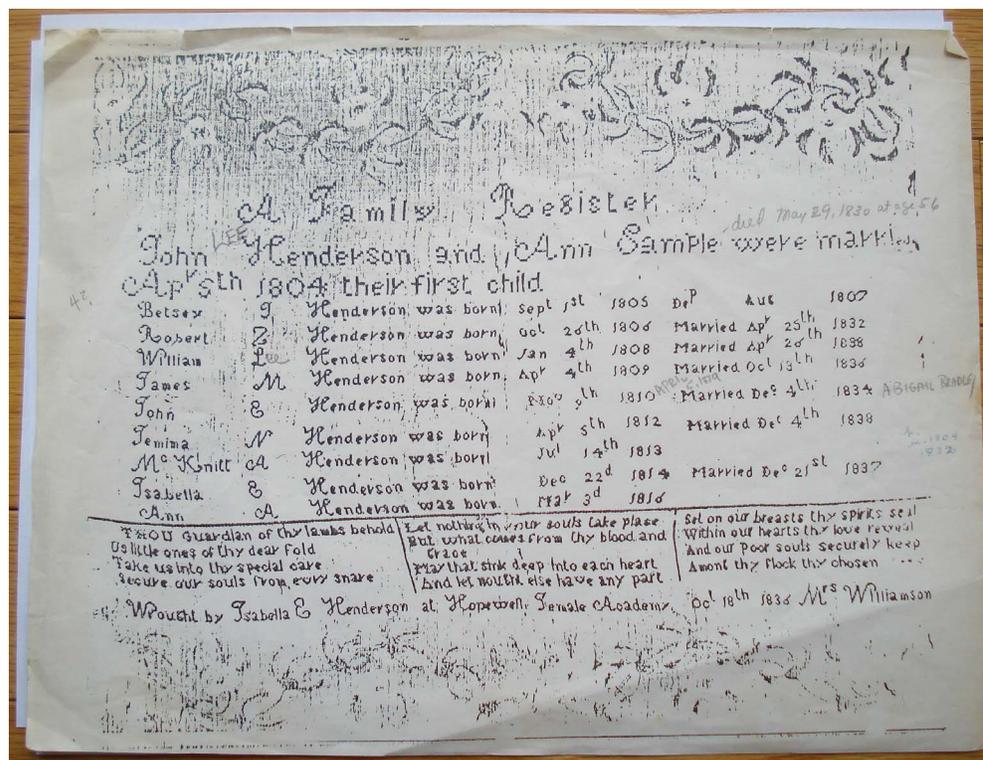
An article and photocopy of the sampler were printed in a quarterly journal: Southwest Oklahoma Genealogical Society, *The Tree Tracers*, Lawton, Oklahoma, Summer 1984, Vol. 8, No. 4, p. 19.

### SAMPLER PROVIDES PROOF

Submitted by Roserma H. Arnold, Lawton, OK

In generations past girls first learned to sew samplers and many have been preserved. They can contain valuable biographical information and dates, as well as being an artistic family keepsake. The Smithsonian Institute has a collection of early American samplers and there are guide books on these and others found in museums across the country.

*This photocopy of a photo with penciled notes is the only version we have. If any of you have access to the original Isabella Henderson sampler and could take a picture of it, I would be grateful!*



The HENDERSON/SAMPLE Family Sampler was found in 1983 by my nephew Dr. James Hensley and his wife Georgia (now living in Shawnee, OK) when they were on a genealogy search in Alabama. Mr. John Porter of Selma, Alabama shared the copy with them. The location of the sampler, if it still exists, is unknown to me. As the sampler states, it was "Wrought by Isabella E. HENDERSON [Hopewell] Female Academy Oct 18th 1836 Mrs Williamson. The earliest date is the marriage date of 1804.

John and Ann (SAMPLE) HENDERSON were my g.g.grandparents and they are buried in Hopewell Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Mecklenburg Co. NC. William L. (Lee) and Eleanor Selena (SHELBY) HENDERSON were my g.grandparents and they are buried in Lindale, Smith County, Texas. John E. HENDERSON married Abigail BRADLEY and one of their children, Margaret, married Uriah B. DOBBINS. Margaret died in childbirth. Uriah DOBBINS then married Mrs. Mary A. HENDERSON (McGAHEY), who was my grandmother.

## Where They Went

By Kerin

Of the family members listed on the sampler, only the parents, **Ann Sample Henderson** (died 1830) and **John Lee Henderson** (died 1842) have gravestones at Hopewell Cemetery in North Carolina. Their children:

**Betsey**—died 1807 at age 1, no gravestone found.

**Robert Z.**—married Abigail Sample and migrated to McNairy County, Tennessee, between 1850 and 1860.

**William Lee**—the subject of our story. Married Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby and migrated to Perry County, Alabama between 1851 and 1852 and owned land near today's Heiberger. Migrated to Lindale, Smith County, Texas, in 1879.

**James M.**—married Mary Hunter and migrated to Madison County, Tennessee, sometime between 1836 and 1850. (Madison County, at that time,

adjoined McNairy County, where his brother Robert Z. Henderson settled. A town named Henderson is in the same vicinity.)

**John Elam**—married Abigail Smith Bradley and migrated to Perry County, Alabama, between 1850 and 1853. Owned land near his brother William Lee near today's Heiberger. Died Apr. 4, 1879, a few months before some of his children and family members made the trek to Texas in Nov. 1879.

**Jemima Narcissus**—married Milton Alexander and stayed in the general area. Records list them near Stony Point and Statesville, North Carolina, 30–40 miles northwest of Hopewell Church.

**McKnitt A.**—married Catherine Herron and stayed in Mecklenburg County.

**Isabella Elizabeth**—married Lorenzo Porter and migrated to Perry County, Alabama between

1850 and 1860, then 30–40 miles south to the Summerfield area near Selma, Dallas County, Alabama.

**Amanda Ann**—married James Madison Shelby (Eleanor's brother) and migrated to Perry County, Alabama between 1850 and 1860. Migrated to Smith County, Texas, before 1870 (at least 10 years prior to her brothers' migration).

(Source: 1850–1880 Census Records and Findagrave.com records, with the help of Ancestry.com.)

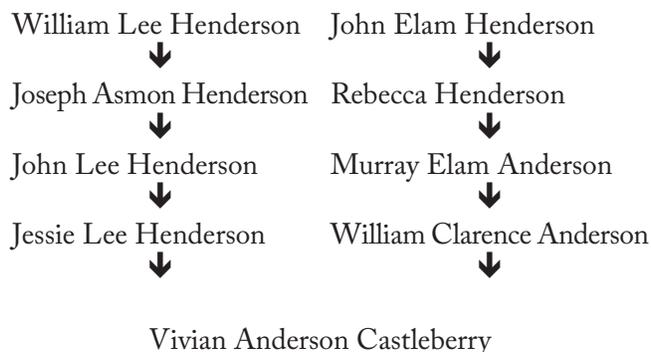
## Double-Descendant of the Henderson Sampler

Interestingly, Vivian Anderson Castleberry descends from *two* of the brothers listed on the sampler: William Lee and John Elam.

Vivian's parents, Jessie and Clarence, were from towns 40 miles apart (Lindale and LaRue), and they never met or knew of each other until adulthood.

According to Vivian, they realized they might have a common ancestor but didn't know how far back. It wasn't until a few years ago, thanks to online digital records, that we learned they were actually third cousins!

### John Lee Henderson and Ann Sample



# Hopewell Church Now

By Kerin

The Hendersons lived, farmed, and attended church in the Hopewell community of Mecklenburg County, then about 10 miles northwest of Charlotte. Hopewell Presbyterian Church was officially organized in 1762, but had been meeting in private homes for more than a decade. A log structure was built in 1765 for church services. In 1831–1833, a new brick building was erected, and it still stands today as the main part of the church.

When the new church was built, parts of the old wooden church were used to build a structure on the pastor's farm, about two miles away. It was in this building that the pastor's wife, Sarah Williamson, started the Hopewell Female Academy.<sup>1</sup> Isabella Elizabeth Henderson embroidered her now-very-important family sampler at this school, carefully noting her teacher's name along with the names of

her family members.

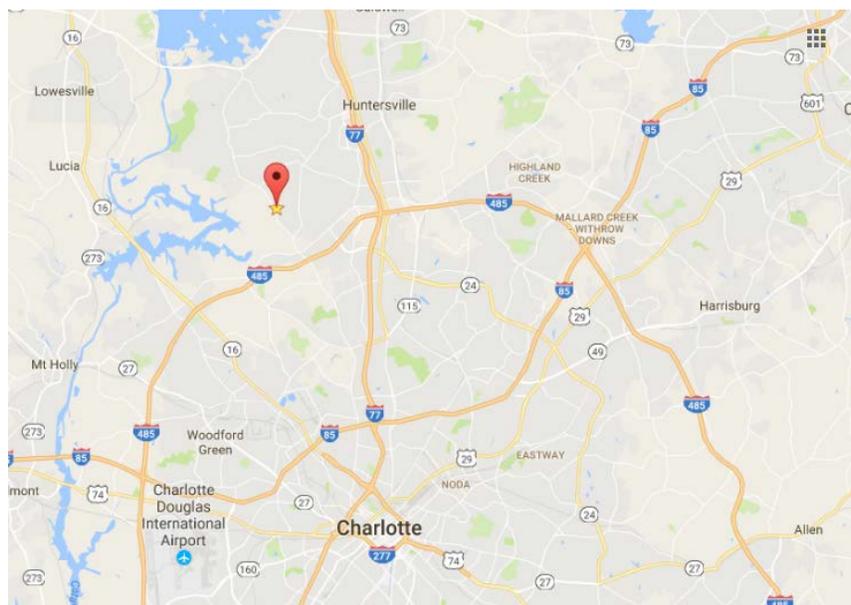
Since then, Hopewell Presbyterian Church has been remodeled and enlarged, and new buildings have been added.<sup>2</sup> The church is thriving with a vibrant congregation, youth programs, and activities. As one of the oldest churches in the region, it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church stands today at 10500 Beatties Ford Rd., Huntersville, NC 28078, now within the growing northern suburbs of Charlotte. The road perpendicular to the church bears a familiar name—Sample Road.



1 Hopewell Presbyterian Church, “Campus History.” <http://www.hopewellpresbyterian.com/indexNewLook2011d.php?n=2011NewLook/OurAncestors/campushistory&ct=0&ph=History>

2 Morrill, Dan, “Hopewell Presbyterian Church History,” 1987. <http://www.hopewellpresbyterian.com/indexNewLook2011d.php?n=2011NewLook/OurAncestors/campushistory&ct=0&ph=History>



*From Google Maps. Hopewell Presbyterian Church is marked. See Google Maps or <http://www.hendersonconnections.com/mecklenburg-nc.html> for an interactive map with satellite view.*

# 3

## Reaching Into The Past

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### Life in Alabama

**T**HE HENDERSONS MIGRATED FIRST FROM Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, to Perry County, Alabama, sometime between 1851 and 1852. We know this because their fifth child, Harriet Caroline, was born in North Carolina on November 11, 1850, and their sixth child, Sarah Jane “Sallie,” joined the family in Alabama on January 12, 1853.

No records reveal the reason for their move to Alabama, just as there is no clear information of what caused them to leave Alabama for Texas. One story about their Texas move is that the Hendersons opposed slavery and insisted, following the Civil War, upon opening membership in the Bethesda Presbyterian Church to their black neighbors. This made them very unpopular among the people in Alabama during “reconstruction” following the Civil War.

According to Perry County records, William and Eleanor sold an 84-acre farm in Bethesda Community, near today’s Heiberger, to Ned M.

Laughlin, a “freedman,” for \$200 (\$2.38 per acre) on December 5, 1870. There is some reason to question this official record, because the bill of sale was not filed until September 25, 1880, or recorded until October 27, 1880. The facts surrounding the sale of this property are not clear, but it is safe to speculate that the sale, in Alabama, so soon after the Civil War by a white landowner to a black freedman would not have enhanced the popularity of the family among their neighbors.

The Hendersons left the Heiberger area before anyone now living (1989) was born, but Lowell (Lewell?) Moore, a delightful man of some years, who lives up the hill some 200 yards from the closed Heiberger post office, says he recalls his family talking about the Henderson family who once lived in the community.



*Heiberger, in northern Perry County, Alabama, has all but disappeared. This is its former post office, closed and decaying at the time of our 1989 visit. It has since been refurbished.*

## Heiberger, Alabama

*By Kerin*

Despite frequent references in this book to Heiberger, the community did not actually exist until after the Hendersons left Alabama. The Heiberger post office in the above photo was not established until twenty-five years after the Hendersons left, operating from 1904–1959. The building was refurbished in 2008 and now houses a small historical museum.

The 1860 census notes their community and post office as “Jericho,” which was located only one and a quarter miles northeast<sup>1</sup> of the later-named Heiberger. An 1865 map<sup>2</sup> and an 1895 atlas<sup>3</sup> show Jericho, but not Heiberger. The Jericho post office operated from 1836–1907,<sup>4</sup> while the Heiberger post office was not established until 1904.<sup>5</sup>

Interestingly, the next census (1870) lists their post office as “Marion,” but their home as “Township 21, Range 8,” which was much closer to Jericho than Marion. Perhaps the Jericho post office did not operate continuously.

1 Sources: [Geonames](#) used with Google Earth.

2 [Cahawba-Oldtown Map](#)

3 [Roadside Thoughts: Jericho](#)

4 [Jim Forte Postal History: Jericho](#) and [Genealogy Trails: Perry County](#)

5 [RuralSWAlabama: Heiberger Post Office](#) (See photo of plaque in slideshow.)

According to the plaque that hangs on the Heiberger Post Office building, it served two rural routes covering an area of seventy square miles. It refers to the former Jericho post office as a “rural mail station.”<sup>6</sup>

The name Heiberger may have only gained popularity after the new Heiberger post office edged out Jericho’s. As community names, both Heiberger and Jericho referred to large areas of farms that stretched for miles. Frustratingly little about either community’s history is readily available online.

Today Heiberger is an unincorporated community. It appears on maps, but its postal addresses are considered to be in Marion, a city ten miles away.

Heiberger is best known for being the birthplace of Coretta Scott King (1927–2006), but her birthplace is often reported as Marion because of the change in postal city. Indeed, this important civil rights leader, born almost fifty years after the Hendersons’ departure, lived less than three miles west of their former land in what was considered Heiberger.<sup>7</sup>

## Marion, Alabama

*By Vivian*

Ten miles south, the city of Marion—the county seat of Perry County—was fully established with a population of about 2,000 when the Hendersons lived in Alabama. The 1980 census revealed a population of more than 4,400.<sup>8</sup>

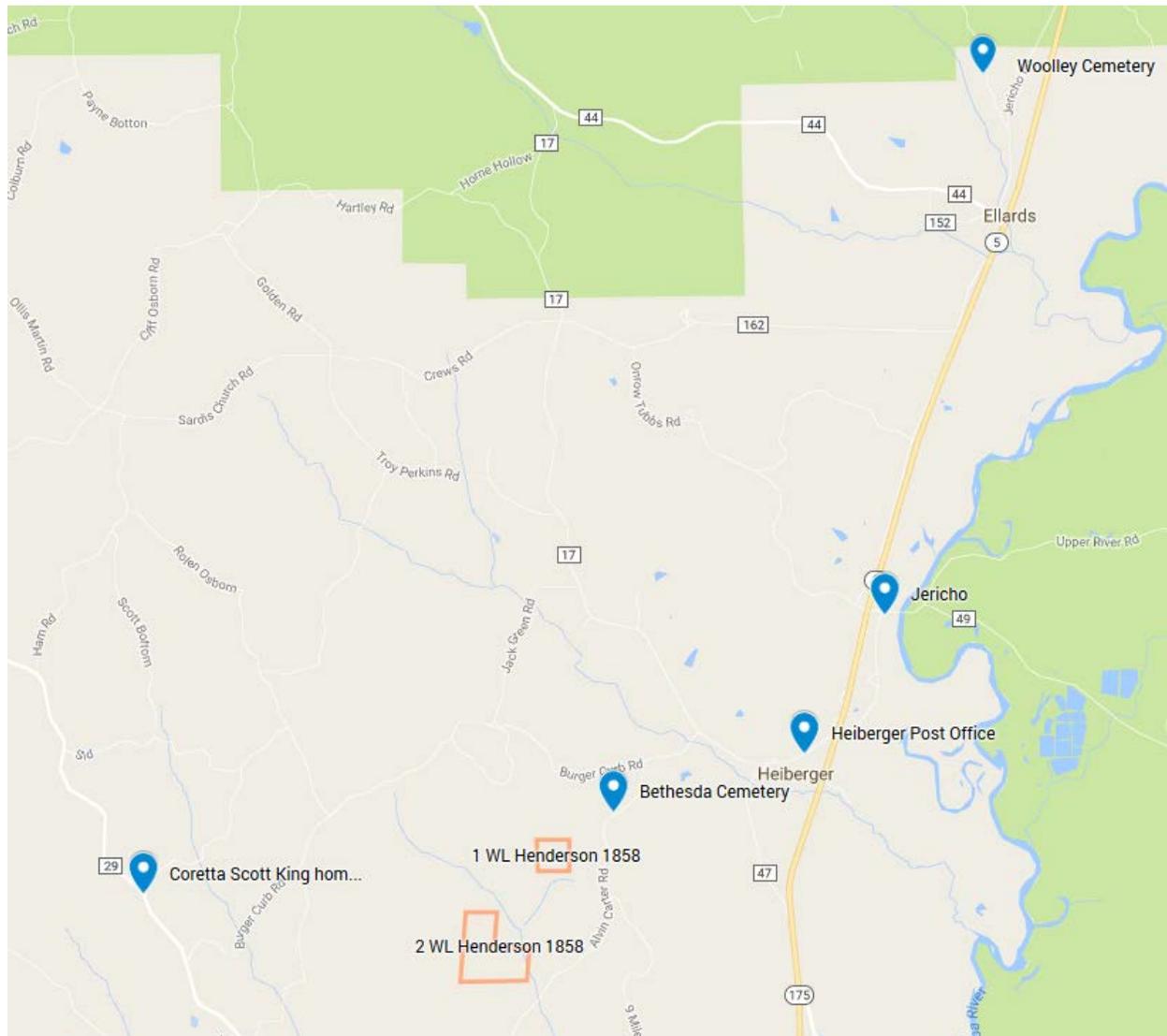
During our 1989 visit, we found Marion to have an ambience of old Southern beauty, charm, and hospitality. It is clean and neat and genteel. The streets surrounding the Perry County Courthouse (built in 1856) are wide and in excellent condition. Marion takes great pride in its historic buildings and old homes and preserves them with painstaking care. Many old homes have remained in one family for years.

Magnolias are everywhere in Marion. Their

6 Ibid.

7 [RuralSWAlabama: Coretta Scott King Home](#)

8 2010 census data for Marion shows a more recent population of 3,686. Source: [Wikipedia: Marion, Alabama](#).



giant branches all but encase many of the old Southern mansions and their large waxy leaves spread more than shade: they extend an aura of hospitality that is pure Old South. For some ineffable reason it is comforting to know that these stately old trees were already growing and, I like to think, cast their lovely shade on my ancestors of yesteryear when they were brides: Great Grandmother Samantha Jane LaGrone and Great Aunts Mary Amanda Henderson, Martha Elizabeth Henderson, Margaret Isabelle Henderson, and Harriet Caroline Henderson.

*KERIN'S NOTE:* From Google Maps. An interactive satellite version of this map is at [hendersonconnections.com/life-in-alabama.html](http://hendersonconnections.com/life-in-alabama.html).

The polygons show two pieces of land that William Lee Henderson owned in 1858. Their home was more likely to have been in the square (1), not the L-shaped polygon (2), as the 1870 census shows them in "Twp 21 R8," which applies to the square only. He may have owned more land or sold some of this at some point, but these are the only available records I've found.

Sources: I plotted the land using the Public Land Survey System KML file for Google Earth, which provides a grid layer for townships, available at <http://www.metzgerwillard.us/plss/plss.html>, and the First Landowners Project at [historygeo.com](http://historygeo.com) (subscription site).



*The Bethesda / Wallace Cemetery in Heiberger, Alabama, was abandoned and neglected when we visited in 1989.*

## Bethesda in Alabama

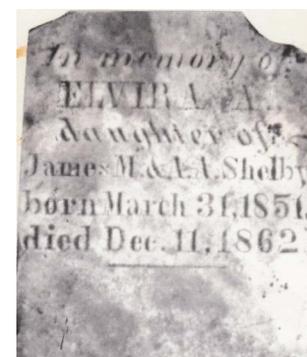
The Hendersons worshipped near today's Heiberger at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, which would become the name of the church they would establish in the Sabine Community near Lindale.

Bethesda Church near Heiberger burned many years ago. Bethesda Cemetery, also known as the Wallace Cemetery because so many Wallaces are buried there, is located on a remote, overgrown hill near the village.

Though the Hendersons established Bethesda Cemetery in Perry County, none of the family—so far as we could determine—have gravestones there. We do know that Mary Amanda Henderson's middle child, William K. McGahey, one of three children by her first marriage to John F. McGahey, died as a child in Perry County. If he is buried in that cemetery, there are no markers that we could find. We also know that John Elam Henderson (William Lee's brother), and his daughter Margaret died in Perry County.

We did find in the cemetery a marker with the name Elvira, "daughter of James M. and A. A. Shelby." It was lying on the ground. The little girl was born March 31, 1851, and died at age 11 shortly before Christmas on December 11, 1862. We learned later that this child was the daughter of James Madison and Amanda Ann Henderson Shelby. James was the brother of Eleanor Shelby Henderson

and Amanda Ann was the sister of William Lee Henderson, so the relationship is quite close. The Shelbys preceded the Hendersons to East Texas, in 1869. They are founders of the Tyler First Presbyterian Church and are buried in Morrison Cemetery in LaRue, Texas.



To reach Bethesda Cemetery, take Highway 5 north out of Marion. Turn left at State 47 traveling west. When it merges into County 17, continue northwest for one mile. Turn left, west, [onto Alvin Carter Rd.], immediately cross a bridge and continue west for 1.1 miles. Turn right into the woods onto a switchback dirt road going up the hillside into the woods for 2/10 of a mile. Bethesda/Wallace Cemetery, remote and mostly unkempt, is at the top of the hill on the left.

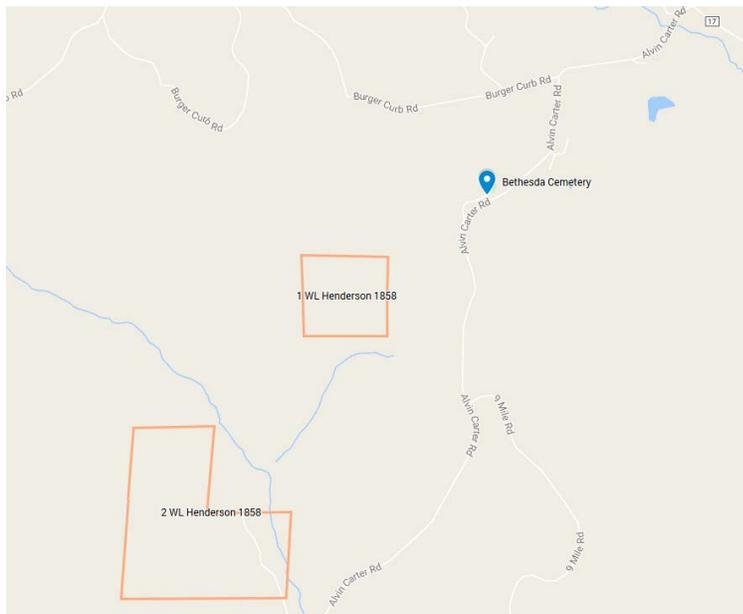
*KERIN'S NOTES: The Hendersons who died in Perry County are probably buried there, as their gravestones have not been found elsewhere, but they may have opted to not purchase long-lasting gravestones. One odd-shaped stone at Bethesda Cemetery simply has "H"*

etched roughly into it, with what appears to be a “T” and “H” below it. Other odd, dark, moss-covered rocks are found in the cemetery with no visible etchings, but they likely mark graves, perhaps those of our ancestors.

The website *Adventures in Genealogy at [aigcemeteries.weebly.com/bethesda-cemetery.html](http://aigcemeteries.weebly.com/bethesda-cemetery.html)* has beautiful, sharp photos of Bethesda gravestones, including the crumbled rocks that probably mark graves, taken in 2013. Thank you to Michele L. Jackson, “with the help of A.C. and K.B.” for her work. She is a genealogist with an interest in old, hard-to-find cemeteries and their preservation in Alabama.

Jackson notes on her site, “Bethesda has come under disrepair due to natural erosion and decay. One family voluntarily takes care of major debris once or twice a year. This cemetery needs restoration and is not currently on any restoration lists or historical cemetery lists.”

Vivian mentioned that the switchback dirt road to the cemetery was difficult to find in 1989. I’m happy to report that there is now a small sign marking the entrance to the road. It reads “Bethesda Cemetery→” and is visible from Alvin Carter Road, according to May 2014 images on Google Street View. It is at the point where the pavement ends and the dirt road begins on Alvin Carter Road.



*Google Street View image of entrance to switchback road. To view photos of Bethesda Cemetery and gravestones, see the [Adventures in Genealogy site](http://aigcemeteries.weebly.com/bethesda-cemetery.html).*

*From Google Maps. See [hendersonconnections.com/bethesda-in-al.html](http://hendersonconnections.com/bethesda-in-al.html) for an interactive map with a satellite view option.*

# By Chance, A Distant Cousin

Finding the switchback road to Bethesda/Wallace cemetery is difficult. We passed it several times in late November of 1989 before we were led there by Carol Averette and her son, Sam, who live on the dirt road that connects Heiberger with State Highway 29.

Carol Averette knew exactly where the cemetery was, she said, because her husband had showed her the spot last year. She knew nothing about whether or not a Presbyterian church had ever been located nearby, but she thought perhaps her mother-in-law might know and said that she felt sure this relative

would not mind sharing what she knew. We got in the car and followed her. Just before she reached her home, she turned right into the driveway of the house just before her own. This turned out to be the home of her parents-in-law.

We were welcomed there by Mr. Averette, who came around the house from where he had been working, and Mrs. Inez Averette, who greeted us cordially and invited us into her home. She said she knew nothing about a possible church being located near the cemetery because her people were from the other direction and were all buried at Mount Zion Cemetery. This, too, was a plot I had on my list to find because some of the names I had discovered in the library were similar to the names I had listed in my family files. Inez Averette said she was interested in what I was doing and would like to do the same kind of research for her family. She said her family background was French and her maiden name was LaGrone.

Eureka! My maternal great grandmother, Samantha Jane, was a LaGrone. My great



*Genes across generations? Jessie Henderson Anderson [Vivian's mother], left, whose grandmother was Samantha Jane LaGrone, and Inez LaGrone Averette in November 1989, above.*

KERIN'S NOTE: See my note on next page. Jessie's great x3 grandparents are likely the same as Inez's great x2 grandparents.

grandfather, Joseph Asmon Henderson, and she had been married only two years when they moved to Texas. Samantha Jane LaGrone was 17 1/2 when she and Grandfather, who was almost 25, were married on January 4, 1872, in Perry County.

As Inez LaGrone Averette and I talked, we learned that names are similar in our families. She has an aunt Samantha. Also, as we sat and chatted, her face softened, her eyes lighted up and a dreamlike quality seemed to permeate her very presence. I saw reflected in her face the qualities I have seen so many times on the face of my mother and I marvel that the genes of family identity turn up again and again across generations. I asked if I might take her picture and she agreed. There is, I am certain, a striking family resemblance. I see my mother in her picture. Curtis says I am imagining things, but Carol, our oldest daughter, sees the same resemblance that I do. Perhaps my imagination is running amok, but there is no doubt in my mind that the genes are repeated in these many generations.

Our goodbye to the Averettes came midway in the afternoon during a season when night comes quickly and we had another destination, so we did not stop to explore the family connections when we passed the mailbox with Crews written on it.

*KERIN'S NOTE: I love this story! In January 2014, I checked Ancestry.com to see if I could find Inez's connection. I didn't research in depth to verify this, but IF the trees I found for Inez LaGrone Averette are correct, then Inez and Vivian are . . . drumroll . . . 3rd cousins, 2x removed.*

*They both descend from William Adam LaGrone Sr. (1755-1803) and wife Mary Magdaline Houseall(?) of South Carolina. They are Inez's great x2 grandparents, and Vivian's great x4 grandparents. Some of their children moved to Perry County, AL, in 1803.*

*Inez Claralee LaGrone Averette Henson passed away in 2008 in Marion, Perry County, Alabama. Her obituary and photos can be found at [www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=31498990](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=31498990).*

# Woolley-Edmonds Cemetery

We headed for north Perry County and the Woolley-Edmonds Cemetery and found it without incident. Pat Barton at the Alabama Gas Company in Marion had told me that morning where to find the cemeteries, marking the map with their locations.

That, too, was an intriguing story. I had learned at the library that the Woolley Cemetery was in extreme northern Perry County "at the place where the gas pipeline crosses Highway 5." The next morning, I spotted the Alabama Gas Company and insisted on going there. A delightful young Southern woman greeted me, offered me coffee and found Pat Barton "who knows everything." He lives in Heiberger, not far from where my great-great-grandparents once lived. He marked the map and gave me names of people who would know exactly where these cemeteries are located.

We turned north toward Bibb County and found the gas pipeline with little trouble. We took the dirt road following the pipeline to the top of the hill where Mary Ann Woolley Perkins, my grandmother's grandmother, lies beside her parents, R. A. Woolley [Robert Adolph] and Mary [White] Woolley.

My great-great grandmother Mary Ann Woolley Perkins is buried near the left back of the cemetery in a grave marked by a tombstone reading "Grandmother" followed by her name and the dates 1836-1925. I wonder which of my distant cousins, to whom she was also "grandmother," marked the grave?

Mary Ann Woolley Perkins is my grandmother's grandmother. She was married to George [Washington] Perkins, a native of England, who died in the Civil War. Their son was William Basil Perkins, the first husband of Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora "Dora" Mitchell Perkins Henderson.

After William's death, Dora married one of the

Henderson siblings, William Daniel Henderson. The couple, with Dora's three little girls—Lillie Eva, Lovie, and Willie Mae—moved to East Texas.

*KERIN'S NOTE: Online, you'll find this cemetery under "Wooley Cemetery," "Woolley Cemetery," or "Woolley-Edmonds Cemetery," depending on the source. Google Maps lists it as "Wooley Cemetery" in Brent, Alabama. See [hendersonconnections.com/woolley-edmonds-cemetery.html](http://hendersonconnections.com/woolley-edmonds-cemetery.html) for an interactive map and [aicmeteries.weebly.com/wooley-cemetery.html](http://aicmeteries.weebly.com/wooley-cemetery.html) for photos of gravestones taken in 2013.*

## Migration: From Alabama to Texas

**M**ARION, PERRY COUNTY, ALA., NOV. 30, 1989—One hundred and ten years ago this month, William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson and their large family left this place for a new home in Smith County, Texas. William, who then was 71 years old and Eleanor, 62, with the other women and children in the family, traveled by train to their new destination. The younger men—sons, sons-in-law and a smattering of other male relatives—followed in a five-caravan wagon train. The wagons were loaded with all of the families' worldly goods except for clothing and a few small treasures that the women had packed into their luggage.

The wagon train left Heiberger, Perry County, Alabama, on Monday, November 10, 1879, and made a 500-mile trek due west, almost as the crow flies, to near Lindale, Smith County, Texas, where the Hendersons established a new life.

It took the Henderson wagon train 18 days to travel the 235 miles from Heiberger, Alabama, to Vicksburg, Mississippi, or about halfway. They

averaged about 13 miles a day, camping each night of the journey with the exception of several days they tarried with friends along the way. The entire trip, about 500 miles, took the wagon train 37 days, from November 10 through December 16.

In late 1989 in our year-and-a-half-old Ford Victoria, Curtis and I traversed in four and a half hours almost the exact route my ancestors had traveled 110 years ago from Heiberger to Vicksburg. We averaged a little better than 50 miles an hour. Interstate I-20 must follow almost exactly the wagon trails of yesteryear, for we "camped overnight" too, about two miles from Vicksburg in the Park Inn International where we had a luxurious room with king-sized bed, refrigerator, and breakfast furnished the next morning.

## Migrating Family Members

Connections that bound the Henderson family were strong, for all nine of William and Eleanor's adult children came to Texas, one couple in advance of the wagon train and all the others as a part of the migration. Five of the nine daughters and sons were married and made the move with their spouses and children. Most often in those times, at least some of the adult sons and daughters would have remained in their original home, kept there by connections to in-laws and offspring.

Joseph Asmon and Samantha LaGrone Henderson preceded his parents and other siblings to East Texas. Joe and Samantha joined the Shelbys, his aunt and uncle, in the area, arriving in Texas some four years ahead of the rest of the family. They must have arrived some time between 1873 and 1875 because their oldest child, Effie Aletta, was born in Perry County in March 1873 and their second child, John Lee II, in Smith County, Texas, in April 1875. There were four other children—Etta, Jennie, Archie and Franklin Smith II—born to the Henderson-LaGrone union. Franklin was 22 months old when his father died at age 38.



*William Lee Henderson and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby in a not-so-great photocopy of a photo.*

The Henderson “children” who settled in East Texas ranged in age from 19 to 38. Four of the five daughters and four sons had been born in Perry County. All had grown up there. Mary Amanda, the oldest, was probably 13 when her parents brought her from North Carolina to Alabama, along with Martha Elizabeth, Margaret Isabelle, Joseph Asmon and Harriet Caroline, an infant. Five of the nine married during the time they lived in Perry County and took their spouses and children along on the move to Texas.

Moving to Texas were:

**Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins** and her husband, Uriah B. Dobbins.

**Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby McGahey** and her husband, William T. McGahey.

**Margaret Isabelle “Belle” Henderson Arendell** and her husband, John Wesley Arendell.

**Joseph Asmon Henderson** and his wife, Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson, who preceded the rest of the family.

**Harriet Caroline “Hattie” Henderson Crews** and her husband, Jesse Edwin Crews.

**Sarah Jane “Sallie” Henderson**, 26 and single.

**John Madison Henderson**, 24 and single.

**William Daniel Henderson**, 21 and single.

**Franklin Smith Henderson**, 19 and single.

## Alabama and East Texas Compared

*KERIN'S NOTE: The “current” information in this section is from about 1989 and may be outdated.*

The Perry County, Alabama, the Hendersons left behind them in many ways resembles the East Texas land to which they came. In Perry County, there were ample forests—mostly pine with a few oaks and other hardwoods and a great many sweet gum—where they could hunt wild game. The Cahaba River, not far from their Heiberger property, very much resembles the Sabine River of East Texas, which provided ample catfish for their tables.

The terrain is also similar, though it must have been infinitely more difficult to wreak a livelihood from the red clay of Perry County than it was in the sandy loam of East Texas. Cotton, the king of Alabama agriculture at that time, also was planted in abundance in northeast Texas, but the Hendersons soon learned to diversify and earned much of their income, not in cotton and corn, but in melons, strawberries, blackberries and sugar cane.

The education systems were not ideal in either location. In Perry County there was Judson College, founded in 1838 as an institution of higher learning for young women. It has been under the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention since shortly after its founding and remains very small, with a 1989 enrollment of less than 400. When the Hendersons left Perry County, there was also Marion Female Seminary, founded in 1836 and disbanded in 1915.

Lincoln Normal School, started only a decade before the Hendersons left Alabama, was established by Congregational missionaries for black students. It remained in operation from 1869 until 1969 and has among its distinguished graduates Coretta Scott King and Idella Childs, mother-in-law of Andrew Young, who now chairs Marion's Library board (1989).

It would be some years before Smith County, Texas, could boast of credible institutions of higher learning, but today it has far outstripped its Alabama forebears. The University of Texas at Tyler has more than 3,000 students and a faculty of more than 200. Tyler Junior College, with more than 7,000 students and a faculty of 300, is one of the outstanding community-based colleges in the state.

Economically, the Hendersons doubtless improved themselves, though there have been many lean years. Alabama is one of the country's poorer states and Perry County is one of the three poorest in the state. Agriculture formed its economic base when the Hendersons left there just as agriculture was the economic base for the state of Texas. Today soy beans rather than cotton are the prevalent agricultural crop in Perry County. Dairy farming runs a close second. The county has been rich in timberland. Much of the good timber has now been cut and that which remains is owned for the most part by large out-of-state corporations.

# 4

# Bethesda Church

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## Bethesda—a Pivotal Place



*This is the second building of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church near Lindale, Texas, dedicated by the Rev. John McLean on July 14, 1895. It still stands today and is an official Texas Historic Landmark. See Part 5 of this book for more on the landmark status.*

**B**EFORE THE HENDERSONS OF ALABAMA had completed their homes in their new East Texas location, or so the story goes, they built a place to worship. It was a small white building located four miles north and east of Lindale. There are several written stories about the founding of this church, and very few discrepancies in the stories. Most of them add to or delete details told by others. Because of the richness of the heritage of Bethesda Church, it is important to include the separate stories, together with whatever duplications occur, as they have come down through the years.



*Vivian in front of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1989.*

Since my childhood, Bethesda has both changed dramatically and remained dramatically the same. The church is still a picture-postcard-pretty white frame building sitting serenely in an oak grove some four miles northeast of Lindale. Today, just as it did when I was a child, it evokes a quickened heartbeat as it appears, still after all these years, as a Christmas-morning-like surprise when I round the gentle curve.

I remember the small brightly colored Sunday School cards my brothers and I got every Sunday. My favorite was Jesus sitting among His flock and blessing the children. “Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Along with the Bible verse there would be a bit of a story. There are no specific sermons I remember; perhaps I fidgeted too much. But I remember, vaguely as if in a dream—or maybe I even remember because my mother and grandmother perpetuated the reality—my grandfather’s prayers as he stood, head bowed, adjacent to the pulpit at Bethesda. Even when there was no preacher—and we couldn’t in those days afford to have a full-time minister—there was always Sunday School. My mother was always one of the teachers. In the earlier days, when she was a young woman, she had been the church organist. She had gone into Lindale, on horseback or in a wagon, for five years to take music lessons so that she could play for Sunday worship services and other church-related occasions.

One Sunday stands out vividly in my mind. We were living a mile or so away from the church back toward Lindale. It was Sunday morning and we—Norman, Quinton and I—were dressed in our

Sunday best. Daddy had cranked up the old Model T and shepherded all three of us into the back seat of the car. He was waiting impatiently, as he always did when he was ready to go, for Mother to emerge from the house. When she came, also dressed in the best she owned, she turned her ankle and fell down the front steps, slitting her leg from just below the knee to the ankle. The wound gushed blood. Daddy bounded from the car, picked her up, dumped her onto the seat, slid in beside her and headed out the driveway. Instead of turning right onto the road toward church, he turned left toward town.

All three of us in the back seat started to cry. We were not so upset about Mother as we were sad to miss Sunday School. We knew Mother would be all right. She always was! But to miss Sunday School was unthinkable! It took time to find the doctor and even more time for him to sew up the wound on Mother’s leg. By the time it was all finished and we were home again with Mother resting on the bed as Daddy insisted, church was over. Several of the aunts and uncles and cousins dropped by to see what had happened with us. They knew, as we did, that only an emergency kept the kin away from church on Sunday morning.

Bethesda Church provided the social as well as the spiritual sustenance of our lives.

In the days when my mother played the organ for worship, the road leading to it was deeply sand rutted in the summer and pitted with chug holes when it rained, frosted over in slippery ice on a few winter days, and occasionally garbed in pristine snow as it was back on January 30, 1930, when my grandfather John Lee Henderson was brought home there to rest. Weather never deterred the increasing number of devout worshipers who came from miles around in their wagons, in buggies, on horseback, and on foot, to worship.

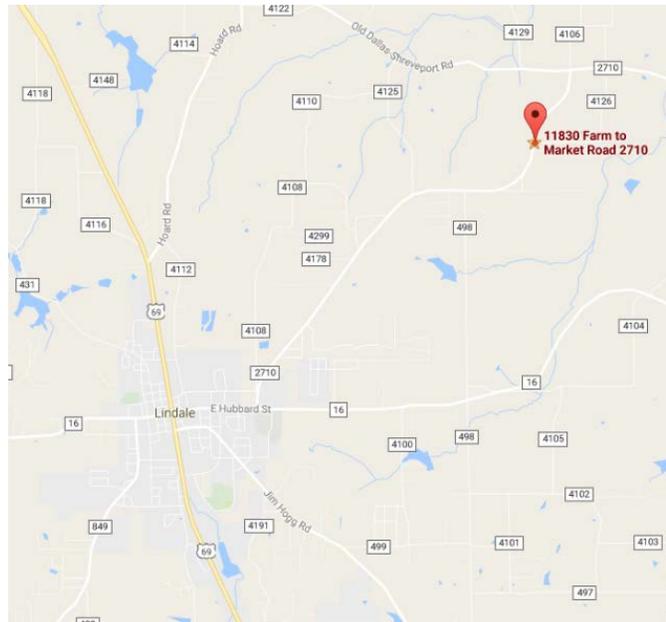
Now Bethesda Presbyterian Church is but a pretty picture, momentarily glimpsed and as quickly gone, for most of the people who whisk past it in their sleek automobiles on their way from...to...over the gently rolling, gracefully curved East Texas paved highway.

Ah, but there are connections! Many of the hymns are the same words sung to the same music Mother used to pipe on the organ. The “word” is preached from the centuries-old Bible that sustained

our ancestors as they made their trek over “foreign” land from Perry County, Alabama to Texas in 1879.

The first thing they did, even before they completed clearing their farmlands and building their homes, was to establish a place of worship.

*Right:* Location of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, from Google Maps. For an interactive map with satellite view, see [hendersonconnections.com/bethesda-in-tx.html](http://hendersonconnections.com/bethesda-in-tx.html). Note, Lindale has another Bethesda Church on Main Street. It is not affiliated with our Bethesda Presbyterian Church.



# Organizing the Church

The official files from the Department of History (Montreat), Presbyterian Study Center, Montreat, North Carolina, give this version:

## Organization of Lindale Presbyterian Church

At a meeting of East Texas Presbytery at Longview in the Fall of 1880, a Committee was appointed to organize a church at Lindale if the way be clear. Rev. W. R. McLelland and Elders J. M. Shelby and Thos. Niblack were appointed said Committee.

On the twenty sixth (26) day of March, 1881, the Committee met at the above named place.

