FAMILY HISTORIES
OF
BENNETT ALLEN NANCE
AND
ARCHIE CARLISLE LEBUS

Compiled and Written
by
Lucy Ann Nance Croft
Dedication

This book is dedicated to my parents, Bennett and Archie LeBus Nance, who inspired my love of home and family.

*Like branches on a tree, our lives may grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.* ~ Anonymous
Acknowledgments

It has been my experience that genealogy research is a collaborative effort. I have greatly valued the information shared by other researchers, personally, on the internet and in books. Though it is impossible to express my appreciation to all these people individually, there are several persons who deserve my special thanks.

Jim W. Kuhlman is a treasured friend of the Nance family, and I am so grateful for his wonderful gift to our family - The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch. Thanks to my distant "cousins," Wayne Calk, Nena Smothers and Patte Wood who were so generous in sharing their family research via phone calls and email messages. Sincere thanks to my dear friend, Joyce Barton, for editing my manuscript. I believe it was labor of love on her part!

Last, but by no means least, I thank my husband, L.K. Croft. Even though he does not share my interest in genealogy research, he shows his appreciation for my favorite pastime by lending his support and encouragement.
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Introduction

In 1999 a curious thing happened - I was bitten by the “genealogy bug.” I did not realize it at the time, but its bite can be quite serious! As other victims might attest, you may not feel its effect immediately, but gradually over a period of time, you begin to experience the consequences. Let me tell you a little about how this occurred and then resulted in my developing a fascinating new hobby.

After retirement in 1998 we moved from Dallas to the Boerne, Texas area. As my husband, L.K., and I settled into our new life we began making friends and discovering all sorts of things about our new community. There was a notice in the newspaper about a seminar in family history research sponsored by the local genealogy society. We noted that it was for beginners and that definitely included us. Neither of us knew much about genealogy and thought it might be an interesting endeavor. We attended the classes, held once a week for eight weeks, and found them very informative. By the end of the seminar L.K. had already realized this type of pastime was not his bailiwick, but it appealed to me a great deal. I did not know it right away, but I had been bitten by the “genealogy bug.”

Like other budding genealogists, I wanted to get the ball rolling and find information to fill in those pedigree charts and family group sheets. In a very short time I came to the realization that I had a lot to learn about this new hobby along with a vast amount of researching ahead of me - but I was hooked!

During these last years I have spent countless hours clicking into various websites or in the library perusing books that might have information about my ancestors. My family tree is gradually filling with more and more names of grandparents along with the greats and great, greats and their descendants. Whenever possible I add their birth, marriage and death dates. Oh, the size of those families back in those days! Communicating with others with whom I share ancestors is particularly enjoyable because so many of these folks have been at this task much longer than I and are very willing to share information. An invaluable source has been my membership in the world’s largest family history resource – Ancestry.com. And yes, I attended seminars where I met other people involved in family history research. It is obvious that I have found genealogy to be a fun and challenging hobby!

One of the first lessons of genealogy research is to look through family memorabilia. Luckily, my father wrote a short history of his life which has been invaluable to me. Along with that, Jim Kuhlman, a friend of my Uncle George Nance, wrote a wonderful book entitled, The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch - a treasure trove of Nance genealogical information. What a gift he gave our family! With his permission, I have used his book as a major source for my work. Another marvelous thing is that my mother kept many photo albums and scrapbooks. I do not think I appreciated them so much until I began delving into family history. Now I have been able to finally identify many of those unknown faces.

Even though my family history research is not complete, I have reached a point where I
want to move beyond the pedigree charts and family group sheets and bring my research on several generations together in a way that will be meaningful to my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. At the same time, I want to make clear that this is not an exhaustive family history. Hopefully our family tree will grow as others join me in researching our common ancestors and add new information. It is definitely true that our genealogy work is never done. “Brick walls” are tumbled and there is always another ancestor or another generation to research.