The following persons were recd by letter from Bethesda Church, Alabama. Viz:

W. T. (William T.) McGahey  
 M.E. (Martha Elizabeth Henderson) McGahey  
 Lilly McGahey  
 W. D. (William Daniel) Henderson  
 Wm. L. (William Lee) Henderson  
 E. S. (Eleanor Selina Shelby) Henderson

S. J. (Sarah Jane) Henderson  
 F. S. (Franklin Smith) Henderson  
 Viola Dobbins  
 Jas. (James) McGahey

The following from Tyler:

Thos. A. Love  
 Francis A. Love  
 J. A. (Joseph Asmon) Henderson  
 Mrs. S. J. (Samantha Jane LaGrone) Henderson  
 Hugh C. Henderson  
 Mrs. Hugh Henderson [Mary Elizabeth]

The following were duly elected Elders of Lindale Church.

Wm. L. Henderson  
 J. A. Henderson

The former, having been previously ordained, was installed. The latter was ordained & installed according to the authorized form.

The following brethren were Elected, ordained & Installed Deacons—

Thos. A. Love  
F. S. Henderson

The church was then declared fully equipped for duty and the blessing of The Holy Trinity invoked upon it.

(Session Records, v. 1, p. 1 and 2).

## About the Church

In other records from Montreat, North Carolina:

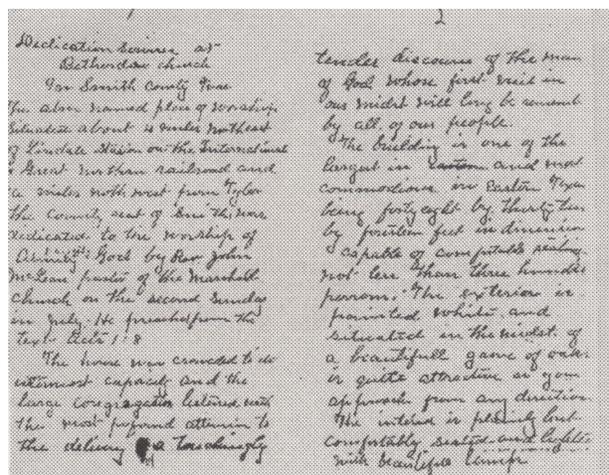
"Bethesda Presbyterian Church is located about four miles northeast of Lindale station on the International and Great Northern Railroad, and sixteen miles northwest from Tyler, the county seat of Smith County. It was first called LINDALE Presbyterian Church, but, in 1885, by request of the church, the Presbytery ordered the name changed to BETHESDA.

The house of worship derives its name from the Bethesda Church, Perry County, Alabama, which obtained its name from the old Bethesda Church, York District, South Carolina.

The Session of this church met first on April 10, 1881, with the Rev. Mr. Paxton as Moderator, and the minute was signed by J. A. Henderson, Clerk. The second meeting was on October 30, 1881, with Rev. J. D. Burkhead, evangelist of the Presbytery, as Moderator.

There is no record in the Session book about the erection of the first building for worship, but a sketch prepared by the Rev. Thomas Ward White, evangelist of the Presbytery, during the summer of 1895, provides this information:

All the members, with perhaps one exception, are children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of one family, which moving to Texas in December of 1879, erected a shelter and obtained the service of a shepherd before building for themselves the plainest residences."



*This is a portion of the story in his own handwriting written by Rev. Thomas Ward White for the Christian Observer. The full text is transcribed below.*

## New Church Dedication, 1895

On the second Sabbath of July 1895 (that would be July 14, 1895) a new house of worship was dedicated by Rev. John E. McLean, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Marshall, Texas. The Rev. White of New Birmingham, Texas, provided this write-up for the *Christian Observer*:

### Dedication Services at Bethesda Church in Smith County, Texas

"The above named place of worship, situated about four miles northeast of Lindale station on the International and Great Northern railroad, and sixteen miles northwest from Tyler, the county seat of Smith, was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God by Rev. John McLean, pastor of the Marshall church, on the second Sabbath of July. He preached from the text Acts 1:8.

("But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.")

The house was crowded to its utmost capacity, and the large congregation listened with the most profound attention to the delivery of a touchingly tender discourse by the "man of God," whose first visit in our midst will long be remembered by all of our people.

The building is one of the largest and most commodious houses of worship in Eastern Texas, being forty-eight by thirty-two by fourteen feet in dimension, capable of comfortably seating no less than three hundred persons. The exterior is painted white and, situated in the midst of a beautiful grove of oaks, is quite attractive as you approach from any direction. The interior is plainly but comfortably seated, and lighted with beautiful lamps presented by the late lamented J. DeWitt Burkhead, for many years evangelist of the Presbytery of Eastern Texas.

The actual cost of the building was about six hundred dollars, all of which has been paid.

The history of the church is one of deep interest.

All the members, with perhaps one exception, are children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of one family, which moving to Texas in December, 1879, erected a shelter and obtained the services of a shepherd before building for themselves the plainest residences.

The house of worship derives its name from Bethesda church, Perry County, Alabama, which obtained its name from the old Bethesda church, York District, South Carolina.

The church was originally organized the 26th of March, 1881, by Rev. W. R. McClelland, appointed by the Presbytery of Eastern Texas under the name of Lindale Presbyterian church. This name it bore until 1885, when it was changed by order of Presbytery to that which it now bears, with a membership of sixteen, ten from the Bethesda Church, Alabama, and six from Tyler with W. L. Henderson and Joseph A. Henderson, ruling elders, with T. A. Love and F. S. Henderson, deacons, all of whom are dead, and now sleep in their narrow homes in the silent cemetery immediately around the house of worship.

Over these graves, the unbidden tear often falls, and yet the death of such men was the life of the church.

Since its organization, the pulpit has been occupied at various times by Rev. Messrs. W. R. McClelland, J. DeWitt Burkhead, L. H. Wilson, R. N. Smith, H. H. Crane, C. W. Chambers, C. C. Williams, with occasional services by the writer of this sketch.

In April, 1887, the Presbytery of Eastern Texas held its spring sessions at this place.

The church at present is without a pastor. John M. Henderson and Henry C. Crews are respectively elder and deacon, and since these dedicatory services, we cannot but expect and desire a brighter and better future for a little flock which has struggled so faithfully in the work the Master has given them to do."

## Church Officers

**Records in Montreat, North Carolina (MSS. Records of Session, v. 1, Minutes of the General Assembly and Dr. T. W. White's Sketch of Bethesda Church.—FT.) dated Nov. 14, 1933 continue:**

"A Sunday School was organized sometime before May, 1884, for in that year it was first reported to the General Assembly as having three (3) Officers and teachers, and twenty-eight (28) scholars.

The school has been kept up through the years, ranging in the number of attendants from twenty-four (24) to around sixty. The Superintendents have been:

(page of report missing)

"Bethesda has given one son to the Gospel ministry, the Rev. Franklin S. Henderson, son of J. A. Henderson, one of its first Elders, and has sent out Elders, Elders' wives, and Deacons to other churches. Rev. Franklin S. Henderson is pastor of the Central Park Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas.

## Officers of the Church

### Ministers:

W. R. McClelland	1881-1883
L. H. Wilson	1884
T. W. White, evangelist	1886-87, 1890
R. N. Smith	1888
C. C. Williams	1889
C. W. Chambers	1891-1894
W. C. Caldwell, S.S.	1897-1898
W. C. Tenney	1899-1900
W. K. Johnston	1901
Supplied by Presbyterial Evangelists, et al	1902-1912
S. D. Logan	1913-1914
R. L. Owen	1915-1917
Supplies	1918-1919
J. Z. Haney	1920
J. M. Batte	1921-1923
Vacant	1924-1928
W. J. Eakens	1929-1931
C. Fred Hancock	1932
T. D. Murphy	1933

### Elders:

Wm. L. (William Lee) Henderson	March 26, 1881-1883 (Death)
J. A. (Joseph Asmon) Henderson (Clerk)	March 26, 1881-1885 (Death)
John M. (Madison) Henderson (Succeeded J .A. Henderson as Clerk)	Aug. 11, 1886-
K. E. (Kirk) Crews	September 10, 1899
S. A. Vernor (Vemon)	September 10, 1899
H. C. (Henry C.) Crews	March 18, 1917
J. L. (John Lee) Henderson	March 18, 1917

### Deacons:

Thomas A. Love	March 26, 1881
F. S. (Franklin Smith I) Henderson	March 26, 1811
John M. (Madison) Henderson	October 30, 1889
Henry C. Crews	July 9, 1889
H. K. Crews	March 18, 1917
Edd Williams	March 18, 1917
Walter Crews	March 18, 1917

# Bethesda Cemetery

Dr. Thomas Ward White's observation that the founders of Bethesda "now sleep in their narrow homes in the silent cemetery," and that "the death . . . of such . . . was the life of the church" continues to be credible through the years. Seldom does a year pass that some family member is not brought home to rest in that plot immediately behind Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

For many, this spot as a final resting place is like coming home, for they have played among the graves as small children, have helped their parents "work" the cemetery, pulling weeds and laying back the grass. They have attended funerals here on the coldest of winter days and sweltered at church services, Memorial Day reunions and other funerals in the hottest July and August days. For others, this is the choice of survivors as a pivotal place, a small plot on the earth that is their own, where their loved ones can rest among kin. Cemeteries and mausoleums



*The grave and marker of Franklin Smith Henderson, the youngest child of William Lee and Eleanor Selina Shelby Henderson, who died in 1881 at age 21. His is the first grave in Bethesda Cemetery.*

generally do not hold a compelling sense of place and time as they do to many peoples in other lands, but here in Bethesda Cemetery for most of us there is that hold.

We always hear at most funerals and in eulogies following wars particularly, that the deceased has not died in vain but will continue forever in the hearts and minds of those who survive. I have always doubted this. As a brash kid it seemed to me that dead is dead and whatever is to come will be without my paying a

lot of personal attention to it. And yet . . . and yet, here in Bethesda I feel among my people. I wish I had recognized this sooner for I would most certainly have had my own parents buried here rather than in the Athens Cemetery that, at the time, seemed more like home to me.

The cemetery was organized in 1882, but the first grave was placed on October 16, 1881, when Franklin Smith Henderson I, the youngest son of the founders, was buried among the trees near the church. It was the youthful Franklin who had insisted that a cemetery be laid out. With a wisdom beyond his years—only 17 when his parents, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews pulled up stakes in Perry County, Alabama, and set down roots in East Texas—Franklin very early assumed a leadership role in the family.

On March 26, 1881, 20 days after his 21st birthday, Franklin was named a deacon in the newly created church. It was in this role, no doubt, that he prodded the church elders, his father, the 73-year-old patriarch, William Lee Henderson, and his older brother, 36-year-old Joseph Asmon, to be about laying out a cemetery. Bethesda Church, incidentally, was a real birthday present for Joseph A., who was 36 the day before it was officially chartered.

Before the cemetery could be laid and fenced, Franklin died. His is the first grave in cemetery, unmarked as such except with his name and the date of his birth and death. The modest marker is topped by a crown with a hand underneath pointing to it and surrounded by engravings of the "flock." The inscription reads "F. Smith, son of W. L. & E. S. Henderson. Born in Perry County, Ala. March 6, 1860: Died Oct. 15, 1881."

The property deed for Bethesda Cemetery, filed for record on March 24, 1881, at 5 o'clock p.m. and recorded on March 30, 1882, at 3 o'clock p.m., is signed by John M. Rucker, Clerk, County Court, Smith County, Texas. It reads:

"State of Texas, County of Smith:

Know all men by these present that we U. B. Dobbins and W. D. Henderson of the State of Texas, Smith County, for and in consideration of the love we have for the Presbyterian Church, do grant convey to the said Presbyterian and by these presents do grant, give, and convey unto the said Presbyterian Church the following described parcel of land to wit:

Two acres out the SouthWest corner of U. B. Dobbins and Two acres out of the North West Corner of W. D. Henderson, (there follows explicit directions of the gift including points marked by blackjack trees, other trees, posts and stakes in the all 4 acres), to have and to hold the above described land together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances that in anywise belonging with the said Presbyterian Church, their heirs or assignees forever.

And we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said land unto the Presbyterian Church forever against every person from whomever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

Witness my hand this 1st day of March, A. D. 1882. Signed and delivered in present of U. B. Dobbins. W. D. Henderson."

**It is interesting to note that the land given by U. B. Dobbins was really the gift of his wife, Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins. During that time, and for years afterward, married women were legally non-persons in Texas and could not buy, sell or trade property. As soon as they were married, everything women owned became the property of their husbands and only the men's signature appeared on legal documents.**

## **Cemetery History by Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins**

A history of the cemetery on its 65th anniversary was written in 1956 by Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins, the daughter of William Daniel and Dora Mitchell Perkins Henderson.

### **History of Bethesda Cemetery by Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins**

Two acres of land was donated by William D. Henderson off the northwest corner of his farm and two acres donated by his sister, Mrs. Mary Dobbins, for a cemetery and church yard. The church was organized by William Lee and wife, Eleanor S. Henderson, about 1879 or 1880.

Before the cemetery could be cleared and layed off their youngest son, Franklin Smith, died and was the first grave put in the cemetery in the woods on Oct. 15, 1881. His brothers went next day and built a fence around the grave to keep stock off till they could fence the yard.

William Lee and Eleanor Selina Henderson with 7 of their 9 children with their wives and husbands are buried here and a nephew Hugh Henderson and his wife Bettie.

People interested in the yard would meet about once a year and work the yard. In 1905 a son-in-law of the Hendersons organized the Bethesda Association. The first officers were J. M. Henderson, chairman, and H. C. Crews, secretary-treasurer. Committee members included J. M. Hicks, T. C. Pierce, W. S. Cole, W. J. Wadill. The committee employed F. S. Starnes to work the yard at \$.50 per day. Down through the years, these men have been employed as caretakers or yard men: H. R. Crews, H. C. Crews, Dolphie Crews, W. H. Gibson, C. L. Howard and Dewey Lyons.

It has been financed by freewill offerings. Several years they would almost run out of money but finally would get some more in. The following men served as chairmen of the Association: John M. Henderson, W. S. Cole, J. J. Pierce, F. S. (L?) Starnes, E. L. Howard, H. R. Crews, Logan Crews, Whan Shores. Men who served as secretary-treasurer are H. C. Crews, H. R. Crews, W. J. Crews, J. A. Ferguson, W. H. Gibson and Aubry Starnes.

They have had a beautification committee each year to set out plants or flowers. Emmett Henderson, owner of Henderson's Nursery, Athens, donated hedge, crepe myrtles and roses in memory of his father and mother, Hugh and Bettie Henderson.

In 1953, the beautification committee composed of the following ladies: Nora [Fleming] Mallory, Tommy Mae Kimerly, Mattie Lou Hall, Helen Shores, Leta Mae Pool decided to do something outstanding for the cemetery. Working faithfully they were successful in getting enough money to erect a chain link fence with a beautiful arch over the gate. Total cost was \$978.50.

We haven't missed having a Memorial service each July since it was organized fifty years ago.

## Other Church Records

Many of the records of Bethesda Presbyterian Church and Cemetery have been lost or destroyed through the years, and often the threads of events are recorded only in shared stories. These are often incomplete and sometimes inaccurate because they are subject to human error, failed memory, false interpretation, and—sometimes—deliberate withholding or adding of facts. Every survivor of any branch of the Hendersons must add her or his own truth.

A few precious records do survive. These priceless bits of history, usually handwritten with misspelled words and incomplete information, look so innocent on the yellowed paper that holds the words. But they give the bare facts that are a continuing legacy to the Hendersons.

Among these are the minutes of the cemetery association organization, dated May 23, 1905. It reads:

“The community interested in the semetry met and after cleaning off the yard all agreed to work the yard by taxation and went in to election of officers:

J. M. Henderson, Pres.; H. C. Crews, Sect-tr.; J. M. Hicks, T. C. Pierce, W. S. Cole, E. L. Howard, W. J. Wadell, comitie.

The comitie employed F. L. Starns to superentend the work on the yard at one and 50 cts per day.”

# Bethesda Baptism Records

Equally valuable are the baptism, membership and death records of the early church and the records of those dismissed as members, mostly by transfer to other churches, but a few for disciplinary reasons. Pages 82 to 89 of Bethesda Records from Montreat include a wealth of information. Every Henderson ancestor, and many who belong to the family by marriage or extended friendship, will find in these pages fragments of their roots. Some will discover individuals for whom they are named.

For that reason, the pages are included here, as nearly as possible (including their misspelled names

and barring my own inability to interpret long-ago handwriting) exactly as they appear in these long-ago records. It is worth mentioning that Page 84 of the records has written at the top of the page "Baptisms. First Page" and begins with the date March 27, 1881, while page 82 says, "Baptisms of... Second Page," and begins on Jan. 17, 1897. Why the records should have started on Page 82 and backed up to page 84 is a mystery, but the recorded dates clearly indicate that is the way the records were kept.

DATE	NAME	PRESIDING
3-27-1881	Archie Henderson (Died 10-22-1888)	W. R. McClelland
11-1-1881	Charley DeWitt Love (Died 12-24-1886)	Rev. DeWitt Burkhead
7-2-1882	Sallie Jane Dobbins	Rev. W. R. McClelland
10-14-1883	Mr. Parish	Rev. J. DeWitt Burkhead
4-26-1884	Franklin Smith Henderson (infant) (Admitted to church 7-23-1895)	Rev. L. H. Wilson
8-26-1884	William Henry Way (adult)	Rev. L. H. Wilson
8-26-1884	Miss Alice Sophia Way	Rev. L. H. Wilson
August 1886	Albert Sidney Henderson Walter James Crews John William McGahey (infants admitted to communion)	Rev. Thomas Ward White
4-8-1887	Lena May Henderson (infant)	Thomas Ward White
2-26-1888	James Edward McGahey (infant)	T. W. White
5-13-1888	Lizzie Lee Crews (infant) Released by order of Presbytery	Rev. R. N. Smith
11-17-1888	William Prentice Ferguson (infant) Disms'd by letter	Rev. C. C. Williams
7-7-1899	Lillie E. Perkins* Lovie D. Perkin Willie Perkins* (All admitted to communion) (*Note: should be Perkins)	Rev. C. C. Williams
3-28-1890	Minnie Lee Henderson (infant)	C. C. Williams

6-18-1891	Matte Celeta Wallace. Lelia Morris Wallace. Florence Addie Wallace* Corie Bird Wallace* *Later Note: Out of bounds	Rev. H. H. Lane (?)
6-26-1892	Horace Neely Ferguson (Died September 1892) Charlott Rose McGahey (Rosa McGahey admitted; returned, order Presby.	Rev. C. W. Chambers
12-5-1894	John Ferguson	Rev. C. C. Williams
5-6-1895	Linnie Pearl McGahey	Rev. T. W. White
7-23-1895	Pendulum Herring (adult)	Rev. J. E. McLean
1-26-1896	Julius Roy Taft (infant)	A. W. Wilson, D. D.
1-17-1897	Jessie Lee Henderson (infant)	Rev. T. W. White
7-4-1897	Ethel Hudson	Rev. G. E. Eagleton
6-26-1898	Mary Elvira Ferguson (infant) Lillie May McGahey Henry Ferguson (By order of Presbytery Baptized by D. Dudley from Lindale Church)	Rev. A. W. Wilson
8-18-1899	Margaret Elner* York [*Should be Eleanor] Archie Raymon* Henderson [*Should be Raymond] Albert Jessie Crews	W. J. Caldwell of Tyler W. J. Caldwell W. J. Caldwell
2-25-1900	Joseph Tomson Vernon	A. W. Wilson
8-16-1900	Wilson Forest Ferguson	C. W. Tenney
8-17-1900	Herman Henderson Crews	C. W. Tenney
Aug. 1901	Ina May Hudson	Rev. J. A. Mecklin (?)
8-27-1902	Hattie Lola Crews Hubert Ferguson Charlie Perkins Henderson	Rev. J. D. McLean
3-22-1903	Walter Allen McGahey	Rev. N. Smyley
7-27-1906	Henry Earnest McGahey Joseph DeWitt Henderson (infant)	Rev. Thomas Gallaher
7-28-1906	Leslie Crews Luther Calvin Vernon Charlie C. Crone	T. Gallagher
8-15-1907	Dora Unice* Crone [*Eunice?] Annie Louis Crews	Rev. Edgar Williams Rev. Edgar Williams
7-21-1909	Mildred Henderson Linnie Helen Crews	Rev. Jno. A. Williams Rev. Jno. A. Williams
2-13-1910	Sarah Lenora Vernon	Rev. Jno. A. Williams
1-1-1911	Lewis Henderson (adult)	Jno. A. Williams
7-26-1911	Walter R. Howard (infant)	Rev. F. H. Hensley

7-25-1913	Dorothy Jane Henderson (infant)	S. D. Logan
7-19-1914	Nora Gertrude Crews (infant)	E. J. Durham
7-16-1915	Hattie Maurine Crews	R. K. L. Owen
5-16-1915	Jack Nash Henderson	R. L. Owens
March 1916	Ruby Ann Henderson	R. L. Owen
9-29-1917	Bera May Howard	R. L. Owen
9-30-1917	???? /Crews	R. L. Owen

*Kerin's Note: The last entry for ??? Crews might be Zoe Evelyn Crews, daughter of Henry Robert Crews and Lena Belle Wilson, born June 12, 1917. She's the only Crews I have on the Family Outline who was born that year.*

# Deaths and Transfer Records

## Roll of Members of Lindale Presbyterian Church Deaths, Transfer of Letter and Other Commentary

KERIN'S NOTE: Bracketed names added by me.

### 1881 Organizers:

W. T. [William T.] McGahey	Died July 25, 1883
M. E. [Martha Elizabeth Henderson] McGahey	Died Oct. 3, 1896
Lillie McGahey	Transferred by letter
W. D. [William Daniel] Henderson	Died Feb. 5, 1929
W. L. [William Lee] Henderson	Died December 10, 1883
E. S. [Eleanor Selina] Henderson	Died October 16, 1900
S. J. [Sallie Jane] Henderson (Crews)	Died March 2, 1941
F. S. [Franklin Smith] Henderson	Died Oct. 15, 1881
Viola Dobbins	Dismissed by letter on June 10, 1888
James McGahey	
T. A. Love	Died Aug. 13, 1882
Francis A. Love	Dropped (Died 9-12-1893)
J. A. [Joseph Asmon] Henderson	Died October 25, 1885
Mrs. S. J. [Samantha Jane] Henderson (Taft)	Died Aug. 2, 1896
H. C. [Hugh Cunningham] Henderson	Died July 4, 1885
Mrs. H. C. Henderson	Dismissed by letter Oct. 24, 1896 (Died 2-18-1925)

### Members Added to Roll

WHEN RECEIVED	NAME	COMMENTARY
April 10, 1881	Miss M. S. [Margaret Selina] McGahey	Expelled
October 30, 1881	Mrs. John M. Henderson [Martha Jane "Mollie" Vining Henderson]	By letter
July 1, 1882	Mr. Urah (Uriah) B. Dobbins Miss E. L. [Eleanor Lee] McGahey Mrs. Mary Dobbins [Mary Amanda Henderson]	By Examination...Expelled Examination...Dismissed Letter. Removed.

October 12, 1883	Miss L. L. [Luxie Leatus] Dobbins	Examination...Dismissed by letter Dec. 24, 1889.
October 14, 1883	Mr. J. Parish	Examination. Dropped.
May 31, 1884	Mrs. Mary A. Ferguson	Letter. Died July 15, 1887
August 26, 1884	Mr. Wm. Henry Way Miss Alice Sophia Way	Examination. Dismissed by letter. Examination
July, 1885	Mrs. M. J. [Mollie Jane] Henderson	By letter. Died Aug. 11, 1913
August 21, 1886	Willie W. Dobbins Erma T. Dobbins Essie E. Dobbins John Lee Henderson Effie A. Henderson Etta Henderson Kirk Crews Dolphius Crews Linnie Crews (York) Mary E. Crews (Owens)	Examination. Removed. Examination. Moved off. Examination. Moved off. By Examination. Died March 17, 1890. . . . .
8-23-1886	Willie C. Love	Dropped
10-24-1886	Mrs. Hattie Crews	By letter
6-26-1887	Mr. J. A. Fusselman Mrs. J. A. Fusselman	Dismissed by letter Examination and promise of letters.
9-1-1887	Mrs. Sallie Smith Miss N. L. Smith	By examination. Dismissed by letter, July 8, 1888 Dismissed, letter 7-8-88
6-16-1889	Mrs. Dora Henderson	Received by letter
7-3-1889	Mr. Forest Ferguson	By Exam. Dismissed by letter
3-30-1890	Jennie Henderson	Received by examination Disms'd by letter 8-26-94
4-9-1890	Mary Hollis	Received by examination Dropped from roll
11-30-1890	Mr. Joe Wallace Mrs. Allice Wallace	By letter. Out of reach. By letter. Out of reach
8-26-1884	H. C. [Henry Calvin] Crews	By letter
8-30-1893	L. E. [Lillie Eva] Perkins [Perkins] J. B. Spencer	By profession of faith Dismissed by letter
10-28-1894	William T. Roundtree	By letter Dismissed by letter
7-29-1894	Lovie Perkins [Perkins]	By examination Dismissed
8-15-1895	H. R. [Henry Robert] Crews	
8-21-1895	Frank Hollis	Joined another church
8-23-1895	Franklin S. Henderson Pendulum Herring	Now member of Presbytery Joined another church
8-24-1895	Emma Howell	Disms'd, letter 2-27-87
7-28-1896	Alma Crews Walter J. Crews A. Sidney Henderson Lena May Henderson	. . . . Dismissed by letter

5-18-1897	Mr. Forest Ferguson L. M. [Lillie May McGahey] Ferguson Sam Ferguson	By order of Presbytery From Lindale Church Died 2-7-1900
7-4-1904	Mrs. Antonio Andange (?)	By letter; dismissed
3-12-1905	Miss C. Rosa McGahey [Charlotte Rose]	By profession of faith
8-15-1899	Mr. P. A. Verner Mrs. Lula Fleming(s) Lizzie L. Crews	By letter By examination; died .
8-19-1899	C. W. [Columbus Washington] Fleming	By examination; dismissed
8-16-1900	Edward McGahey Mrs. Laura Crews	By examination By examination
9-3-1904	John McGahey Miss Willie Perkins	By examination By examination
7-18-1904	Minnie L. Henderson Jim Hammond	By examination; dismissed Dismissed
3-12-1905	Rosa McGahey *	
8-12-1906	Pearl McGahey	
8-9-1907	Ward Henderson	
8-10-1907	Lera McDougle	Dismissed
8-11-1907	Halery Genn	Dismissed
8-9-1908	Elnor [Eleanor] York	By examination
7-20-1909	Jessie L. Henderson Roy Taft	By examination By examination, dismissed by letter, 10-2-1910
7-25-1911	L. C. [Lamar Cornelius] Howard	Formerly of Baptist Ch.
1-1-1911	J. C. [Jasper Cheatum] Taylor Archie Raymond Henderson Lewis Henderson	On profession of faith On profession of faith On profession of faith
7-27-1913	Roy Taft  Henry Ferguson	On recommendation. Letter granted 2-18-1913 On pfeffesion of faith
8-1-1913	Mary Elvira Ferguson Charlie Perkins Henderson Mrs. Mattie Lowe Miss Velma Jones Mrs. H. R. Crews Mrs. J. M. Henry Lottie McGahey Lola Crews Mrs. E. D. Henderson Miss Alma Clinton Gordon Clinton Paul Henderson Mr. Ed Williams Mrs. Ed Williams Cara Mae Clinton	On examination On examination On examination On examination; Dismissed By letter . . . By letter By letter By letter . . . .

\*Kerin's Note: "C. Rosa McGahey" and "Rosa McGahey" are both listed with a 3-12-1905 date. These are both Charlotte Rose McGahey, called Rosa on many records. Do not confuse her with Rosa Lee McGahey/Dobbins, who lived only in Oklahoma, not Texas.

# Bethesda Church Roll 1924

There continues to be some discrepancy in records. On June 25, 1925, Dr. S. M. Tenney provided a Bethesda Church Roll. It includes some, but not all, of the individuals who had joined the church, but had not transferred their letters. It also has incomplete information on reasons for acceptance, transfer, dismissal and discipline. His church roll, through July 28, 1924, includes:

W. T. McGahey	Lovy Perkins	Mary Elvira Ferguson
Martha Elizabeth McGahey	Wm. T. Rountree	Charlie Perkins Henderson
Lilly McGahey	H. R. Crews	Mrs. Hattie Low
William Daniel Henderson	Frank Hollis	Mrs. Velma Jones
William Lee Henderson	Franklin S. Henderson	Mrs. Lena Crews
Eleanor Salina Henderson	Pendulum Herring	Mrs. J. M. Henry
Sarah Jane Henderson	Mrs. Emma Howell	Mrs. Lottie McGahey
Joseph Asmon Henderson	Alma Crews	Miss Lola Crews
Viola Dobbins	Walter J. Crews	Mr. Ed Williams
James McGahey	A. Sidney Henderson	Mrs. Ed Williams
Thomas A. Love	Lena May Henderson	Paul Henderson
Francis A. Love	Mr. S. A. Verner	Mrs. E. D. Henderson
Mrs. S. J. Henderson	Miss Lula Flemings	Miss Alma Clinton
Hugh C. Henderson	Miss Lizzie Crews	Gordon Clinton
Mrs. Hugh C. Henderson	Mr. C. W. Fleming	Clara Mae Clinton
John M. Henderson	Edward McGahey	Wilson Ferguson
Mrs. M. S. McGahey	Mrs. Laura Crews	Mrs. Mabel Mitchell
Uriah Dobbins	John McGahey	Mabel Mitchell
Miss E. L. McGahey	Miss Willie Perkins	Mamie Mitchell
Mrs. Mary Dobbins	Miss Minnie Lee Henderson	DeWitt Henderson
Miss L. L. Dobbins	Mrs. A. McDougal	Ira John Buckalew
Mr. Parish	Miss Rosa McGahey	Thomas Earl Prerie
Mrs. Mary A. Ferguson	Miss Pearl McGahey	Lena H. Crews
Mr. Wm. Henry Way	Ward Henderson	Linnie Helen Crews
Miss Alice Sophia Way	Mr. Ira McDougal	Mildred Henderson
Henry C. Crews	Mr. Haley Genn	Ralph Howard
Mr. J. A. Fusselman	Archie Fleming	Mr. Herbert Ferguson
Mrs. J. A. Fusselman	John Ferguson	Pearl Pauline Vickery
Mrs. Sallie Smith	Miss Elmer [Eleanor] York	Leslie Crews
Miss N. L. Smith	Mrs. Alta Henderson	Mrs. B. Beasley
Mrs. Dora Henderson	John C. Taylor	
Mrs. Forest Ferguson	Lewis Henderson	
James Henderson	Archie Raymond Henderson	
Miss Mary Hollis	L. C. Howard	
Mrs. Joe Wallace	Albert Jesse Crews	
Mr. Joe Wallace	Herman H. Crews	
Lillie Eva Perkins	Roy Taft	
J. B. Spencer	Henry Ferguson	

# PART 2

## Nine Fabulous Families To Texas

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**1**

**Mary Amanda  
Henderson  
McGahey Dobbins**

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*Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins (1840–1911) and her husband Uriah B. Dobbins (1838–1903), who moved to Lindale with the Henderson family in 1879, and then on to Indian Territory in 1891 before it entered the Union as the State of Oklahoma.*

## Mary's Story

**M**ARY AMANDA HENDERSON, THE FIRSTBORN of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson's children, was a May Day gift. She arrived on May 1, 1840.

Her birth was an occasion for rejoicing. Her parents, who got married on April 25, 1838, had been married for two years at the time of her birth. Her father was 32 and her mother 22.

The baby was welcomed into a large and loving extended family in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, established in 1762, in which the family worshipped, was already three-quarters of a century old.

Mary never remembered being an only child, for the children came quickly, one after the other, following her birth. When she was 22 months old, on March 8, 1842, the Hendersons welcomed a second child, another daughter. They named her Martha Elizabeth. Mary was 5 and a half, Martha Elizabeth 2 years and 4 months when a third daughter was

born on July 18, 1845. She was named Margaret Isabelle. Not quite two years after Margaret came their first son, Joseph Asmon, on March 25, 1847.

William and Eleanor now had a houseful of little children.

Mary was 9 and a half when Harriet Caroline was born on November 10, 1850, and 11 and a half when another sister, Sarah Jane, arrived on January 12, 1853.

William Lee and Eleanor's first five children were all North Carolinians, born in Mecklenburg County. Then, at some time in the next 26 months, between November 1850 and January 1853, they moved to Perry County, Alabama, and settled in Perry County just south of the Bibb County line near today's village of Heiberger.

The last four of their nine children—Sarah Jane on January 12, 1853; John Madison on July 10, 1855; William Daniel on January 21, 1858, and Franklin Smith on March 8, 1860—were all born in Alabama.

Before the birth of Mary Amanda's two baby brothers, she got married. She was 15 when she wed John F. McGahey. He was 28. Since no records of his

birthdate have yet surfaced, it is not certain exactly when he was born, but his military records reveal that he was 34 in May of 1862. The McGahey-Henderson nuptials were performed in Perry County on March 26, 1856, by Probate Judge James F. Bailey (Marriage Records, Book 1851–1863, #393, Perry County, Marion, AL)

Rumors of discord between the North and the South were already reverberating on that 1856 March day when Mary and John exchanged wedding vows, but open conflict did not begin until early 1862.

By the time John enlisted in the army of the Confederate States of America, he and Mary were parents of three children. Margaret Selina McGahey was born on March 10, 1857; William Kelsey McGahey on February 25, 1859, and James Milton McGahey on September 14, 1861.

The baby was six months old when John joined Company E, 41st regiment of the Alabama infantry on March 28, 1862. Alabama had been the fourth state to secede from the Union on January 11, 1861, only 21 days after South Carolina was the first to leave the Union on December 20, 1860.

Civil War records reveal that John, who had enlisted for three years, was sick most of the nine months he spent in service. The company muster roll of March 28–June 30 shows him present, but by the next report, June 30–July 31 (1862), he is “absent at hospital in Murfreesboro [*sic*], Tennessee.” He died there on December 12, 1862. The records do not list cause of death. The young widow was awarded \$85.22, figured at the rate of \$11 per month for five months and twelve days for the death of her husband. The complete records are:

To Mary Ann McGahey, widow of John F. McGahey, deceased, late private of Capt. J. B. Moseley, Co., E, 11th Regiment, Alabama Volunteers: For pay of said deceased from 30th day of June 1862 to December 12, 1862, date of death, 5 months and twelve days @ \$11 per month. Commutation from 28th Sept. 1862 to Oct. 8 p.m., 1862, 10 days @ 14 cents per day. Commutation from 8th Oct. 1862 to Dec. 12th, 1862, 66 days @37 cents, total \$85.22.

Mary had made her claim in the State of Alabama in Perry County before Justice of the Peace G. W. Blackburn on December 29, 1862. It was cosigned by Wm. L. Henderson, her father. Mary waited almost four years for the settlement of her claim, which finally came on September 15, 1886.

The Henderson household during those years had to have been hectic because Mary Amanda was back with her parents and her three small children, two of whom were older than her baby brother. Her sister Martha Elizabeth, who had married in December 1861 and whose husband was also in service, was also back at home. From the dates of best records available, when John McGahey died shortly before Christmas in 1862, William Lee and Eleanor Selina’s family had increased to 14. Six of them—Mary and John’s three and Eleanor and William’s three youngest—were all under 10.

Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey married a second time on September 30, 1870. By that time William Kelsey, her oldest son, had died the year before, leaving her with Margaret Selina, who was 13, and James Milton, 9, to take into her marriage to Uriah B. Dobbins. (The B. probably stands for Belton. This name, never authenticated, has come down in the family as Uriah’s second name.) The registry of their wedding (Book 1866–1876, #272) reads: “U. B. Dobbins was married to Mrs. M. A. McGahey on Sept. 30, 1870, by Judge B. S. Williams.” Mary was 29 and Uriah 32. He was born on October 2, 1838, in Alabama, the son of Washington and Kizziah Keller Dobbins.<sup>1</sup>

Uriah was no stranger to the Henderson family. He was, in fact, already a member of the family, having been previously married to Margaret Henderson, the daughter of John Elam and Abigail Bradley Henderson. Margaret, who had married Uriah on August 19, 1863, died four years after she was married, in August of 1867, following the birth of her second daughter, Luxie Leatus. She left another daughter, 1-year-old Alfa Viola. The little children were 3 and 4 when Mary Amanda became

1 Spellings of “Kizziah” vary in records. It was more likely spelled Keziah (most popular spelling), Kezia, or Kesiah, based on their popularity. The two censuses she is listed on spell it “Kesiah” and “Kasiah.”

their stepmother.

In 1879 when the families all moved to Texas, Uriah's daughters Viola and Luxie were 13 and 12. Mary's McGahey children were grown, 18 and 22, both still single. Mary had given birth to three more children—William Washington Dobbins on April 16, 1872; Irma Teressa on January 27, 1874, and Essie Lorilla, on April 14, 1876. The children, all born in Marion, Alabama, were 7, 5, and 3 when they moved with their parents and half siblings to Texas.

In Smith County, Mary and Uriah added to the family Sallie Jane, born September 21, 1881.

The Dobbins family left Lindale in 1891 and moved to Indian Territory, which later became the state of Oklahoma. On November 4 of that year, Rosa Lee McGahey Dobbins was born.<sup>2</sup>

The Dobbins family rented a farm near

Wynnewood, Indian Territory. In 1908 they bought property in Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. Five years after they left Lindale, Willie (William Washington) died on August 3, 1896, from typhoid fever. He was 24 years old and his passing seemed to be the one tragedy that Mary Amanda never overcame. Death had taken two of her three sons and she had left the third (James Milton McGahey) in Texas. Her two stepdaughters were married, but all four daughters—Margaret Selina,<sup>3</sup> Irma Teressa, Essie Lorilla and Sallie Jane were all still at home. Rosa Lee was 4 years old.

Mary died on April 11, 1911, shortly before her 71st birthday. She and Uriah, who died on December 8, 1903, are buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery in Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

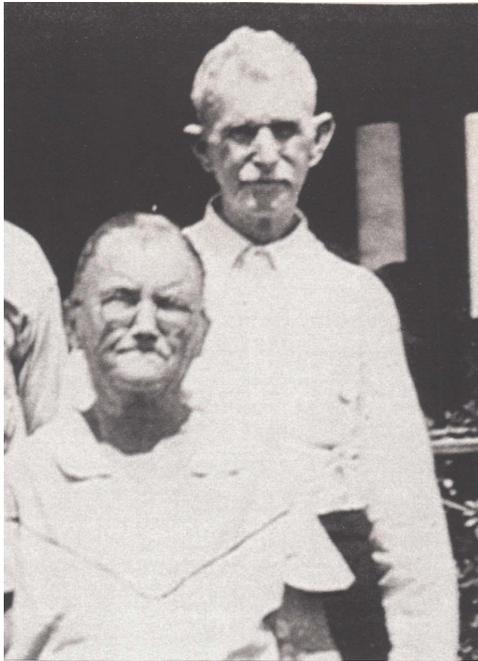
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2 *Kerin's Note: Rosa Lee was born to Margaret Selina McGahey, but was raised in the Dobbins household. After Margaret Selina's death in 1902, it seems Rosa was raised as another Dobbins daughter. Her last name was McGahey on the 1900 census and she was listed as "granddaughter" to Uriah and Mary Amanda, but by the 1910 census, she is listed as Dobbins and "daughter" to Uriah and Mary Amanda.*

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3 *Kerin's Note: Margaret Selina died in 1902.*

# Mary Amanda's son James Milton McGahey



1. James Milton McGahey (1861–1939), 73, and Alice Sophia Way McGahey (1865–1939), 70, on their 50th wedding anniversary, August 23, 1935.

2. Below: James and Alice McGahey with five of their eight children in 1935. From left: Henry Ernest (1905–1969), John William (1886–1948), Charlotte Rose “Rosie” Robinson (1892–1984), Lottie Mae Whisenhunt (1897–1954) and James Edward (1888–1964).

The other two, Linnie Pearl Kennedy (1894–1925) and Walter Allen (1902–1966), are not in the picture, and Thomas Ward (1891) died as an infant.





3. James Milton McGahey's son John William:  
John William (1886-1948) and Lilly Maud  
Graham McGahey with Ever Maurine, about  
5, and Jimmie Lee, about 8 months, before the  
birth of their third child Alice Pauline.



4. James Milton McGahey's daughter Lottie  
Mae:  
Lottie Mae McGahey (1897-1954) and her  
husband Fred M. Whisenhunt shortly after they  
married on April 22, 1917.



5. James Milton McGahey's daughter Charlotte Rose:

Charlotte Rose "Rosie" McGahey (1892–1984) and her husband Wesley Vincent Robinson with their daughter Tommie (1913–1992), about 3.

Tommie was originally named Evie Mae, but she later changed her name to Tommie.

Source: <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ROBINSON/1997-10/0877364545>



6. James Milton McGahey's granddaughter:

Eunice Sybil Kennedy McKay (1911–2002), daughter of Linnie Pearl McGahey.

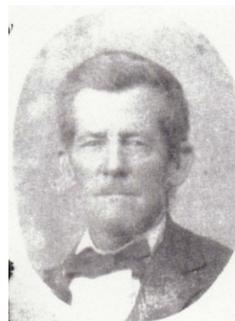
# Mary Amanda's daughter Essie Lorilla Dobbins Hensley

## Generations:

1 & 2: William Lee Henderson and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby were married April 25, 1838.



3 & 4: Their oldest daughter Mary Amanda Henderson's 2nd marriage was to Uriah B. Dobbins on September 30, 1870.



5 & 6: Their daughter **Essie Lorilla Dobbins (1876–1967)** married William Brad Hensley December 25, 1903.



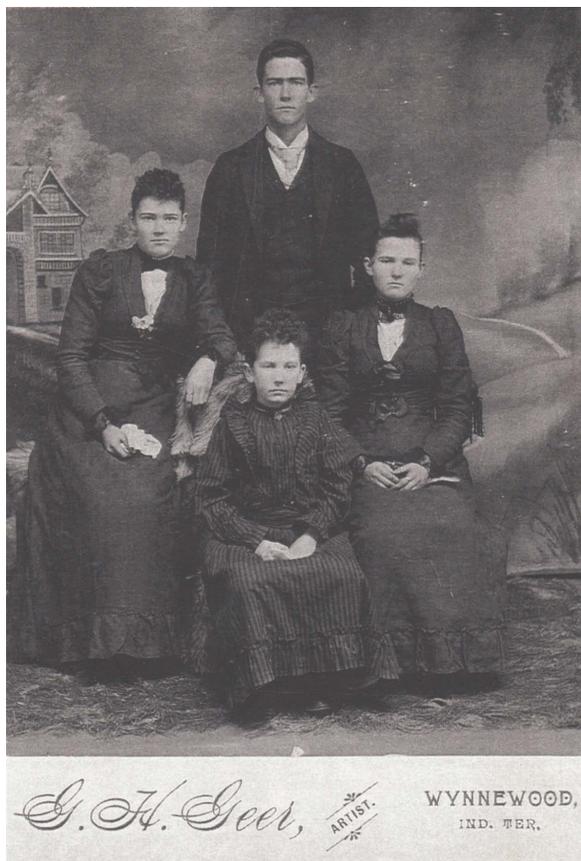
7 & 8: Their daughter Roserma Hensley married Harry Louis Arnold March 15, 1942.



9: Roserma Hensley (1914–2002) and Harry Louis Arnold were married March 15, 1942, in the family ancestral home in Wynnewood, Oklahoma.



# Mary Amanda's other children



1. Four of Mary Amanda's children:

Top:

William Washington Dobbins (1872–1896)

Left: Irma Teressa Dobbins\* (1874–1952)

Right: Essie Lorilla Dobbins (1876–1967)

Front: Sallie Jane Dobbins (1881–1944)

*\* The Henderson Book has her name consistently spelled "Teressa," but most Ancestry.com records have "Teresa." I didn't officially confirm either spelling. I've noticed gravestones of other women in Perry County, AL, with the spelling "Teressa," so that might be correct.*



2. Rosa Lee Dobbins  
(1891–1980)



### 3. KERIN'S NOTE:

The original caption for the above photo was incomplete. In the original Henderson Connections, the caption reads:

“Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins, seated right, with her daughters and grandchildren, standing, left to right, Willie Griggs, Essie Lorilla Dobbins Hensley, Rosa Lee Dobbins Brewer, Irma Teressa Dobbins Griggs Litchfield holding Nolan Litchfield, Belton Litchfield with Rollen Litchfield in front of him. Wayne Litchfield is in his grandmother’s lap.”

However, that leaves 2 people not named, and one misnamed.

After some additional research, here is my revised information:

I believe this is Irma Teressa with her children, her mother, her three younger sisters, and nephew, taken in Summer/Fall 1910, in Oklahoma. It has to be between April 1910–April 1911. (The baby, Nolan, was born March 2, 1910, and Mary Amanda died April 9, 1911.)

Two girls on left side are Irma Teressa’s oldest daughters, from her first marriage: (standing) **Willie Lorilla Griggs**, age 12; and (kneeling) **U.B. Griggs**, age 11.

**Irma Teressa Dobbins Griggs Litchfield**, age 36 is sitting on the left.

She is holding her baby **Nolan Litchfield**, a few months old (born March 2, 1910).

The boy sitting in front of her is her son **Rollen Litchfield**, almost 7.

The boy standing next to Irma Teressa is **William Belton Hensley**, age 5. (Original caption has his last name as Litchfield—this is incorrect). His mother is Essie Lorilla Dobbins Hensley.

**Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins**, age 69, is sitting on the right.

She is holding her grandson **Wayne Litchfield**, age 2.

The women standing behind, to my best estimation and comparison to their other photos:

**Essie Lorilla Dobbins Hensley**, age 34.

**Rosa Lee Dobbins**, age 18–19, single. Later married Forrest Brewer.

**Sallie Jane Dobbins**, age 29, single. Later married Samuel Garner.

Of those 3 women, Essie is the only one who had a child yet (Belton Hensley, in front of her.)



2

**Martha Elizabeth  
Henderson Shelby  
McGahey**

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# Martha's Story

**M**ARTHA ELIZABETH HENDERSON (1842–1896) WAS born March 8, 1842, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, the second of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson's nine children.

Her older sister, Mary Amanda, was 22 months old when this second baby arrived. It was, likely—though there are no records available—shortly after Martha's birth that the family, other relatives and friends began to shorten and/or alter her name. So it is that Martha Elizabeth was called Mattie, Mart, and Matt. It is this latter name—Matt—that is used by her younger brother, John Madison Henderson, in the journals he kept from 1879 to 1905.<sup>1</sup>

Matt was 3 years and 4 months old when the next child, Margaret Isabelle, arrived in the Henderson family. Afterward, from two to three years apart, other siblings—Joseph Asmon, Harriet Caroline, Sarah Jane, John Madison, William Daniel and Franklin Smith—were born to increase the family to nine children.

In addition, the early census reports, both in North Carolina and later in Alabama, show that the Hendersons usually had family members and friends living in their home.

Sometime between November of 1850 when Hattie was born in North Carolina and January of 1853 when Sallie was born in Alabama, the Hendersons left Mecklenburg County in North Carolina and settled near today's village of Heiberger in Perry County, Alabama.

Matt would have been a young girl, somewhere between 8 and 10, when the family made its move to Alabama.

On December 3, 1861, when she was 19 years old, Matt married J. M. Shelby in rites solemnized

by Judge Bailey in Perry County. (Marriage Records 1851-1863, #822).

At the present time (August 1995) J. M. Shelby remains a shadow in the Henderson history. He was possibly related in some way because Martha's mother's birthname was Shelby. The 1860 census record from Perry County lists a J. M. Shelby, a 25-year-old male, as a member of the Henderson household. His birthplace is given as Tennessee and his occupation as laborer. This probably meant that he was living with the family and helping out with the farm work. During those years, and on until the outbreak of the second World War, young men often moved into the homes of their relatives to lend a hand with the harvesting of crops.

Some family members believe that J. M. Shelby was the son of Eleanor's brother James Madison Shelby and William Lee's sister Amanda Ann, who left Perry County for East Texas in 1869, and were founders of the First Presbyterian Church in Tyler. James Madison Shelby also was one of the elders who oversaw the establishment of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Lindale.

It is unlikely that Martha's husband J. M. was a son of James and Ann Shelby because no census records place him in that family.<sup>2</sup> Also, there are land records in Smith and Henderson counties showing that a J. M. (who was not James Madison) Shelby inherited, bought and sold land in Texas. In addition, the bridegroom would have been a double first cousin to Martha Elizabeth and even though cousins often married in those days, it is doubtful that young people so intimately related would have wed.

Even more convincing that this could not have been the same J. M. Shelby is that the sparse records available reveal that Martha Elizabeth's husband was killed in the Civil War. These "records" are elusive. Only two things are certain: stories passed down through the family are that Martha Elizabeth was a Civil War widow, and sisters Mrs. Mary Amanda McGahey and Mrs. Martha E. Shelby applied for

1 On most censuses and her gravestone, she is listed as Martha or M. E., but her daughter Lillie's death certificate lists her as "Mattie," confirmation that it was not just her brother who used a form of this nickname.

2 They had a son named John McKnitt Shelby (1849–1917), but he is well-documented and never married his double first cousin Martha.

compensation for their husband's deaths during the Civil War on the same day, January 12, 1863, in documents recorded in Marion, Alabama. Eventually, Mary Amanda's application was approved, but no records have surfaced of the disposition of Martha's application.

If these records are accurate, Martha and J. M. Shelby had been married less than a year when he was killed, their wedding date being December 3, 1861, and her widow's application being January 12, 1863, a period of 13 months and nine days.

There is no history of any children from Martha Elizabeth's marriage to J. M. Shelby.

Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby was a widow for at least four years. She was a month shy of being 25 years old when she married William T. McGahey on February 5, 1867. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. John S. Arbuthnot in Perry County (Book 1866 to 1876, #3). William's tombstone gives his birthdate as December 15, 1834, making him seven years older than Martha.

William, in yet another of the convoluted chapters of family history, was the brother of John F. McGahey, Mary Amanda's first husband. John had been dead for some years when Martha and William married. Mary's children and her sister Martha's children were double first cousins.

Martha Elizabeth was 37 and her husband 44 when they moved with the entire Henderson family from Perry County, Alabama, to Smith County, Texas. With them were their two daughters, Lillie May, 11, and Eleanor Lee, 8. Both daughters were born in Perry County: Lillie May on June 20, 1868, and Eleanor Lee almost exactly three years later on June 18, 1871.

Martha and William, with their daughters, traveled to Texas by train with the family's patriarch, 71-year-old William Lee Henderson, and with the other women and children in the family. William came by train because he was crippled. The other men moved the household furnishings by wagon train. The entire family—parents and the eight siblings, their spouses and children—bought property and settled within a few miles of each other in an area near the Sabine River in northern Smith County.

Three years and eight months after William and Martha moved to Texas, he died. Lillie was 15 and Eleanor 12. For a time the grieving widow and her daughters continued to make their home with her parents where they had established residence prior to William's death.

Martha then moved her daughters into Lindale where she opened a boarding house. It was a bold move on her part. There were very few working options open to women. Women could teach school, take in sewing, give music lessons, and take in washing, but unless they were left wealthy, most widowed women moved back with their parents or were cared for by their brothers or other males in the family. Many remarried soon after the death of their husbands.

Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby McGahey became that rare individual—an independent woman. With whatever funding she could put together—and perhaps with the backing of her father—she bought a building on the northeast corner where Lindale's two main streets cross and opened her boarding house.

She was Lindale's first businesswoman.

She catered to the town's elite. For most of the time she owned the boarding house, the town's bachelor doctor was a permanent resident. As the railroad was built through the area, its builders were itinerant occupants of the several upstairs rooms. She provided a clean, wholesome atmosphere. And she was an excellent cook, setting a table that lured both professionals and day laborers. When family members went from the Bethesda area into Lindale on business, they always stopped for a meal, and often for overnight visits.

In his journals, John Madison Henderson, Martha's brother, often mentioned taking food, wood and other supplies to his sister, conferring with her on business matters, and doing chores for her while he was in town. Once he mentioned building on a house for her, making her descendants wonder if—at some point—Matt could have closed the boarding house and moved into another home.

To supplement her income, Matt did the laundry for some of her permanent boarders. Both of her daughters helped her until Lillie May married

William Forrest Ferguson in September of 1887.

Eleanor Lee was 25 and still single when Martha Elizabeth died on October 3, 1896, at the age of 54. Eleanor, who was known by her family as Ella, then made her home with her Uncle John and Aunt Mollie until she married Samuel Arthur Vernon.

Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby McGahey rests beside her husband in Bethesda Cemetery. Her

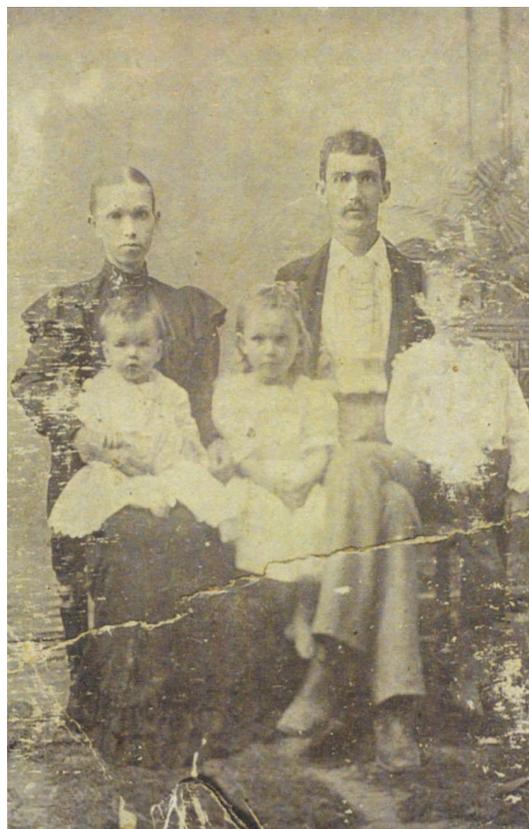
tombstone reads, “M. E. McGahey . . .” The only way it is known that the person buried there is female is a small inscription above an embossed hand pointing heavenward that reads, “We loved her.”

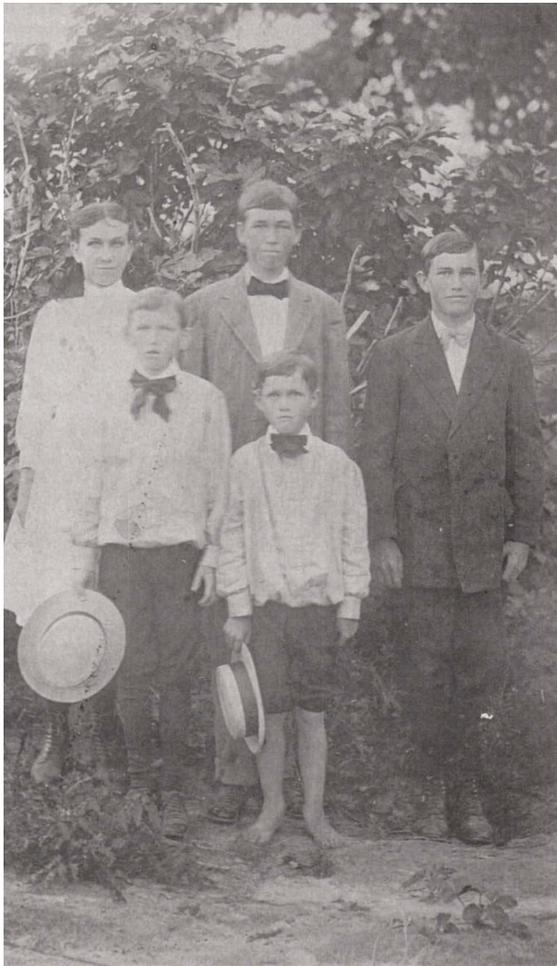
At her death, Martha had been a widow for 13 years. She had assumed total responsibility for herself and for the rearing and education of Lillie May and Eleanor Lee.

## Martha's daughter Lillie May McGahey Ferguson

1. *Left:* Lillie May McGahey Ferguson (1868–1950). It appears someone added their own pencil markings to this photo!

2. *Right:* Lillie May McGahey and her husband William Forrest Ferguson with three of the eight children born to them. Left to right: John Allen (1893–1971), Ella Mae (1890–1897), and William Prentiss (1888–1945). Ella Mae died at age 6. An infant son, Horace Neely (b. 1892), died at 9 months. Four others—Henry McLean (1895–1953), Mary Elvira (1897–1997), Wilson Forrest (1899–1960), and Hubert (1902–1975)—were born after this picture was made.





3. *Left:* Lillie May Ferguson's children, taken probably around 1909–1910.

In back: Elvira, John, and Henry. In front: Wilson and Hubert.

4. *Below Left:* This beauty is Lillie May's daughter Mary Elvira Ferguson (1897–1997) at age 18, as a graduate of Lindale High School in Lindale, Texas. She went by the name Elvira. Her father, William Forrest Ferguson, died when she was 6.

5. *Below Right:* The same beautiful lady, Elvira Ferguson Ford, on her 95th birthday in October 1992. She was the widow of Victor Roe Ford.



# Martha's daughter Eleanor Lee McGahey Vernon



*Left:* Eleanor Lee McGahey (1871–1953) was 25 and single when her mother died. Her father had died when she was 12 years old. After her mother's death, Eleanor lived with her uncle and aunt-in-law, John Madison and Martha Jane "Mollie" Henderson, until she married Samuel Arthur Vernon.

3

**Margaret Isabelle  
“Belle” Henderson  
Arendell**

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# Belle's Story

**M**ARGARET ISABELLE JOINED THE FAMILY of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson on July 18, 1845. She was welcomed by two older sisters, 5-year-old Mary Amanda and 3-year-old Martha Elizabeth.

The William Lee Hendersons now had three little girls. They lived in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where all their daughters were born and the family's long Christian heritage found them worshipping at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in the village of Huntersville not far from Charlotte. The Hendersons' Presbyterian heritage dates back to Scotland.

Margaret Isabelle would later be joined by six younger siblings—Joseph Asmon, Harriet Caroline, Sarah Jane, John Madison, William Daniel and Franklin Smith.

She spent her early childhood years in Mecklenburg County, and when she was still a young child, she moved with her parents and four siblings to Perry County, Alabama, near today's village of Heiberger. It was there she grew to maturity.

Very early in her life, Margaret Isabelle's name was shortened to Belle, a name she would carry for the rest of her life.<sup>1</sup>

On November 27, 1867, when she was 22 years old, Margaret Isabelle married John Wesley Arendell in a ceremony performed by Judge Bush Jones in Perry County (Book 1866 to 1876, #70). Born in Alabama on October 15, 1839, he was five years older than Belle.

Belle was 34 and John 40 when the Henderson family moved to Texas in 1879. They had six children: Zoe Emma born on November 1, 1868; Lela Gertrude on June 18, 1870; Virgella "Virgie" on May 21, 1872; Leota on July 21, 1875; Mathis Marvin on May 22, 1878; and Wesley Weightman on November 29, 1881. This would mean that



*Margaret Isabelle "Belle" Henderson Arendell  
(1845-1919)*

the first five children were born in Alabama and Wesley in Texas almost exactly two years after the family arrived in Lindale. Leota died at the age of 5 years and 11 months on June 21, 1881. Her death is noted in John Madison Henderson's journal, "I heard the sad news. Sis Belle's youngest little girl's death . . . departed this life at half past 12 p.m." She was buried at Sand Flat at Sand Flat Cemetery, her death coming four months before the first burial in Bethesda Cemetery. Neither membership nor baptismal records of Bethesda Presbyterian Church includes an Arendell name.

There are frequent and fond mentions of the Arendells in John's journal, usually with reference to "Bro. Wes" or "Arendells." He made syrup for Bro. Wes, helped him with the plowing; on November 3, 1883, went to Arendells for dinner with Sis Sallie

<sup>1</sup> Most census records list her as Isabella or Bella, marriage records and one census list her as Margaret, death certificate and gravestone say Margaret Isabelle, and two of her daughters' death certificates list her as Belle.

and Cousin Mollie,<sup>2</sup> and on March 1, 1884, he and his new wife, Mollie, “taken dinner with Brother-in-law Arendell.”

On Wednesday, November 5, 1890, the Arendells left Lindale to move to Coleman County, Texas. John Henderson noted in his journal that he “helped Bro. Arendell load up to head for the west portion of this state.” Coleman was about 250 miles west of Lindale. Prior to their move, their oldest daughter Zoe Emma had married Robert Perry Wilson on August 8, 1886, in Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Zoe was 17 years and three months old. In the summer of 1892, the Arendells returned to Bethesda community on a visit. John’s journal on July 19, 1892, says, “Brother-in-law Arendell, wife and babies got here from Coleman County on a visit,” and two weeks later on August 1, he penned “Got Bro. Arendell off to Coleman Co.”

Through the years, Belle Henderson Arendell often came home to visit her sisters and other family members. Zoe Emma and her young husband probably accompanied her parents to Coleman County because their first child was born in Smith County in 1888; their next two in Coleman County in 1891 and 1893 and their three youngest in Milam County in 1895–98.

The year following Robert Perry Wilson’s death on July 12, 1900, Zoe Emma married Daniel Dupree Todd. She was the mother of 12 children—six Wilsons and six Todds. Her Wilson children were James Albert, Thomas Clyde, Eunice Gertrude, Lena Belle, Florence Etta, and Ada Matilda, and her Todd children included Jessie Lucille, Robert, Nellie, Edna Mae, Daniel Rankin, and Ralph Marshall.

One reason that record keeping in the Henderson family is so difficult is that there was so much intermarriage. The Arendells are a prime example. Three sisters married Wilsons—Zoe Emma to Robert Perry Wilson; Lela Gertrude to Lee M. Wilson, and Virgie to Willis Wilson.

The Arendells eventually moved to Gause, Texas, near Hearne, where John Wesley died on August



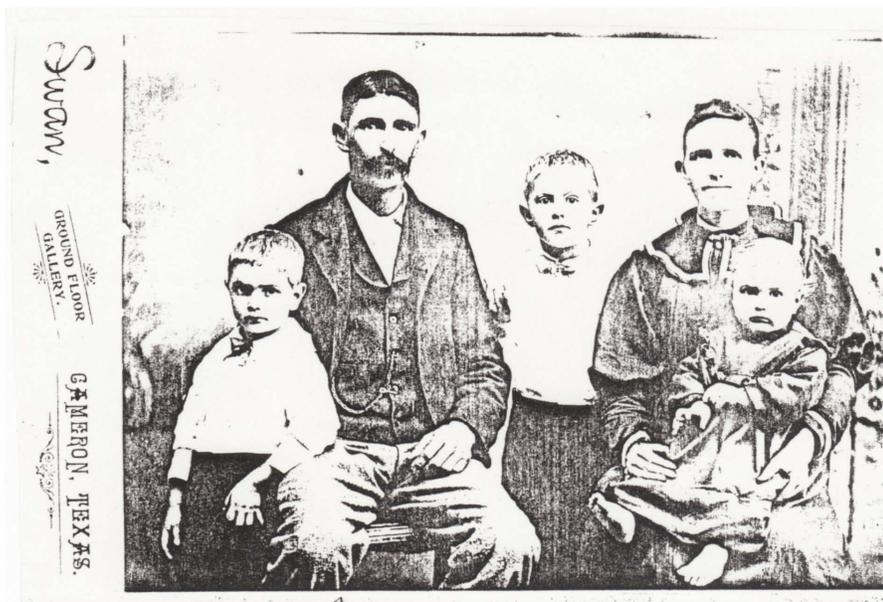
*This not-so-great photocopy is of John Wesley Arendell and Margaret Isabelle Henderson Arendell.*

17, 1900. Margaret outlived him for 19 years, and died on December 2, 1919. Both are buried near the entranceway of Gause Cemetery. Their son Wesley Weightman, who died unmarried at age 32, is buried beside them.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Mary Eleanor “Mollie” Shelby 1844-1899, a double cousin. Her mother, Amanda Ann Henderson Shelby, was William Lee’s sister. Her father, James Madison Shelby, was Eleanor Shelby’s brother.

# Belle's daughter

## Zoe Emma Arendell Wilson



1. *Top:* Zoe Emma Arendell Wilson (1868–1948) with husband Robert Perry Wilson (1866–1900). These are their oldest children, Thomas Clyde Wilson, born Jan. 17, 1891, James Albert Wilson, born Oct. 2, 1888, and Eunice Gertrude Wilson, born May 30, 1893. Photo probably taken in 1894.

*KERIN'S NOTE:* This photocopy is all we have in our possession, but if anyone has a nicer copy, please let me know!

2. *Bottom:* Zoe Emma Arendell Wilson Todd. Her second husband was Daniel Dupree Todd.

# Belle's daughter

## Lela Gertrude Arendell Wilson



1. *Top:* Lela Gertrude Arendell Wilson (1870–1957), called Gertrude or Gertie, with husband Lee Marion Wilson (1869–1901). Oldest boy, back left, is unidentified. Back right is Enoch Crawford Wilson, born 1890. In her dad's lap is Ethel Estelle Wilson, born December 1893. Atlee Sylvester, born 1892, is standing in the middle, and the baby is Lela Bertha Wilson (called Bertha), born January 1896. Photo taken in 1896.

*KERIN'S NOTE:* I tried to identify the boy in the back, but ran into dead ends. If anyone knows, please tell me!



2. *Bottom:* The Wilson family, sometime after Lee Marion Wilson's death in 1901. Based on the children's ages, this was probably taken around 1905.

Back:

Atlee Sylvester Wilson (1892–1963)  
 Enoch Crawford Wilson (1890–1973)  
 Ethel Estelle Wilson (1893–1965)

Front:

Ida Wilson (1900–1917)  
 Lela Gertrude "Gertie" Arendell Wilson  
 Bertha Wilson (1896–1979)

*KERIN'S NOTE:* This is a terrible photocopy of a great picture. If anyone has a better copy they could share, I would so appreciate it!

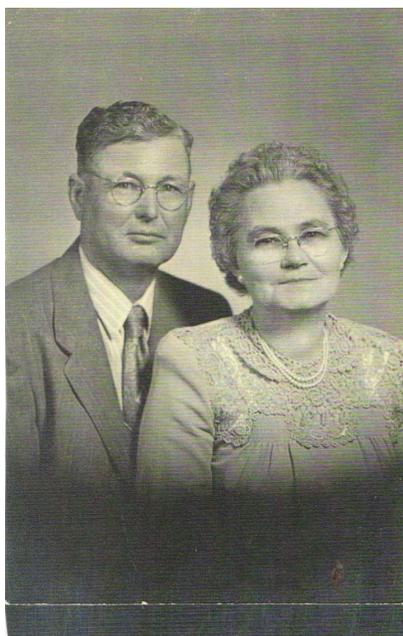


3. *Top Left:* A grown-up Ethel Estelle (Lela Gertrude's daughter) and her husband Jacob "Jake" Harrison Horn in April 1944.

4. *Top Right:* Lela Gertrude's son Enoch Crawford Wilson is not pictured here, but this is his wife Maude Mae Vaughan Wilson and their two youngest children Robert Clinton Wilson (b. 1928) and Mary Nell Wilson (1933-2016). Maude Mae Vaughan died in 1939.

5. *Bottom Left:* Enoch Wilson married Pearl Oliver. They are pictured here.

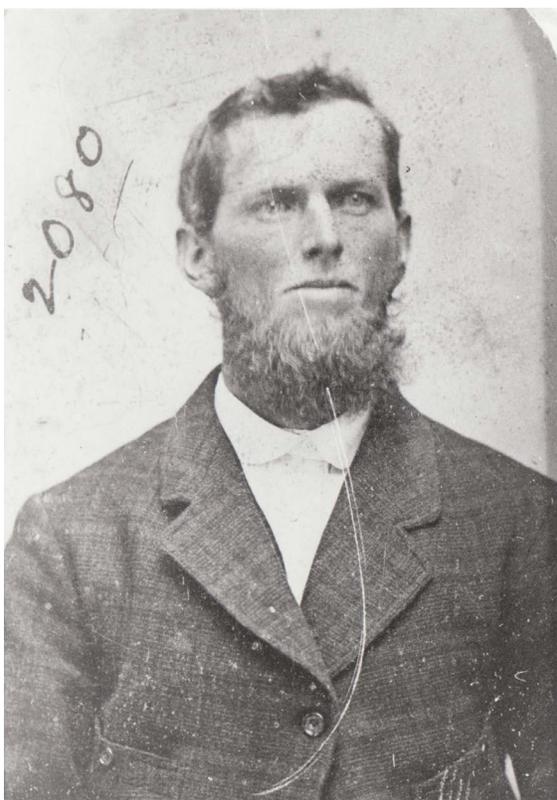
6. *Bottom Right:* KERIN'S NOTE: This photo was loose and unlabeled, but some research tells me it is North Arendell St. in Gause, Milam County, Texas. The Arendell family lived in Gause in the late 1800s/early 1900s, and both Belle Henderson Arendell and her husband John Wesley Arendell are buried there. I believe this might be Mary Nell Wilson Hammer (1932-2016) visiting the town of her ancestors. I am guessing the picture was taken in the late 1980s or early 1990s.



**4**

**Joseph Asmon  
Henderson**

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*Joseph Asmon Henderson (1847-1885), the fourth child, oldest son of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson. He died on October 25, 1885, at age 38.*



*Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson was a bride at 17, a mother at 18, and a widow with six children at the age of 31. She died August 2, 1896, at age 41.*

## Joe's Story

### Childhood

**J**OSEPH ASMON HENDERSON, THE OLDEST SON of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson, was born on March 25, 1847, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and grew up near present-day Heiberger in Perry County, Alabama. He had three older sisters, Mary Amanda, Martha Elizabeth, and Margaret Isabelle, and would be joined by five younger siblings, Harriet Caroline, Sarah Jane, John Madison, William Daniel, and Franklin Smith.

Few details are available about the Hendersons in North Carolina, though there is a rich history of Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville where they worshipped. The history of Mecklenburg

County includes hundreds of illustrious names. In addition to the Hendersons, there are numerous Samples, Shelys, Alexanders, and many more who are all related.

Sometime in the 26 months between November 1850 and January 1853 the William Lee Henderson family moved from North Carolina to Alabama. Census records show that their fifth child, Harriet Caroline, was born in Mecklenburg County on November 10, 1850 and their sixth child, Sarah Jane, in Perry County, Alabama, on January 12, 1853.

This means that Joe could not have been more than 5 years old when he became an Alabamian.

All the Henderson children were given beautiful names, mentioned above, but all were known by nicknames so ingrained in their identity that sometimes not even their own children knew their birthnames. They were called Mary, Matt, Belle, Joe, Hattie, Sallie, John, Will, and Smith. More than one future family member would bear the shortened

name of his or her grandparent.

## Marriage and Children

Joe and Samantha Jane LaGrone were married on January 4, 1872, (Book 1866–1867, #377) by Judge A. C. Kounze in Perry County. He was 24—lacking two months being 25—and the bride, born on August 27, 1854, was 17 and a half.

The young couple established their home in Perry County near the family, and their first child, Effie Aletta, was born there on March 31, 1873. Sometime between the spring of 1873 and the spring of 1875, Joseph and Samantha Henderson moved with their daughter from Perry County, Alabama, to Smith County, Texas. These dates are confirmed by the birth of their second child John Lee Henderson II on April 10, 1875, in Texas.

There is some confusion over the birthname of this second baby. On one census record and in at least one Bible his name is given as John LeRoy, but family stories are that he was given the name of his father's grandfather John Lee. In any event, he was known all of his life as Lee Henderson, his name appearing as such on all legal documents and he is buried as J. Lee Henderson in Bethesda Cemetery.

In Texas, Joe and Samantha joined family members who had preceded them, including the Shelbys and the LaGrones. Joe was doubly related to James Madison and Ann Amanda Henderson Shelby, who had moved to Smith County in 1869 and settled near Tyler. James Madison was his mother's brother and Ann Amanda was his father's sister.

The James Madison Shelbys were founders of Tyler's First Presbyterian Church. We know that Joe and Samantha joined with them at First Presbyterian in Tyler, at least briefly, because they transferred their church letters from Tyler to Bethesda Presbyterian in Lindale where they were also founding members.

Some of Samantha's LaGrone family had also become Texans. Among them were her grand uncle and grand aunt, John William Adam LaGrone Jr. and Christine Clemente Dominec LaGrone, who had settled at Deadwood.

Joseph Asmon and his uncle, James M. Shelby, selected the Lindale site on which the family settled.

Doubtless, he and Samantha were already living in Lindale and he had made at least one crop there because John Madison Henderson wrote in his journal on December 16, 1879, the day the wagon train reached Lindale, "...helped Brother pick cotton."

By the time his parents and other family members arrived in Lindale, Joe and Samantha had increased their family to five. Etta had joined the family on August 26, 1876, and Jennie on July 21, 1878. Eight months after Joe's parents and all eight of his brothers and sisters were settled in Lindale, Samantha gave birth to another little boy on August 25, 1880. They named him Archie. Three years later, on December 26, 1883, Franklin Smith Henderson II arrived to complete the family.

## Life In Lindale

Joseph and his father were the first elders of the Lindale Presbyterian Church, the name of which was changed to Bethesda Presbyterian shortly after its founding. He was 32 years old when he was ordained as an elder.

Joseph was a farmer and a wood craftsman. Like many of the Henderson men, he was an artist in designing and crafting furniture and accessories from wood that grew on the family land. Charlene Hudson Kraemer, a great-granddaughter of Joe's through Etta Henderson Hudson, owns a small table that he crafted. It is in mint condition, still sturdy more than a hundred years after he made it.

Joe was also a fisherman and hunter, providing fish and meat for the family larder. In North Carolina the Hendersons had fished the Catawba River; in Alabama, they fished the Cahaba, and in East Texas they fished the Sabine. In those days before refrigeration, meat and fish had to be consumed shortly after it was processed to keep it from spoiling. Often families, neighbors, and friends took turns slaughtering their animals and sharing the fresh meat with everybody. Families also grew all their vegetables and fruits. In the spring and early summer, while the males in the family tilled the crops, the women were busy from daylight until dark gathering and preserving the produce. In addition to canning—tomatoes, beans, peas, okra, squash, and

other vegetables; and some fruits, chiefly peaches and pears—they turned cucumbers into pickles, and berries and plums into jams and jellies.

## Death

Joseph Asmon Henderson died very young, on October 25, 1885, at the age of 38, and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery. He left Samantha, at age 31, with six children, the oldest 12 and the baby 21 months. Stairstepped between them were the others, 10, 9, 7, and 5.

Archie died on October 22, 1888, at the age of 8, almost three years to the day following the death of his father. His grave is next to that of his father. A year and a half later, on March 17, 1890, Effie died at the age of 16. Though she was on record as being buried at Bethesda, the location of her grave was unknown until 1993 when dates on a small metal marker revealed her burial plot next to that of her little brother.

Joe's father preceded him in death by two years, but his mother lived until 1900, 15 years after his passing.



*Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson Taft with second husband Julius Taft and their combined children. Original photo owned by Charlene Hudson Kraemer.*

# Joe's Wife Samantha and the Taft-Henderson Family

## Samantha's Second Marriage—Julius Taft

A year after her husband's death, Samantha married Julius Simpson Taft. He had been previously married—at least once—and was the father of Libbie, Jay Wellington, Lydia Director, and Ettie Florence Taft.<sup>1</sup> His first wife, Martha Green, had brought two sons, David Meredith Green and Frank Green, to that marriage. Samantha entered the union with her six children, soon losing two of them.

Samantha gave birth to four more children—Ruby Anne Taft on November 17, 1887; Willie Della Taft on October 14, 1889; Alta Mae Taft on May 23, 1892; and Julius Roy Taft on July 16, 1895.

## Samantha's Death

Baby Roy was 12 months old when his mother died on August 2, 1896. Ruby was almost 9, Della, 6, and Alta, 4. At the time of her death, Samantha was 41, would have been 42 had she lived until her August 27 birthday. She is buried at Bethesda beside her first husband. Julius is buried in the Sabine Cemetery in Lindale near the graves of other members

<sup>1</sup> Some of these names are debatable or unsourced. See next section, "Taft-Henderson Photo Mystery," for more information.

of the Taft family.

Three of the four surviving Henderson children—John Lee, Etta, and Jennie—were already married when their mother died. Jennie had married William Brinkley York at the age of 15 on January 4, 1894. Etta, at 19, had married Charles Morton Hudson on September 5, 1895, and Lee married Lillie Eva Perkins on November 27, 1895. He was 20. The youngest Henderson child, Franklin, was 12 when his mother died.

Some time after Samantha's death, Julius Taft moved to Cherokee County, Oklahoma, taking his four children with him. Franklin Henderson did not want to leave his home in Lindale, and as a young teenager moved into the home of his older brother Lee and his bride.<sup>2</sup> Eva and Lee had an infant daughter, Jessie Lee Henderson, born September 27, 1896, eight weeks following the death of her grandmother. Eva, a mother at 18, now had two children.

This was not the final chapter in the Henderson-Taft saga. Letters written by Ruby from Oklahoma to her half siblings in Texas revealed a family situation less than ideal. At some point (the dates at this writing in 1995 unknown) Ruby wrote asking Lee to come get her and her sisters and brother.

Stories passed down in the family, rather than records, pick up the story. John Lee took the train to Oklahoma and returned to Lindale with his four half siblings, who were to make their homes with him, Etta, and Jennie. My mother, Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson, remembered that "we were really all one big family." She, her uncle Franklin, and her own siblings—Raymond, Charlie, DeWitt, Mildred, and Edgar (who died as a baby)—also counted Ruby, Della, Alta, and Roy as family members. She was especially close to Roy, who was nearest her own

<sup>2</sup> The 1900 Census shows Julius and the Taft kids (Liddie, Jay, Ruby, Della, Alta, and Roy) living in Lindale, Texas. Meanwhile, Franklin, 16, lived with his married brother John Lee Henderson. The census has them just four households away from each other.

But by the 1910 Census, Ruby, Della, Alta, and Roy were living with John Lee and Eva. Julius was likely also living in Lindale in 1910—alone. There is a Taft of the right age and birthplace, but the census taker forgot to fill in the first name.

By the 1920 Census, Julius was living with daughter Libbie's family, and the other kids were married and/or scattered. The date of the Tafts' move to Oklahoma is unknown.

age, and always considered him another brother. Ruby was her idol and mentor; my mother went into training to become a nurse because Ruby had graduated from nursing school.

Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson, at age 33, had become the mother and/or mother figure for 11 children—the six born to her, plus her husband's brother and his four half siblings.

## The Taft-Henderson Family

*By Kerin*

Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson (1854–1896)  
Second marriage to Julius Simpson Taft (1846–1923) in October 1886. Gray indicates this child is definitely not in the photo.

### JULIUS'S STEPKIDS from previous marriage:

- David Meredith Green abt 1871 (probably not living at home by 1890)
- Frank Green abt 1873

### JULIUS'S KIDS from previous marriage:

- Libbie B. Taft 1880–1941 (married 1899)
- Julius Wellington "Jay" Taft 1883–1970<sup>1</sup>
- Lydia "Liddie" Taft 1884–\_\_<sup>2</sup>
- Ettie Florence Taft ?<sup>3</sup>

### SAMANTHA'S KIDS from previous marriage to Joseph Asmon Henderson:

- Effie Aletta Henderson 1873–1890
- John Lee Henderson 1875–1930 (married 1895)
- Etta Henderson 1876–1947 (married 1895)
- Jennie Henderson 1878–1965 (married 1894)
- Archie Henderson 1880–1888 (died age 8)
- Franklin Smith Henderson II 1883–1936 (married 1915)

### JULIUS & SAMANTHA'S KIDS:

- Ruby Anne Taft, Nov 1887–1956
- Willie Della Taft, Oct 1889–1960
- Alta Mae Taft, May 1892–1973
- Julius Roy Taft, Jul 1895–1965

<sup>1</sup> Records vary between 1881, 1882, and 1883.

<sup>2</sup> I only find one record of Liddie: the 1900 census.

<sup>3</sup> I do not find any record of Ettie Florence. Perhaps she died young?

# Taft-Henderson Photo Caption Mystery

By *Kerin*

The photo of the Henderson-Taft family is a bit of a puzzle. If you can help, please contact me.

The caption in the Henderson Book lists the kids as follows, with a date of 1896. I figured the kids' ages based on an 1896 date, and it doesn't work.

## The problems with 1896 are:

- 1) Many of the kids look much younger than they would have been in 1896, for example, Jay and Franklin (bottom left) do not look 13.
- 2) John Lee, Etta, and Jennie Henderson were married by 1896, and probably would not have participated in such a family photo, or would have included their spouses. Plus, they look much younger here than in their wedding photos.
- 3) There are 2 people left out of this photo who would have been living at home in 1896—Libbie and Liddie Taft.

4) I have 2 other photos of Ruby Taft as a teen and adult, and she looks nothing like this girl. She looks more like the girl labeled as “Della” or “Alta.”

5) Etta, the 3rd one in back row, had a child in June 1896. She would have been 20 and pregnant here.

## What's correct:

The names are correct except for the youngest four girls, all Tafts. We can safely say the baby is not Roy. Instead, the options are:

- 1) The baby is Della, b. Oct 1889, making this 1890–1891.
- 2) OR the baby is Alta, b. May 1892, making this 1893.

## What we don't know:

- 1) I don't have any photos of Libbie Taft or Lydia “Liddie” Taft to compare.
- 2) I'm confused about Lydia “Liddie,” because I only find two records of her: the Henderson Book (one mention) and the 1900 census.



**Option 1** best matches later photos of the Taft girls (see next page), but **Option 2** fits both Libbie and Liddie in the photo, and the ages fit best. For that reason, my best guess is Option 2.

## Comparing Photos.

Below, some later photos of the Taft girls to compare. The photos from “about 1904” are from a picnic attended by the Hendersons, Tafts, and friends in 1903 or 1904. See [Part 3: Recreation](#).

Below: 1 and 2) Which one is Ruby Taft? 3) Ruby abt. 1904 4) Ruby as an adult



Below: 1 and 2) Which one is Della Taft? 3) Della abt. 1904



Below: 1) Is this baby Alta Taft, or was she not born yet? 2) Alta abt. 1904 3) Alta abt. 1914  
4) Alta abt. 1919



Below: 1) Is this Libbie Taft? Or could it be the mysterious Lydia “Liddie”?

2) I believe this is Libbie in picnic photo (abt. 1904), though she was not identified. I think she is a good match for the girl in the first pic.



Libbie was close to the family as an adult, which is why I think this is her in the 1904 photo. But Lydia/Liddie seems to disappear from the record after the 1900 census. I have not been able to find a married name, a death date, nothing. The only records I have that Lydia/Liddie existed are the Henderson Book (one mention) and the 1900 census.

# Joe's son John Lee Henderson



1. *Top Left:* John Lee Henderson (1875–1930)

2. *Top Right:* Lee with his bride, Lillie Eva Perkins, on their November 27, 1895, wedding day.

**KERIN'S NOTE:**

*Lee and Eva were not related but were stepcousins.*

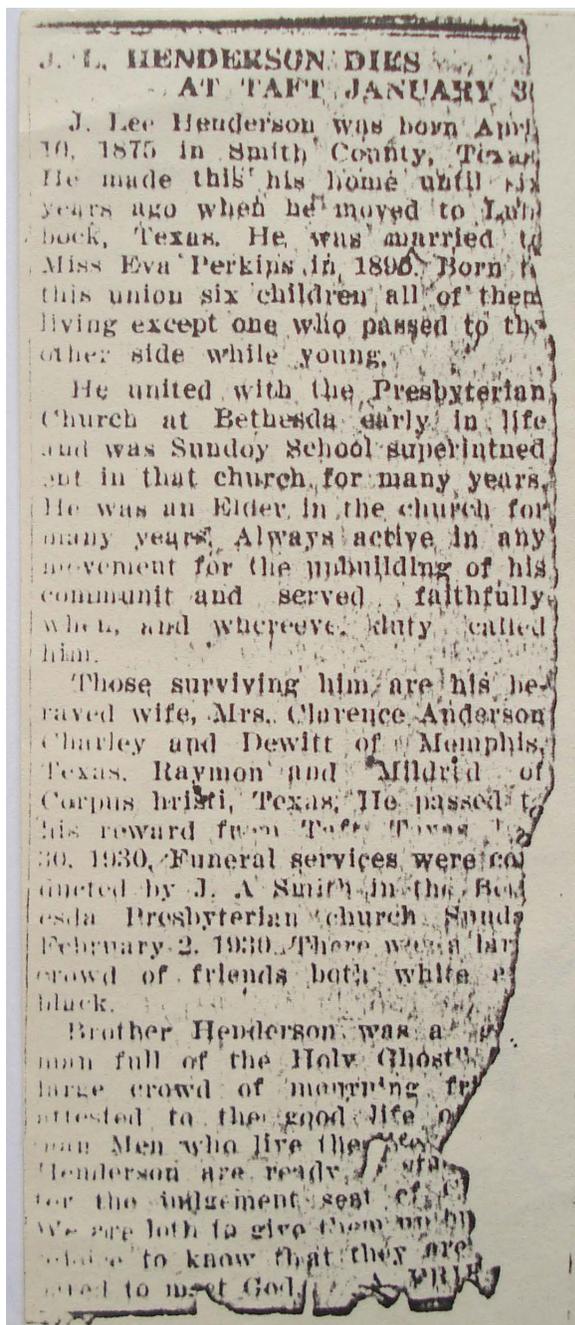
*John Lee - Joseph Asmon - William Lee*

*Lillie Eva - stepfather William Daniel - stepgrand William Lee*

*To their kids, William Daniel was both a grand uncle (on paternal side) and a step-grandfather (on maternal side).*

3. *Bottom:* Lee and Eva. “Eva” was pronounced like “ever” without the R.