I have read that we do not really know ourselves until we have some understanding of our predecessors, particularly those in our own family history. “Digging in my roots” certainly allowed me to do this. Hopefully some of these dear souls have passed along their strong genes! In my search of the facts about my distant relatives, I have found two great, great grandfathers who were citizens of the Republic of Texas and one was a friend of both Sam Houston and James Bowie (of Alamo fame). My great, great grandfather Nance was both a landowner and a coal miner in Illinois, but in about 1855 he left there and traveled 900 miles to Texas with a wife and a large family. Two of my great grandfathers fought in the Civil War (Confederacy) and both of my grandfathers were colorful, daring men involved in the early days of the oil industry in Texas.

It has been of particular interest to me to get acquainted with the women in my family history and gain a better understanding of the lives they led. However, it is sometimes more difficult to find verified information about the females in history. Before my generation, mothers and daughters had little identity outside their families. Many had few legally claimed rights and remained faceless. It seems that so much written history has been dominated by males. Fortunately, this is changing and we are able to find more research and writings about our foremothers. Here is a comment from the book Texas Women On The Cattle Trails edited by Sara R. Massey; “Historians of women’s studies, in a desire to be more inclusive of the women traditionally left out of Western histories, have, over the last thirty years, provided a new view of Western women as integral participants in the creations of the West.”
(Preface, 5)

In my case, when it has been near to impossible to find good documentation on a female ancestor, I have tried to “read between the lines” of some of the facts, such as dates of births, marriages and deaths or family lore passed down from generation to generation. I felt compelled to make an educated guess about how circumstances may have affected her life. At the same time, I have tried to make sure the reader understands this is undocumented information. Some purists might say that mixing a bit of fiction with the facts is a “no-no,” but I imagine that even historians make assumptions from time to time.

For example, one of the most fascinating women was my great, great grandmother who was born in Tennessee and, according to family lore, was part Cherokee. We have not been able to document her ancestry, but I do believe there must be some truth in the matter because so many of her descendants from various family lines and sources have heard the stories about Mary Jane Upton, daughter of the Cherokee woman and a British soldier.

I believe both of my grandmothers were remarkable women. Even though we visited occasionally in my lifetime, I do not feel that I really knew them or understood much
about their early lives. Their husbands were men with strong entrepreneurial spirit and great determination which undoubtedly influenced their personal relationships and family life. They may have been ordinary women, but they endured some extraordinary obstacles. Each had large families, and while rearing their children, they moved all around Texas setting up new households in very rustic circumstances. As a mother myself I cannot imagine the difficulties they endured and am amazed by their apparent strength!

Spending time delving in my family history and searching to verify what the facts are and what they are not is both interesting and challenging. As I look back on my ancestors and their lives and accomplishments, I see they were a strong and courageous lot. Life is so vastly different today that glimpsing into the lives they led has been fascinating, and at times, almost beyond belief. Genealogy is certainly an eye-opening endeavor and amid the facts and figures there is always the possibility of a surprise or two. Along with the surprises come a myriad of unanswered questions. It is my hope that this family story will interest those who follow me so they will understand this is their story, too - but an unfinished one. It is my dream they will be inspired to keep adding to and telling the story.

Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2010
PART ONE

BENNETT ALLEN NANCE

FAMILY HISTORY
PART ONE - Bennett Allen Nance Family History

Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 8
Ancestry of Bennett Allen Nance

In researching my Nance family ancestry I have discovered this surname to be quite a common one. This work focuses on the family histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus; George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward; Lewis Camerer Nance and Charity Melvina May; and Edward H. Nance and Margaret Camerer.

Other related surnames are Anderson, Camerer, Hinch, LeBus, May, Montgomery, Upton and Woodward.

At the time of this writing (2014) I have not been able to find information about the parents and siblings of Edward H. Nance, and therefore, I have not made a connection with our Nance ancestors who first came to America or their country of origin. In his book The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch, Jim W. Kuhlman says the generally accepted tradition of researchers is that Nance ancestors were French Huguenots and fled France to England during the Huguenot persecutions in the 1500's.

Variations in the spelling of the surname include Nance, Nans, Nanse, Nantes, Nantz, Nantze and Nanz.

Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2014

Nance Coat of Arms Information

"SEMPER-EADEM" - Meaning "Always the Same"

See Nance Genealogy Clearinghouse article on this Coat of Arms.
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~nancegc/nnc_arms.htm
Chapter One

Bennett Allen Nance
Chapter One - Bennett Allen Nance

Pedigree Chart for Bennett Allen Nance

Edward H. Nance
b. Abt. 1810 in Virginia, USA
m. 30 Oct 1834 in Edgar, Illinois, USA
d. Bet. 1866–1869 in Texas, USA

Margaret Cammarror or Cameron
b. Abt. 1815 in Pennsylvania or Ohio, USA
d. Abt. 1892 in Texas, USA

George Edward Nance
b. 28 Feb 1865 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
m. 24 Jan 1889 in Lavaca, Texas, USA
d. 04 Feb 1937 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA

George May
b. 13 Sep 1798 in North Carolina, Tennessee, USA
m. 18 Feb 1825 in Chattanooga, Hamilton, Tennessee, USA
d. 1851 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Mary Jane Upton
b. 23 Mar 1805 in Tennessee, USA
d. 19 Feb 1898 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Bennett Allen Nance
b. 23 Dec 1861 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA
m. 01 Jan 1885 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA
d. 17 Feb 1924 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA

John Southern or Sidney Woodward
b. 13 Jan 1844 in Hallettsville, Colorado, Texas, USA
m. 29 Jan 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA
d. 16 Oct 1916 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Jacob T. Woodard
b. 14 Feb 1806 in Marion, South Carolina, USA
m. Bevt. 1836
d. 69 Jan 1864 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Lucinda Ann Hinsh
b. 17 Jan 1820 in Missouri, USA
d. 23 Jan 1877 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward
b. 13 Dec 1809 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
d. 03 Mar 1867 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie, Texas, USA

Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson
b. 29 Apr 1846 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, USA
d. Abt. 1892 in Lavaca, Texas, USA

Richard Jordan Anderson
b. Abt. 1802 in Virginia, USA
m. 12 Nov 1830 in St. Landry, Louisiana, USA
d. Abt. 1892 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Anna Montgomery
b. 1810 in Georgia, USA
d. 17 May 1898 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
Chapter One - Bennett Allen Nance

Bennett Allen Nance

Bennett Allen Nance was born December 23, 1901, near the small community of Charco, Texas, located in northeastern Goliad County. Interestingly, this little town was settled by at least four members of Stephen F. Austin’s Old Three Hundred. The Spanish charco means “pool” or “watering hole,” a name suggested by the numerous bodies of water that once dotted the area. Bennett was the sixth child of George Edward and Lucy Ann Woodward Nance. The Nances lived on a farm on the banks of the San Antonio River about 4 or 5 miles from Charco which at the time had one school, one grocery store, a cotton gin, and a blacksmith shop. In his autobiography, Bennett says:

I was born in a shack, I remember, and Al (his brother) was born (September 18, 1903) in a new house Papa had built. I visited the old homestead a couple of years ago and the oldhouse had burned down. It was very sad to see. All that remained were the foundation and chimneys.

In 1907, the Nance family moved to Wichita County, Texas. Here is what Bennett writes:

We moved our furniture, plows, wagon, buggy, horses, and mules in one freight car to Electra, Texas. We moved into an old house that had formally been the home of W.T. Wagoner. He was the owner of the 600,000 acre Whiteface Ranch. Electra was named after his daughter. Electra was very small, maybe 200 people. The barn on our place was
Chapter One - Bennett Allen Nance

behind the house in the middle of the present town. The present bank in Electra is where our house was located and a drug store is now where our barn was located. We lived here only a short time, and then we moved to a farm on Beaver Creek, 11 miles south of the town. This was a 984 acre stock farm which is still held by Nance descendants. (This is longer the case.) A school, Rocky Point, was built on the corner of our property and four of us started to school there. I remember Miss May Pridgen as my first teacher. Also, there was a Mr. Adrain.