*KERIN'S NOTE: This copy of John Lee Henderson's obituary was tucked into the Henderson Book. The newspaper name and date were not attached to it, but I assume it is a February 1930 newspaper from the Lindale area. I was surprised to read that he died in Taft, Texas, which is near Corpus Christi, but in fact, he did live there, according to Vivian and census information. The obituary reads:*

**J. L. HENDERSON DIES AT TAFT JANUARY 30**

J. Lee Henderson was born April 10, 1875 in Smith County, Texas. He made this his home until six years ago when he moved to Lubbock, Texas. He was married to Miss Eva Perkins in 1895. Born [to?] this union six children, all of them living except one who passed to the other side while young.

He united with the Presbyterian Church at Bethesda early in life and was Sunday School superintendent in that church for many years. He was an Elder in the church for many years. Always active in any movement for the [up?] building of his communit[y] and served faithfully when and wherever duty called him.

Those surviving him are his bereaved wife [Eva], Mrs. Clarence Anderson [Jessie], Charley [Charlie] and Dewitt of Memphis, Texas, Raymon [Raymond] and Mildrid [Mildred] of Corpus Christi, Texas. He passed to his reward from Taft, Texas, Jan. 30, 1930. Funeral services were conducted by J. A. Smith in the Bethesda Presbyterian church Sunday February 2, 1930. There was a large crowd of friends both white and black.

Brother Henderson was a \_\_\_ man full of the Holy Ghost \_\_\_ \_\_\_ large crowd of mourning friends attested to the good life of \_\_\_\_\_

[The rest is damaged and difficult to read.]

# John Lee's daughter Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson



1. *Top Left:* Jessie Lee Henderson (1896–1964) (right) with brothers Raymond (left) and Charlie (bottom).

2. *Top Right:* Jessie (in hat) with her mother Eva Henderson and her siblings DeWitt and Mildred.



3. *Middle Left:* Jessie Lee Henderson with her husband William Clarence Anderson on the day they were married, July 23, 1919.

4. *Bottom Left:* Jessie's children in 1926: Quinton Travis Anderson, Vivian Lou Anderson, and Norman Owen Anderson.

5. *Bottom Right:* Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson with her new "windblown" hairdo in Memphis, Texas, 1929, and Norman, Quinton, and Vivian.



## Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson's daughter Vivian Lou Anderson Castleberry



1. *Top Left:* Vivian (b. 1922) at one year old.

2. *Top Right:* Vivian as a college student, 1945.



3. *Middle Left:* Vivian at her marriage to Curtis Wales Castleberry, 1946.

4. *Middle Right:* Vivian and Curtis with first daughter, Carol.

5. *Bottom:* Vivian as a career journalist, with Pat Nixon, 1959.





6. *Top:* Vivian and Curtis with daughters.

Top Row: Chanda, Carol, Keeta.

Bottom Row: Kim and Cathy

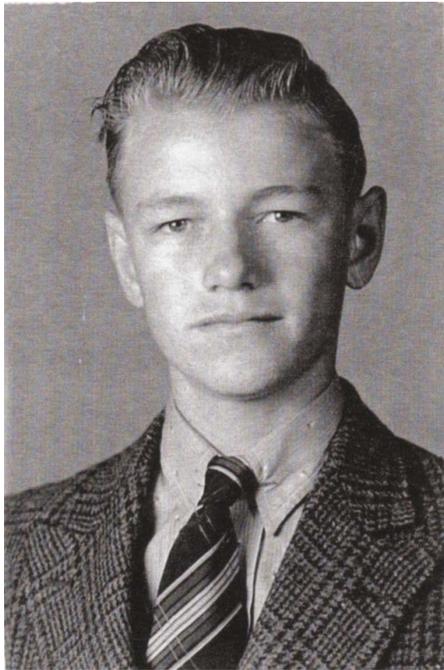


7. *Middle:* Vivian and Curtis with daughters. Left to right: Carol, Keeta, Cathy, Kim, and Chanda, 1966.



8. *Bottom:* Vivian and Curtis on their 50th wedding anniversary.

## Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson's son Norman Anderson



1. *Top Left:* Norman Owen Anderson (1924–1977) as a teenager.

2. *Top Right:* Norman in the Army.



3. *Bottom Left:* Norman Anderson with wife Emma Jean Battles Anderson.

4. *Bottom Right:* The two oldest of Norman's children, Patsy Jean and Ronald Owen.



## Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson's son Quinton Anderson

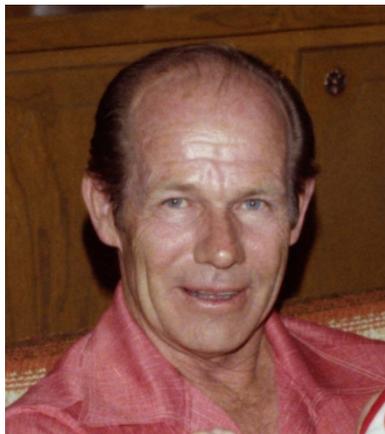


1. *Top Left:* Quinton Travis Anderson (1925–2000) in his first year of high school.



2. *Top Right:* Quinton as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in World War II and the Korean War.

3. *Middle Left:* Quinton in 1978.



4. *Middle Right:* Quinton and Elva Lou Dunklin Swift at their November 1996 wedding. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Edwin McDaniel in the LaRue, Texas, Methodist Church. Grandfathers of the bride, the groom, and the minister were all founders of the church.



5. *Bottom Left:* Quinton's children: Vance, Vicki, Suzi and Mark.

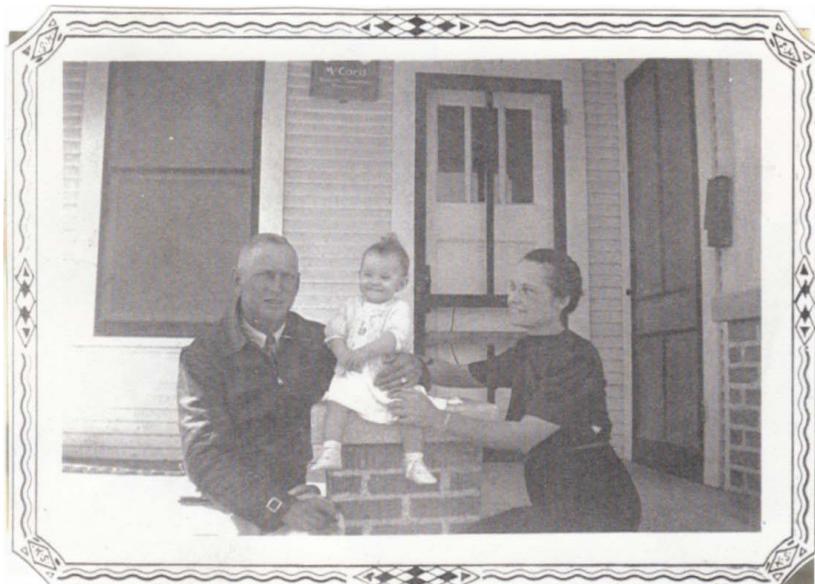
6. *Bottom Right:* Quinton with his wife Deanna Sue Robson Anderson and children Suzi (back), Vicki, Vance, and Mark.



# John Lee's son Archie Raymond Henderson



1. *Top Left:* Archie Raymond Henderson (1898–1940) as a young man. 2. *Top Right:* Raymond Henderson with his brother Charlie Perkins Henderson. 3. *Bottom Left:* Raymond with his wife, Vivian Meredith Henderson, and their daughter Eva Catherine (b. 1938). 4. *Bottom Right:* Raymond Henderson with daughter Eva Catherine at 18 months.



# John Lee's son Charlie Perkins Henderson



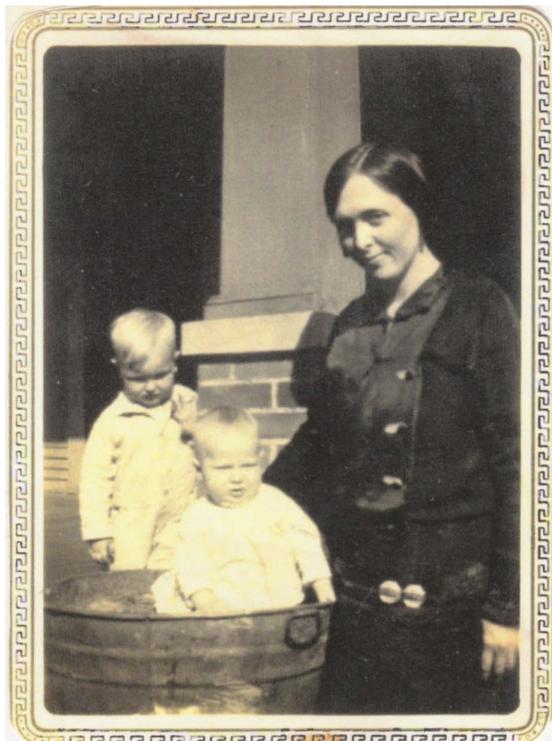
1. *Top Left:* Charlie Perkins Henderson (1901–1966) as a young man, about 1920.

2. *Top Right:* Charlie Perkins Henderson with his bride, Anna Mary Johnson.

3. *Bottom Left:* Anna Mary Johnson Henderson with sons Charles Anon Henderson (1925–1996) and Bennie Lee Henderson (1927–1928).

The baby died shortly after this picture was made. Anna died in 1943. Both are buried at Bethesda.

4. *Bottom Right:* Charlie and his second wife, Bettye Smith Henderson, married in 1945.



## Charlie's son Charles Anon Henderson



1. *Top Left:* Charles Anon Henderson (1925–1996) during World War II.

2. *Top Right:* Charles Anon Henderson as a child with sister Norma Jean Henderson.



3. *Bottom Right:* Charles's children Charles Jr. (center) and Shannon with their cousin Mark.



## Charlie's daughter Norma Jean Henderson Christopher Regan



1. *Top Left:* Norma Jean as a baby.

2. *Top Right:* Norma Jean Henderson Christopher Regan (1932-2010).

3. *Middle Left:* Norma Jean's husband Gene Wilson Christopher, a police officer, killed Feb. 9, 1958, while on duty.

4. *Bottom Left:* Norma Jean's husband Fred Regan Jr. (1929-1977).

5. *Bottom Right:* Norma Jean and Fred with their son Kenneth.



# John Lee's son Joseph DeWitt Henderson



1. *Top Left:* Joseph DeWitt Henderson (1905–1967). He was called DeWitt. 2. *Top Middle:* Dewitt with pets. 3. *Top Right:* DeWitt Henderson with sister Mildred Henderson. 4. *Bottom Left:* DeWitt on fender (back left) with brother Charlie (front), sister Jessie (front right), and sister Mildred (back right). Woman in hat unidentified. 5. *Bottom Right:* Joseph DeWitt Henderson, a young man with a vision.

## DeWitt's daughter Sue Henderson Swann



1. *Top Left:* Wanda Sue Henderson, called Sue (1927–2012). 2. *Top Right:* Sue as a teenaged beauty. 3. *Bottom Left:* Sue with sisters Shirley Ann and Bobbie June. 4. *Bottom Right:* Sue with cousin Quinton Anderson and sisters Shirley and Bobbie.





5. *Top Left:* Sue Henderson, top left in photo, with sisters Shirley and Bobbie and brother Jerry Max.

6. *Top Right:* Sue with her first child Charles Michael in June 1948.

7. *Bottom Left:* Sue as the bride of Charlie Byron Swann (1926–2012).

8. *Bottom Right:* Sue and Charlie Swann, 1996.



# John Lee's daughter Mildred Henderson Davey



1. *Top Left:* Mildred Henderson (b. Aug 14, 1908) with brother DeWitt Henderson (b. May 26, 1905).

2. *Top Right:* Mildred with baby brother Thomas Edgar Henderson (b. July 24, 1911). He died Jan 30, 1913, at 1 1/2.



3. *Bottom Left:* Mildred Loraine Henderson Davey (1908–1994).

4. *Bottom Right:* Mildred with friend Estelle about 1929.





5. Mildred arranging 80th birthday roses.

6. KERIN'S NOTE: While I didn't include most of the 1990s items from the original Henderson Connections, I am including this because I thought it was such a sweet tribute to Mildred. According to the caption, Mildred's great-grandsons Ben and Drew Burton took top honors at the 1995 Reunion for their poster commemorating her. It reads:

### Memories of our "GREAT" Great Grandmother Mildred Davey, because . . .

. . . She handmade Christmas stockings for Me, Ben, and my baby sister Caroline. —Drew

. . . She would make an Easter Bunny Cake with coconut fur and jelly bean eyes for us. —Ben

. . . She would make house shoes for Drew & I every winter. They are real warm. —Ben

. . . She was a good cook. I liked her chicken Best! —Drew

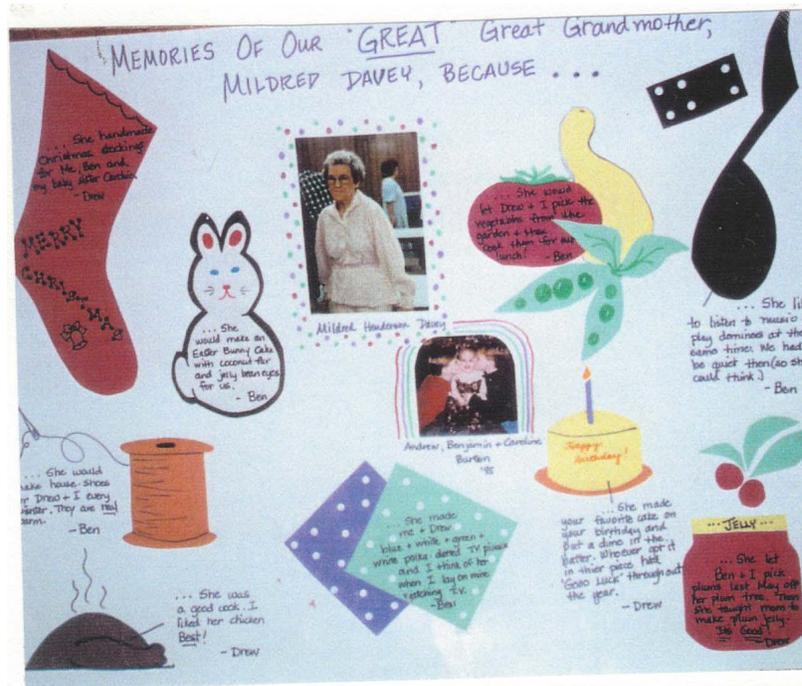
. . . She made me & Drew blue & white & green & white polka dotted TV pillows and I think of her when I lay on mine watching TV. —Ben

. . . She would let Drew & I pick the vegetables from the garden & then cook them for my lunch! —Ben

. . . She made your favorite cake on your birthday and put a dime in the batter. Whoever got it in their piece had "Good Luck" throughout the year. —Drew

. . . She liked to listen to music & play dominoes at the same time. We had to be quiet then (so she could think). —Ben

. . . She let Ben & I pick plums last May off her plum tree. Then she taught mom to make plum jelly. It's Good! —Drew



# Joe's daughter Etta Henderson Hudson



1. *Top Left:* Etta Henderson (1876–1947) about the time she was married at 19 in 1895. She married Charles Hudson.

2. *Top Right:* Etta Henderson at age 17.

Etta's middle name is a mystery; nobody knew she had one until a torn page in a family Bible registering her birth listed her name as Etta Jo . . . (torn off). The Jo . . . probably was for her father, Joseph Asmon, and could have been Johanna, Josephine, or another variation.



*KERIN'S NOTE: Etta's name is listed on daughter Ina's 1970 death certificate as "Henrietta Henderson," but that is the only place I've seen that variation. The person filling out Ina's death certificate (Ina's son Ben) could have been mistaken. Or perhaps it really was her rarely used given name, or she may also have changed it to her preferred name of Etta at the time of her marriage. Do any family members out there know the answer to this? If so, let me know.*



3. *Top Left:* Etta Henderson Hudson with her husband Charles Morton Hudson and their oldest two children Ethel Hudson (b. June 1896) and Fred Asmon Hudson (b. April 14, 1898), taken around 1900.

4. *Top Right:* Ethel Hudson, who died in 1903 at age 7.

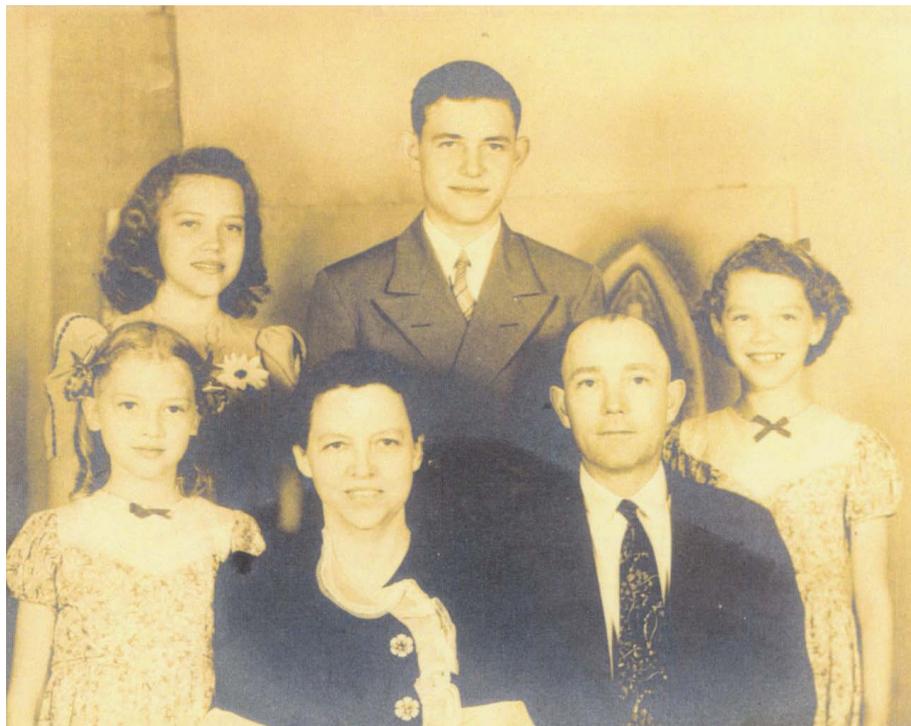
5. *Bottom Left:* Etta Henderson Hudson with children Fred Asmon Hudson (1898–1989) and Ina Mae Hudson (1900–1970).

6. *Bottom Right:* Etta Henderson Hudson with husband Charlie and children Fred Asmon Hudson and Ina Mae Hudson.



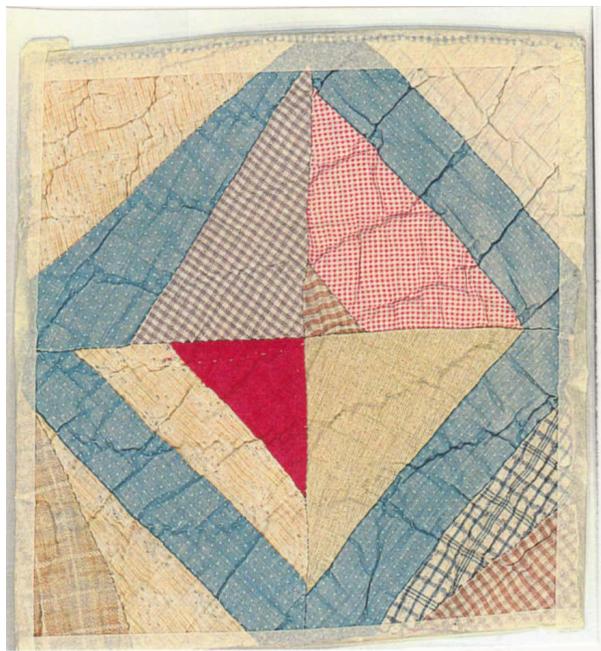
7. *Top:* (Etta's daughter) Ina Mae Hudson Bridges with her sons, Jack and Benjamin.

8. *Bottom:* (Etta's son) Fred Asmon Hudson with his wife, Ruth Powell Hudson, and children: Anna Charlene and Fred Jr. in back row, Dorothy Jane at front left, and Robbie Mae at right.



9. A piece of the Friendship Quilt made for Ina Mae Hudson between 1912 and 1914. The quilt was signed by:

Aunt Libby Lyons,<sup>1</sup>  
 Aunt Eva Henderson,<sup>2</sup>  
 Mmes. Bud Lyon,<sup>3</sup>  
 Florene Lyons,<sup>4</sup>  
 Jay Taft (Bell),<sup>5</sup>  
 Bulah Lyons,<sup>6</sup>  
 Willie Crone,  
 Irene Crone,  
 Myrtle Crone,  
 Lovie Fleming,<sup>7</sup>  
 Ida McDade,  
 Maxine ??,  
 J. N. Vandiver,<sup>8</sup>  
 William Love,  
 Pearl Lyons,<sup>9</sup>  
 Ema Mallory,  
 Ora Steed,  
 Jim Sandor,  
 Garner,  
 Deckard,  
 Willie Johnson,



Parris Tyner,<sup>10</sup>  
 Tom Holbrook,  
 and Charley Jones.

*KERIN'S NOTE: The original caption in the book said the quilt was "made by and for Etta Henderson Hudson." Actually Etta and friends made it for her daughter Ina Mae, as the "aunts" who signed it were Ina Mae's, not Etta's. The people on this list were family, friends, and neighbors.*

*Siblings Libbie and Jay Taft married siblings Tom and Belle Lyon. The other Lyon/Lyons names in this list are their mother, siblings, and siblings-in-law.*

*Spelling inconsistencies were common. Although Libbie is spelled with a "y" here, it was spelled with an "ie" everywhere else. This branch of the Lyon family was especially inconsistent, spelling their surname as both "Lyon" and "Lyons" seemingly interchangeably, even on the same piece of paper. The women seem to have favored the "Lyons" spelling, while their husbands usually used "Lyon." Most of their gravestones say "Lyon," so I'll use that spelling when mentioning them.*

1 Libbie Taft Lyon 1879-1941, m. Tom Pendleton Lyon 1876-1959.

2 Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson 1878-1964

3 Maggie (Amanda) 1854-1925 and Bud (Irenus Sylvester) Lyon 1851-1918 were parents of the Lyon siblings.

4 Florence Lyon 1883-1969, one of the Lyon siblings. Lived with Tom and Libbie according to 1930 and 1940 census.

5 Lilly Belle Lyon Taft 1878-1964, one of the Lyon siblings, m. Jay Taft 1883-1970.

6 Beulah Taylor Lyon 1882-1935, m. Julius Sylvester Lyon 1874-1951, one of the Lyon siblings.

7 Lovie Dee Perkins Fleming 1881-1962, sister of Lillie Eva Perkins.

8 Probably Joseph Newton "Newt" Vandiver 1861-1947, father of Pearl Vandiver Lyon.

9 Pearl Vandiver Lyon 1888-1955, wife of Roy Benjamin Lyon 1887-1964, one of the Lyon siblings.

10 Paris Tyner, a friend, is pictured in the [1904 picnic photo](#).

# Joe's daughter Jennie Henderson York



1. *Top Left:* Jennie Henderson York (1878–1965), second from left, with her daughters, Gladys Mildred York (1913–1999), Minnie Lou York (1901–1988), and Era Ann York (1911–1983).

2. *Top Right:* Jennie, second from right, with her children, Mildred York Leatherwood Pickel, Era Ann York Callaway, Robert Earl York (1914–1973), and Minnie Lou York Hagan.

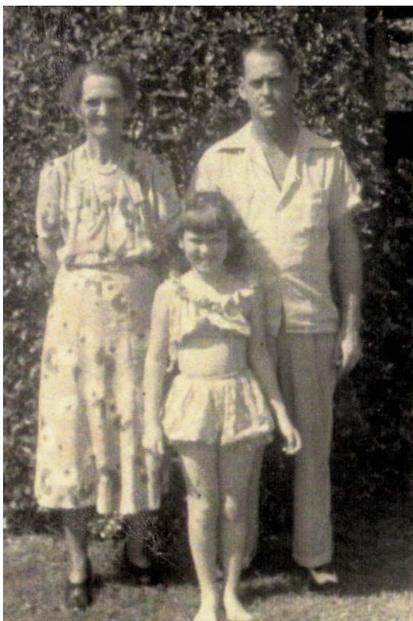
3. *Bottom Left:* Grady and Minnie Lou Hagan at left, Marie and Robert Earl York at right, the two at back center unidentified.



4. *Above:* Jennie Henderson York, seated, center, with oldest daughter Minnie Lou Hagan and Jennie's great-grandchildren. At left are David, Mark, and Linda; Jean is held by her great-grandmother; and at right are Mary Ann and Bobby.

*Below, left to right:*

5. Jennie Henderson York with her son Robert Earl York and granddaughter Marcia. 6. Robert Earl York about 1970. 7. Robert Earl York and Marie Louise Appleton York with their daughter Marcia about 1949.





8. *Top Left:* Cousins—Jennie's grandchildren Marcia York and Betty Jane Leatherwood. Marcia and Betty are the same age. Marcia is the daughter of Robert Earl York, and Betty is the daughter of Mildred York Pickel.

9. *Top Right:* Marcia York with cousins Bobby and Billy Callaway (sons of Era Ann York Callaway).

10. *Bottom Left:* Mildred York Leatherwood Pickel and husband Harold Pickel at a Henderson family reunion.

# Joe's son Franklin Smith Henderson II

## Growing Up

Franklin Smith Henderson II, born near Bethesda Presbyterian Church outside Lindale on December 26, 1883, was the youngest child of Joseph Asmon and Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson. He was named for his father's youngest brother, Franklin Smith Henderson, who had died two years before his birth and is the first person buried in Bethesda Cemetery.

Franklin II was not quite two years old when his father died on October 25, 1884. He, too, is buried at Bethesda. Joseph Asmon, only 38 when he died, is the first of several generations of Henderson men to die very young. Even at that young age, he had already come to be known in the family and among intimate friends as "Uncle Joe."

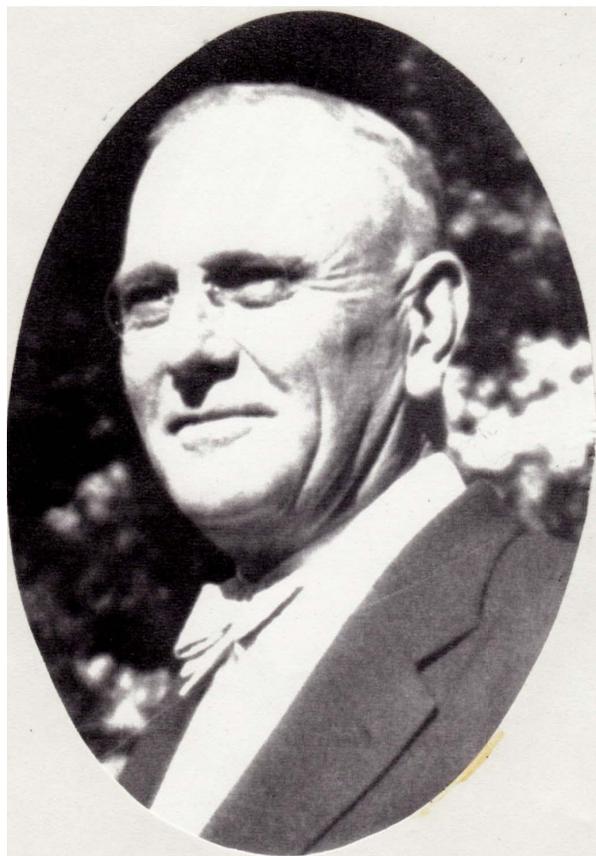
Franklin II was the sixth of Samantha and Joseph's children. When he was born, his siblings included Effie Aletta, 10; John Lee, 8; Etta, 7; Jennie, 5; and Archie, 3.

Almost a year to the day following Joseph's death—in October 1886—Samantha married Julius Simpson Taft. She brought to the union her six children, and Julius added to the family his children from prior marriages. [See [Henderson-Taft Family](#) in this chapter for more information.]

Franklin's brother Archie died in 1888 at the age of 8, and his sister Effie died in 1890 at the age of 16.

In the meantime, Franklin and his brothers and sisters were acquiring half siblings, the children of their mother and Julius Taft. These children were Ruby Anne Taft, born November 17, 1887; Willie Della Taft, born October 14, 1889; Alta Mae Taft, born May 23, 1892; and Julius Roy Taft, born July 16, 1895.

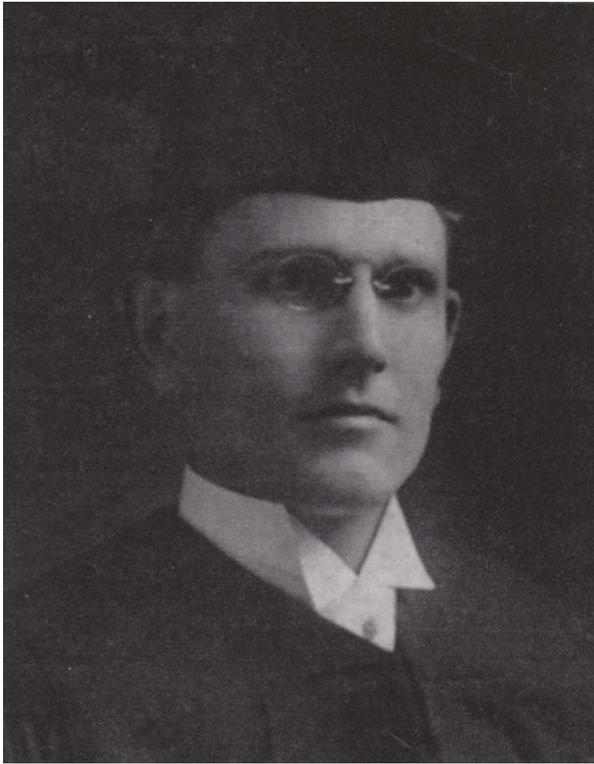
Franklin's mother Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson Taft died August 2, 1896. By that time, John Lee, Etta, and Jennie were married, so Franklin



*Franklin Smith Henderson II*

II was the only one of the original Henderson clan still living at home. He was 12.

At some stage after his wife's death, Julius Taft decided to move his large family north to Indian Territory, which would later—on November 16, 1907—become the state of Oklahoma. There are no records of the exact date of the family's move, but Franklin was old enough and persuasive enough to convince his family that he should remain in Lindale. He had to have been a young boy because his choice was to join the family of his oldest brother John Lee and his bride. Lee (as John Lee was known) and Eva (Lillie Eva) had married November 27, 1895. That



*Franklin Henderson in cap and gown as he graduated from Austin College in 1907.*

would have made Franklin just shy of 12 years old when they married and perhaps 13 when he became a member of his brother's household.

My mother, Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson, was Lee and Eva's first born child on September 27, 1896. She remembers Franklin as a part of their family from her earliest memory. She worshipped him. He was her mentor, her model, and her disciplinarian—used in the true sense of the word: to be a disciple unto. She followed him everywhere he would allow and most of the time he tolerated and even encouraged the adulation of this little girl.

## Education

Franklin was educated in local schools—the Sabine Community School and Lindale High School. He worked on the farm, swam in the Sabine River with his nieces and nephews and multiple cousins, and taught them to read, write, and “do their figures.” He was a scholarly, introspective youth. His

contemporaries, when asked to describe the young Franklin Henderson, use these words: Deep. Bright. Fun-loving. Sainly. Caring. Loving.

He was almost 20 years old when he went away to college. My mother remembered vividly the day Franklin “stopped fighting the Lord” and left home to become a Presbyterian minister. A strong, handsome young man, he was working in the field when he tossed down his hoe and told Lee, his big brother, that he had to go away to school, that repeatedly his prayers to “show me the way” had been answered by a call to the ministry.

The faith of the Hendersons was such that Lee entertained no doubt of his “kid” brother. As Franklin made plans to leave home, laundering and packing his clothes and preparing himself for the scary steps ahead, his brother began collecting what little money he could. Franklin left home with a hundred dollars and a dream.

He entered Austin College in September 1903, three months before his 20th birthday. He had found his calling. He excelled in school, attained scholastic honors in his senior year, and was very involved in extracurricular activities throughout.

Franklin was local editor of the “Chromascope,” the yearbook. He was secretary of the senior class and a member of the Athletic Association and Athletic Council. He was corresponding secretary of the YMCA and vice president and critic for the Athenaeum Literary Society in 1906. In his senior year he was president of the Athenaeum Society. He was a debater and a contestant in the Preliminary Oratorical Contest and instructor in 1907. In his junior year of college he was a delegate to the state YMCA conference held in Hillsboro.

Granted his bachelor of arts degree with honors in the spring of 1907, Franklin entered Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the fall of 1907 and received his bachelor of divinity degree three years later in May 1910.

## The Ministry

On June 7, 1910, Franklin was ordained to the Gospel ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.) at Pittsburg, Texas, and became the pastor of the Pittsburg and Green Hill Presbyterian churches.

While he was serving as pastor in Pittsburg, Franklin met Nancy Jud Swayze and the two were married in December 1911.

Mildred Henderson Davey, the youngest child of Lee and Eva Henderson, remembers that Franklin's visits home, both before and after he was married, were a time of great celebration, not only for the family, but for Bethesda Church. The entire congregation turned out to hear him when he preached in the church that had nurtured him. Not yet born when Franklin went away to college, she does not so much remember what he said as what he was. "He was so handsome. He always looked so clean, and smelled so good!" Even on the hottest summer day—in the time before electricity and air conditioning—he wore those sparkling white starched shirts and I thought he was the best looking thing in the world."

Mother remembered what he said, not the exact words or even the texts of his sermons, but that he was "real. He never forgot who he was or where he



*Franklin Smith Henderson III, son of Franklin Smith Henderson II.*

came from," she once said. "Even though he became a literary scholar, he came home and talked to us in ways and with words that were our own. When he came home, he belonged!"

Even as he began his climb in the Presbyterian church, Franklin had an unusual ability to integrate his worlds. His greatest personal joy was Nancy and their son, Franklin Smith III, born February 16, 1917. "Little Frank" died at the age of 14 on August 16, 1931, of an infection from a carbuncle on the back of his neck. The parents of this only child were devastated, but Franklin Sr. had his work and regained his ability to be contributory.

## A Chance Meeting

Following their marriage, the Hendersons moved to Big Spring where he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. It was there that they counted among their dearest friends Guy and Ethel Porter Brown and their two daughters, pillars of the church he pastored.

I learned about the Henderson-Brown connection quite accidentally when I officiated at the 1992 Dallas International Award banquet honoring Jeannette Brown Early. She was one of the definitive contributors in Dallas, Texas, to humanitarian and peace causes. She and her husband, Allen M. Early, had established a philanthropic foundation before his death. Many of the causes she supported were centered in the Presbyterian church.

Noting this, I asked about her Presbyterian background and casually mentioned that I was Presbyterian—connected through the maternal side of my family and that my great-uncle had figured prominently in my life—though I really never knew him well. Then, I dropped his name and Jeannette almost came out of her chair. My great uncle was her parents' best friend! They had all worked together in the Big Spring Presbyterian church and had often been in and out of each other's homes. Jeannette had several snapshots of the Hendersons as a couple, and of her parents with the Hendersons.

Jeannette was born in 1914 while Franklin was pastoring her parents' church and, along with her older sister, was baptized by him. Years later, when her sister planned to "just go away and get married—



*Franklin Smith Henderson II, his son Franklin Smith Henderson III, and niece Mildred Henderson. Franklin was in Lindale to officiate at his niece Jessie Lee Henderson's wedding. Mildred, the bride's sister, did not have a very happy day.*

it was during the depression and we had no money for weddings—my parents insisted that Franklin Henderson perform the ceremony. They were sure that the marriage would not be official unless he did. Dr. Henderson came from Houston to officiate.”

So close were the two families that Jeannette's mother Ethel Porter Brown and my great-aunt-in-law Nancy Swayze Henderson shared an apartment at Presbyterian Village in Dallas in the latter years of their lives, after they were both widows.

Jeannette and Allen were married on May 31, 1937, 16 months after Franklin died. “Mother and Dad would have insisted that he perform our marriage ceremony, too, if he'd been living at the time.”

## Moving Around

The Hendersons moved on to Coleman in September 1914 at about the time the Browns moved to Waco. Franklin pastored the First Presbyterian Church in Coleman for four years. During this time a new church building was erected and dedicated. When he left Coleman in May 1918, the church was completely free of debt.

He became minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Beaumont in May 1918 and remained there for the next three years.

## Family Weddings and Baptisms

It was during this time that he made a trip home to Lindale to perform the home wedding ceremony for my parents, William Clarence Anderson and Jessie Lee Henderson, the grown-up niece who had figured so prominently in his life during his formative years.

The clipping of the “very pretty event” in July 1919 says the presiding minister came from Beaumont to perform the ceremony—and indeed he did. He, Nancy, and “Little Frank” lived in Beaumont from May 1918 through World War I until May 1921. He resigned when the First and Central Presbyterian churches in that southeast Texas city merged to become Westminster Presbyterian. He and Nancy moved to Navasota where he pastored the Navasota First Presbyterian church from 1921 until 1927.

So it was that he went home to Lindale in the early fall of 1922 to baptize me, Vivian Lou Anderson. This ceremony, like that of the baby's parents, was performed at home, the home of Lee and Eva Henderson, rather than in the Bethesda church, a prevailing custom of that day. I have a snapshot of Mildred holding me on the day of my baptism. Doubtless during this visit home, most likely in September 1922, Franklin filled the Bethesda pulpit.

Franklin Henderson seemed to be always available to conduct special rites for family members. He performed marriage ceremonies for many nieces and nephews, among them that of Raymond and



*Dr. Henderson with Ethel Porter Brown, left, and his wife, Nancy Swayze Henderson, in Big Spring, Texas, where he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.*

Vivian Henderson on November 10, 1931, and Robert Earl York and Marie Louise Appleton on November 21, 1935.

## Memories

Both my mother and my grandmother, who was Franklin's acting mother during his teenage years, spoke of their uncle and surrogate son with admiration akin to awe. In this atmosphere I grew up thinking my great uncle was perfect and equating him in my child's mind as god.

So it was that when he came from Navasota to visit the family in 1926 when I was four that I was apprehensive. At that time, my grandparents and Mildred, who then was 17, had moved to Athens. If memory serves me correctly, we were living 12 miles away in LaRue. The entire family converged at Grandmother and Granddaddy's house and "killed the fatted calf" for the homecoming of their most revered relative. My mother was in a state of elation, eager to show her uncle the bonding of the wedding vows that he had read seven years earlier and equally thrilled to present the fruits of that

union—me and my two brothers, Norman, almost 3, and Quinton, about 10 months.

She reckoned without my reaction. I was so skittish that when the car drove up to the house and everybody rushed out to greet my uncle, aunt, and little cousin, I hid behind the front door. I remember to this day the fear I had at meeting god face to face. Only when I was dragged out, shivering but determined not to cry, and was drawn within the circle of my uncle's radiant love that I experienced something of what my mother had known all her life—acceptance, affirmation and approval.

The meal that came afterward epitomized the ritualistic role of food in Henderson homecomings. I do not remember everything, but I can taste still my mother's fried chicken and homemade rolls, my grandmother's pot roast with "new" potatoes and her giant chocolate cake. But still I trembled in the aftermath of this awesome visitor. My mother was too busy helping to serve the meal to a massive collection of relatives and caring for three babies to be attuned to the nuances of what was going on with me. It was Mildred who responded to my needs, walking with me along the unpaved sidewalks that abutted North Prairieville Street to a little store

two blocks south and spending a few pennies of her hard-earned money to soothe me with candy.

In the meantime my relatives back at the house had pushed themselves away from the table and were engulfed in laughter and reminiscences that always mark reunions. I recall my Aunt Nancy as being beautiful, quiet, and almost aloof. It did not occur to me until many years later, when I became reacquainted with her in her retirement years in Dallas, that she, too, probably felt left out of the magic inner circle.

## Career and Honors

In 1927 the Hendersons moved to Houston where he became minister at Central Park Presbyterian Church. During the eight years the Hendersons lived and worked in Houston, they experienced both the heights and the depths of life. They were living there in 1934 when Franklin Jr. died. The following year, Franklin was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Austin College at its 1935 graduation ceremonies. It was conferred by Dr. E. B. Tucker, president of the oldest private college in Texas.

In late 1935 Franklin was named superintendent of home missions of the Brazos Presbytery and resigned his position at Central Park church to assume his new role. He had been elected stated clerk of the Brazos Presbytery in 1932 and held the

position until the reorganization of the Presbytery in November 1935. Recognized as outstanding for his roles in stewardship, ministry, and administration, he was promoted to home missions superintendent.

He never got to fill the position.

On a cold day, January 24, 1936, he was driving to his home from his church when he pulled his car curbside and killed the motor, apparently aware that he was very ill. He was found slumped over the steering wheel and rushed to Houston's Memorial Hospital where he died at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 1936. He is buried in Forest Park Cemetery in Houston.

## Legacy

For more than a century, from the time it was established in 1879 until 1992, Bethesda had produced only one Presbyterian minister, Franklin Smith Henderson II. He honored it and the Henderson family with his contributions to humanity.

But family members have served as deacons and elders at Bethesda and other Presbyterian churches, including most of the male members of the original family. In more recent years, women descendants have also taken on these roles at their churches. Among them are Janice Buckalew Corley, Eugenia Ann Henderson Stuckey, and Chanda Elaine Castleberry Robertson.