According to Bennett, the Nance family stayed on the farm near Electra until 1915. He has this to say:

Oil had been discovered in 1911 near Electra, and in 1914, Papa Nance leased our farm to Texas Oil Company (later Texaco). Having a craving for land, Papa found this place west – a 320 acre farm 5 miles south of Lockney, Texas, in Floyd County. In 1915, we moved there, but we kept the Beaver Creek farm. In about 1916 oil was discovered on the Lockney farm and eventually there were more than 100 wells on the place. In 1915, we moved by train to a farm 5 miles south of Lockney, a town of maybe 100 homes. Every house in the town had a windmill. In those days no small town had waterworks. What a sight! Back on Beaver Creek we did not have windmills, and I don't remember one in Electra. An elderly couple was more than glad to sell Papa their farm. Their name was Keys. Again the school was on our property – Pleasant Valley. My sisters had all married by this time. Al and I went to school here. Our teacher was Miss Maggie Satawhite. My older brother, George, did most of the farming with me and Al helping out. We still used horses and mules. The first crop on the 320 acres was planted with mules and a planter called a “sod buster planter.” Since the World War I was being fought, we made enough grain at about $3.00 per hundred weight, which was enough to pay for the land with the first crop.

By 1920 the Nance family is found in Abilene, Texas (1920 US Federal Census). Bennett tells about their move here.

My older brother, George, had by this time (1917 or 1918) volunteered for the Navy in World War I and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. The war was getting terrible. We moved to Abilene, Texas (1917 or 1918). I was seventeen years old and in the 6th grade. I went to Simmons College where they also taught grammar school. It was 3 miles from home and I walked it twice daily until the Armistice was signed and then I rode a streetcar.

During the next years in Bennett’s life, he lived in several locations, primarily for better education. In 1921 he entered Peacock Military School in San Antonio, Texas, and was classified as a junior in high school. By the end of his first year he was promoted to captain. In 1922, he went to live with his sister, Willie Mae, and her husband, Doc Fisher in Electra, Texas. It was here that he spent his senior year in high school and met his future wife, Archie LeBus. They graduated in the same class – The Electra High School Class of 1922.

Evidently, Bennett was well liked by his classmates at Electra High School. This was revealed to me as I looked through his small scrapbook of mementos including notes, cards, programs, and news clippings. Among these souvenirs was a program for the Electra High School Senior Play. It may surprise some in his family but Bennett was the leading man in the play, “Aaron Boggs, Freshman.” Perhaps we are a bit taken aback
because our dad and grandfather was a man of quiet demeanor. I for one find it almost impossible to imagine him on stage!

After graduation from high school in 1922, Bennett wanted to continue to pursue an education. He says:

I persuaded my parents to let me go by train to school at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. I stayed only a few months, to my everlasting sorrow and regret. It was a wonderful institution and I have always wished I could have graduated from there. I came home part way by boat via Savannah, Georgia.

While I was at Brown University, Papa had, in the meantime, traded for a ranch 6 miles east of Canyon, Texas, on the banks (edge) of what is now Palo Duro Park. At that time no one had ever thought of it being a park. I have been down in there by horseback. Big Sunday Canyon, one of its tributaries, headed in our pasture. I attended classes again in Canyon at West Texas State Teachers College (currently a university). Of course, I helped at the ranch also.

As previously mentioned, Bennett met Archie LeBus while a senior in Electra High School and they had stayed in contact in the years following graduation. In 1924 Bennett visited family in Electra and got in touch with Archie. Here he shares his thoughts about that time.

On a trip back to Electra, I was re-acquainted with Archie (we had been corresponding) and I decided I wanted to get married. It was the luckiest thing that ever happened to me, to acquire such a priceless pearl. She was the greatest thing that ever happened to me. We were married on January 1, 1925, in Wichita Falls, Texas, at the First Christian Church. Her brother, Jack LeBus, stood up for us.

We went on our honeymoon in a Model T Ford. After this, we decided to move back to Canyon with my folks. There were three families of us – my father and mother, my brother George and his wife, Lucille, and Archie and myself living in one house.

Mom (Archie) and I were never happy on the ranch at Canyon, so we went to Electra and I went to work at the LeBus and Friend (L & F) Chevrolet Company selling cars and helping out front at the gas pumps. In the meantime, Papa had sent me word that if I could find a ranch that I liked, he would look into the matter. I began to look around for another location and found an area that intrigued me around Rocksprings down in the Hill Country of Texas.

Bennett and Archie were still living in Electra when a very sad event occurred in their lives. Archie gave birth to a baby girl on September 16, 1926, and they named her Aileen. However, much to their great sorrow, baby Aileen died that same day. It must have been a devastating blow for them to lose their first child. Regrettably, neither of my parents spoke about this experience to me and Daddy (Bennett) makes no reference to it in his autobiography. I suppose through the years the pain of that event was partially replaced with the joy of having other healthy children.

As previously mentioned, Bennett’s “Papa” told if he found a ranch he would buy it. According to Bennett here is what happened:
Homer Grizzle, my brother-in-law,(who also worked at L & F Chevrolet ) and I decided we would take a trip down through central West Texas to see what we could find. We drove down to San Angelo, Menard, Junction, and other parts of the country. I found a place I liked on the north fork of the Llano River. We went back to Electra and I contacted my folks and told them about the country we had seen. I also told them about mohair and wool being in its prime and how great goat ranching was. Goat ranching was in its real heyday as mohair was being used in autos for upholstery, furniture, cloth, drapes, etc.

When I got Papa Nance down there to look it over, Papa was just ‘carried away’ with the ranch country in the Edwards Plateau. He had never heard of that area. All the ranchers down there were raising Angora goats and doing well since mohair was in its prime, being used a lot in the rapidly growing automobile industry. One of the key people we visited with before making a purchase was a man, ‘Reo’ who worked on the Charlie Schreiner YO Ranch at Mountain Home, Texas, established in 1858. Papa Nance purchased the ranch from the Rudisil’s. It was located on the Divide of the Edwards Plateau where the Frio River started and became known as the Divide Ranch, 35 miles east of Rocksprings and 65 miles west of Kerrville.

In late August, 1927, we had all of our belongings loaded and traveled to the ranch to start our new adventure. I drove a truck and Archie followed in the car. We drove on mostly dirt roads. I can remember driving up to the ranch and going through the gate that was just about 100 yards from the house. The gate was too narrow and I ripped our new bedsprings off the side of the truck. Archie was upset and crying. You must remember this was a real change for her, but she was determined to try and be a good wife and mate.

We started improving the ranch. I was very pleased now being in what I thought was the best place on earth and in a new business. I knew nothing about sheep and goats, although, I had the advantage of being a country boy. The Great Depression was starting, but we were always able to get groceries once a week on credit payable when the mohair or wool sold.

More changes occurred in 1929 when Bennett and Archie were expecting a baby. Because Archie needed to be near a doctor and medical attention, they decided to move back to Electra. Having lost their first child, it makes sense that they must have felt some anxieties about this second baby and felt relief knowing she would also have family support there in Electra. Dan Allen was born April 10, 1929. Happily they welcomed their healthy baby boy! After Archie and Dan were strong enough to travel, they moved back to the ranch.

On October 25, 1931 Archie gave birth to a beautiful baby daughter, Nancy. Again, they had moved near a doctor but this time to Kerrville which was only 65 miles from the ranch. By this time, they had built a new home on the ranch which was more comfortable and suitable for their growing family. I recall hearing about the larger kitchen with both a wood-burning iron stove and a gas stove. Archie probably enjoyed her better equipped kitchen since cooking for her family was something she absolutely loved.

In his autobiography, Bennett says that by 1935 living in such a remote area presented a “school problem” for Dan and Nancy. To help remedy this they built a small school house and employed a tutor, Miss Dorothy Sikes, from Center Point, Texas to live in and teach the children. However, as the Depression got worse, home schooling worked
Chapter One - Bennett Allen Nance

for only a short time. They decided to rent a house in Kerrville during the fall and winter so that Dan and Nancy could attend school. Bennett commuted back and forth from town to ranch.

Bennett and Archie’s family continued to grow and on February 22, 1937, their baby girl, Lucy Ann, was born at home in Kerrville. (She was named after Bennett’s mother.) Perhaps it was more common at that time to give birth at home, but it required special preparation and, of course, a doctor who made house calls! In her autobiography, Lucy Nance Croft shares some memories her brother Dan had about her birth.