5

**Harriet Caroline  
“Hattie” Henderson  
Crews**

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# Hattie's Story

**H**ARRIET CAROLINE HENDERSON, KNOWN THROUGHOUT her life as Hattie, was born November 10, 1850, to William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson. She joined four older siblings—Mary Amanda, 10; Martha Elizabeth, 8; Margaret Isabelle, 5, and Joseph Asmon, 3. Before the completion of the family there would be four more children, Sarah Jane in 1853, John Madison in 1855, William Daniel in 1858 and Franklin Smith in 1860.

Hattie was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where she was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic extended family, dozens of Hendersons on her father's side and many Shelbys on her mother's side. But she could not have remembered much, if anything, of life in North Carolina because her parents took their children to Perry County, Alabama, about the time she was two years of age.

Hattie's teenage years were clouded by the Civil War which dominated all of the South from the beginning of 1861 through the spring of 1865 and was followed by a period of Reconstruction, which reconstructed little and ravaged much of the property and morale of the country. The atrocities were especially critical in her state of Alabama.

Hattie was 10 when the war broke out and 14 when it ended. She and her family were among the hundreds of thousands of families who suffered personal losses because of the war.<sup>1</sup> Two of her older sisters, Mary Amanda and Martha Elizabeth, both lost young husbands to the war. Mary Amanda's second husband Uriah B. Dobbins was a sergeant in the Civil War (Co. F, 20th Alabama Infantry). John Wesley Arendell, a private in the same company, would marry her sister Belle following his release from the Army. Her brother-in-law William T. McGahey, Martha Elizabeth's second husband,



*Harriet Caroline "Hattie" Henderson Crews  
(1850–1929)*

was a veteran of Co. E., Fifth Alabama and 25th Alabama infantries.

Hattie's brother Joseph Asmon, who was three years her senior, was only 14 when the war began and 18 when it ended. He barely missed being called to service.

Harriet Caroline became the bride of Jesse Edwin Crews on July 27, 1872, in a ceremony read by Judge James Watson (Book 1866–1876, #395) in Perry County. She was 21 and he was almost 25, having been born on July 29, 1847. He was almost exactly the age of her brother Joseph.

Hattie and Jesse had been married seven years when the family left Alabama for Lindale, Texas. They brought their four Alabama-born children, Kirk Edwin (January 14, 1873), 6; Adolphus "Dolphie" (March 21, 1875), 4; Linnie (January 10, 1877), 2; and infant Mary Emma (January 10, 1879), 10 months. They would add two Texas-born children—Henry Robert on January 12, 1881, and Virgie Alma on November 1, 1882.

The small diary kept by William Daniel

<sup>1</sup> Between 620,000 and 850,000 died as a result of the Civil War. That was 2 to 2.5% of the U.S. population.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/civil-war-casualties.html> and <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/03/science/civil-war-toll-up-by-20-percent-in-new-estimate.html>.

Henderson makes several mentions of "Jessy" and "Jesse," the brother-in-law who was a member of the five-wagon-train trek that the Hendersons made to Texas. Hattie and her four children traveled with her parents and the other sisters and their children by train to make their home in East Texas.

All the families were reunited on Tuesday, December 16, 1879. John Madison Henderson, age 24, in the journals he kept for 25 years starting January 1, 1879, wrote: "We have arrived at the point we have been hunting so long! Found the friends looking as usual."

Doubtless, for Harriet and Jesse and for the other family couples who were reunited after the 38-day wagon trek in uncertain winter weather and treacherous traveling conditions, John's journal entry was a master of understatement.

The Crews couple, like that of other family members, began immediately to find a place to live and to acquire property and prepare to make a crop in the spring. They were all farm people. After the uncertainty of the political climate in Alabama they must have been relieved to settle in a place much more serene and peaceful. But one wonders how they felt about the soil of their new home. They left farms in Alabama that were mostly red clay and rugged. In East Texas they found a sandy loam which required far different treatment. John Henderson's journals divulge much about the manner in which family members went about preparing and planting their new land, cultivating their crops, and harvesting their bounty.

Hattie was busy with her increasing family. Her children were 6, 4, 2, and 10 months when she arrived in Texas and she was soon pregnant with her fifth child and then with a sixth.

When baby Alma (Virgie Alma) was 11 months old, not quite four years after the family moved from Alabama to Texas, Jesse Edwin Crews died on October 14, 1883. Kirk was 10 years old and Dolphie, 8. With the help of other men in the family, the two boys took over the responsibility of the farm. Entry after entry in John Henderson's journals reveal the extent to which uncles supported their sister and her children. The men would do the heavy work and be paid back by the kids with things they were capable of doing such as the lighter plowing, hoeing, corn gathering, and cotton picking. John wrote about

making syrup for Sis Hattie, finding her lost cows, buying a mule, building a cook room, repairing a roof for her, and other helpful tasks.

Without a doubt John assumed the role of surrogate father to Kirk and Dolphie. He was very fond of Sis Hattie's children, with—if the frequent references are any indication—a special affection for Dolphie. But even with all the support and help, Harriet Caroline Henderson Crews was the person in charge of her growing family.

It is Hattie's family that has remained closest through the generations to the land they chose when they moved to Texas from Alabama. Her six children married and settled in and near Lindale and Bethesda community. None moved more than a 30-mile radius away from the home place. Many of the grandchildren also settled on or near the original property.

Kirk Edwin married Judson Owens and had two children—Herman Henderson and Annie Lois Crews. Dolphie married Laura Crone and became the father of six—Jesse Albert, Hattie Lola, Isaac Leslie, Linnie Helen, Nora Gertrude, and Logan Walter. Linnie married John Henry York and had one daughter, Margaret Eleanor. Mary Emma wed James Parris Owens and had six children—Edythe Augusta, Nellie Cornelia, Thomas Watson, Julia Agnes, Mary Evelyn, and Harvey Milton. Henry Robert married Lena Belle Wilson and had three daughters, Hattie Maurine, Zoe Evelyn, and Lena Louise. Virgie Alma married Jasper Cheatom Taylor and was the mother of Virgie Beatrice, Margaret Ethel, Mabel Louise, James Roy, Cora Ruth, and Fred Edwin.

Hattie continued to live on the home place and to worship at Bethesda Presbyterian Church all her life. She had been a widow for 46 years when she died on December 4, 1929. She is buried beside her husband in Bethesda Cemetery. Bethesda is also the final resting place of five of her six children—Kirk, Dolphie, Linnie, Henry, and Alma. Mary Emma Owens, who had lived in Lindale for most of her married life, is buried in the Lindale City Cemetery.

# Hattie Crews and Family



1. *Left:* Harriet Caroline Henderson Crews (1850–1929). She was called “Hattie.”

2. *Below:* Harriet Caroline Henderson, seated, about 1902, with her six children, their spouses, and the grandchildren. Standing, left, are Linnie Crews York, her husband John, and their daughter Margaret Eleanor. On porch at left are Dolphie and Laura Crone Crews and their children, Jesse and Lola. To the left and right of their mother are Henry Robert Crews and Virgie Alma Crews. In front of them are Kirk Edwin Crews, his wife Judson Owens Crews, and their son Herman Henderson Crews. At right are Mary Emma Crews Owens and her husband Parris Owens.<sup>1</sup>

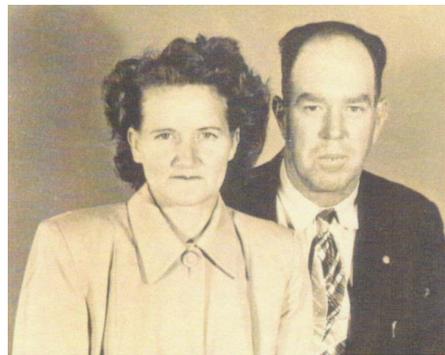
1 *KERIN'S NOTE:* Siblings Kirk Edwin Crews and Mary Emma Crews married siblings Annie Judson Owens and James Parris Owens, making their children double cousins. The name Parris/Paris is inconsistent from record to record.



# Hattie's son Kirk Edwin Crews



1. *Top Left:* Kirk Edwin Crews (1873–1927) and his wife Annie Judson Owens Crews (1876–1929) with their son, Herman Henderson Crews.



2. *Top Right:* Herman Henderson Crews (1900–1957) and Annie Lois Crews (1906–1959), children of Kirk Edwin and Annie Judson Owens Crews.

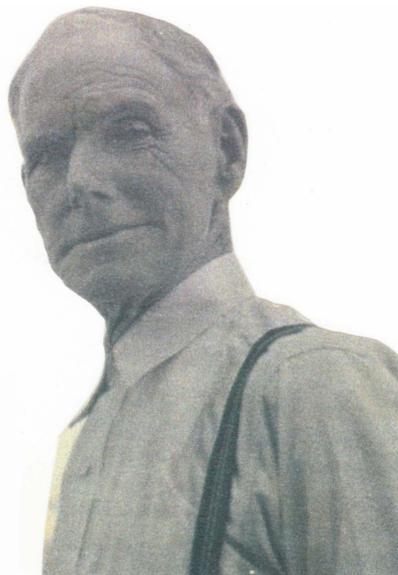
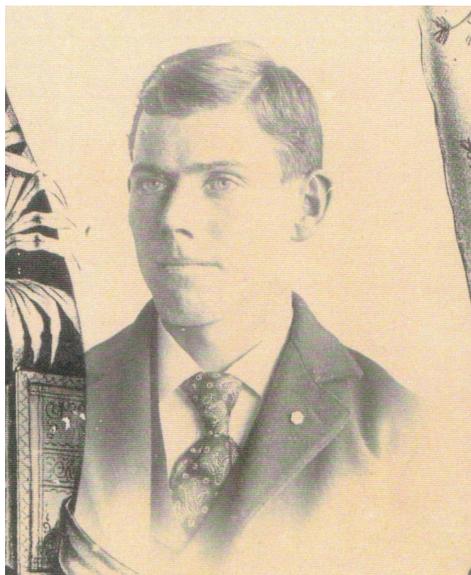


3. *Middle Left:* Corp. Herman H. Crews in U.S. Army uniform during World War II.

4. *Middle Right:* Herman H. Crews and Ada Bell McCollum on their 1949 wedding day.

5. *Bottom:* Herman and Ada with daughter Judy Ann in 1952.

# Hattie's son Adolphus "Dolphie" Crews



1 & 2: *Top Left and Right:* Adolphus Crews (1875–1947), always known as Dolphus or Dolphie, as a young man, and in a later photo.

3. *Bottom Left:* Dolphie with his wife, Laura Crone Crews (1877–1960), and children Isaac Leslie (1904), Jesse Albert (1898), Hattie Lola (1902), Linnie Helen (1908), and Nora Gertrude (1914). (Before the birth of Logan Walter, below.)



4. *Bottom Right:* Dolphie and Laura's youngest child, Logan Walter Crews (1918).

## Dolphie's son Jesse Albert Crews



5. Jesse Albert Crews (1898–1976), his wife, Beatrice Graham Crews, and their son, Jesse Anthony (1942–2014).

## Dolphie's daughter Hattie Lola Crews



6. Lola Crews (1902–1994) in 1917.

7. Lola's husband Walter Hyson "Jack" Gibson in uniform during World War I.

8. Lola Crews Gibson and Walter Hyson "Jack" Gibson.



## Dolphie's daughter Linnie Helen Crews Shores



9. Helen Crews Shores (1908–2005) with her husband, Roy Joseph Shores. She lived near Bethesda Church all her life and was the most reliable authority of people, places, dates, and events that happened during her lifetime.

## Dolphie's daughter Nora Gertrude Crews Gregory



10. Nora Gertrude Crews Gregory (1914–1987) and her husband, William Homer Gregory with their daughters, Mary Helen and Laura Beth.

11. William and Nora Crews Gregory.

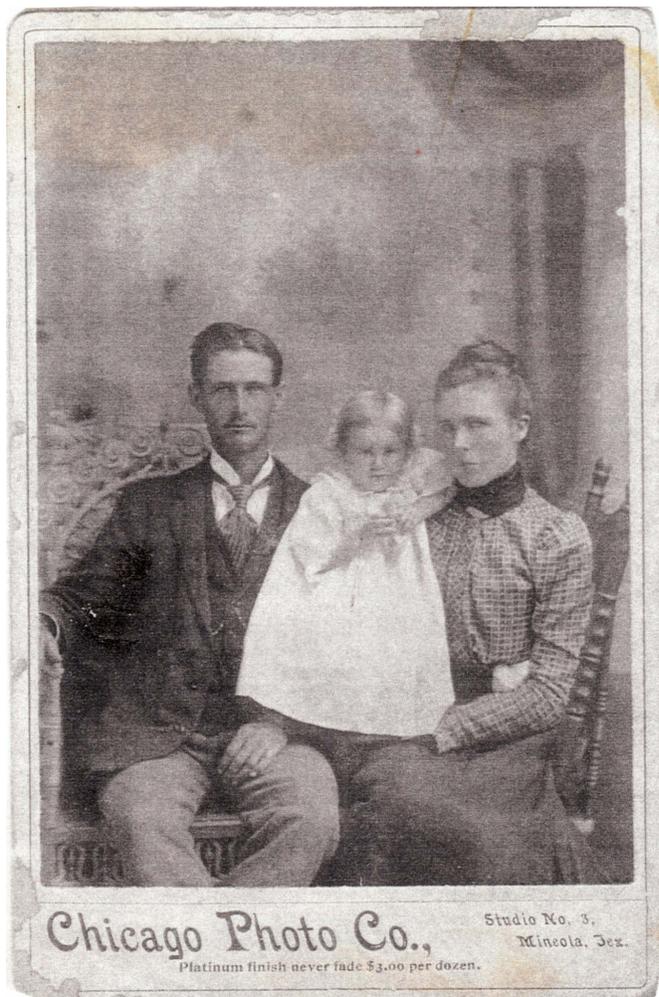


## Dolphie's son Logan Walter Crews



12. Logan Walter Crews (1918–2015) with his wife, Carrie Frances Lyon Crews, and their children, Laura Nell, Steven Logan, and Kathy Frances.

# Hattie's daughter Linnie Crews York



1. *Top Left:* Linnie Crews York (1877–1936) with her husband John Henry York and their only child, Margaret Eleanor York (1899–1986).

2. *Bottom Right:* Eleanor York, about 16.

3. *Bottom Left:* Eleanor and her husband, John Ira Buckalew.



# Hattie's son Henry Robert Crews



1. *Top Left:* Henry Robert Crews (1881-1947) and wife, Lena Belle Wilson (1895-1978), are both descendants of the Henderson family. He is the son of Hattie, and she is the granddaughter of Belle (Hattie's sister).

This picture was made about the time they were married in 1913.

Henry and Lena Crews had three daughters:

Hattie Maurine (1915 - died at 6 mos.)

Zoe Evelyn (1917-1972)

Lena Louise (1921-2003)

Zoe Evelyn married Frank Clark. Louise married W. C. Hogenson.

2. *Bottom Left:* On the left, W. C. and Louise Crews Hogenson with their two daughters, Carol and Martha. On the right, Frank and Zoe Evelyn Crews Clark and their daughter, Linda.

3. *Bottom Right:* W. C. Hogenson and Lena Louise Crews Hogenson in their August 8, 1992, Golden Wedding anniversary picture.





6

**Sarah Jane “Sallie”  
Henderson Crews**

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# Sallie's Story

**S**ALLIE HENDERSON WAS THE FIRST Alabama-born child of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson. Born on January 12, 1853, she was christened Sarah Jane, but lived and died as Sallie. She was so completely known by that name that many of her closest relatives did not know that Sarah Jane was her legal name.

The Hendersons had moved from the Hopewell community near Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, to Perry County, Alabama, some time in the 26 months between the birth of their daughter Hattie in November of 1850 and Sallie's birth in January of 1853.

At the time of her birth, Sallie's siblings were Mary Amanda, 12; Martha Elizabeth, 11; Margaret Isabelle, 7; Joseph Asmon, almost 6; and Harriet Caroline, 2 years and 2 months. She would later have three younger brothers—John Madison, born July 10, 1855, William Daniel, January 21, 1858, and Franklin Smith, March 8, 1860.

The home in which Sallie grew up was peopled with many relatives and friends in addition to her own sisters and brothers. Census reports from Alabama and later from Texas always list in-laws, grandchildren and friends as residents in the home. In 1860, when Sallie was 7, the census lists J. M. Shelby, who would later marry Martha Elizabeth, as a part of the household. Mary Amanda was married and not listed in the Henderson family, but that brought the number of people living in the house to 11. (See [1860 Census](#) in Chapter 1-1.)

By 1870, the family had increased to 14. Mary Amanda had been widowed and had moved back into her parents' home with her children, Margaret Selina and James Milton McGahey. Martha Elizabeth, whose first husband had died during the Civil War, but who was already married to William T. McGahey, was also listed as a resident in the home. Her husband was not, but there was included a 17-year-old male whose name was Jessie.

The Alabama farm on which Sallie grew to adulthood was anything but prosperous. The soil was red clay and rocky, rich in iron but poor in other nutrients for crop-growing. The family worshipped



*Sarah Jane "Sallie" Henderson Crews (1853–1941)*

at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, which they had founded. Located near today's village of Heiberger and across the road from their farm, it provided both the social center and the religious foundation of their lives.

Sallie was 8 when the Civil War began. It would engage most of the efforts of Alabamians for the next four years.

When she was 26 years old, the William Lee Henderson family, including all nine of their children—sons and daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren moved from Perry County, Alabama, to Smith County, Texas, and settled on adjacent farms in and around what was then known as the Saline Community.

Sallie made the move by train, along with her parents, sisters, and all the children. Her older brother Joseph Asmon and his wife, Samantha Jane, already were in Texas and he had helped choose the land to which the family moved. The men in the family used five wagons to haul the household furnishings across the 500-mile trek.

On the wagon train, in addition to the

Hendersons, was the Love family; John Wesley Arendell, who was married to Margaret Isabelle Henderson; Uriah B. Dobbins, who was married to Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey; William T. McGahey, who was married to Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby; and Jesse Edwin Crews, who was married to Harriet Caroline Henderson.

Also along was Henry Calvin Crews, a 22-year-old bachelor and first cousin of Hattie's husband, Jesse Crews. He was destined to figure prominently in Sallie's life and in the Henderson family.

Four and a half years passed. Sallie was a charter member of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Lindale. She would remain a pillar of the church for the remainder of her life, teaching Sunday School, attending worship services, and being present at all memorial services and most other gatherings.

On June 22, 1884, Sallie married Henry Calvin Crews at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in rites performed by Rev. Luther H. Wilson, pastor.

Her brother John Madison Henderson, in the journals he kept from January of 1879 for the next 25 years, in characteristic style, buried the news of the Crews-Henderson nuptials between two casual sentences. He wrote: "Sun. June 22—Went to Sunday School and preaching. Went to Ma's this

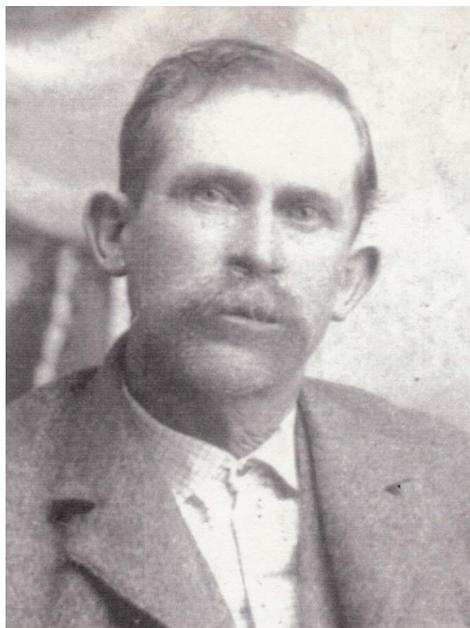
eave. Just before services, Henry Crews and Sallie Henderson were married then we heard a good sermon."

Henry was a popular man, who had long been a part of the Henderson mélange even before he was an official part of the family. Helen Shores recalls him as a person who was easygoing and who always saw the bright and amusing side of any situation.

Four children were born to the Crews union. Only two lived to adulthood. A son, Walter James, was born November 25, 1885, and two years later, a daughter, Lizzie Lee Crews, was born on February 10, 1888. Two boys died as newborns. The first, unnamed, was born July 10, 1890, and died when he was two months old, on September 13, 1890. The second was born September 27, 1892, named Jesse, and lived only three days. Both Walter and Lizzie lived to adulthood in the community of their birth.

Henry died on August 30, 1929, and is buried in Bethesda Cemetery. Sallie was a widow for almost 12 years. She died March 2, 1941, at the age of 88, having outlived all her sisters and brothers, and is buried beside her husband.

# Sallie Crews and family



1. *Top Left:* Sarah Jane Henderson, known all her life as Sallie, married Henry Calvin Crews on June 22, 1884.

2. *Top Right:* Henry Calvin Crews was a young bachelor when he came to Texas in a five-family wagon train.

3. *Below:* Sallie Henderson Crews (1853–1941) with her husband, Henry Crews (1857–1929), and their children, Walter James (1885–1952) and Lizzie Lee (1888–1964), about 1896.





4. *Above:* The Crews family: Walter James, Henry, Sallie, Lizzie Lee, and Sallie's mother Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson. Eleanor died in October 1900, and this photo was probably taken a few months before that.

5. *Bottom Left:* A later picture of Sallie, sometime before 1919.

6. *Bottom Right:* Henry and Sallie Crews (center) with son Walter James Crews, his wife, Lena Henry Todd Crews, and grandchildren Walter Daryl Crews (1922–2008) and Tommie Lee Crews (1924–2006).

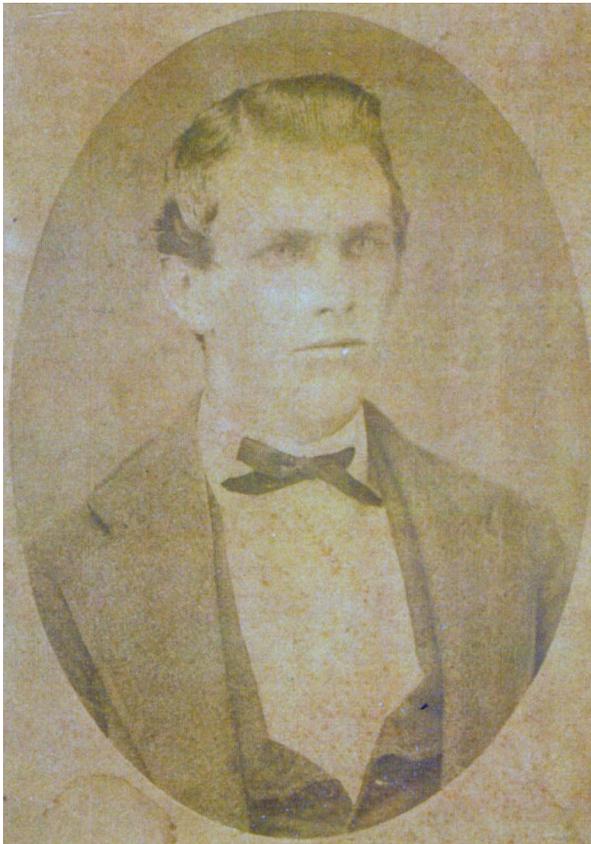




7

# John Madison Henderson

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*John Madison Henderson (1855–1939)*

## John's Story

**J**OHAN MADISON HENDERSON, THE SEVENTH child and second son of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson, was born on July 10, 1855, near today's village of Heiberger in Perry County, Alabama. He joined a large and growing family. There were five older sisters—Mary Amanda, Martha Elizabeth, Margaret Isabelle, Harriet Caroline, and Sarah Jane—in addition to his older brother, Joseph Asmon. John was named for his paternal grandfather, John Lee Henderson I, and for his mother's brother, James Madison Shelby.

John was a baby, nine and a half months old, when Mary Amanda married John F. McGahey. John was 2 and a half when the next baby, William Daniel, arrived in the Henderson family, and not quite 5 when his mother gave birth to Franklin Smith Henderson, the last of the family's nine

daughters and sons. He was only 5 when the Civil War began and the Alabama of his childhood was riddled with war and the aftermath of a country divided.

Every evidence—both in what has been passed down orally in family lore and in the written records that survive—indicates that John did not fit well into the rugged lifestyle often required of individuals in the late 1800s. He was small for his age and from childhood suffered with recurring bouts of malaria, so prevalent in those days. He was a sensitive person, more given to reading and writing than to hunting and fishing. While he was a hard worker who never shirked his share of the grueling farm chores, he was more at home with a pen and paper planning the crops than in planting, cultivating, and harvesting them.

Deeply religious, John would doubtless have gone into the ministry if educational conditions in his youth had not prevented advanced schooling. He attended Sunday school and church regularly, not only in his own Bethesda Presbyterian church near present-day Heiberger and later in the Bethesda Presbyterian church he helped to build in Lindale, but in Methodist, Baptist, and other denominational churches—anywhere he thought he might hear a good sermon. He was self-taught on two instruments—the harmonica and the violin. He loved to sing, and as soon as he was old enough to venture away from home on his own, he would ride horseback for miles to study in a singing school or to attend a singing.

There is no way of knowing how much schooling John actually had, but learn he did. He was a reader. He had a unique style of storytelling, and his written records show that he was a person who valued education. Though there are grammatical errors and misspelled words in the records he kept, these are mostly a matter of vernacular.

John was 24 years old and a bachelor, just beginning to socialize with the “young ladies,” one of whom he doubtless intended to eventually ask to become his wife, when his parents decided to move from Perry County, Alabama, to Smith County, Texas. John was not happy to leave the home of his birth and rearing.

We know this because he left a rare and precious document—a journal he kept for 25 years.

And it was almost lost.

Beginning on January 1, 1879, and for the next 25 years, John kept the journal. He wrote in it almost every day. Those days he skipped—and they were precious few—he would pick up later. If he went on a trip, became ill, or had a serious illness in the family, he might skip two or three days, but he always picked up right where he had left off. The journals are replete, first with the weather. Because he was a farmer and all other family members were farmers, the weather figured prominently in their daily lives. When it was too wet to plow, or when the rains did not fall and the crops dried up, or when the snows fell or the ice covered the earth and the doctor could not come to attend sick family members, it was a matter of grave concern, even unto death.

And so it was that every day began with a weather report. There are other commissions and omissions in his journals that, for today's readers, seem strange. He usually failed to write about the most intimate situations. When he married, when the children were born, when great triumph or great tragedy was happening, he tended to omit details or to capsule the situations at a later writing. So it is that we learn, by reading his journals, the names and weights of the mules he bought, but not until several days later, the gender, name—and never the weight—of his son and daughter.

We do know almost every plank that went into the building of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, its value in time and energy to haul it from the sawmill, how much it cost, and where it went into the building of the sanctuary. We know about crops planted and harvested, about singing schools and socials—but rarely the names of the individuals who were married in the weddings he attended. We know about deaths; most are documented, and in the first of several journals he wrote, the death dates are circled in black. Most of the time, John noted that he helped dig the grave for the deceased and often he made a trip into Tyler to buy the casket. For family members, he was often in charge of buying the marker for the grave.

Most of all, we know that John Madison Henderson was a hard worker, and an intelligent one. He wrote not only about what and when he planted, but also about new, untried agricultural fruits, grains, vegetables, and flowers he cultivated in the sandy

loam of East Texas.

He was a loving family man. Often he noted that his wife was ill, and that he did the cooking, laundry, and caring for the children. Sometimes he took a day off from the farm work to frame a flower bed and to cultivate it for his wife. He was vitally concerned that his children get a good education, and he saw that his daughter was trained in music. When she completed all the schooling offered in his small community, he took her in the wagon late every Sunday afternoon or early Monday morning into Lindale where she boarded—probably with his sister—for the five school days. On Friday afternoon he fetched her home to spend the weekend with him, her mother, and her brother.

He sent both his son and his daughter to college. He was sometimes the surrogate father to his nephews and nieces, especially the sons and daughters of his widowed sisters. When his sister Martha Elizabeth died while her youngest daughter was still single, he and his wife took Eleanor Lee McGahey into their home.

He was an astute business man. He bought and sold land, livestock, hogs, and chickens. Not only did he sow and reap his crops, but he bought and sold churns, and slaughtered and processed meat and sausage, selling them door-to-door for extra income. He kept hens and sold eggs. He peddled milk and butter. He rigged up a syrup-making apparatus and, year after year, catalogued the numbers of gallons of syrup he made for family and friends. Once, he bought a cotton gin and operated it for two or three years until he learned it was too time-consuming for his other endeavors. Then he sold it.

He was a versatile person. When one endeavor failed to meet his expectations, he reached out for something else to increase his income and expand his horizons.

He was a good neighbor. He sat up with the sick and dying, helped neighbors with their crops, helped roof barns, and sought lost livestock. He was especially sensitive to the needs of his two widowed sisters, cutting wood for them, building a kitchen, roofing a shed, digging a well, overseeing the heavy work of harvesting their crops, and taking their cotton to the gin.

He was a good citizen. Often he went to Tyler in the wagon, even in freezing weather, to serve on

a jury. He always voted. Even though he wrote that he studied the issues and the candidates, he admitted that sometimes he may have made a wrong decision when he cast his ballot. He took a day off from his personal work now and then to help other family members, friends, and neighbors work the roads.

John's journals provide a rich lore of family history, preserved through the interest and generosity of Jan Bailey. Retired from Dallas, Jan and her husband moved to Palestine, Texas, bought wooded farmland, and opened a bed-and-breakfast establishment. While seeking furnishings and accessories for the bed-and-breakfast that would be authentic to East Texas, Jan bought an old trunk at a garage sale in Palestine. It was full of junk. She took it home and painstakingly went through it. At the very bottom she found five ledgers. Fragile, but intact and well preserved, they were the journals of one John M. Henderson. She began to read and was intrigued. She turned the journals over to a nephew who was a historian. He kept them for several years and returned them to her in 1991. "I reread them and found them simply fascinating. I had to find out about Mr. John M. Henderson," Jan explained.

Jan's search took her to Lindale and the Bethesda Cemetery where she found his grave and those of other family members mentioned in the journals. She took pictures. She searched census records and church records and obituaries. Eventually, her search led her to James Robert (Jim Bob) Parker in Elkhart, Texas. When she called and asked if he were the great-grandson of John M. Henderson, he said he thought so. He, a descendant of Cynthia Ann Parker, said that he knew a great deal about his father's family, but nothing about his mother's Henderson branch.

Jan turned the journals over to Jim Bob who shared them with other family members. Quinton Anderson, a great nephew, painstakingly reproduced the more than 700 pages of odd-sized-and-shaped paper. Time damaged some of the pages, but they are still mostly legible.

John, third from the youngest of the Henderson children, died in 1939, and many of his nieces and nephews still living remember him.

Elvira Ford remembers that Uncle John was always dressed up when he went out anywhere. He wore a suit, white shirt, and bow tie. He was

among the first to arrive at church on any occasion, whether it was Sunday school, a singing, a sermon, or a funeral. He usually stayed to help clear up and clean up after the event. He was sometimes asked to deliver a prayer. "We kids hated that because he prayed and prayed and prayed. We would fidget and our mothers would jab us with their elbows. Sometimes we'd get a giggling fit and then we really caught it! Finally, someone asked him, 'John, why do you say such long prayers?' and he said, 'Because the Bible says to pray without ceasing.'"

John was, doubtless, lonely. It took him several years after the family moved to Texas to get over being homesick for Alabama, and he continued to mention in his journal that he longed to go back home until shortly before he married Martha Jane "Mollie" Vining Chilcoat on February 3, 1884. From Athens in Henderson County, Mollie had been previously married to a young man who lived only two months after they were wed. John likely met her when he went to Athens to conduct a singing school.

He revealed nothing of his courtship and did not divulge to his journal that he was about to be married until the wedding had already taken place and he was home again. He was equally reticent about the births of their two children. In both instances, he informs us that "a little stranger" has joined the family. It is some days later that the reader learns the little stranger is a baby and still later before he mentions the gender. Eventually, we learn that the first child is a boy and has been named Albert Sidney. The second baby is a girl and is named Lena Mae.

Even so, it is clear that John is a devoted, sometimes indulgent, father. Elvira remembers that Lena Mae was the community beauty, musically talented and well educated. "All of us little girls wanted to be like her." One Christmas her parents gave Lena Mae a piano, and Elvira remembers helping her decorate the house for the holidays. "I wanted to put a holly branch on the piano and Lena Mae smiled and said that it was a lovely idea, but we should put the holly somewhere else because it might scratch her new treasure."

John sent both of his children to college. Even though he had sometimes complained that his son and daughter and their young friends were too noisy and disturbed his rest, he was devastated when they left home, and in September 1906, wrote:

“I have been called on to go through quite a trial for me . . . that was to give up my children to leave wife and I alone. Sidney is at Sherman going to Austin College. Lena at Milford attending the Texas Presbyterian College for Young Ladies. It surely did hurt me but I am already glad that I have had to do it, for now I know more than I did . . . Mine are both in fine places for which I am truly grateful.”

On October 10, 1910, Sidney married Alta Mae Taft, unrelated to him but his father’s step-niece. (When John’s brother Joseph died, his widow married Julius Taft; Alta was her daughter by this second marriage.) In 1912 Lena Mae married George Wallace Nash.

Sidney and Alta had four children. Their first child, a son, died at birth. Their three surviving children were Dorothy Jane, Jack Nash, and Ruby Anne. Lena Mae and George had one son, Henderson Edward Nash.

For a time after Sidney and Alta left Lindale, John and Mollie moved to Palestine, Texas, to be near them. It was there that Mollie died on August 11, 1913. John eventually went “home” to Lindale where he lived for a time with his sister Hattie and sometimes “batched.”

He bought a car and could be seen almost every day driving it to one or another of the homes of family members and friends. Quinton Anderson could not have been more than three when he was invited to go for a drive in the country with Uncle John. The tiny car was packed with nieces and nephews, and Quinton wound up in the rumble seat. Now, as a man older than Uncle John was on the day he took the kids for a ride, Quinton still remembers that when he was not being almost overcome with gas fumes, he was choking on the dust stirred up as the car bumped along the country roads.

As Uncle John aged, it became something of a family joke that he could be counted on to arrive at the home of a sister, brother, niece, or nephew just as a meal was being served.

John Madison Henderson died in Lindale on January 27, 1939. His funeral services were held in Bethesda Presbyterian, the church he helped to plan and build. He is buried in Bethesda Cemetery beside his wife. He had been the first president of the Bethesda Cemetery Association when it was formed.

Sadly, he never went back for a visit to Alabama.

# John's son Albert Sidney Henderson



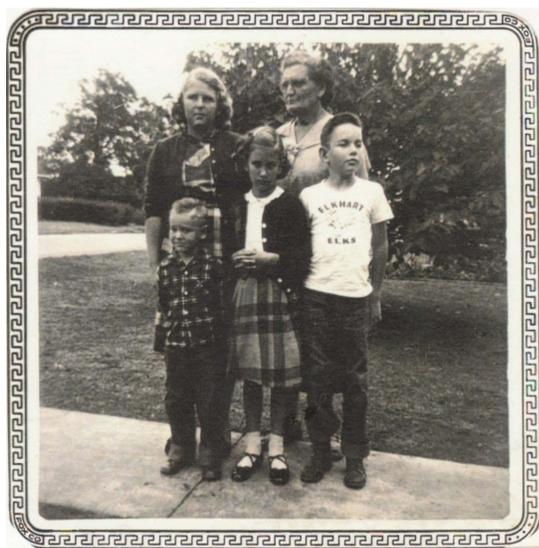
1. *Top Left:* Albert Sidney Henderson (1885–1941), his wife, Alta Mae Taft Henderson (1892–1973), and their daughter Dorothy Jane Henderson (1913–1983). Their first child, a son, died at birth.

Albert and Alta were not related, but they did have a family connection. Albert's cousins were half-siblings of Alta.

John Madison's brother Joseph Asmon died, and his wife Samantha remarried Julius Taft. Her kids (the Hendersons) and his kids (the Tafts) combined, and together they had 4 more children. Alta was one of those children.

2. *Top Right:* The Albert Sidney Henderson family. Albert and Alta with their children, Jack Nash (1914–1994),

Ruby Anne (1916–1988), and Dorothy Jane (1913–1983).



3. *Bottom Left:* The Henderson children, Dorothy, Jack, and Anne.

4. *Bottom Right:* Alta Mae Taft Henderson with her grandchildren Patricia Ann Henderson (beside her), and in front, George William Scroggins, Jo Nell Parker, and James Robert Parker.

# Albert Sidney Henderson's children



1. *Top Left:* Jack Nash Henderson and his wife, Willie Mae McIntyre Henderson.

2. *Top Right:* Jack with his daughter Patricia Ann.

3. *Middle Left:* Ruby Anne Henderson Scroggins, called "Anne," as a child.

4. *Middle:* Anne Henderson Scroggins.



5. *Bottom Left:* Anne Henderson Scroggins holding her niece Patricia Ann Henderson.

6. *Bottom Right:* Anne with her aunt and uncle, Aileen and Julius Roy Taft.



# John's daughter Lena Mae Henderson Nash

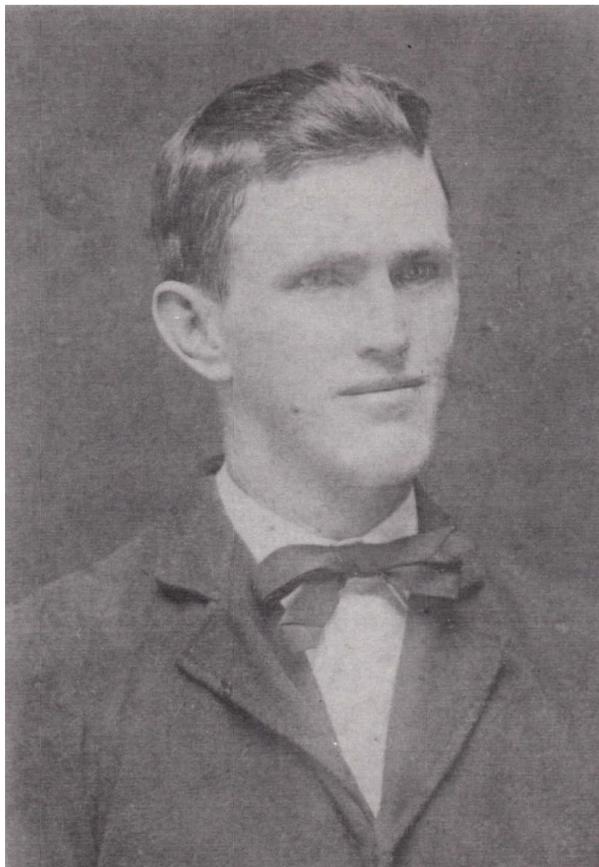


Lena Mae Henderson (1886–1953) married George Wallace Nash (1878–1944) in 1912.

8

**William Daniel  
Henderson**

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*William Daniel Henderson (1858–1929), the eighth child of William Lee and Eleanor Henderson, was 21 when he moved from Alabama to Texas, 30 when he married, and 71 when he died. This picture was made when he was in his 20s.*

## Will's Story

**W**ILLIAM DANIEL HENDERSON, BORN ON January 21, 1858, in Perry County, Alabama, was the eighth of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson's nine children. He had five older sisters—Mary Amanda, who was married and a mother before his birth, Martha Elizabeth, Margaret Isabelle, Harriet Caroline, and Sarah Jane—and two older brothers, Joseph Asmon and John Madison Henderson. He would have one younger brother, Franklin Smith Henderson, shortly after his second birthday.

The Henderson children, all of whom were given double names, soon were known by shortened

versions, and William Daniel was no exception. As a child, he became known as Will—the moniker that would follow him for the rest of his life. Some later members of the family referred to him as William Dan.

Nothing is known of Will's personal childhood, though conditions of the times tell a story of war, deprivation and suffering. Will was three years old when Confederates fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861, the battle that began the Civil War. The four years that followed, from April of 1861 until the last surrender of Confederates on May 16, 1865, were especially hard for the seceded southern states. And the several years of "Reconstruction" that followed were equally unpleasant. Will was seven years old when the war ended. Though he was not old enough to remember specific details, he had to have been affected by the deaths of two brothers-in-law while in the service of the Confederate States of America and by other members of the family who wore Confederate uniforms.

Will was 21 when the Henderson family sold its farm near today's Heiberger, Alabama, and prepared to move to Smith County, Texas. There is every indication that this was high adventure for young Will. Different in disposition from his brother John, just two and a half years older than he, Will apparently welcomed the move. He made the trip with the other male members of the family on the wagon train that touched four states on its westward journey.

Will kept a small journal for a part of the trip, but he had neither the disposition nor the discipline to record details for a long period of time. This is unfortunate, for his small memento to the Henderson history is much more personal and colorful than John's more erudite journals.

Neither Will nor John give the names of everybody who moved to Texas, but Will does give a few personal notes. He tells about "UB, Jessy and My Self" spending \$18.30 for "flour, meat, cheese, crackers, shot (ammunition) and molasses" in Merian (Meridian). On another occasion, he writes about "Henry, Will, UB, Jessy and My Self" going to a preaching. Henry is Henry Calvin Crews, UB is Uriah B. Dobbins, Jessy is Jesse Crews. The identity of the Will he mentions is not known. It could have

been William T. McGahey, Martha Elizabeth's husband, but her family believes that McGahey—because he was crippled—traveled on the train with his father-in-law and the women and children. Will's diary ends abruptly on Friday, November 28 when the wagon train is “camped 2 miles from V” (Vicksburg, Mississippi) where “it is cole and the wind blows so hard we don't turn our hats luse.”

Some members of the family, descendants of Eleanor's brother James Madison Shelby and his wife Amanda Ann Henderson Shelby, William Lee's sister, claim that Will's little diary belongs to them and was kept by someone named W. A. Henderson, a nephew of James and Ann, who moved from Alabama to Texas in 1869, 10 years before the William Lee Hendersons. There is even a certified affidavit to that effect. But this could not be true because the William Daniel diary coincides in every detail with that of his brother, John. The dates, numbers of miles traveled each day, campsites, and persons visited are alike in the two documents. Had they checked a perpetual calendar, the James Madison Henderson family would have seen that the dates are incorrect. During 1869, the date Will's journal began, there was no Monday, November 9. In 1879, the year the William Lee Henderson family left Alabama, there was.