_The first thing I can remember about you is Mom’s preparations for your being born at home. At the time it was 925 Myrta Street. Of course, that’s in Kerrville. I remember Mom and her friends obtained a hospital bed somewhere. They made up a lot of absorbent pads. They also had a crib and other things around. I can recall the big event but really not in great detail (Croft, 7)._  

In the fall of 1938 there was another move for the Nance family. When the school situation again presented a problem, they rented a home in San Antonio so that Dan and Nancy could attend better schools. This was a longer commute to the ranch for Bennett but it was necessary.

Continuing to search for a solution to the “school problem,” Bennett and Archie decided to purchase a home and move to Wichita Falls, Texas, so that Dan and Nancy could attend school there and Archie would be near her family. Bennett continued to commute to the ranch but says that because he had good help he could stay in Wichita Falls for longer periods of time. However, this changed somewhat in 1941 with the advent of World War II. He had to do his part in the war effort by raising food, mohair, and wool. Bennett makes the statement that his draft board gave him orders to do so. This meant he had to spend more time at the ranch and away from his family. Archie must have been happy to be near her family during this time of national and world upheaval.

A very happy event occurred on July 25, 1943, when Bennett and Archie added a beautiful little red haired baby boy, Steven Anthony, to the family! Not long after his birth, the family sold their home in Wichita Falls and bought a home in Kerrville. They lived at the ranch for about six months while the house at 901 Myrta Street was being remodeled. During that time, Nancy and Lucy attended a one-room school on the Divide and Dan was at Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri.

In 1948 Bennett made a big decision to trade the Divide Ranch for a farm in south Texas. Here is what he says:

_Batching at the ranch and driving 65 miles back and forth to Kerrville became impractical. Dan was in Kemper Military School in Missouri. I finally decided to make a switch, so I traded our Real County ranch for a farm in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. We still own this farm. (This is no longer the case. In 2010, only Dan Allen Nance owned a section of this farm.)_
With his ranching days behind him, Bennett shares these thoughts:

*On leaving the ranch, I had the fantastic notion that I was departing one of the last areas or vestiges of The Old West. I had the privilege of knowing a lot of folks that were the last persons to live in an era that is now gone forever. I am proud to have experienced a small fraction of it.*

Owning a farm must have been quite a new and challenging venture for Bennett. Even though he had a sharecropper farm his land, his commuting days were not entirely over. Through the years, he and Archie made routine trips to the Valley to check out their crops of cotton and grain along with other business related to the operation of a large farm (1000 acres). As farmers can attest, there are good years and there are bad years. It seems to me that a farmer needs to have a lot of patience and a deep faith to negotiate the ups and downs of weather, price fluctuations, good help and other obstacles.

Both Bennett and Archie loved living in Kerrville. Through the years they made countless friends and were always so proud of their lovely home at 901 Myrta Street. Bennett called it his “castle.” Maintaining a beautiful yard was especially important to them. Lucy Nance Croft wrote about this home in her autobiography.

*In early 1944, our family moved into our newly decorated home at 901 Myrta Street in Kerrville, located in the Hill Country. (Daddy continued living in this home until February 1991). It was a large, two-story white stucco home built in the 1920s. The formal front entrance to the house was on Washington Street, but we used the Myrta Street entrance for most of our coming and going—and also for our mailing address. It had an open sun porch with a lovely tile floor where my folks enjoyed sitting in the late afternoon. There was a large patio in the backyard that we used for entertaining. I remember I even had a square dance there when I was in junior high school. During high school, we had informal suppers, youth fellowship meetings, and dances on the patio.*

*One of the most unique and appealing features of our home was the beautiful large yard with all the lovely live oak trees and the deep Saint Augustine grass. My folks always took great pride in their yard and its upkeep. I remember with fondness playing in this yard with its lush “carpet grass” and the fun we had making necklaces from acorns that fell from the live oaks.*

*Another neat thing about the house was the basement, which served as a kind of playroom. It was an unfinished room but a great place to keep our stuff and play. A large wooded area that we called “The Woods” protected the back of the house. It was a wonderful play area, with forts and lots of hiding places.*

*Our house had three big upstairs bedrooms and two full bathrooms. One of the bedrooms incorporated a sunroom. The downstairs area included the living, dining, and breakfast rooms, and a very inviting kitchen with an attached wash/mud room. There was also a small mirrored powder room by the stairway. In the breakfast room Mama always kept potted plants on the window seat and a display of antique glassware on the shelves above. The home was built in the 1920s when high ceilings were quite common. They made the rooms appear larger.*
Chapter One - Bennett Allen Nance

The decor of the house was traditional, with lovely mahogany and period furniture. Mama and Daddy liked rockers and wingback chairs and had them in the living room and bedrooms. The house had a comfortable feel even though it was more formal in style and decoration. My parents enjoyed a modest collection of antique glassware and several lovely oil paintings.