The family that believed the diary to have been written on their trek west in 1869 did add some accurate footnotes to Will's brief notations. Will wrote that on November 25, the wagon train went through Brandon, Mississippi. A family descendant, Mrs. E. M. Walton of Beulah, Mississippi, filled in this detail: “One prominent Shelby, Anthony Bledsoe Shelby, returned from Texas and lived his last days at Brandon. Born in 1789, he married Marian Winchester, fathered eight daughters and five sons, migrated to Texas and helped found the Republic of Texas of which he became justice in the Texas Supreme Court, died in Brandon, Mississippi in 1855.”

In John's journals there are numerous references to his brother Will after the family is settled in Smith County. Though they farmed separately, the two brothers often helped each other. Apparently, after William Lee Henderson died in 1883 when Will was 25 and still single, he lived in the house with his mother.

Then, in December of 1888, John wrote in his journal that he put his brother Will on the train to go to Perry County, Alabama. The family had then been in Texas for nine years; there is no indication that any of them had been back home for a visit. John, in the sometimes maddening omission of human interest details, nowhere mentions that his brother is going back to Alabama to get married.

William Daniel Henderson and Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins<sup>1</sup> (called Dora) were married on January 6, 1889. The license was issued to W. D. Henderson and Dora Perkins on January 5 by Jno. Sherman or Sher . . . (illegible), judge of probate in Bibb County, Alabama. The couple married the next day, by Rev. William T. Wallen in Centreville, Bibb County.<sup>2</sup>

The details of the romance between Dora Perkins and William Daniel Henderson are sparse, and where and when he met Dora is lost in history. At the time of their marriage, he was an “old bachelor” at 30, and she was a 29-year-old widow. She had been married to William Basil Perkins,<sup>3</sup> who died in 1885 at age 29, leaving her with three little girls.

Will Henderson and his new family—his wife and three stepdaughters—traveled back to Texas on the train. His new stepdaughters were Lillie Eva (called Eva), 10; Willie Mae, 8; and Lovie Dee.<sup>4</sup> Lillie Eva Perkins, my grandmother, recalled in vivid detail the train trip to East Texas. I remember her telling the stories, but I failed to get details, and now all connections, I am sure, are lost.

1 *There has been disagreement over Dora's full name. See [Family Outline](#), footnote 25 for more info.*

2 *Dora's background: The marriage record of Dora's parents, James Mitchell and Elizabeth Tucker Mitchell, is on record in Marion, Perry County. They were “joined in holy bonds of matrimony” on December 3, 1849. James and Elizabeth were the parents of five children—Mary Saphronia, Margaret, William, Dora, and James Jr.*

3 *There is disagreement over the proper spelling of “Basil,” but I found some answers that confirm this spelling. See [Family Outline](#), Footnote 27 for more info.*

4 *On a legal document, her daughter Nora entered her name as Lovie Dora Perkins (m. Fleming, m. McDowell). She is often listed as “Lovie D,” but it was her daughter Lovie Dee McDowell who had the “Dee” middle name.*

It certainly was a shocking experience for the three little girls, who were entrenched in her mother's Alabama family. Even though their father was deceased, the little girls had grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, and many friends they left behind in Alabama. There were many aunts in and around Selma and Marion, Alabama, who continued to correspond with Eva even after she became a grandmother.

The Henderson-Perkins marriage produced five children—Minnie Lee, Thomas Ward, William Paul, Lewis Earl, and Lois Pearl. Minnie was born nine months and 11 days after her parents were married. Ward came along 22 months later, Paul in 1894, and the twins, Lewis and Lois, in 1896. Lois died when she was eight months old.

The marriage was not the happiest of unions. The Henderson men were noted for being frugal, and Will doubtless took it to the extreme, even though by the standards of the day, he was a prosperous farmer.

Once, when the children were all school-aged and their father was away from home on business, school was starting and the kids had no school clothes. Dora asked her older sons to hitch the horse to the buggy. She took herself into Lindale where she called on the banker and asked if Mr. Henderson had an account there. Assured that he did, she told the banker that her husband was away from home and had overlooked giving her money to provide their children with shoes and clothes. He asked how much she wanted and she replied that she would like to have \$25 if he could spare that much. The banker assured her that he had an account entirely sufficient to provide that amount. She went away with her money, bought shoes and clothes for her kids, and enrolled them in school.

Family stories tell of Will's return home to find that his wife had taken money from his account while he was away, and he became very angry. Dora, the story goes from many different sources, moved her clothes and personal effects into a spare bedroom where she resided for the rest of her life.

A second story that has come down in the family confirms something of Will's nature. He was, depending on who is doing the remembering: "Peculiar." "Unusual." "Penny-pinching." "Odd." "Dowdy." One niece remembers that he never dressed

up. "Uncle John," she said, "was a spiffy dresser. You never saw him out in public without a coat and tie. You seldom saw Uncle Will out in public and when you did, he was never dressed up." One family photograph of siblings Hattie, Sallie, John, and Will adds credence to the story. John wears a coat over a white shirt with a bow tie; Will's clothes look like they were made for some other person. They are wrinkled and appear old.

But there is another side to this "odd and different" man. When land was needed to establish Bethesda Cemetery, Will Henderson was the first to offer acreage of his property. Joined by his oldest sister Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins, he gave the land to start the cemetery where his younger brother had been buried. Years later his grandchildren provided a block of the estate they inherited to enlarge the cemetery.

Nobody can ever know exactly what transpired in the Will-Dora marriage. We know that Dora had emotional problems and at one stage Will took her to the mental hospital in Terrell where she was briefly a patient. In the light of new discoveries and more recent studies, there is every evidence that Dora suffered from nothing more serious than menopausal complications and perhaps postpartum depression, brought about by the birth of her twins and her baby daughter's illness and death.

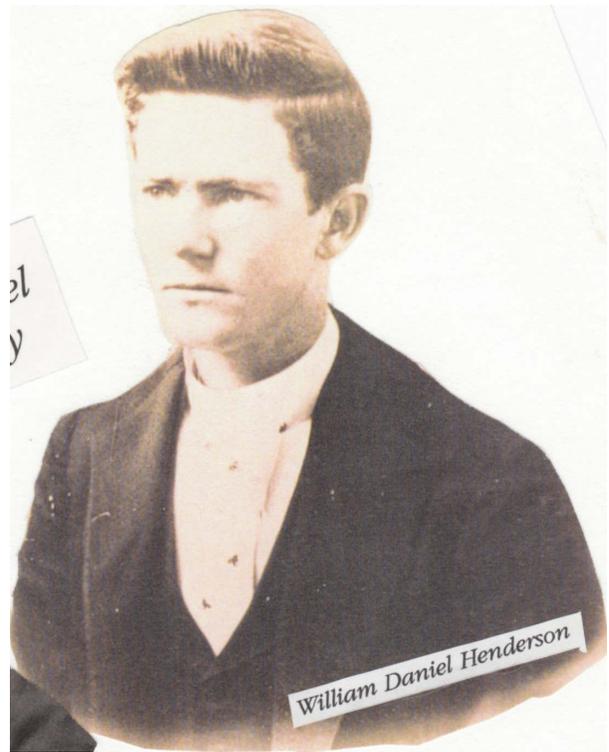
Mildred Davey had numerous memories of Dora, her grandmother. "She spent most of her later years with us," Mildred said. "I do not have happy memories of her. I was just a kid and when Grandma was at our house, which seemed to me all the time, we were always being told to keep quiet because she was resting. I was quite a tomboy and loved to play with my brothers and my cousins. Usually Mama let us do whatever we pleased so long as it didn't harm us or anyone else, but when Grandma was at our house, Mama would tell us again and again not to slam the door because Grandma was resting. I'd forget and get in trouble. Grandma had violent headaches. We know now they were probably migraines, but then, kidlike, we thought she was just pretending."

In yet another of the twisted Henderson history, Will's oldest stepdaughter, Eva, grew up to marry John Lee Henderson, her stepfather's nephew, the son of his deceased older brother, Joseph Asmon.

Eva was 17 and Lee 20 when they married and from every story—every evidence through the years—they enjoyed one of the very happiest of relationships.

Even though the two—Eva Perkins and Lee Henderson—were unrelated, their nuptials brought about generations of descendants who were doubly related. Dora's children by her first marriage—Eva, Willie, and Lovie—were half siblings of the children of her second marriage—Minnie, Ward, Paul, and Lewis. But John and Eva's children—Jessie, Raymond, Charlie, DeWitt, and Mildred—claimed William Daniel Henderson as both their step-grandfather and their legitimate great-uncle, the brother of their grandfather Joseph Asmon Henderson. Will Henderson was the grandfather of Minnie, Ward, Paul, and Lewis's children. Dora Mitchell Perkins Henderson was the legitimate grandmother of both the Perkins and the Henderson offspring. The relationship is so convoluted that few of the ancestors have bothered to try to understand it—and it would take a genealogical logician to determine the blood relationship of the several generations.

William Daniel Henderson died on February 5, 1929, at the age of 71. He had lived and worked in the Saline Community near Lindale for most of his adult life. He had outlived Dora, his wife, for six and a half years. They lie side by side in Bethesda Cemetery with their baby daughter, Lois Pearl. Two of their other children—Ward and Paul—are also buried at Bethesda. Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins is buried in Athens City Cemetery; she and her husband Solomon Robbins Hawkins had lived all their married life in Athens. Lewis Henderson is buried in West Texas.



# William Daniel Henderson and Dora Mitchell Perkins



1. *Top:* Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins (1859–1922), called Dora, had three little girls by her first husband when she married Will Henderson on January 6, 1889. She and Will had five children. She died at age 73.

*Kerin's Note:* Vivian is not a descendant of Will, but she is a descendant of Dora. One of her daughters from her first marriage, Lillie Eva Perkins, married Will's nephew John Lee Henderson.

2. *Bottom Left:* Marriage license of William Daniel Henderson and Dora Mitchell Perkins.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, BIBB COUNTY.	To any Ordained or Licensed Minister of the Gospel, Judge of the Circuit or Probate Courts, or Justice of the Peace, for said County—GREETING:
YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED To celebrate the Rites of Matrimony between	
<i>W. D. Henderson</i>	AND <i>Dora Perkins</i>
and this shall be your sufficient authority for so doing.	
Given under my hand and seal this <i>5-11</i> day of <i>January</i> A. D. 188 <i>9</i>	
	<i>John Henderson</i> [L. S.] JUDGE OF PROBATE
The above named parties were married by me at <i>Courtville</i> on the <i>5th</i> day of <i>January</i> A. D. 188 <i>9</i>	
FIFTY DOLLARS FINE FOR FAILING TO RETURN THIS LICENSE	
THE STATE OF ALABAMA, BIBB COUNTY.	
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we	
are held and firmly bound unto the State of Alabama in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, to the which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.	
Sealed with our seals and dated this _____ day of _____ 188_____	
THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That if there be no legal cause to obstruct the Marriage of	
to whom a License has this day been granted, then to be void; else to remain in full force and virtue.	
Witness our hands and seals the day and year above written. _____ [L. S.]	
ATTEST	_____ [L. S.] JUDGE OF PROBATE

# Will's daughter Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins



1 and 2 *Top*: Minnie Lee Henderson (1889-1957) as a young woman.

3. *Bottom Left*: Minnie Lee Henderson with her husband, Solomon Robbins Hawkins.

4. *Bottom Right*: Minnie with her brothers Paul, Lewis, and Ward.



## Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins's children



1. *Top Left:* The two oldest Hawkins children, Quincy Bryan Hawkins (1912-1986) and Dora Elaine Hawkins (1915-2003).

2. *Top Right:* Quincy Bryan Hawkins and Lera Sue Anderson Hawkins on their November 1939 wedding day.

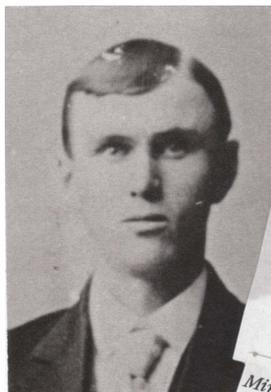
3. *Bottom Left:* Dora Elaine Hawkins Gregg and her husband Luther Curtis Gregg celebrating the 50th anniversary of their October 10, 1940, wedding.



1, 2, and 3 *Top*: Mittie Lee Hawkins (1924-2013), daughter of Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins, as a baby, little girl, and teenager. 4. *Bottom Left*: In November 1942, Mittie Lee Hawkins Beaird with bridegroom William Edward Beaird. 5. *Middle Right*: The Beaird family. 6. *Bottom Right*: Mittie and William on their 50th wedding anniversary.



# Will's son Thomas Ward Henderson



1 and 2: *Top Left and Top Middle:* Thomas Ward Henderson (1891-1968), called Ward, as a young man.

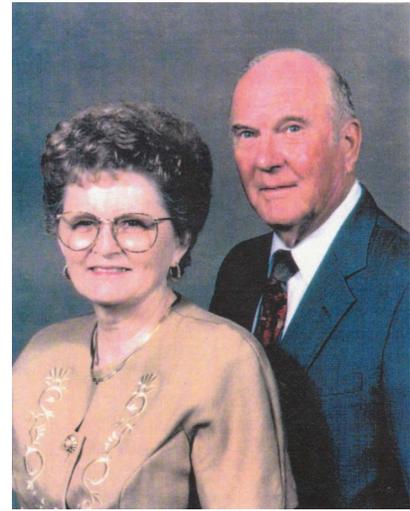
3. *Bottom Left:* Ward as a soldier during World War I.

4. *Top Right:* Ward married Nora Haseltine Hicks, who died in 1936. She was the mother of his three children, Thomas Jean, Mary Frances, and Nora Joyce.

5. *Bottom Right:* In 1944 Ward married Mamie Howard Richards Henderson.



## Ward's children



1. *Top Left:* Ward's daughter Mary Frances Henderson. 2. *Top Middle:*

Ward's son Thomas Jean Henderson. 3. Ward's daughter Nora Joyce Henderson Massey with her husband, Malcolm Massey. 4. *Below:* A lineup of first cousins: Mary Frances Henderson, Nora Joyce Henderson, Mittie Lee Hawkins, Daphne Pauline Henderson, and Eugenia Ann Henderson. David Lee Henderson peers over his sister's head.



# Will's son William Paul Henderson



1. *Top Left:* Paul Henderson (1894–1969) as a young man in U.S. Army uniform during World War I.

2. *Top Right:* Paul Henderson in U.S. Army uniform, World War I.

3. *Bottom:* Paul Henderson with siblings and half-siblings: Paul Henderson, Willie Perkins Crone (half-sister), Minnie Henderson Hawkins, Eva Perkins Henderson (half sister), and at back, Lewis Henderson and Ward Henderson.



# Paul's family



1. *Top Left:* Paul's daughters, Daphne Pauline Henderson and Eugenia Ann Henderson.

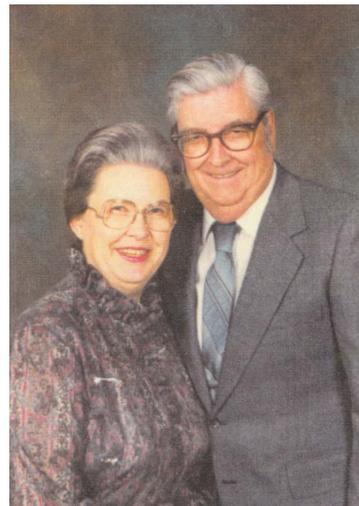


2. *Top Right:* Paul's wife, Thelma Louise Boaz Henderson.

3. *Bottom Left:* Louise with daughters Eugenia and Pauline and son-in-law Vernon Stuckey on her 80th birthday.

4. *Middle Right:* Paul's daughter Eugenia Ann Henderson Stuckey with her husband Oscar Vernon Stuckey.

5. *Bottom Right:* Paul's daughter Daphne Pauline Henderson Cocke and her husband James Blair Cocke.



# Will's son Lewis Earl Henderson

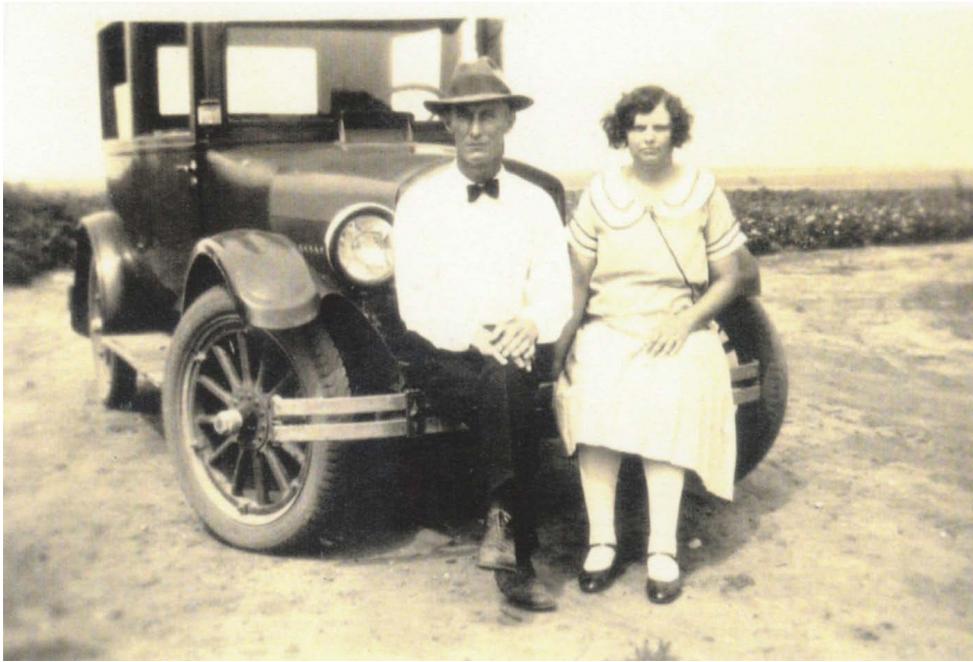


1. *Top Left:* Lewis Earl Henderson (1896–1976) with his brother Thomas Ward Henderson.

2. *Top Right:* Lewis Earl Henderson as a young man.

3. *Bottom Right:* Lewis and his bride, Trannie Walding.





4. Lewis and Trannie Henderson with their new car in West Texas.

## Lewis's son



1. *Bottom Left:* Lewis Earl Henderson Jr. (1924–1997) with his wife, Joy Lee Cox Henderson and their daughter Dana Kay.



2. *Bottom Right:* Lewis Earl Henderson Jr.'s daughters, Dana Kay and Shari Ann.



9

**Franklin Smith  
Henderson**

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# Smith's Story

**B**ORN ON MARCH 8, 1860, when his mother was 42 years old, Franklin Smith Henderson (1860–1881) was the ninth and last child of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson. He arrived in Perry County, Alabama, to a large and close family. His oldest sister, Mary Amanda, was 19 years old, had been married for almost four years, and had two babies—Margaret Selina and William Kelsey—when her baby brother was born.

Franklin Smith was a birthday present for his second sister, Martha Elizabeth; he arrived on her 18th birthday. There were three more older sisters and three older brothers—Margaret Isabelle, Joseph Asmon, Harriet Caroline, Sarah Jane, John Madison, and William Daniel.

The family lived near today's small village of Heiberger in Perry County, Alabama, where the baby was born. The center of both their spiritual and their social life was Bethesda Presbyterian Church, which the family had founded shortly after they arrived in Alabama from North Carolina.

Smith Henderson, as the child was known, was born a year before the outbreak of the Civil War. He was five years old when the war ended, and he spent his early years in the unstable conditions of reconstruction following that war. There is no way of conjecturing how the war and its subsequent unstable conditions affected the young boy, but it is almost certain that his parents, siblings, and numerous other relatives made the child's life as stable and loving as possible.

From records in the journals of his brother John Madison, it is clear that Smith was a much-loved and somewhat protected member of the family.

Smith was 17 years old when the Hendersons left Alabama for Texas. He might, or might not, have been a part of the five-caravan wagon train that made the journey from Perry County, Alabama, to Smith County, Texas. His brother Will does not mention Smith in any of the references he makes of the trip. It is likely that he was persuaded by his parents to make the journey by train with them and

the women and children in the family.

Almost as soon as the families had settled in Saline Community near Lindale, not far from the Sabine River, they established a place of worship, which became Bethesda Presbyterian Church, so named for their previous church in Alabama. Smith Henderson, at such a young age, played a prevalent part in its founding. After a building was erected and dedicated and the first officers were elected, F. S. Henderson was named a deacon. He was not quite 20 years old.

The entire family put its financial backing and its personal labor toward the church's founding. There is, in John Madison Henderson's journals, a list of the individuals who contributed to the building of the church, together with the amount they gave. There is also a list of the people who worked to erect the sanctuary and of those who hand-hewed pews for the church.

It is almost prophetic, judging by the chain of events that followed, that Franklin Smith Henderson prevailed on his father, older brothers, and other relatives to lay out a cemetery as a sacrament to the Henderson pioneers who settled in the area. They were receptive to the idea, but slow in responding. Family stories, passed down through the years, give a glimpse of Smith as an almost saintly young man. John Madison often mentions going with his brother Smith to hear a sermon or to listen to singing. They undoubtedly were very close.

On February 15, 1881, John's journal reveals:

“On this beautiful and serene morn, Bro. Franklin Smith departed this life at five a.m. of hecterrhoid feaver. His suffering was great. He commenced yesterday eave at 4 o'clock. Oh, how lonely to think of doing without his company. Yet, I was glad to see the end of his suffering. Oh! For grave that I may be resigned nor ever murmur or complain. Yet, how hard indeed when I think of all the future plans together. All things work together for good to them that love the Lord. Oh, may I be resigned.”

Funeral services the next day were equally traumatic for the grieving family. Franklin Smith

Henderson was three weeks shy of being 21 years old. He was buried on family property in a lone grave that his brothers fenced and tended. John has told us,

“There was good behavior during the sermon [funeral service]. There was a large funeral procession. This is the first grave on the grounds given for the purpose of the erection of a Presbyterian Church. It may be the door to enable us to erect the house at an early date.”

And, indeed, it was. Shortly after the death of its young and beloved member, the cemetery was marked off and a new church sanctuary completed.

In his death, Franklin Smith Henderson challenged countless generations to follow, even

those who do not remember his name or his contributions, to live magnanimous lives. Of those who came after, the most significant who followed in his footsteps was a nephew, Franklin Smith Henderson II. (See 2-4, [Joe's son Franklin Smith Henderson II.](#)) The younger Franklin was born to Smith's older brother Joseph Asmon and his wife, Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson, on December 26, 1883, almost three years after Smith's death. It was almost as if this child inherited the dreams and vision of his deceased namesake uncle, for he became a prominent Presbyterian minister.

Smith Henderson's lone grave, fenced, protected from grazing livestock, and tenderly cared for, became the nucleus of Bethesda Cemetery where his parents, all except two of his siblings, and countless aunts, uncles, and cousins rest in eternal peace.



# PART 3

## Vignettes

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# The Sibling Connection

**T**HROUGH THE YEARS, HENDERSON BROTHERS and sisters have enjoyed a rich relationship. Sisters have grown to be dear friends after years apart while marriage and child rearing focused their attention on other pressing concerns. Then, in their older years, especially after they become widows, they delight in the shared experiences of their youth. Older brothers who once served as protectors become cherished friends of their younger sisters. Older sisters, who often were substitute mothers for “baby” brothers, honor fresh relationships with the “kids” who grew up around the same family table. These sibling ties, often overlooked by historians, are irrevocably entwined. Here are a few of the sibling connections.



1. *Top:* The Henderson Sisters—Margaret Isabelle Henderson Arendell (1845–1919), Sarah Jane “Sallie” Henderson Crews (1853–1941), and Harriet Caroline “Hattie” Henderson Crews (1850–1929). Missing are their two older sisters, Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins, who lived in Oklahoma, and Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby McGahey, who had died in 1896.

2. *Bottom Left:* The McGahey sisters, Charlotte Rose “Rosie” Robinson (1892–1984), left, and Lottie Mae Whisenhunt (1897–1954).

Their line is:

Mary Amanda  
Henderson McGahey  
Dobbins—James  
Milton McGahey—  
Rosie and Lottie Mae.



3. *Bottom Right:* The York sisters, Minnie Lou Hagan, Era Ann Callaway, and Mildred Leatherwood Pickel.

Their line is:

Joseph Asmon  
Henderson—Jennie  
Henderson York—  
Minnie, Era Ann and  
Mildred.



4. *Top Left:* The Henderson sisters, Mildred Loraine Henderson Davey (1908–1994) and Jessie Lee Henderson Anderson (1896–1964).

Their line is:

Joseph Asmon Henderson—John Lee Henderson—Mildred and Jessie.

5. *Top Right:* The Kennedy sisters, Eunice Sybil McKay (1911–2002) and Julia Louise Fleming (1917–2005).

Their line is:

Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins—James Milton McGahey—Linnie Pearl McGahey—Eunice and Julia.

6. *Bottom Right:* Linnie Helen Crews Shores (1908–2005) and her “baby brother,” Logan Walter Crews (1918–2015).

Their line is:

Hattie Henderson Crews—Dolphus Crews—Helen and Logan.



# Recreation

**L**IFE MAY HAVE BEEN SLOWER paced in the late 1800s and early 1900s when the Hendersons were new to East Texas. Hard-working and deeply religious, they still found ways to relax and have fun. Here are typical examples of the Hendersons at play.

## Recreation at Sabine Community, Early 1900s



The John Lee Henderson family and friends picnicking on the Sabine River about 1903 or 1904.

Standing: **John Lee Henderson** (b. 1875), left, and **Unidentified #1 Man**.

Seated: **Ruby Anne Taft** (b. 1887), **Paris Tyner** (friend), **Della Taft** (b. 1889), **Unidentified #2 Girl**, **Unidentified #3 Woman**, **Roy Taft** (b. Jul 1895), **Unidentified #4 Woman**, **Alta Taft** (b. 1892), **Charlie Henderson** (b. Jun 1901), **Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson** (b. 1878), **Raymond Henderson** (b. Nov 1898), **Unidentified #5 Girl**, **Unidentified #6 Woman**, **Jessie Lee Henderson** (b. Sep 1896).

*KERIN'S NOTE: Based on comparison to other photos, ages, and closeness of particular families, I believe that **Unidentified #4 Woman** may be Etta Henderson Hudson (b. 1876), **Unidentified #1 Man** may be Etta's husband Charles Hudson (b. 1867), or possibly Jay Taft (b. 1883),*

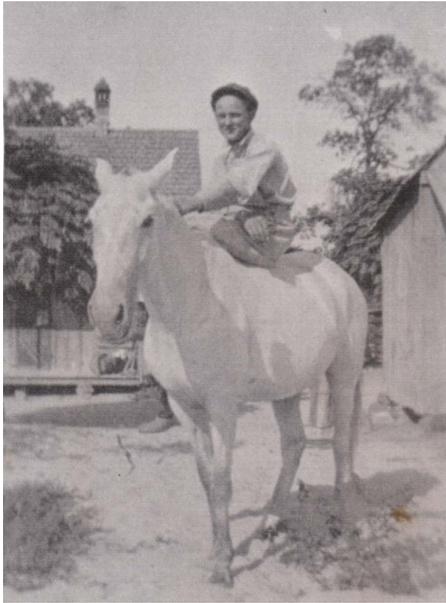
***Unidentified #2 Girl** may be Etta's daughter Ina Mae Hudson (b. 1900), **Unidentified #3 Woman** might be Libbie Taft Lyon (b. 1879), and **Unidentified #6 Woman** might be Jennie Henderson York (b. 1878).*

*That leaves **Unidentified #5 Girl**, who could possibly be Etta's oldest daughter Ethel Hudson (b. Jun 1896), who died Aug. 18, 1903 at age 7, meaning—if it's her—this photo would have been taken shortly before her death.*

*I also wonder if the boy identified as Roy Taft could possibly be Etta's son Fred Hudson (b. Apr 1898), if the rest of his family is in this photo. He looks like other photos of Fred Hudson, but I don't have any photos of Roy Taft to compare.*

*Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson had a baby in May 1905. Between that and the children's ages, we can estimate the photo date at 1903 or 1904.*

## Modes of Transportation



1. Charlie Henderson barebacks on a dependable mule.



2. Lola Crews and Jessie Henderson out for a buggy ride.

3. A bare Henderson County Courthouse with one of the first cars sold in Athens, Texas. Among Jessie Henderson Anderson's pictures, this is likely a photo of the car purchased by William Clarence Anderson about 1915.



## Water Ways



1. DeWitt Henderson, center, and friends try out the ole swimmin' hole.



2. Paddling on the Sabine River.



3. Jessie Henderson and Lola Crews look pretty while a gentleman oars them afloat.

## Fun with Friends

1. Sitting this one out—Paul Henderson, Nora Hicks, Lola Crews, and Jack Gibson.



2. Tea time—Even their grandmothers would approve of this afternoon pastime.



3. Oh shoot! Minnie Lou York, with friend, takes aim. But what's the target?



# Weddings—7 Decades Apart



*Jessie Lee Henderson and William Clarence Anderson in their 1919 engagement photo.*



*Jessie (top right), and Clarence (bottom left) with their wedding attendants: Minnie Lou York (top left), Ina Mae Hudson (top center), and Paul Henderson (bottom right).*

## The weddings of Jessie Lee Henderson in 1919 and her granddaughter Kimberley Diana Castleberry in 1989

FOREST GROVE, LAKE PALESTINE, CHANDLER, TEXAS, JULY 23, 1989

Seventy years ago today Jessie Lee Henderson, 23, and William Clarence Anderson, 24, repeated wedding vows that would entwine their lives “until death do us part.” Some forty miles from where I now write these words, the late morning ceremony in the farm home of the bride’s parents, John Lee and Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson, in Sabine Community near Lindale, was performed by Rev. Franklin S. Henderson, the bride’s uncle, who was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Beaumont, Texas. Family and close friends attended.

The bridegroom had only recently been discharged from the United States Army where he had served in the Ninetieth Division in France during World War I and with the Army of Occupation in Germany following the war. He still wore the army-styled short haircut and with it a suit of dark blue serge, a white shirt with a stiff high collar, and a blue tie dotted with white. Only a month before the wedding he had returned to LaRue with his large family, including his parents Murray Elam and Mary Ellen Parks Anderson.

Minnie Lou York (later to be Hagan), Ina Mae Hudson (later to be Bridges), and William Paul Henderson were honor attendants. Minnie Lou and Ina Mae were close friends of the bride in addition to being first cousins on the paternal side of her family. Minnie Lou was the oldest daughter of Jennie Henderson York and Ina Mae was the daughter of Etta Henderson Hudson. Paul Henderson, best man, was a friend of the bridegroom and also the bride’s half uncle on her mother’s side of the family. His mother was Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora “Dora” Mitchell Perkins Henderson, and his father was William Daniel Henderson, who as a young single man was one of the original settlers of the community.

Paul figured prominently in the liaison because it was he who, two years earlier, had introduced the young couple.

The bride wore a dove-gray tissue taffeta gown fashioned with a rounded neckline above a slight blouson



*Left: Franklin Smith Henderson II, his son Franklin Smith Henderson III, and niece Mildred Henderson. Franklin was in Lindale to officiate at his niece Jessie Lee Henderson's wedding. Mildred, the bride's sister, did not have a very happy day.*

*Right: Jessie Lee Henderson on her wedding day. The ceremony took place on July 23, 1919, in the home of her parents, Lee and Eva Henderson.*

waistline and long sleeves. The ankle-length skirt was tiered, the tiers banded in gray satin. The waistline was accented with a wide satin sash-belt. Her long hair was caught up in the back, fluffed around her face, and covered with a wide-brimmed picture hat of taffeta banded in satin. She carried a bouquet of garden flowers, predominantly yellow roses, and wore a cameo brooch on a white ribbon around her neck, a gift from the bridegroom who had brought it to her from Germany.

The wedding party tarried for a country-styled lunch after which the newlyweds journeyed to LaRue to make their home, traveling in the Model T Ford purchased by the bridegroom in Athens in 1917.

I have records of those rites in a yellowed clipping from the Lindale newspaper and in photographs taken on July 27, 1919, their wedding day. The pictures, some blurred with the principals hardly recognizable, are all taken out-of-doors because film of that day was not sufficiently sensitive to respond to the indoors.

My mother has her face all but obscured by a

wide-brimmed hat fashioned of taffeta and satin. Beneath the hat her face is eternally preserved in a somber, somewhat sad, almost-sowl. And, what appears to be a thumb print at the top left corner of the snapshot makes the picture look as if it is being made on a day when a thick storm cloud was behind her. Not so, my mother said, the day was hot and the sun bright. In the only photo of the bride with her bridesmaids and her beloved uncle, his head is cut off so that you cannot be sure of his identity. Nowhere is there a picture of the young couple with the minister who had come from Beaumont to read their vows.

The best picture is of Franklin Henderson with his son "Little Frank" and his niece Mildred Henderson. She was a month shy of her 11th birthday when her big sister got married and the picture clearly shows two things: she did not want to stand still for a picture and she was not happy about the wedding. Franklin has his right hand on his son's head as if to turn his face to the camera and his left arm lightly around Mildred's shoulders. She wears a very frilly white dress that appears to be organdy. The waist is ruffled with a high rounded neckline

and what appears to be puff sleeves. A deep ruffle at the waistline forms a blouson over a sash. The skirt is tiered and ruffled and drops to just below her knees. She wears white stockings over high-topped shoes, the lower part of slipper-styled black patent and the tops of white buttoned kid. Her head is slightly lowered and her eyes raised to the camera. Her face is fixed in desolation and frustration.

Mildred remembers that she idolized her big sister, twelve years her senior, who was that day's bride, and that she was miserable. She was less than thrilled at wearing the scratchy organdy dress on that sweltering day and even more upset because she knew the young woman she had shadowed all her life was moving away out of town.



Almost three quarters of a century have passed since this ceremony took place. The bride and bridegroom, resting now in the cemetery in Athens, Texas, where they had made their home for the last 21 years until my father's death in 1956 and then my mother's in 1964, enjoyed one of the richest relationships it has been my good fortune to know. There were troubles—lots of them. Illness. Death. Misunderstandings, of property. Loss of dreams. Money! They lived through the Great Depression. Sometimes there was not one thin dime of cash in the house—except, perhaps, for the dollar or so Mother had stashed away in her emergency fund that nobody knew anything about. There was never an emergency sufficiently critical for her to spend it. I am certain that's why I keep \$100 of emergency money tucked safely away! Her one dollar would buy almost the same amount of goods and services that my hundred dollars would purchase today.

Except for slight modifications, the ceremony of 70 years ago could have happened yesterday. Or a century ago. Styles of clothing have changed. Expectations of the roles of men and women are different. Technological advances in medical research, scientific breakthroughs, and diffusion of cultural boundaries have vastly altered lifestyles.

But the throbbing need of individuals to be together—whether in marriage or outside it—the urge to form family units and the compulsion

to produce children prevails in all generations, sometimes with variations, but always with recurrent intensity. And the look in my father's eyes caught in the snapshots in their going-away outfits 70 years ago, a mixture of adoration and awe, is the same I have seen in the eyes of my husband and of the young men who are now our sons-in-law.

So it was that my parents, seven decades ago, began their new life with the hopes and dreams born eternally of youth in much the same way that my daughter and her young husband began their marriage a few weeks ago.



DALLAS, TEXAS, JUNE 5, 1989

Kimberley Diana Castleberry and Mark Anthony Saucedo were married at First Community United Church of Christ, Congregational, on the beautiful spring night of May 27, 1989. The bride and bridegroom had lived together for a year prior to their wedding, a lifestyle typical of the 1980s that would have scandalized people of the 1900s.

Rev. Dr. W. Leslie Pugh, pastor of the Dallas, Texas, church in which the bride had grown up, gone to Sunday School and Youth Group and had been baptized, officiated at the large and family-warmed event. The couple planned their own wedding and the reception that followed it at Southern Methodist University's Alumni Center.

The bride's father, Curtis Wales Castleberry, escorted her to the altar. A special parental blessing for the new family was affirmed by both sets of parents, Vivian and Curtis Castleberry and Anita and John Saucedo.

Forty-six children, the 14 nieces and nephews of the bride and bridegroom, and 32 children the bride had taught in the third grade at W. W. Bushman School, were included in the ceremony. Though only a few of the students actually came, the large number of children all but gave the minister and the organist apoplexy. They were certain that things would fall apart, but everything proceeded beautifully—just as Kim and Mark had planned.

For her wedding the bride wore a white satin gown with a lace-edged wide circular neckline coming to a slight stand-up collar at the back of her

neck. The fitted bodice had long lace-cuffed sleeves. From the front of the tightly fitted empire waist, lace-outlined soft pleats fell in a cascade forming a full skirt at the hemline. A brief train in the back also fell from a pleat cascade. Her single strand of pearls was a gift from the bridegroom. She wore her blond hair upswept on the sides with a fringe bang over her forehead, and in the back a flower-filled French knot. Her bouquet was a shower of white roses and other white spring flowers.

The bridegroom wore a black tuxedo vested in white over a white shirt and white tie. The bride's attendants were in emerald green taffeta gowns with snugly fitted dropped waistlines over long full skirts. The slight off-the-shoulder necklines fell to brief puffed sleeves. They carried bouquets of brilliantly colored spring flowers and wore hairclips from which fell a slight spray of white ribbons and flowers. The bridegroom's attendants were in black tuxedos and white shirts accented with emerald-green cummerbunds and ties.

The little girls' dresses, similar to those of the bridesmaids, were made by Chanda Robertson, and the English-styled knickers buttoned onto white shirts worn by the little boys were designed and made by Keeta Rupp. The bride's sisters designed and made the headdresses worn by the attendants, and Keeta created the white satin lace-trimmed pillow carried by the ring bearer.

The bride's mother prepared the reception food, enough to serve 300. She also made the bridegroom's chocolate cake. The bride's cake was a five-tiered white confection trimmed in multi-colored fresh flowers like those carried by the bridesmaids. Bridesmaids' bouquets decorated the buffet tables covered with white cloths. Wine and champagne along with coffee and fresh fruit punch were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Saucedo cut their cakes, toasted their guests, and, after two hours of mingling and enjoying their wedding reception, left for their wedding night at the Mansion Hotel in a chauffeur-driven Cadillac limousine. As they pulled away, their 21-month-old nephew, Curtis, called after them, "I want to go, too!" Two days after their wedding the couple flew to Hawaii on their honeymoon and are at home in Dallas.



These two weddings, across a span of 70 years, are a clear indication of the rising expectations of generation after generation. The bride of 1919 had a typical at-home wedding, although the church in which she was reared and baptized, and where she played the organ for services, was only a couple of miles away from her home. Her granddaughter, the bride of 1989, also enjoyed a typical wedding for her time.

The bride and her sisters are sixth-generation direct descendants of William Lee and Eleanor Selina Henderson. Both sets of their maternal grandparents and one set of their great-great-grandparents rest in Bethesda Cemetery.

# Nursing and Nurturing

## The Nursing Career

WHETHER BORN INTO THE FAMILY, married into it, arrived in it by step-family relationship or adopted into it, the Henderson women have always been nurturers. For many of them this natural affinity to take care of others has found its outlet in careers as nurses. In every generation, since the first to be born in the State of Texas, women have chosen nursing as a profession. This giftedness toward nursing as a career has found root in individuals of the Henderson family wherever they have gone.

This inclination to caretake and the outward results of it has led many of the women to become registered nurses. None has chosen this route of looking after others as a shallow or vapid response to reality. All of them have known, or have learned, that they must be tough as well as tender, creative as well as systematic, both professional and proficient, both facile and flexible. Their chief handicap has been in the prevailing belief in this country that they are handmaidens to physicians, that their credentials are secondary to those who have earned the M.D. title, and that they are, in brief, servants of surgeons and other practicing doctors. Their unique and independent roles in healing and caring have never been sufficiently honored.

And still they go into nursing, for a combination of reasons. Even though many of them have never fully realized why they choose nursing, a study of them both collectively and individually clarifies several points: (1) The Henderson-descended women are strong individuals, survivors under a surfeit of adverse conditions. (2) The Henderson women are independent thinkers, unafraid to challenge prevailing notions and seek their own identity. (3) The Henderson women are endowed with a pioneering spirit.

Before 1925 women who chose to become nurses were usually considered to be morally corrupt because the Victorian concept of a woman's place allowed nothing beyond a career as wife/mother/caretaker of humanity within the confines of the



*Ruby Anne Taft, right, exults with her classmates, identified only as Cardwell, left, and Tallie, center, upon their graduation from nursing school. As far as current records reveal, Ruby Anne is the first person in the Henderson family to become a registered nurse.*

home. Those who chose any career beyond these realms were suspect. Further, nursing required knowledge of the physiology of males as well as females and “everybody” knew that women who cared for the intimate body parts of men had to have ulterior motives.

Another, and probably the most significant reason for women to choose nursing is that, through the years, it has led to financial independence. (1) It is a career that allows a woman to make her own livelihood. Though, until recently, nurses have been undervalued and underpaid, they have

always been needed and usually able to find a job. (2) It is a career that allows for flexibility. Even though licensing is required in every state, women can fairly easily transfer their nursing credentials. (3) It is a career that welcomes the return of women who have taken time out to rear families or to attend other personal needs. (4) It is a career that very often allows manageable hours. Good nurses can often negotiate job timing to accommodate their other responsibilities. (5) It is a career with limitless possibilities for a woman to specialize. With study and experience, she can control her own career goals from bedside nursing to administration to teaching with virtually limitless choices in each of these areas. It sanctions those who want to lead as well as those who desire only to serve.

In the “olden” days—again those times before 1925—women who insisted on having careers were allowed extremely limited choices. Above all else, they must be wives and mothers. If they insisted on careers outside this realm, they could be—with limited societal approval—teachers or nurses.

The Henderson women almost always chose nursing rather than teaching. This, quite likely, was more a career of necessity rather than the career of first choice. To teach, one had to have a certificate, and to gain a certificate, one had to have some college training, limited though it was. Women who taught needed tuition, fees, and living expenses for at least one year of college in order to be hired. For many women, money for this was nonexistent. They often did not have the support of parents, especially fathers, who were content to keep their daughters at home. Financial sacrifices that were made to send sons to college were withheld from daughters.

Nursing, on the other hand, was a career where a young woman could earn as she learned. Though stipends were minimal, restrictions profuse, and expectations extraordinary, a woman could earn a nursing certificate without the financial assistance of her family—and many of the Henderson women did just that.

They are as diverse as they are exemplary, these women of the Henderson family who have been nurses. Most of their individual stories are lost to us, their experiences buried with them. Here are the fragmented tidbits, both real and anecdotal, that survive some of them. Here, too, are stories of some

who have chosen the noble career of nursing.