The garage was detached from the house and included a large workroom and a small apartment on the backside. For a number of years our housekeeper, Julia, lived in this apartment. After she left us, we used it as a storage room and it became a place the grandchildren loved to explore. One thing I recall about our garage—it was for cars only, no clutter or storage. Daddy was a neatnik when it came to the use and upkeep of the garage and his workroom. (Croft.23, 25)

Later in life, Bennett and Archie decided to purchase a small country house on 60 acres of scenic land near Leakey, Texas. It was adjacent to Rosetta Nance’s home and property and very near the Frio River. They called the place “El Charco” commemorating Bennett’s birthplace. For Bennett it became a work place and he enjoyed involving himself in various projects improving the house and land. The house was comfortable but rustic, so perhaps he enjoyed it more than Archie. Nevertheless, it provided a little “get-away” spot for them. It is possible it reminded them of their early days at the Divide ranch.

The darkest day of Bennett’s life occurred on August 5, 1987, when his dear wife, Archie, died. They had traveled together to the Rio Grande Valley to check out the cotton crop on their farm. While visiting there, with no warning, Archie died. It was a deep shock to Bennett and the entire family. Her body was returned to Kerrville for her funeral and burial at the Sunset Cemetery in Mountain Home, Texas.

Bennett continued to live in his home on Myrta Street until 1991. By then his health began to deteriorate, so he moved into a nursing home in Kerrville where he remained until his death. At one time he felt it might be possible for him to move into the home of one of his children, but after thought and discussion, he realized that was not a realistic solution. Dan, Nancy, Lucy and Steve helped “dismantle” his home and pack some of his favorite belongings to move to his new location. Even though they tried to ease the transition for Bennett, they knew it was a difficult time for him.

During the next few years, Bennett’s children would spend time with him, visiting, going out to eat, running errands or driving in the countryside. Dan made an effort to come to Kerrville for one week out of each month to be with his dad. Bennett and his children enjoyed these special times together.

Bennett Allen Nance died February 17, 1994 in Kerrville, Texas. He was buried at the Sunset Cemetery beside his beloved wife, Archie.

In her autobiography, Lucy Nance Croft writes about her father using some of his favorite quotations.

*Bennett was born on December 23, 1901, on a small farm about one mile south of Charco, Texas, in Goliad County. His parents were George and Lucy Ann Nance, and he was the*
sixth child of seven. Life for the Nance family in those days was country life, so Daddy's early education was mostly in small country schools for erratic time periods. In his teen years he attended Peacock Military School, Harden Simmons College, Electra High School, Brown University (very briefly, to his regret), and West Texas State Teacher's College. He and my mother married January 1, 1925, in Wichita Falls, Texas.

During the early years of my life, Daddy was a rancher. When I was eleven, he sold his ranch and bought a cotton farm in the Rio Grande Valley, between Harlingen and Raymondville. He had a tenant to farm it, so even though he spent a good bit of time traveling there, we continued to live in Kerrville. As both a rancher and a farmer, Daddy loved the earth, its bounty and beauty, and treated it accordingly. I can say I certainly had a wonderful role model of a good steward. He had some direction from his dad in ranching and farming, but he gained most of his knowledge from on-the-job experience.

Misers aren't much fun to live with, but they make wonderful ancestors.

~ David Brunner

Education was important to Daddy, whether it was formal or informal. He graduated from high school and attended some college, but in many respects I would say he was self-educated. I feel that he regretted not having more college education. Reading and life experience were his primary means of continuing education. His favorite books were about Texas history or historical people, and he enjoyed reading the Bible and his Encyclopedia Britannica. Daddy also learned Spanish by working alongside Mexicans and reading Spanish newspapers. He never felt fluent, but I thought of him as bilingual and considered it quite an accomplishment. He loved many things about the Mexican people and their culture, especially their music.