## Ruby Anne Taft Brewer, RN

Ruby Anne Taft was, so far as records are available, the first registered nurse in the Henderson family. She was a half sister of John Lee Henderson II—their mutual mother was Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson-Taft, his father Joseph



*Ruby Anne Taft Brewer  
(1887–1956)*

Asmon Henderson, her father Julius Simpson Taft.

Ruby Anne, the oldest of Samantha’s children by Taft, was born on November 17, 1887, and was not quite nine years old when her mother died on August 2, 1896. She and her younger siblings—Della, 7, Alta, 4, and Roy, 13 months when their mother died—spent most of their growing-up years as members of the John Lee Henderson family. (See more about the Tafts in [Chapter 2-4](#).)

She was around 18 when Ruby Anne convinced her brother that she must study nursing. Doubtless her other half-brother, Franklin Smith Henderson II, helped to persuade his brother that it was time she left home to pursue her own dreams. Franklin had already made the break. After growing up in his brother’s home, he was a student at Austin College preparing for the ministry. But it probably was not easy. Women were protected. They were not encouraged to seek careers; their roles were to marry and have children and devote their lives to home and family.

Ruby Anne was an independent person. She had to be. Her mother was sick for most of her life, weighed down with the responsibilities of childbearing and child caring. From the time she was a small child, Ruby cooked and helped to keep house. When her mother died, her father took the four children to a remote area of Cherokee County, Oklahoma, which was then Indian Territory before it became a state of the union. There, she was responsible for most of the housework and the care

of her younger sisters and brother. Eventually—probably about the time she was 12—she wrote to her brother back in Texas and asked him to come and take them back to Lindale, which he did. By that time Ruby’s survival skills were firmly shaped.

Family lore holds her to have been both loving and demanding. “She took no nonsense off anybody,” Mildred Davey, her niece, recalled in a 1990 interview. Mildred’s mother, Eva Henderson, who mothered Ruby during her teenage years, always looked on her as another daughter.

When her history is taken into consideration, it becomes clear why Ruby Anne was a person determined to shape her own destiny. She was experienced in doing so.

Still missing are the place and the exact time that Ruby enrolled in nursing school. My conjecture is that it was Dr. Joe Becton’s Hospital in Greenville, Texas, for it was there my mother enrolled in nursing school in 1917. In the early 1900s there were very few nursing schools. Young women aspiring to nursing careers were accepted into hospital training centers and worked their way through the system to earn their diplomas. Among my mother’s photographs is a picture postcard of Dr. Becton’s hospital and another photograph of Ruby Anne Taft along with two classmates identified only as Cardwell and Tallie celebrating their graduation. The settings appear to be identical.

Dedicated to her career, Ruby worked for several years until she met her husband and married. The two met when he was her patient. Family stories are that Sam Brewer was a bachelor several years her senior. From Taft, Texas, he was a citrus fruit farmer and had accumulated property and money when he was felled by an illness, probably appendicitis, “with complications” and hospitalized for several weeks. As the story goes, he was an “impossible” patient. A normally healthy young male in charge of his own life and that of numerous hired hands, he was irascible and cantankerous. Nothing pleased him—not the food, not the accommodations, not his doctor, and least of all the young nurses charged with his care. Several nurses left his room in tears. Ruby Anne Taft took him on.

The two fell in love and were married. Ruby gave up her nursing career, as women of her day were compelled to do. Sam continued to acquire property

and money and to become mayor of Taft. They never had children. When her brother became ill in 1929, Ruby and Sam welcomed John Lee and Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson into their Taft home and she nursed him until his death in January 1930. She died in 1956 while on a visit to her childhood home in East Texas.



*Dr. Joe Becton's Hospital, Greenville, Texas, 1917, where Jessie Henderson trained, and, it is believed, where Ruby Anne Taft finished her training.*

## Roserma Hensley Arnold, RN



*Roserma Hensley Arnold (1914–2002), as a student nurse in 1932.*

Up in Oklahoma, with no knowledge that other women in her family formed a long line of nursing professionals, another young woman considered her options and chose to become a nurse.

Her name was Roserma Hensley. And this is her story in her words:

I grew up and attended grade school in a rural two-room school house in a village called Mexican Springs about five miles from Wynnewood, Oklahoma. When I finished the eighth grade, I transferred to



*Roserma in 1935 as a registered nurse.*

Wynnewood and lived with Rose [her aunt] and her husband spending the school term with them and weekends and summers at home with my family. I attended Wynnewood High School. This was between 1929 and 1932; my high school graduation date—May 1932—was in the midst of the Great Depression.

We never knew there was a depression because we always had plenty to eat; we grew everything. Mother canned and preserved food for the winter and we saved potatoes by sifting lime on them and putting a layer of hay over the top. This way they kept for a long time. We butchered our own meat. We were used to living sparsely. We sewed our own clothes and we patched and darned, re-soled our shoes, handed down and made over clothes.

There was no money.

Every Sunday evening when I returned to town to my aunt's house, Mother sent a lot of farm produce, far more than enough to provide my meals. They also paid Rose \$5 a month for my care. My brother was usually responsible for my transportation to and from my home into town.

Townpeople often snubbed country folk so I did not always feel welcome in Wynnewood High. Aunt Rose knew a lot of people so she pushed them and buffered me over some rough spots. But it was not easy. I had to walk about a mile to school. I didn't mind that at all except on cold, cold days or when it was raining. The north wind would whip right through me. I couldn't understand how parents with room in their cars could pass right by me on their drive to school with their children. Today when I return to Wynnewood I have to fight to keep from feeling resentment toward some of the people who wouldn't help me fight the cold, north wind.

Mother very much wanted me to learn how to

play the organ and she gave me piano lessons. I do not have music in my blood, so the music lessons didn't take very well. I did learn enough to play for Sunday School and some other functions in the rural school house. Mother also thought if possible she would send me to teacher's college and I could work for my room and board.

I did not know anybody in the family who had become a nurse, but a girl in Wynnewood who had finished high school the year before I did entered nurses' school and came home with glowing reports of how much she liked it and how she looked forward to finishing and working for money! I also knew vaguely two other girls in nursing school. Rose encouraged me to take this route.

Mother and I talked it over. I told her since I would be working for my room and board, I would rather go for nursing. She agreed that it was okay with her. My father said very little if anything. I don't recall if my brother had a reaction.

I applied to Oklahoma General Hospital in Oklahoma City and was accepted. I entered nurses' training in the fall of 1932 after graduating from high school. I was 18 years old.

The school was about an 80-bed hospital (I have forgotten the exact number.) It was privately owned. I don't know what I expected, but I fell deeply in love with nursing. It was my first love.

I graduated in 1935 and began doing private-duty nursing for \$7.00 for a 20-hour day. I took the state boards and received my R.N. certificate and have never had any trouble getting work. Institutional work paid \$60.00 a month with one half day a week off, laundry of uniforms and meals at the hospital provided. After about a year of private duty, I decided to do institutional work. I did not like being tied down to one patient even though it meant more money.

The opening for night supervisor where I worked when I graduated was then offered to me. I took the job and did that until there was a daytime opening, that of O.B. supervisor, to which I transferred. I relieved in surgery a lot; it was my very favorite.

After five years of that, I joined the Army and that is another story which I will tell separately. I was in the service for about two years. Then I married Harry Arnold Sr., a civilian and civil service employee and foreman of the Plumbing Shop at Fort



*Roserma Hensley Arnold in her army nurse uniform in 1942. She was in service for two years during World War II.*

Sill, Oklahoma.

After marriage, I did some volunteer teaching of Home Nursing at Fort Sill. I helped the Public Health Department of Oklahoma get all of the children from Lawton and Fort Sill inoculated for polio immediately after the vaccine came out.

In 1967 I became American Red Cross nursing chairman of Comanche County and continued in that job as chairman of home nursing until 1973. I also directed programs for teaching Mother and Baby Care, Blue Teens and Baby Sitting.

During this time the idea of preventive health care was surfacing. The City of Lawton decided that their people, beginning with their police department, could benefit from a course in preventive care. They asked the American Red Cross for ideas on putting such a program into place and I, with help, put together a pilot program and did several classes for the city. That is another totally different tale which I will relate in another space.

Then, as a Red Cross volunteer, I became acquainted with the head nurse and administrator of Lawton's hospital. In 1973, I decided I would go to their Comanche County Memorial Hospital and apply for a job to work part time.

I went to the hospital one morning and asked if there were a position open. I reported for work the next morning. I worked there for five and a half years and enjoyed it so much. But, as time went by, the work and pressure became more and more stressful and hectic. I asked myself, "why are you doing this?" I had no answer that made sense, so I resigned.

Years take their toll on a person. I enjoyed my

career. I liked being a nurse. And then, I got into genealogy and aerobics three times a week and was interested in so many other things in life. For a time I did volunteer nursing in the hospital and for friends who asked me, but that took its toll. Today I am enjoying a totally different time of living.

## Jessie Lee Henderson, Student

My mother, Jessie Lee Henderson, the oldest daughter of John Lee and Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson, entered nursing school in 1915. She was 19 and it was almost as difficult for her to persuade her father that she should become a nurse as it had been for her Aunt Ruby to pioneer the way. Lee Henderson was both loving and protective of the women in his life. As caring as he was, he was also a product of his time and for young women to pursue careers was unthinkable. Only women of loose morals went away from home to work.

My mother entered training at Dr. Joe Becton's Hospital. I do not know how long she stayed, but



*Jessie Lee Henderson (1896-1964)*

her career was cut short for two reasons. First, her health caved in. A victim of chronic appendicitis in the days before surgery was prevalent, she spent days in bed before she convinced her father that she must have the surgery. I remember her telling me: "I told my father that I could not live with pain all the time and I'd rather have the surgery and take the chance of dying rather than be in bed almost every week

with stomach pains.”

After a successful operation, she was planning to return to school when World War I curtailed her plans. She had met my father. He was planning to go overseas. Even though their engagement was not revealed, he influenced her to remain “safely” at home until he returned. They were married July 27, 1919, only weeks after he sailed back to the states from Germany.

Even though my mother’s professional nursing career was short-lived, her training was a gift that remained with her all her life. She was a nutritional expert whose talents with food and menus made our meals gifts of pleasure all our lives. She made our school lunches works of art. She served as midwife to many of her friends and neighbors. Her mere presence in a sick room was sufficient to make a patient improve. Hers were healing hands.

### Ira Johnson Henderson, LVN



*Ira Velma Johnson Henderson (1911–2000) as she entered nursing school in 1950. She was a grandmother before she realized her dream to become a nurse.*

she were married and away from home when Lula’s health failed; Ira dropped out of school in the ninth grade to assume the major responsibilities of housekeeper and cook. Her father, whose work often took him away from home for four and five weeks at a time, remained the family stabilizer and her mother was always supportive and involved as much as her

Ira Johnson Henderson waited for more than a quarter of a century for her dream of becoming a nurse to come to fruition.

Born on May 23, 1911, in Lindale to Benjamin Richard and Ida V. Lula Cross Johnson, Ira Velma was the eighth and youngest daughter of their nine children. The surviving older brothers and sisters

health would allow. But the major responsibilities of housekeeping and care of her much younger brother fell on Ira’s shoulders.

In a small booklet Ira wrote for her own children and grandchildren called “This is Ma Maw’s Story,” Ira told much about her early life and the conditions of her surroundings. But in it, she divulged little of her own imperative role in creating a wonderful life for those in her care.

Ira married very young, at age 15. She had met Joseph DeWitt Henderson when she went with her older sister Anna Mary and her husband Charlie Perkins Henderson to visit Anna’s parents-in-law Lee and Eva Henderson. The Johnsons and the Hendersons had much in common. Both were large families, constantly expanding to include near and distant relatives, friends who needed a temporary boost, the black people who lived in their communities, and itinerant blackberry pickers who came and went with the seasons, occasionally settling permanently in the community. Lindale was the blackberry capital of the world. In this setting, where everyone was welcomed and nobody dismissed as insignificant, Ira Johnson felt right at home.

It did not take long for her to fall in love with her sister’s brother-in-law. Six years her senior, DeWitt was Lee and Eva’s youngest surviving son. In the late summer of 1926 he, following the admonition to “Go West, Young Man” (to find your fortune) moved with his brother Charlie and his wife Anna to the Texas Panhandle, some 500 miles from the point of his birth. Distance apart proved too painful for the young couple. Their two loving families supported their decision to get married and, in a 1995 interview, Ira vividly recalled that her mother had handmade her trousseau while sitting up in her bed. “Mama and I found the styles. Mama selected the material and Papa went into Lindale to Marchman’s and had the lady there order what she needed. I can close my eyes today and see Mama sitting propped up in bed carefully whipping lace onto a gown and negligee she made for me. Papa took me to Caldwell Hughes in Tyler to buy my wedding dress, shoes, and hat.”

Raymond Henderson and his fiancée, Vivian Meredith, were honor attendants for the young couple who were married in the home of Presbyterian minister Dr. Logan in Tyler on Christmas Eve of

1926. They spent the first night of their wedded life in a hotel in Mineola and the next day the bridegroom's father drove them to the train to go back to Lubbock, Texas. Her new father-in-law further endeared himself to the bride when he told her, "I know you love my son very much to leave your wonderful family and go so far away to start your new life together."

"It has been a wonderful, wonderful life," Ira said, displaying her usual positive attitude.

But it has not always been easy. They were in West Texas for eight months when they returned to Lindale so that Ira could again assume housekeeping responsibilities for her family. They lived with her parents and she became a 16-year-old mother on October 20, 1927, when their first child, Wanda Sue Henderson, was born.

Two years later they again moved to West Texas and made their home with his parents. "Granddaddy Henderson had become too sick to work. Grandmother was keeping house, looking after him, and sewing for the public. I would stay with her in the morning and help her cook dinner (the noon meal). In the afternoons I went to the fields and worked." Several young men bunked in an apartment above the garage and worked picking cotton and pulling bolls, so in addition to the family (there were then seven of them), Eva and Ira would also be cooking for eight to ten extra men.

"That's when Grandmother and I became so close. She taught me so much. She could take such a little bit of food and turn it into a wonderful meal. While we worked, she told me family stories. I wish I could remember them. I wish I'd written them down."

There followed a series of ups and downs. DeWitt and Charlie leased a ranch and stocked it with the horses and cows. In the winter the snows were so deep that they had to ride horses through canyons picking their way by following the fence posts which were barely visible. Their house was not insulated and snow sifted through the cracks; once she found snow covering her baby's bed when they got up in the morning. The windmill froze and the family's only water was from chunks of ice they brought into the house and thawed on the wood-burning stove. In the summer the hot winds parched the earth and tumble weeds raced along the prairie

and collected at fence rows. Sand storms blew dust day after day so thick that breathing was almost impossible. Women hung wet sheets and blankets over their doors and windows to help keep out the dust. It never worked. Sheets of fine-grained sand covered everything.

Lee Henderson became ill; he and Eva accepted the invitation of Ruby and Sam Taft to go to Taft, Texas, so that Ruby could nurse him. It was there he died in January 1929. Jess Mitchell, Eva's cousin, lent his new car to Charlie and DeWitt so that they and their sister, Jessie Anderson, could make the trip back to Lindale for his funeral.

"A month later my mother died. Grandma and Grandpa Cross and my mother's retarded brother had moved into the house with them and there was nobody to look after them. DeWitt and I moved back into the house with Papa and lived there for 14 years." Her brother B.R. was only 13.

These were the years in which their other three children—Shirley Ann in 1934, Bobbie June in 1937, and Jerry Max in 1939—were born.

When Jerry was 2 1/2 years old, World War II began and DeWitt took a job at Fort Hood in Killeen, almost 200 miles southwest of Lindale. Ira became, for all practical purposes, a single parent. Her oldest daughter was 15.

By the time the war ended, DeWitt's health had begun to fail. Increasingly he could not do the heavy farm labor that had sustained the family throughout his life. He still worked with his fruit trees, budding and grafting. He grew the first English walnuts ever produced in East Texas. He experimented with grape varieties, added cherries and figs to the usual East Texas crops of berries, pears, peaches, and apples. Like his father, John Lee, and grandfather, Joseph Asmon, for whom he was named, he was a wood craftsman. When there was carpentry work available, he hired out for those jobs, but he could no longer climb or do heavy construction.

"I knew I had to get a job," Ira remembers. "I'd never worked for a paycheck and, remember, I didn't even have a high school education." Her first for-pay job was with Sledge's Manufacturing Company, which made men's pants. She was an inspector, which was far less glamorous than it sounds. "It was my job to see that the seams were done right!"

But she loved the feeling of community with

other women workers. It was something like Grandmother's kitchen had been back before the war. The women exchanged stories. That's how Ira first heard about a new program in nursing. It involved both college and hospital training and it led to a licensed vocational nurse certificate. "At first I just listened and buried the thought in the back of my head. I had wanted to be a nurse all of my life. I'd given up on the dream..."

The more she heard, the more attractive the program sounded. Finally she told her husband about it. "DeWitt said, 'If anybody else can do it, you can do it.' So, then I got really serious to check out the possibilities." She consulted the family doctor who told her that you don't get nursing out of a book; it comes from the heart. He said the course would be difficult, but she could do it. She consulted other nurses.

In the fall of 1950, when she was 45 years old, Ira Henderson enrolled in nursing school. She studied at Tyler Junior College and graduated at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, in the second LVN class offered there. On her state boards, with 70 as a passing grade, she scored 84, one of the highest grades in the class.

She looks puzzled when queried about the reality of those days. "You do what you have to do," she said. "DeWitt was my mainstay. If he had not been like he was—easy-going, supportive, very involved with the kids—I couldn't have done it."

Sue had married in 1946. Shirley was in high school and Jerry 13 years old. So, how did she manage?

"I got up at 4 a.m. and cooked breakfast for my family while doing whatever chores that had to be done that hadn't gotten finished the night before—iron a blouse, sew on a button, whatever. Sometimes, at really rough times, I carried a book while stirring the breakfast eggs. Then I'd get the kids up and while they ate breakfast, I got my shower and dressed for class or work. The kids took their lunches to school. DeWitt usually put those together. I did most of the meal planning and food buying, but he would shop for groceries and run errands.

"I had to be at the hospital before 7 a.m. I drove 20 miles to work. Sometimes I would be so tired I thought I couldn't keep it up."

"And then I'd walk into the hospital and the

tiredness would just melt away. Time flew! I absolutely loved nursing! It was everything I had always dreamed it would be—and more."

Off at 3 p.m., she drove home, getting there in time to be present when her children got home from school. She cleaned house, did laundry, cooked dinner for the family, ran errands with or for her children, oversaw kitchen clean-up and homework and settled down to study. "The textbook work was very hard!" Sometimes it was 2 a.m. before she got to bed. "And every day I was more and more convinced that I was doing the right thing."

At the hospital, she did whatever jobs were required of a nurse. Once for five months she had the nursery all to herself. "Watching a young family welcome a new baby never ceased to be a thrill. We always rejoiced when a sick child got well and got to go home. For a long time she assisted in surgery.

There were the sad times: Once a butane tank blew up in a small frame house near Tyler. "When I walked in that morning, a nun met me and handed me a baby wrapped in a pink and white blanket. She said for me to take care of it, to do what I could, just to hold it. Two others of the family were in surgery. The mother was pregnant. . . . We lost all five of them." When tragedies like that happen, good nurses are at their best. "We're there to do all we can . . . what we are trained to do. The staff had lots of support when a tragedy happened. The nuns were so good!"

Then, there are the moments, which though incredibly sad, lift the human spirit. Such an event occurred one Sunday afternoon when a three-year-old girl who had fallen into a water tank on the family farm was brought in. There was no chance of saving her. We did what we could. Through everything her father never left her side and when



*Ira Johnson Henderson as a licensed vocational nurse.*

he knew his child was dead, he bowed his head and thanked God for giving such a lovely gift. Even though the time was short, he said, he would take nothing for having had the child in their lives.

“When death comes—as it inevitably will to all of us—some people are so angry, so bitter, that they lash out. They blame the hospital, the caretakers, themselves. But the others, like that father with his little girl, rise to heights of compassion and love that makes us all proud to be human.”

At one time, in 1964, Ira Henderson left Medical Center where she worked and took the position as head nurse at Colonial Nursing Center, a new facility in Lindale only blocks from her house. She oversaw most of the placement of facilities, and DeWitt built most of the cabinets and other interior fittings. She ordered supplies, helped to hire the staff, and oversaw all patient care. It was during this year that Grandmother Henderson was a patient in the home from January until her death in September 1964. But nursing home care, convenient as it was, did not long satisfy the deep longing that Ira had for nursing. She went back to Medical Center.

DeWitt had a stroke in 1966 and died a year later. Ira continued as a nurse for seven more years. Her nursing career, begun at a time when most people are considering retirement, had lasted for 26 years, more than a quarter of a century. At a farewell party honoring her, the physicians presented her with an engraved plaque expressing their appreciation for her attributions—her ability, her aptitude and her attitude. She was the first LVN to be so honored.

She is reflective. “Oh, yes, the effort I made to become a nurse has been so rewarding. It supported us financially but even more it gave me a sense of worth, joy in being able to serve others and so many, many wonderful people in my life. . . . To do it you have to know Somebody Up There is watching over you. I’ve driven in the sleet, when it was snowing, lots of times in the rain. I never did have a wreck. I never did have a flat tire on the road. When I’d get to my car, I’d say, ‘I’m on my way home now, Lord. Watch over me until I get there!’”

## And The Beat Goes On

Many other Henderson women, to the fifth and

sixth generation of the family in East Texas, have followed careers in nursing. Ruby Ann Henderson Scroggins, the daughter of Alta and Sidney Henderson, the niece and namesake of the first Ruby Anne, entered nursing school about 1935, completed her training, passed her state boards and served as a registered nurse for most of her life.



*Ruby Ann Henderson Scroggins (1916-1988)*

Other family nurses include Vicki Lynn Anderson Swindell, RN; Keeta Shawn Castleberry Rupp, bachelor of science and RN; Traci Kay Williams Anderson, RN, Patsy Gail Beard



*Patsy Gail Beard Williams (1946-2001)*



Williams, and Teri Lynn Anderson Collier, LVN.

*Teri Lynn Anderson, LVN.*



## Etta Henderson Hudson, Artist

Etta Henderson Hudson (1876-1947) was a noted artist whose paintings enhanced many family homes. These, from her granddaughter Charlene Hudson Kraemer are:

1. *Top Left:* Front lawn of her childhood home in Lindale, painted from memory in 1931.

2. *Middle:* Pastoral scene from Lindale memory, painted in 1932.

3. *Bottom Left:* Front porch of her Center home, in 1931.

4. *Bottom Right:* The Hudson family home in Center, Texas, where she reared her children.



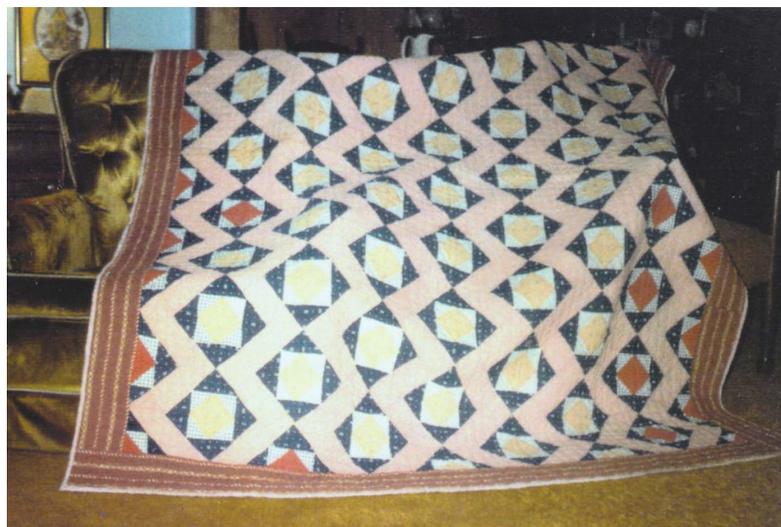
# Quilting: A Henderson Tradition

1. *Top:* Mary Elvira Ferguson Ford owns and shows the Oak Leaf quilt made by her grandmother Martha Elizabeth Henderson Shelby McGahey about 1875.

2. *Middle:* Mittie Lee Hawkins Beaird and Mary Frances Henderson display the Lone Star quilt made by their grandmother Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins Henderson about 1890.

3. *Bottom Left:* The Lone Star quilt is inspected by Dora's granddaughter Mildred Henderson Davey and great x3 granddaughter Libby. A century had passed since its creation.

4. *Bottom Right:* "Uncle Willie's Quilt" (see [story in Part 4](#)) was made by Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson around 1880 for her grandson William Washington Dobbins (son of Mary Amanda). After Willie's death in 1896, the quilt was treasured by his sister Essie Lorilla Dobbins Hensley and passed on to her daughter Roserma Hensley Arnold. It is now owned by Roserma's son and daughter-in-law Harry L. Arnold Jr. and Marilyn Gail Wood Arnold.





## Quilting (continued)

5. *Top:* Wanda Sue Henderson Swann, third from right, is one of the best quilters in the fifth generation of the Hendersons in Texas. In 1994–95, she made the quilt “Connections” at left, using the signatures of family members who had signed the Henderson Family Reunion rosters. This lineup of fifth-generation Hendersons includes Quinton Travis Anderson, Shirley Ann Henderson Coke, Kris Burton, Bobbie June Henderson Granberry, Sue Swann, Norma Jean Henderson Christopher Regan, and Vivian Lou Anderson Castleberry, who treasures the quilt, a gift from Sue.



6. *Middle:* Eunice Sybil Kennedy McKay with her prizewinning quilts displayed at the 1996 Family Reunion.

7. *Bottom:* Quilt-making is a hobby that Curtis and Vivian Anderson Castleberry and his mother, Ernestine McGowan Castleberry, share. Curt cuts the pieces, his mother sews them, and Vivian does the quilting. They are making quilts for each of Vivian and Curt’s grandchildren. This is Treetop Serenade, a pieced and appliquéd quilt claimed by daughter Cathy and her daughter Ashley.





8 & 9. *Top and Middle:* Vivian Castleberry's Lifetime Friendship Quilt. She asked each friend to put her whole life on a 12-inch cotton square. The different interpretations are a treasure, among them the block of columnist Erma Bombeck showing the tired housewife displaying a dead potted plant.

10. *Bottom Left:* Curtis Castleberry shows the Double Wedding Ring quilt done for granddaughter Heather.

11. *Bottom Right:* Double wedding ring quilt.





*Left:* Vivian Anderson Castleberry exchanges a look with her husband, Curtis Castleberry, as she oversees the 1978 family reunion in Chandler, Texas.

Vivian Meredith Henderson adds her branch to the family tree notebook, and Chanda Castleberry holds her niece Kerin.

# Reunions

## 1978 Reunion

*By Kerin*

My mom, Carol, took these photos of a Henderson reunion in August 1978. They were not part of the Henderson Book, but they are a perfect fit.

These are all descendants of John Lee Henderson and Lillie Eva Perkins (under IV-B on Family Outline.)

*Middle and Bottom Right:*

Family **IV-B-1** on outline:

Descendants of Jessie Lee Henderson (1896-1964) and William Clarence Anderson (1895-1956) and their families.



## 1978 Reunion (continued)

*Top:*

Family **IV-B-2** on outline:

Descendants of Raymond Henderson (1898-1940) and Vivian Meredith (1902-1997), with family.

Vivian is pictured front right.



*Middle and Bottom:*

Family **IV-B-3** on outline:

Descendants of Charlie Perkins Henderson (1901-1966) and Anna Johnson (1904-1943), with families.





### 1978 Reunion (continued)

*Top:*

Family **IV-B-4** on outline:  
Descendants of DeWitt  
Henderson (1905-1967)  
and Ira Johnson (1911-  
2000), with families.

Ira is pictured second from  
left.



### Breaking it down into smaller groups:

*Middle:*

**IV-B-1-a:**  
Family of Curtis Castleberry (1922-2013) and  
Vivian Anderson Castleberry.

Curtis is pictured tallest in back, and Vivian is in  
front of him in yellow.

*Bottom:*

Curtis and Vivian's children.



## 1978 Reunion (continued)

IV-B-1-b:  
Family of Norman Anderson (1923-1977)  
and Jean Battles Anderson (1928-2011).

Jean is pictured back center.



IV-B-1-c:  
Family of Quinton Anderson (1925-2000)  
and Dee Robson (1937-1994).

Quinton is pictured at left, Dee is next to him.



First Cousins:

IV-B-4-c: Bobbie June  
IV-B-2-a: Eva Catherine  
IV-B-5-a: Kris



1978 Reunion (continued)





### 1978 Reunion (continued)

The reunion was held at the Castleberry property near Lake Palestine in Chandler, Texas. Seven years later, they would start building their lake house on this spot.



# Reunions

## 1990s Reunions

1. *Top:* A quartet of merry-makers at the 1992 reunion included Ira Johnson Henderson, Mary Elvira Ferguson Ford, Mildred Henderson Davey, and Florene Taft Meek.



2. *Middle:* Curtis, age two, escaped his mother and ran to the pulpit at Bethesda Church. He was captured by his grandmother, Vivian Anderson Castleberry, as his mom shot this picture.



3. *Bottom Left:* Oldest and youngest at the 1994 family reunion were Elvira Ferguson Ford, 96, holding Shelby Alyssa, five weeks old.

4. *Bottom Right:* Reunion guests enjoy a potluck dinner.



### 1990s Reunions (continued)

5. *Top:* Quinton Anderson and Charlie Swann exchange tall tales at a reunion.



6. *Middle:* Just before getting into his car to return to his home in Oklahoma, Nolen Clay Litchfield threw out his arms and shouted, "Same time next year!" Nolen is a great grandson of William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson. He descended through their oldest child, Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins to Irma Teresa Dobbins Griggs Litchfield.



Nolen Litchfield died April 4, 1997, in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, and is buried there.

7. *Bottom:* The 1991 reunion at Forest Grove Recreation Center, Chandler, Texas.





**1990s Reunions (continued)**

8. *Top:* The 1992 convening at the Lake Palestine home of Curtis and Vivian Castleberry.

9. *Bottom:* The 1993 reunion at First United Methodist Church, Lindale, Texas.



**1990s Reunions (continued)**

9. & 10. The 1994 and 1995 reunions at First United Methodist Church, Lindale, Texas.



# PART 4

## Memories

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# Going to Town

By Fred A. Hudson, Sr.

**W**ELL, I GREW UP OUT on the river north of Lindale and Tyler—North of Tyler 18 miles. I'd never been to town—that is, to Tyler. When I was 12 years old (1910), Uncle Henry and Aunt Sally Crews came home with us from church for dinner and after dinner we were sitting on the porch talking—me, my Dad and Uncle Henry.

We had just received a postcard from somebody in Tyler. It showed the new courthouse. Uncle Henry said, "You know that courthouse is nearly shoulder high when I saw it." It showed it in that picture complete. I couldn't imagine how that could be. He says "That's how it is." I said I'd never been to Tyler. He says "I'll tell you what you do. You come down to my house next Tuesday evening and stay all night. We'll get up early Wednesday morning and we'll go to Tyler." I don't know how I got "ahold" of 50¢ to carry with me—whether my Mother gave it to me or my Dad gave to me or whether I had worked all day for 50¢ somewhere, but I had 50¢, and I carried it with me to Tyler.

We got up early the next morning before daylight. He had a good wagon and one mule and a horse. We had a two-horse wagon and a mule and a horse hooked to it. They were good ones and stepped lively and felt good. We went down the old Dallas-Shreveport road toward Shreveport to Saline Creek. When we got there, we took a right and on that road we went. Got to Tyler at 10 o'clock—took us four hours. That's the furthest I'd ever been away from home.

Uncle Henry had his wagon loaded with farm produce. Had it in tubs and buckets and baskets. He had baskets of green peas he sold. He had milk and butter in a tub with water around it and a shade over the top—a pine top or something. Took him about an hour to peddle all his produce out—butter, eggs, peas, beans, heads of cabbage. We drove a little further into town and hit a paved street, paved with brick! I know I wondered how the economy could



*Fred Asmon Hudson, Sr. (1898–1989) as a teenager (left) and as a father of four (right). He was the son of Etta Henderson and Charles Morton Hudson, and grandson of Joseph Asmon Henderson.*

stand to have streets in Tyler paved with brick. That was in 1910—I was 12 years old that year.

We went on downtown. He carried the team down to the wagon yard where he pulled the harness off so the horses could rest good. Left the wagon sitting in the wagon yard in the hot sun. We went on up town. Uncle Taylor Sheets had a grocery store on the corner right up town. We went in there and Uncle Henry said, "This is Charlie's boy," and Uncle Taylor said "Oh yeah, come around here Fred." He took me around to his cold drink stand where he had soda water and other stuff. He drew me a big mug full of soda water, I sat up there on that stool, and I thought that was the finest drink I had ever had in my life. I drank that up.

He went on about his business taking orders and filling them, getting the delivery going with the stuff. Customers would phone in the orders, and he delivered it out. Between times he would be opening stuff up and put out in stock. He opened up a crate of grapes—white grapes. He said, "You ought to taste them, Fred here," He handed me a little bunch of grapes, I tasted them—man, they were the best grapes I ever tasted in my life. They didn't have any seeds in them—white looking grapes. I said "Give me 50¢ worth of them, please, Uncle Taylor." He got a sack and filled that sack with those white grapes. By that time my feet were killing me. I had my shoes on, and I was use to going barefooted.

I went down to the cotton yard or rather the wagon yard, got up on the front seat of that wagon out in that hot sun and ate 50¢ worth of grapes. I

didn't want any more grapes for a year. Finally I went on back up town. Uncle Henry gave me a quarter. He saw I had spent all my money—threw it away on those grapes.

We went down to L\_\_\_\_, that was a 10¢ store—they called it in that day. First thing I bought me was a watch fob. I had a 67¢ Sears Roebuck watch that I had picked strawberries in the spring and bought, but I didn't have a watch fob. So I saw a watch fob that had little wheels you could turn on it. One said strike one, ball one and so many outs on it so you could umpire a ball game. It was a umpire's watch fob that I bought. I know Uncle Henry did all his trading. Women would send by him for 10 yards of calico to make them a dress, another sent by him for two or three window shades—they were 35¢ each—the window shades were—she'd saved up enough, sold eggs, and enough money she'd sent by him. Bought all that stuff for neighbors.

Finally about 4 o'clock he said, "Well, it's time to go," and we went to go home. Came out and crossed old Black Fork Creek right this side. I've gone up that way here awhile back to see where the old road went. The highway doesn't go where the old road turned. We went on up through there. About 6:30 we got into Lindale and he was going on home. He says, "We'll go out home and you stay all night and you can go on in the morning." But it was just as close to my house as it was from his so I told him I'd just get out and walk to my house—it was 4 miles down through there to my house. Before I could get home it began to get pretty dark. I went on and made it in. That was the first time I ever got to go to town.

# Lindale Memories

**By Mittie Lee Hawkins Beard**

I am Mittie Lee Hawkins Beard. I am the daughter of Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins, who was



*Mittie Lee Hawkins Beard (1924–2013) as a teenager, and on her fiftieth wedding anniversary.*

William Daniel Henderson's oldest daughter.

My mother grew up in Bethesda church and was married to my father, Solomon Robbins Hawkins, at its altar on Sunday, January 1, 1911, just before the Sunday worship service. They then sat down and listened to the sermon and walked across the road to her parents' house where they had lunch and spent the night before going by train to Athens.

My brother Quincy, my sister Dora, and I were all born and reared in Athens.

My grandpa—Mother's father—was William Daniel Henderson, who was always known as Will. He was 20 years old and single when he came to Texas with his parents, sisters and brothers, and their families. He immediately began to acquire land. He and his sister Mary Amanda Dobbins gave the property for Bethesda Cemetery. Four years ago his heirs—my siblings and first cousins—gave additional land from his estate to expand the cemetery.

When Will was 30 years old, he went back to Perry County, Alabama, to marry my grandmother, Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins. My grandmother's long, beautiful name was shortened to Dora and for years none of us knew anything else. It is unclear how Will and Dora kept in touch because at the time he and his family left Alabama, she was married to William Basil Perkins, who later died.

Following their wedding in Bibb County, Alabama, on January 6, 1889, Will brought Dora and her three Perkins children—Eva, Willie, and Lovie—back to Lindale where all of them joined Bethesda Church.

My mother was the first of Will and Dora's five children. She was born December 23, 1889, not quite a year after the couple married. There was also

Thomas Ward, William Paul, and twins Lewis Earl and Lois Pearl. Lois died as an infant.

Will and Dora Henderson, Ward and Nora Henderson and Ward's second wife Mamie Henderson, Paul and Louise Henderson, and baby Lois are all buried in Bethesda Cemetery. My parents are buried in Athens and Lewis in West Texas where he had lived for many years.

## Memorial Services

By Mittie Lee Hawkins Beaird

The highlight of the year for my mother, Minnie Lee Henderson Hawkins, was to attend Memorial Services at the Bethesda Church near Lindale each year. It was the church in which she grew up, the church in which she was baptized as an infant on March 28, 1890, and the church in which she was married on January 1, 1911, at age 21.

I have fond memories of attending Memorial Services all of my life. I always loved getting to play with my cousins. There were at least ten around my age.

I remember the bountiful tables of food that were spread outside under the trees after the memorial services. All of our relatives and friends had such good food to share.

Today the same traditions are shared by the descendants of the Henderson family which reaches out to include everybody who needs a friend.

My mother always made sure that she, my sister, Dora, and I had a new dress to wear to Memorial Services. She wanted us to look our best. When she introduced me to the relatives or friends, she always said, "And this is my baby!" I didn't like that very much. Now that Bill and I have reared four children of our own, I understand the pride she felt in showing off her family.

## The Persistent Peony

By Roserma Hensley Arnold

Written May 1991



*Roserma Hensley Arnold (1914-2002) as a student nurse in 1932.*

This is a story about a peony, a plant and a flower that has persisted in our family for more than a hundred years. It was told to me by my brother Belton Hensley, who heard it from our mother Essie Dobbins Hensley, who heard it from her mother Mary Amanda Henderson Dobbins.

The year was 1879 and the Henderson family was packing up in Perry County, Alabama, to move to Lindale, Texas. The women in the family knew they must travel lightly but they could not bear to leave behind all of the treasures they had accumulated through the years.

Among these treasures was a plant, hardy enough to flourish in the torrid summers, to remain alive during the coldest weather, to withstand drought and floods and every year to bear mammoth vibrant flowers. It was called a peony.

The women took a piece of the plant, nourished it across the country and replanted it as soon as they reached their new home in East Texas. It thrived.

Several years later when Mary Amanda Henderson Dobbins, her husband Uriah B. Dobbins and their family moved from Lindale, Texas, to Wynnewood, Indian Territory, they took a part of the plant with them. Replanted in its new home, the plant thrived. When daughter Essie married, a piece of the plant went with her and her bridegroom to their newly established home five miles north of

Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

For half a century, the plant survived and thrived there. Then, when the Hensleys, who were my parents, had to give up farming and move into the town of Wynnewood, she dug up the plant and took it along with her.

Mother died in 1967. My brother and his wife Lydia moved the plant back to their home in the country, some quarter of a mile from the old home place.

I have taken pieces of it for myself and for family members back in Smith County not far from Lindale where it first took root so many years ago. Under all of these conditions it survives.

Perhaps the descendants of our Henderson ancestors are, like this plant, survivors. Or, perhaps the plant, like the Hendersons, is sufficiently tough and resilient to thrive under all kinds of conditions?

# Uncle Willie's Quilt

By Roserma Hensley Arnold

One of the greatest treasures in our family is the quilt that Great Grandmother Eleanor Selina Shelby Henderson made for her grandson, William Washington (Buddy) Dobbins. The exact date that the quilt was made is not known, but it had to have been made in Texas some time after 1879 when the Hendersons reached Lindale and before 1891 when the Dobbins family moved on to Indian Territory.

Buddy was born in 1872 in Alabama and died in 1896 in Wynnewood, Indian Territory. He was the only son of the second marriage of my grandmother, Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins.

Because of the devastation of the South during and after the Civil War, many southern families migrated west. These families were attempting to begin a new life. They had very limited resources.

My family was among those who moved to Texas. The Shelbys came first, to East Texas from

Alabama, in 1869. The Dobbins, Hendersons, Crews, McGaheys, and others came in 1879. The Dobbins family moved to Wynnewood, Indian Territory, in the spring of 1891, eight years before the territory became the state of Oklahoma.

The quilt moved with them—though Willie, the child for whom it was made, remained in Lindale to complete high school before he joined his parents and sisters. He was 18 and had always been a special favorite among many members of the extended family. It was almost sinful how his mother and three sisters (Irma, Essie, and Sallie) loved him. I can remember being a great big child in school and coming home and finding Mother crying and she would explain that she was thinking about Buddy.

Buddy was 24 when he died with typhoid fever.

Grandmother treasured the quilt even more after his death. When my Great Grandmother made it, she was following the custom of the times, for it was expected that grandmothers would make a quilt for each of their grandchildren.

This was not easy. The materials and tools for quilt-making were very few. All supplies were difficult to come by. For example, quilt makers had to make their own carded bats—the material placed between the pieced quilt top and the lining that gives the quilt sufficient weight for it to serve as covering in cold weather. A card is a lightweight sturdy flat rectangular piece of wood about four and a half by ten inches in size with a handle on the long side of one of the rectangles. This piece of wood is covered with wire teeth. People grew their own cotton. When it was ready to pick, choice bolls were selected and seed removed by hand from open burs. A small piece of the cotton was then placed on one of the cards and the second card lightly drawn back and forth across it. The nap on the cotton was thus raised and stroked until it evenly covered all of the wire teeth. Then, the cotton, now the size of the card, was carefully removed. A piece, thus made, was called a bat and bats were carefully stacked, dozens of them, until there were enough to cover the surface of the lining.

The quilt top was then placed over the batted lining and the whole thing basted together. This combination was attached to a quilting frame, made so that the quilt would roll up as it was completed. Women sat around the frame and quilted. One

measurement of a woman's worth was how neatly and carefully she quilted and how tiny were her stitches.

As a child, I watched my mother card bats many times, but I never mastered the art.

When Buddy died, Grandmother gave his quilt to her daughter, my mother, Essie Dobbins, and instructed her to pass it along in the Hensley family. It was never used. Mother stored it between the springs and mattress of a bed. Mother married William Bradley Hensley in 1903. My brother, Belton, was born a year later and I was born in 1914. We knew about the quilt but were not allowed to use it.

Around 1950, my mother gave me—Roserma Hensley Arnold—the quilt explaining that it was for my son, Harry L. Arnold Jr.

In May of 1966 Harry Jr. graduated from Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, Oklahoma, as an electrical engineer and in June married Marilyn Gail Wood, an elementary teacher. In December he took his bride to Wynnewood to meet his grandmother. His Dad and I went with them. While we were there, Mother called me aside and told me to give Harry Jr. his quilt as soon as they were settled. I said young people might not understand the value of such an heirloom and might not treat it with the respect it deserved! I suggested I keep it just a little longer. Mother said no!

My mother died in January of 1967. I still had the quilt, but I remembered what she had said. So, in 1969 when Harry Jr. and Gail were settled in Florida after Harry completed his Army Reserve commitment, I sent the quilt to them. Gail has cared for it carefully through the years.

Today Willie's Quilt holds a place of honor alongside one made for Gail by her grandmother, Inez Kimbrough. They are displayed together on a quilt rack in a place of honor in the Arnold home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where my grandchildren, Brent William, born in 1973, and Beth Anne, born in 1978, see them daily.

The quilt is more than a hundred years old now, probably around 110. Brent and Beth Anne doubtless do not recognize the significance of this treasure so carefully stitched by their great-great-grandmother. But they will! Oh, they will! The stitches that bind Willie's Quilt together are as firm

and sure as the blood flow that unites the family generation after generation after generation.

# Grandmother's Quilts: Lillie Eva Perkins Henderson

By Wanda Sue Henderson  
Swann

*She makes coverings for her bed . . . She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.*

Proverbs 31

My first memory of quilting is playing on the floor under the quilt frames—which were hung from the ceiling with hooks—and raised when not in use. My job was picking up dropped thimbles, thread, and needles and returning to their owners. I don't remember who was quilting, but I'm sure it was our neighbors along with Mother, and always "Aunt Mae." I know they brought food—good food—and there were lots of dropped thimbles before we could eat.

At night, during the winter by lamplight, Mother carded cotton for the filler in the quilts. I tried and tried to do this, with no luck. You first had to remove the seeds from the cotton and then card until the cotton was soft and fluffy and of a uniform thickness. This is where I failed completely—mine was full of holes.

Many of our quilts were made of feed sacks and the lining was of flour sacks, washed many times to remove the printing. Sometimes this was disguised by dyeing the sacks—green walnut hulls for a pretty



*Sue Henderson Swann (1927–2012) as a child, left, and in 1996, right.*

soft green, brown walnut holes for a beige, and red clay for a red or rust color. Somewhere between then and now quilts have become not a necessity, but a way to connect us to our quilting ancestors, or maybe just a way to pass on to our children and grandchildren a tangible expression of our love.

I remember Grandmother coming to stay with us for two or three weeks each summer—I didn't think of it as a visit—to me she was “ours” for that time and I wished she would never leave.

She always brought her sewing things and usually a bag of scraps for whatever project she was working on. I remember looking at, feeling, and folding the scraps that were all new to me—not from our dresses—and her telling me, when I asked, what garment she had made (and for whom) from each one. Maybe my love for quilting started then—a bit delayed since I didn't start quilting till I was over fifty.

Mother always made our clothing, so my “sewing” genes came from her, too. I've been so blessed to have two people that influenced me in something that has always been my way of relaxing, and my favorite pastime, as well as a means to clothe myself.

Mother made a Dutch Doll quilt for me, using scraps she had saved from the dresses she made for me. I've done the same for both of my granddaughters, in the Grandma's Fan pattern. Maybe years from now they will look at different prints and remember the dresses as I did.

Grandmothers are supposed to have more patience than anyone else—and mine did. She let me stand and treadle machine and “guide” the material as it came from under the needle—and she

never told me that it hindered and didn't help. (I didn't know this until I had someone that wanted to help me in this same way!). She gave me my first thimble and made me wear it, watching to see that I didn't lay it aside because it was awkward to use. I've passed this same thimble on to my oldest granddaughter—hopefully this will guarantee that she will enjoy quilting as her Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and Great-Great-Grandmother did, and will continue in the Henderson quilting heritage.

Grandmother made my “coat of many colors”—a beautiful jacket of velvet and satin scraps, done in Victorian patchwork—each piece outlined in black embroidery stitches. I loved it then, but oh!, how much more I appreciate now the time and love involved.

After I was grown and married, we looked at and discussed her current quilt tops which were nearly always a simple patch design. She made them as Christmas gifts for her family. The first quilt that I ever quilted on frames was a top she had given me years before. She gave patchwork aprons, pot holders and foot stools. Some were made with wool scraps that she had salvaged from “worn out” suits and trousers. No scrap was wasted and she probably never made a quilt from fabric purchased just for that purpose.

Grandmother's quilts were simple, practical, and beautiful. They were made to be used.

I wonder when Grandmother first quilted and who influenced her?

## Remembering (The Ward Henderson Family)

By Joyce Henderson Massey

My mother, Nora Haseltine Hicks Henderson, died at the age of 45 with cancer. I was only eight years at the time. My sister and brother, Mary Frances and Jean Henderson, were 10 and 12 years old.

I don't remember much about my mother except

her being sick and in bed.

We had this wonderful family move in with us—Perry and Eunice Ashcraft and their son C. D. They were a wonderful Christian family and had a big influence on my life. “Miss Eunice” was just my second mother. She was so loving and kind. After three years they moved into a house that my dad, Ward Henderson, had on the farm across from



*Nora Haseltine Hicks (1891-1936), mother of Joyce Henderson Massey.*



*In 1944, Joyce's father Ward Henderson married Mamie Howard Richards.*

Bethesda Church. We stayed in close contact until the time of the Ashcrafts' deaths.

Another couple moved in with us by the name of Alvin and Pauline Graham. They only lived with us for one year. We were then left alone with my dad to run the house, cook, go to school and do some work on the farm.

My dad was a wonderful dad and a hard worker. It was hard on him to serve both as dad and mother. My daddy always said he didn't want anyone else to raise his children.

After eight years, he started to date Mamie Howard Richards, who lived at White Oak, Texas. She and he had grown up in the same area and attended Saline School. She had been widowed for 17 years. After six months of dating, they married, and Mamie came to live with us.

I am sure that it wasn't always easy for Mamie with three teenagers, but she was a wonderful step-mother.

My husband, James Malcolm Massey, was called back into service during the Korean War. I went home for a few months until my first child was born. When he was six weeks old, Malcolm came for us to live in New Mexico. After a short time, he had to go to England. My brother Jean rode the train out to drive me and my son Don back to live with my dad and Mamie. Mamie always said that she couldn't tell any difference from my children and her own grandchildren. She showed love to each of us.

The first eight years of my life was with my mother and dad, then four years with the Ashcrafts and Grahams. Mamie was a part of my life for the next four years until I married . . . and then twice in my life after I married.

“Miss Eunice” and Mamie helped to influence my life and they were both loving and caring.

# Reconnecting: The James Burl Hensley Story

By Georgia Price Hensley

(Vivian's Note: This was written for delivery on Memorial Day at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Sunday, June 12, 1994, by Georgia Hensley for her husband before we learned that the program would need to be shortened. She was a master at condensing this material to one page! This is his story of his reconnection with the Hendersons.)

I am James Burl Hensley, great-great-grandson of William Lee and Eleanor Selina Henderson. However, I grew up in Oklahoma, knowing nothing of this heritage.

The search which led me to this church, this cemetery, this extended family, began in the spring of 1980, sitting on the front screened porch in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, with my wife's family as they gathered for the last time after her mother's death, dividing the old family pictures and sharing again the family stories and history. I realized and remarked to Georgia that, although I had heard my own family stories, I had not retained the facts and could not go back beyond my grandmother. She encouraged me to ask questions now before death cut off the answers to those questions, as it had with her mother's death. I went the next day to my father with pencil and paper, jotting down his memories. But his recollections had many gaps and only raised my curiosity further. I had the first sting of the genealogy bug!

In March of 1980, "Auntie Rose" Brewer, actually my father's cousin, had died, ending some

89 years of continuous occupancy in the Dobbins family home in Wynnewood, Oklahoma. Rosa had been born, raised, married, and died in this house having inherited it from her grandmother, Mary Amanda Henderson Dobbins, who had raised her. In the basement of that house were boxes and boxes of family memorabilia, saved by the generations who had lived there. But Rosa's only heirs were cousins who cleaned out the house and put it up for sale. From the little that survived this cleaning out was a shoe box of letters loaned to me by my father's cousin Nolen Litchfield, executor of Rosa's estate. These letters spanned a 70-year period and were from a variety of people mentioning other family members. Most were postmarked in a Texas town named Lindale.

Georgia and I began that evening, taking turns reading aloud as the other one's eyes tired, and did not finish until two in the morning. Through these references to relatives and the girlhood memories of Bill Talmadge [Willie Lorilla Griggs Talmadge], another of the cousins who visited in Lindale as a young lady, I began to search that summer. After several letters and phone calls, the postmaster gave me a name to contact. I called and asked the lady who answered if she were Elvira Ferguson Ford, the sister of Prentiss Ferguson. She answered, "Yes," and after identifying myself, I sighed, "Oh, I've looked all over Texas for you!" And Elvira said, "Well, honey, I've been here all the time."

Elvira invited us to come to Lindale and in November of 1980, we arrived, driving by Elvira's house where her good neighbor who knew we were expected came over and told us Elvira was in Dallas visiting her new "miracle grandchild," Jennifer.



*Elvira Ferguson Ford (1897–1997), seen here in 1993, helped her "new" Oklahoma family member, James Burl Hensley, get acquainted with his Lindale, Texas roots.*

She led us into the countryside and the Bethesda church, where we had a brief look around before dark.

On Sunday morning we returned to Bethesda Church hoping for a service at 9:30, but no one came. We drove along the country roads noticing the names on mailboxes, familiar to us from the shoebox of letters, returning to the church to wait for an 11 o'clock service. But no one came.

We were in Bethesda Cemetery looking around when a car drove in and a couple approached. We were afraid that we would be accused of trespassing and asked to leave and we began gathering up our genealogy papers. But the couple waved and smiled and asked if we were the couple from Oklahoma. Mitch and Mabel Fleming had heard our story from Elvira and were not only gracious in showing me the grave stones of my ancestors but invited us home for Sunday lunch! This was our introduction to the East Texas tradition of hospitality and good cooks.

I was full of questions, and after lunch Mabel helped me with the full names of my family—Grandma Dobbins became Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey. My great uncle Willie was William (after Mary's brother, William Daniel) Washington (after his grandfather Washington Dobbins of Alabama.)

The afternoon passed so quickly! Mabel said, "I know someone who can really tell you a great deal of family history. I'll give her a ring." Just before dusk as the autumn breezes cooled in the pines around the house, Eunice McKay drove up the long driveway. We all settled in the living room and established our kinship from William Lee Henderson, from whom we were all descended.

Eunice and her two daughters, Jean Taylor and Sandra Coulter, had researched family history for many years. It was from their documentation that I learned the fascinating story of William Lee Henderson and Eleanor Selina Shelby and their move from North Carolina to Alabama and then, with their nine grown children and their families, to Texas by wagon train. And of how Mary Amanda's first husband, who we had never heard of, was John F. McGahey. Eunice and Mabel told me how Mary Amanda had deeded four acres from her farm, along with four acres deeded by her brother, William Daniel, to establish Bethesda church, cemetery, and

school, which no longer existed, and how all of them with the exception of Mary Amanda and her sister Margaret Isabelle, were buried at Bethesda.

It was from their records that I also learned that Mary Amanda was the oldest of William and Eleanor's nine children, that she had married at 15, and that her sister Martha Elizabeth had married his brother William T. McGahey, thus their children were double first cousins. Another interesting consequence is that, as the oldest child married at 15, Mary Amanda's own three children were born before or at the same time as her younger three brothers, John Madison, William Dan, and Franklin Henderson.

Her first husband was killed in the war in 1862 and eight years later Mary Amanda married Uriah B. Dobbins, a widower with two girls, Alfa Viola and Luxie Leatus Dobbins. Their mother, his first wife, was Margaret S. Henderson, Mary Amanda's first cousin, the daughter of her father's brother, John Elam Henderson. So, his two daughters and her three children, Margaret Selina, William Kelsey and James Milton McGahey, were cousins as well as stepbrothers and sisters. William Kelsey died at the age of 10 before the family moved to Texas.

Mary and Uriah had three children—William Washington, Irma Teresa,\* and Essie Lorilla—bringing the household total to eight that made the move to Texas. They had a fourth child, Sally Jane, in Texas.

The hour was now late and my head was spinning as we followed the taillights of Eunice's car over the country roads back to Tyler. I had so many names and relationships racing through my mind. But, perhaps most amazing to me was that I, who had never counted my kinship beyond my grandmother in Oklahoma had this day become a great-great-great grandson of a family stretching back through 200 years in Texas . . . to Alabama . . . to North Carolina. As I lay down that night I had a new sense of Self and of belonging.

\*KERIN'S NOTE: The spelling of Teresa may have been Teresa, but I have not been able to confirm either spelling for sure. I've left the spelling alone in the Hensleys' story, but I've spelled it Irma Teresa elsewhere for consistency.

# Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell

Compiled by genealogist Carla Richardson Stuckey, great-granddaughter-in-law of Will and Dora Henderson

**Born:** 25 August 1859 **Died:** 8 September 1922

**Parents:** James Robert Mitchell and Elizabeth Tucker Mitchell

**Spouse:** William Basil Perkins<sup>1</sup> (first husband)

William Daniel Henderson (second husband)

Rebecca Isadora Elizabeth Mitchell,<sup>2</sup> commonly called Dora, was born in Perry County, Alabama, according to research by some relatives.

Dora was married first to William B. Perkins. They had three daughters—Eva, Lovie and Willie. Mr. Perkins died and she married William Daniel Henderson. They had five children including a set of twins. One of the twins stayed on this earth only a short time. Lois Pearl was born in September of 1896 and died in May of 1897 shortly before she was nine months old.

A story about Dora was related by her granddaughter, Eugenia Henderson Stuckey. Eugenia heard it from her mother, Louise Boaz Henderson. Her grandfather, William Daniel Henderson, who was known as Will, had a reputation of being very tight with money. One day Dora asked him for some money. He said he didn't have any. Dora knew that he hid his money above the door facing, so she took some. A few days later she noticed that her husband looked like he was pouting. She asked him why he looked so glum and he said, "Somebody got some of my money." Dora replied, "They can't have any of your money. You don't have any."

Another time Dora was in town and found she needed some money. She went to the bank and asked the banker, "Does Will Henderson have any money in your bank?" The banker said, "Yes, he does." Dora then asked, "Could I get a little of it?" The banker said, "Yes, you sure can."

Thelma Louise Boaz Henderson, known to the family as Granny Lou, was Dora's daughter-in-law. Granny Lou said that when she married Paul Henderson, Will and Dora's youngest son, Dora was in poor health and died about a month after they were married.

Dora is buried in Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lindale, Texas.



*Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins Henderson, called "Dora." (1859-1922)*



*William Daniel Henderson (1858-1929)*

- 1 KERIN'S NOTE: Author had this spelled "Basel," but subsequent research reveals his uncle and great-grandfather had the first name "Basil," making it the more likely spelling.
- 2 Vivian's note: Dora Henderson's name is Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora instead of Rebecca Isadora Elizabeth. The confusion is a result of her always being called Dora. The mix-up seems to be solved with the discovery that she gave her name on her marriage license application to William B. Perkins as "E. R. I. Mitchell."



# PART 5

## Bethesda Church & Cemetery Now

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# Historical Marker Dedication

Sunday, June 12, 1994

The Bethesda Church and Bethesda Cemetery Association marker from the Texas Historical Commission was dedicated on Sunday, June 12, 1994, at the 113th annual reunion. The plaque reads:

## Texas Historical Commission

### BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY

In 1879 William Lee Henderson (b. 1808), his wife Eleanor Shelby (b. 1817), and their nine children moved from their Alabama home to Texas by wagon train. Church records indicate worship services were held in a shelter built by the Hendersons shortly after they settled here.

At the Hendersons' request the East Texas Presbytery officially recognized the new congregation as the Lindale Presbyterian Church in March 1881. Its name was changed to Bethesda in 1885, for a church the Hendersons had established in Perry County, Alabama.

William's son, Franklin Smith Henderson, was buried here on family land in 1881. Other interments near Franklin's grave site, including that of his father William in 1883, formed the nucleus of this cemetery, which from the beginning has been a community burial place. A cemetery association was organized in 1905. Among those buried here are veterans of the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

The congregation erected a new sanctuary at this site in 1895 which was enlarged in 1959. Descendants of the original Henderson family and of other area pioneers buried in the cemetery have gathered here each summer for many decades for a reunion and other religious and social activities. (1994)



*Texas Historic Landmark plaque from the Texas Historical Commission for Bethesda Presbyterian Church and Cemetery.*



*Official presentation of the historical marker by Jerry Shamburger, president of the Smith County Historical Association, on June 12, 1994.*

Jerry Shamburger, president of the Smith County Historical Association, made the official presentation of the Texas State Historical Marker during Memorial Day Ceremonies on June 12, 1994.

The marker was unveiled by the oldest living descendant of the original founders of Bethesda church and cemetery.

Representing

Mary Amanda Henderson  
McGahey Dobbins:

**Eunice Sybil  
Kennedy McKay** for  
the McGaheys, and  
**Roserma Hensley  
Arnold** for the  
Dobbins.

Martha Elizabeth  
Henderson McGahey:

**Elvira Ferguson Ford**

Joseph Asmon Henderson:

**Mildred Henderson  
Davey**

Hattie Henderson Crews:

**Helen Crews Shores**

William Daniel  
Henderson:

**Dora Hawkins Gregg**

All are granddaughters of the founders except Eunice Sybil Kennedy McKay, a great-granddaughter.



*The marker was unveiled by these descendants of Bethesda founders. Front row: Dora Hawkins Gregg, Roserma Hensley Arnold, and Elvira Ferguson Ford. Back row: Eunice Sybil Kennedy McKay, Helen Crews Shores, and Mildred Henderson Davey.*



*Oldest descendants of the Bethesda Church founders are joined by the newest generation.*

# Historical Marker Application

*KERIN'S NOTE: Vivian Anderson Castleberry wrote the following report as part of the application process for the Bethesda Church and Cemetery historical marker in Lindale, Texas, in 1993. I asked her to tell me a little more about it, and here is her story, via e-mail, July 2014:*

After I chaired the first International Women's Peace Conference in Dallas in 1988, I spent the next couple of years traveling to and from Russia and being very involved in the peace movement. Then I tried moving to the lake to be with your grandfather and his mother and at the time became the "matriarch" of my mother's East Texas family. I enlarged the annual reunions, wrote and mailed a newsletter which I called "The Now and Then Henderson Herald," and interviewed cousins galore who still lived in the area for their word-of-mouth memories.

At some point along the way I determined that the Bethesda Cemetery should have a state historical marker and began to accumulate information to make it happen. Your grandfather got very involved along with me. He and I made countless trips from the lake house in Chandler to Bethesda in Lindale. We walked and rewalked the cemetery, using what few existing records we could find to determine grave sites.

I asked for and received information from the State Historical Association about securing a marker. I was told by several people with whom I conferred that receiving a marker was not easy and that nobody they knew had received one on the first try. I read and reread the requirements and began to write and edit the document that you have. I crossed every "t" and dotted every "i," mailed the papers and waited.

Eureka! It all came together in late 1993 or early 1994 when we received word that we had been approved—and on our first try!—and we dedicated

the marker that year at the annual family reunion and Bethesda Memorial Services. The oldest surviving individual from each of the original "children" who settled in the area unveiled the marker.

## The Application

BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
1879–1993  
and  
BETHESDA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION,  
1905–1993

Bethesda Presbyterian Church was established in 1879 by members of the Henderson family shortly after they arrived in East Texas from Perry County, Alabama.<sup>1</sup> The new arrivals were William Lee (January 4, 1808 to December 10, 1883) and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson (November 27, 1817 to October 8, 1900), all nine of their adult sons and daughters, a few other family members and one family of their friends. After their first worship services, they petitioned the East Texas Presbytery for permission to make official what they had already established.

In the fall of 1880 the Presbytery granted the request and a committee composed of the Rev. W. R. McLelland and Elders J. M. Shelby and Thomas Niblack were appointed as the committee. They met first in the fall of 1880, and on March 26, 1881, the church was officially recognized as the Lindale Presbyterian Church.<sup>2</sup>

Its name was changed to Bethesda in 1885, in honor of a church by the same name the family had established in Perry County, Alabama.<sup>3</sup>

Charter members were Wm. L. (William Lee) Henderson, E. S. (Eleanor Selina) Henderson, S. J. (Sarah Jane) Henderson, F. S. (Franklin Smith) Henderson, W. T. (William T.) McGahey, M. E. (Martha Elizabeth Henderson) McGahey,

1 Henderson, William Daniel, Journal, Nov. 9, 1879—Nov. 28, 1879, from Heiberger, AL, to Vicksburg, MS.

2 Department of History (Montreat), The Presbyterian Study Center, Montreat, "History of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Smith County, TX.

3 East Texas Presbytery, Session records, Fall 1985.

Lilly McGahey, (James Milton) McGahey, Viola Dobbins, Thomas A. Love, Frances A. Love (spelled Jas. Francis on the records), J. A. (Joseph Asmon) Henderson, Mrs. S. J. (Samantha Jane LaGrone) Henderson, Hugh C. Henderson and Mrs. Hugh (Mary Elizabeth) Henderson.<sup>4</sup> The first 10 transferred letters from the Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Heiberger, Alabama, and the latter six moved their letters from the First Presbyterian Church in Tyler, which had been organized April 3, 1870.

Committeeman J. M. Shelby had also been a key person in the organization of the Tyler church.<sup>5</sup> He was doubly related to the Hendersons. He was Eleanor's brother (they were the son and daughter of Moses and Mary Ann Knox Shelby) and his wife, the former Amanda Ann Henderson, was William's sister. (They were the daughter and son of John Lee I and Ann Sample Henderson).

William L. Henderson and his oldest son, Joseph A. Henderson, were named elders, the father previously ordained and the latter ordained and installed. Thomas A. Love and F. S. Henderson were elected, ordained and installed as deacons.<sup>6</sup>

"The church was then declared fully equipped for duty and the blessing of the Holy Trinity invoked upon it."<sup>7</sup>

Bethesda Church and cemetery are located 4.2 miles northeast of Lindale, on FM 2710 on property donated by Mary Amanda Henderson McGahey Dobbins, oldest child of the Hendersons, and by William Daniel Henderson, eighth of the Hendersons' nine daughters and sons.<sup>8</sup> The church and cemetery received additional property in 1985

from the heirs of William Daniel Henderson.<sup>9</sup>

Immediately following the organization of the church, Franklin Smith Henderson told his father that the family should establish a cemetery. At age 21 and a newly installed deacon, Franklin was the youngest of the Henderson children. In a strange quirk of fate, he died on October 15, 1881, before the cemetery could be laid out. He was buried on the Henderson property and his grave, fenced and tended by his brothers, became the nucleus of Bethesda cemetery, which from the first was a community burial place.<sup>10</sup>

No records exist of the first house of worship, but notes by Rev. Thomas Ward White, evangelist of the Presbytery, during the summer of 1895, provide this information:

"All the members, with perhaps one exception, are children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of one family, which moving to Texas in December of 1879, erected a shelter and obtained the service of a shepherd."<sup>11</sup>

On July 14, 1895, a new house of worship had been completed and was dedicated. With minor additions and improvements, all of which are in meticulous congruity with the original structure, the house of worship remains in 1993 exactly what it was in 1895.

The original building was 48 (evidence is that this figure is erroneous and should, instead, be 68) by 32 by 14 feet in dimension and was described as "one of the largest and most commodious houses of worship in Eastern Texas. It was capable of "comfortably seating no less than 300 persons." Both the building and the pews cost "about \$600," all of which was paid before the dedication services.<sup>12</sup> The plans and the construction of the church and the design and building of the pews were done by family members, most of whom were—and continue to be—talented carpenters and wood workers.

4 Department of History (Montreat), The Presbyterian Study Center, Montreat, NC, Eastern Texas Presbytery, Fall 1880.

5 Dickey, William Nathaniel, "Tyler Work", a historical paper. The Rev. Dickey was an organizing pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tyler, TX who wrote the piece shortly before his death in 1905.

6 Eastern Texas Presbytery at Longview, "Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Smith County, Texas, 1890. Records on file at Department of History (Montreat), Montreat, NC.

7 Ibid, Session Records. Vol. I, pp. 1 and 2.

8 Special Warranty Deed, State of Texas, County of Smith, Vol. 28, p. 261, recorded March 30, 1882.

9 Ibid, 23619, vol. 2573, p. 37.

10 Jones, Leila B., The Lindale News, May 14, 1959. Cemetery Records Smith County Texas, Vol. II, Northwest Quarter, Bethesda Cemetery, p. 24, copied May 6, 1882 Smith County Historical Society, Tyler, TX.

11 White, Thomas Ward, "Dedication Services at Bethesda Church," the Christian Observer, Louisville, KY, Summer 1895.

12 Ibid.

“The exterior is painted white and, situated in the midst of a beautiful grove of oaks, is quite attractive as you approach from any direction,” the Rev. White wrote of the original structure.<sup>13</sup>

The same remains true after almost 100 years. The church has always been white, has been carefully maintained and continues to function. It is painted every three to five years. The additions include (1) a small covered porch on the front braced by square columns topped with white grillework completed in 1939–40,<sup>14</sup> (2) indoor plumbing, two bathrooms, a small kitchen and three Sunday School rooms added at the back of the church in 1959,<sup>15</sup> and (3) air conditioning installed in 1990.<sup>16</sup>

Understanding the need, very early, for the church and cemetery to function as separate entities, a cemetery association was organized on May 23, 1905.<sup>17</sup> The minutes of its first meeting reveal:

“The community interested in the semetry met and after cleaning off the yard all agreed to work the yard by taxation and went in to election of officers: J. M. Henderson, Pres; H. C. Crews, Sect-tr.; J. M. Hicks, T. C. Pierce, W. S. Cole, E. L. Howard, W. J. Wadell, comitie. The comitie employed F. L. Starnes to superentend the work on the yard at one and 50 cts per day.”

Thus, John Madison Henderson, William Lee and Eleanor Selina’s seventh child and second son, became the founding president of the Bethesda Cemetery Association. Since then, the presidents and committee members have been representative of the larger community.

When the association was formed, nine family members, most of them founders of the church and cemetery and other founding members already lay in their graves—Franklin Smith Henderson in 1881; Thomas A. Love in 1882; William T. McGahey in

1883; Jesse Edwin Crews in 1883; William Lee Henderson in 1883; Hugh C. Henderson in 1885; Frances A. Love in 1893; Joseph Asmon Henderson in 1895; Martha Elizabeth Henderson McGahey in 1896; Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson-Taft in 1896 and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson in 1900.<sup>18</sup>

All but two of the original adult Hendersons and their spouses who migrated from Alabama to Texas in 1879 are buried at Bethesda. Mary Amanda Henderson Dobbins (whose first husband, John F. McGahey, was killed in the Civil War) and her husband, Uriah B. Dobbins, moved to Indian Territory and are both buried in Wynnewood Cemetery in Oklahoma.<sup>19</sup> Margaret Isabelle Henderson Arendell and her husband, John Wesley Arendell, moved to Central Texas and are buried in the Gause, Texas, cemetery.<sup>20</sup>

Family member founders of the church, their spouses, in addition to those who were deceased when the association was formed, who are buried at Bethesda are Martha Jane Vining Henderson, wife of John Madison Henderson, who died in 1913; Elizabeth Rebecca Isadora Mitchell Perkins Henderson, wife of William Daniel Henderson, who died in 1922; Mary Elizabeth Henderson, wife of Hugh C. Henderson, who died in 1925; Harriet Caroline Henderson Crews, who died in 1929; William Daniel Henderson, who died in 1929; Henry Calvin Crews, husband of Sarah Jane Henderson Crews, who died in 1929, John Madison Henderson who died in 1939 and Sarah Jane Henderson Crews who died in 1941.<sup>21</sup>

The Bethesda Cemetery Association has been administered and operated solely on freewill contributions. It has never charged anyone for burial space. It has held a meeting annually since 1905 and elected officers who administer all policies.

The financial report on May 31, 1993, showed a balance of \$48,573.81.<sup>22</sup>

13 Ibid.

14 Shores, Helen, a third-generation member of the church, daughter of Dolphus Crews, son of Harriet Caroline Crews Henderson.

15 Jones, Leila B., “History of Bethesda Presbyterian Church,” *Lindale News*, May 14, 1959.

16 Bethesda Cemetery Association records, June 9, 1991.

17 Ibid, May 23, 1905.

18 Bethesda Cemetery records, Smith County Historical Society, Tyler, TX.

19 Wynnewood, OK, cemetery, Wynnewood, OK.

20 Gause Cemetery, Gause, TX.

21 Bethesda Cemetery records, Smith County Historical Society, Tyler, TX.

22 Bethesda Cemetery Association, Financial Report, May 31, 1993.

In the early years, the cemetery was cared for by community and family members. Once each year, on the Thursday following the third Sunday in July, everybody gathered to “work” the cemetery, hold its annual meeting and enjoy each other’s company. At noon, a picnic was spread on tables under the oak trees. In 1964, because of changing lifestyles—many interested people had moved away and could not leave their jobs to return to Bethesda on a weekday—the annual meeting was moved to the second Sunday in June. At the beginning of the association, some of the heavy work—mowing and watering—was done by paid individuals. For the past 28 years Roy Whan Shores, a great-grandson of Harriet Caroline Henderson Crews, has chaired the committee administering the “yard work.”

Improvements in the cemetery have been made by interested volunteers, the actual out-of-pocket expenses paid by the association. For many years Emmett Henderson, in honor of his parents, Hugh C. and Mary Elizabeth Henderson, provided landscape expertise and plantings from the nursery he owned in Athens.<sup>23</sup> In 1953 a beautification committee composed of Nora Fleming Mallory, Mae Kimerly, Mattie Lou Hall, and Helen Crews Shores erected a chain link fence with an arched gate around the cemetery, total cost \$978.50.<sup>24</sup>

The association meeting, a worship service, reminders of those who have been buried in the past year combine to make the second Sunday in June special for those who attend from many points in Texas and several other states. Many surviving family members roam among the tombstones; some place flowers on the graves of their deceased members. At noon, under the spreading oaks, survivors continue to spread lavish lunches on three 45-foot-long concrete tables, to recall past good times and plan for the future. Past oversights and hurt feelings dissolve in the camaraderie of the day.

On the world’s wide stage, the founding of Bethesda Presbyterian Church and the Bethesda Cemetery Association in East Texas may be negligible. But, in a larger sense, it is the presence and

actions of such institutions through the individuals who belong to and administer them that are the foundation, fabric, functions and faith indigenous to a great United States of America.

What was the world like back then? It was a slower-paced universe, but even then straining toward explosive growth and creativity in the soon-to-arrive Twentieth Century.

In 1879, while the Hendersons were bringing all of their worldly possessions from Alabama to Texas in a train of five wagons, Ibsen wrote “A Doll’s House,” a play that continues to impress and impact audiences. A new poet, Robert Louis Stevenson, gave the world “Travels with a Donkey,” Renoir painted “Mme. Charpentier and her Children.” In Berlin, the first electric tram was exhibited and London got its first telephone. Albert Einstein was born and in Oslo, Norway, the first large-scale skiing contest was held. And in Russia, two men who would dominate the future world scene, Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin, were born.<sup>25</sup>

In 1890, when the newly arrived Smith County Hendersons were buying property, planting their first crops and establishing Bethesda, James A. Garfield was elected president of the United States. The “Uncle Remus” children’s stories, written by J. C. Harris, were introduced and Lew Wallace wrote the all-time epic, “Ben Hur.” Helen Keller, blind and deaf from an early age, was born to become one of the world’s most significant educators and writers. Rodin completed “the Thinker,” a world-renowned sculpture. Thomas A. Edison and J. W. Swan independently devised the world’s first practical electrical lights and New York City hastened to be the first city to install electric street lighting. Pasteur developed a cholera vaccine; Andrew Carnegie developed the first steel furnace. Canned foods first appeared on grocery store shelves. Parcel post was introduced in England and bingo was developed from an Italian lottery game.<sup>26</sup>

Doubtless, the teetotaling, non-gambling, Presbyterian Hendersons, if they knew about the game at all, considered it the work of the devil.

23 Hawkins, Minnie Lee Henderson, “History of Bethesda Cemetery,” a paper delivered at the annual Memorial Services, July 21, 1956.

24 Ibid.

25 Grun, Bernard, *The Timetable of History*, published in the United States by Simon and Schuster, New York, 1975.

26 Ibid.

In 1881 when the first grave was mounded on the Henderson property for their young son, Franklin Smith, President Garfield had been dead for 26 days, after being shot by an assassin. In that year, the Vatican archives were opened to scholars for the first time, Pablo Picasso was born, Monet painted "Sunshine and Snow," Brahms wrote his famous "Academic Festival Overture," and the Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions was formed.<sup>27</sup>

In the South, the Civil War was over, but devastation and bitterness lingered. The Hendersons' two oldest daughters, Mary Amanda and Martha Elizabeth, had lost young husbands fighting for the Confederate States of America, two among the 646,392 casualties of the Civil War. Mary Amanda's second husband, Uriah B. Dobbins, had returned from his CSA service.

The Bethesda Presbyterian church the Hendersons and their neighbors founded in Perry County, Alabama, was devastated by the sudden removal of exactly half of its active participants when 29 men, women and children moved to Texas. It never recovered from this exodus and on October 4, 1900, Presbytery dissolved the church. In 1904 the building burned.<sup>28</sup> The only remnant of the past thriving place of worship is the Bethesda/Wallace Cemetery high on a weed-covered hill not far from Heiberger in northern Perry County where the locked post office hovers among the brambles, business buildings are abandoned and only a smattering of houses suggest that it once was a thriving community.

Many families in the southern states of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina hung CWT signs on their homes in the days of post civil-war and reconstruction. The Hendersons, who were cautious as well as concerned about advancement for the family, made careful plans and did not lightly post a "Gone to Texas" sign. The oldest son, Joseph Asmon and his wife, Samantha Jane, came first to Texas, in 1874, joining the Shelbys and LaGrones, his parents' brother and sister and her grandparents.

They canvassed the territory and selected the near-Lindale site where the family could build homes, establish a place of worship and put down roots.

The Lindale area was a propitious choice. The International and Great Northern Railroad had announced its intention to lay a line though the area that would open it to the world. The woods were full of wild game, the Sabine River full of catfish. The land was virgin, eager for fruit crops that would soon grow prolifically—berries of all kinds, peaches, pears, apples, watermelons, cantaloupe; vegetables of every description. The men farmed the land growing the cotton that they had learned about in Alabama, and corn for the livestock. It would be some years before succeeding generations would learn about diversified agriculture and would turn their parcels of inherited property into cattle raising.

Now, annually, a Henderson family reunion held on the Saturday preceding the second Sunday of June, so that family descendants who come from faraway places can be present for both the family reunion on Saturday and Memorial Services on Sunday. In 1992, 90 people attended the reunion. In 1993, 128 were present. Several of the 1993 participants came for the first time because the family reunion was held in Lindale where many still reside.<sup>29</sup>

In East Texas, almost every other state of the union and into the world the Hendersons continue to populate the earth to the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and now the eighth generations. One eight-generation Henderson family in Texas through the oldest daughter includes (1) William Lee and Eleanor Ann Selina Shelby Henderson (both deceased); (2) Mary Amanda Henderson and John F. McGahey, (both deceased); (3) James Milton McGahey and Alice Sophia Way McGahey (both deceased); (4) Linnie Pearl McGahey Kennedy and James Grady Kennedy (both deceased); (5) Eunice Sybil Kennedy McKay and Bennie Clyde McKay (he is deceased); (6) Sandra Joy (7) Kathryn Lynn and (8) Tiffany Renee.<sup>30</sup>

The cemetery is the resting place of numerous

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Marshall, James Williams, *Presbyterian Churches in Alabama 1811–1936*, Part I, pp. 234–236, The Cooling Spring Press, Montreat, NC, 1985.

<sup>29</sup> Attendance records maintained annually by family members in permanent file.

<sup>30</sup> McKay, Eunice Sybil Kennedy and daughters Sandra Coulter and Jean Taylor, genealogical records.

men who served their country during wars. Three veterans of the Confederate States of America—William S. Cole, William H. Lyons, and Thomas Spencer—are buried at Bethesda. Eight veterans of World War I and 19 of World War II are buried there.<sup>31</sup>

Henderson family members excel in almost every career and profession, many unaware of their connections back to the Hendersons of Bethesda. They continue to be law-abiding, service-oriented and community contributing. They are or have been involved in careers that include every letter of the alphabet from A to Z: agriculture and armed services, business, banking and barbering, carpentry and communications, dairying and dentistry, education and electrical work, foreign enterprise, geology, health, industrial development, jurisprudence, kibitzing (they are very good at that!), labor and law, manufacturing, mechanics and the ministry, nursing and news reporting, office management and oratory, photography and psychology, quilting, real estate, singing, secretaries and sales, travel consulting, utility company employees and university students, victualers, woodworkers and waitresses, youth counselors and zoologists.

*KERIN'S NOTE: Following this report in the application was a section labeled "Family Contributions" which introduced a few currently-living members of the family and told more about their lives, families, and careers. I have not included it here for privacy.*

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31 Bethesda Cemetery Association records.

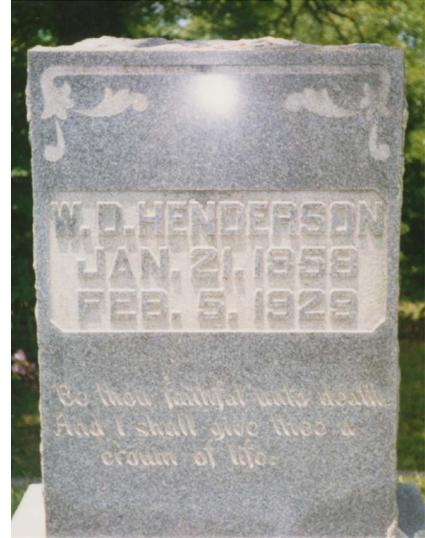
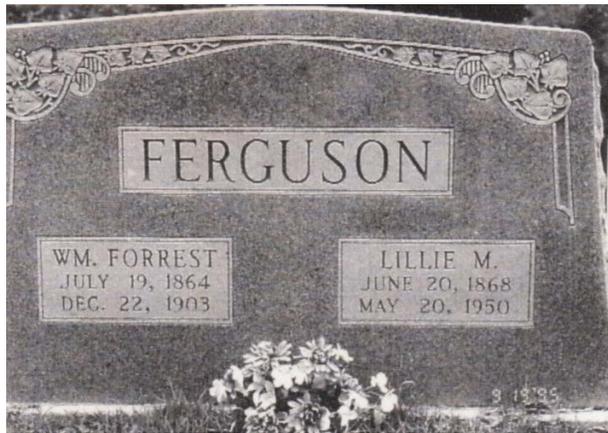
# Charter Member Graves

All but one of the charter members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church are buried in its cemetery, which includes W. T. McGahey, M. E. McGahey, Lillie McGahey (Ferguson), W. D. Henderson, E. S. Henderson, S. J. Henderson (Crews), F. S. Henderson, Jas. McGahey, Thomas A. Love, Francis A. Love, J. A. Henderson, S. J. Henderson, Hugh C. Henderson and Mary Elizabeth Henderson. Only Viola Dobbins is buried elsewhere.

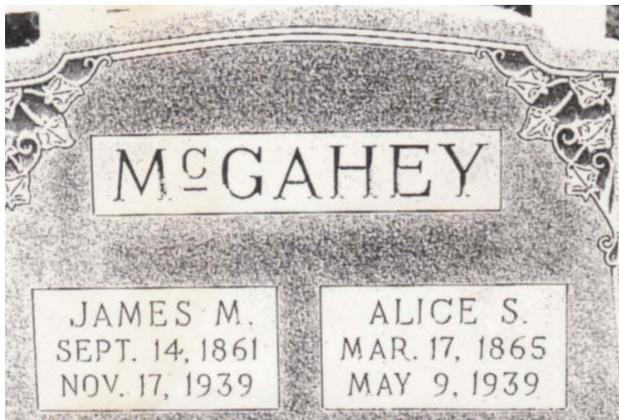
- **William Lee Henderson** (1808-1883) and **Eleanor Shelby Henderson** (1834-1883).  
*[KERIN'S NOTE: At some point, Vivian told me that Eleanor's name is misspelled on the gravestone, that it definitely was Eleanor, not Elenor.]*
- Their youngest son **Franklin Smith Henderson** (1860-1881).
- **William T. McGahey** (1834-1883), and **Martha Elizabeth Henderson McGahey** (1842-1896)
- Their daughter **Lillie Mae McGahey Ferguson** (1868-1950). Her husband William Forrest Ferguson (1864-1903), was not a charter member of the church.
- **William Daniel Henderson** (1858-1929).
- **Joseph Asmon Henderson** (1847-1885)
- **Samantha Jane LaGrone Henderson Taft** (1854-1896)
- **Hugh C. Henderson** (1848-1885) and **Mary Elizabeth Henderson** (1844-1925)  
*[Hugh Cunningham Henderson was a cousin of the nine Henderson children. He was the son of William Lee's brother, John Elam Henderson. He married Mary Elizabeth Stephens.]*
- **Sarah (Sallie) Jane Henderson Crews** (1853-1941). Her husband Henry Calvin Crews (1857-1929) was not a charter member.
- **James Milton McGahey** (1861-1939). His wife Alice S. McGahey (1865-1939) was not a charter member.
- **Thomas A. Love** (1833-1882)
- **Frances A. "Fannie" Love** (1842-1893)

A full list of graves at Bethesda Cemetery is found on Findagrave.com at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GScid=1030640> and a separate listing is at <http://www.usgwarchives.net/tx/cemph/smith/smitbeth.htm>.





Graves of charter members,  
photographed by Vivian in  
1988 and 1990.



*Graves of charter members, photographed by Vivian in 1988 and 1990.*

# Index

Because this is a genealogical work, this index is a bit unconventional. I've indexed names based on how they appear most often in this book (maiden or married name, given name or nickname). I've used See cross-references in many cases to cover name variations. I've added (Given Name), "Familiar Name," and (m. Married Name) where applicable..

Living people are only indexed if they appeared in the text with a last name (with some exceptions).

**Bold** page numbers indicate photographs.

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