Daddy was a very honest, responsible, and conservative person. He believed in diligence and persistence in all undertakings and was a fair person in his dealings, whether in business or daily living. He was a perfectionist in many ways, and because I am much the same way, I can say that it may have been both a blessing and a curse! He would lose his temper occasionally, so I was always mindful of that. Since I was the type of child who needed approval—a pleaser—I surely did not want to be the brunt of his anger. I was not really afraid of him, however.

He that riseth late must trot all day.

~ Poor Richard

Because of his hard and frugal upbringing, I think Daddy had a difficult time enjoying himself. He was very comfortable with solitude, was a reserved, private, and rather shy man. I remember that he had only a few close friends whom he would occasionally meet in town for coffee. Also, Daddy and Mama seemed to be happiest when they had family gathered for a big meal. Another one of their pleasures as a couple was going for drives or "rides" as they called them. Late in the afternoon, they would drive around the Kerrville area, to Fredericksburg or along the Guadalupe River.

During our growing up years, Daddy and Mama did enjoy travel, and we went on several nice trips in the United States and Canada. I remember that Daddy liked to keep moving and cover a lot of territory, so we never stayed in one place for long—rolling stones!
One realized dream of his was to travel (by car) to Alaska. We did get to western Canada, but because of the dirt roads at that time we went no farther.

*Few know the use of life before ‘tis past.*

~ John Dryden

Even though my dad was frugal, he was also quite generous. He shared his wealth with his children and grandchildren in a very fair manner. For years he and Mama sent each of us four children a gift check each month, as well as on birthdays and Christmas. A very special touch was Daddy’s inclusion of a short note and a quotation of some famous or not-so-famous person. I have saved some of those notes and realize that Daddy revealed his sentimental and humorous side in many of the quotations he selected. I have included some on these pages.

*A wise man digs his well before he gets thirsty.*

~ Chinese Proverb

Daddy would sit on our front porch late in the day enjoying his home and yard. He always referred to his Kerrville home as his castle. He enjoyed good home-cooked food, and his favorite meal was a breakfast of eggs, bacon or ham, gravy, biscuits, peach preserves, and perhaps a few hot peppers on the side. A favorite quote of his—“A man should eat breakfast like a king, lunch like prince, and dinner like a pauper.” Actually, that is pretty healthful advice.

*When the chicken platter is passed to you, leave the best piece for manners.*

~ Mama Nance

Daddy was a conservative man in his lifestyle, religion, and politics. His tastes were simple, but he did enjoy looking well groomed and was quite handsome when he dressed up. He loved hats. In his older years, he always wore a “gimme” cap.

I have lived a versatile and romantic life, witnessing the times of cotton kingdoms, cowboys, oil booms, drillers and roughnecks, oil field machine shops, and inventions beyond our wildest dreams - From the horse and buggy to traveling in space and to the moon. But the most memorable of all is a honeymoon in a model T Ford! ~ Autobiography of Bennett A. Nance

On reflection, I would say that Daddy’s integrity, fairness, strength of character, diligence, perfectionism, and stewardship of the earth and his possessions were the qualities that most affected my life. Being a man of simple tastes, he appreciated the small things in life and was not overly impressed with the materialism of the world around him. Acting responsibly was important to him and influenced his evaluation of others. He was a dear and special man—a great daddy! He died in Kerrville at the North Haven Care Center on February 17, 1994, at the age of ninety-two. (Croft, 28-31)

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; thou holdest my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*

~ Psalm 16:5-6

(Tom Curry, Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Kerrville, Texas, used this Psalm as the text for the message at Daddy’s funeral service.)
Chapter One - Bennett Allen Nance

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft
2010
A Glimpse of Bennett's Life in Pictures

Bennett and Al Nance
about 1904
Bennett and Al Nance

Bennett and Al Nance as Teens
about 1913
Bennett graduated with the Electra High School Class of 1922.
In the picture he is standing in the back row, far left.
Archie LeBus is standing in the back row, far right.
Bennett and Archie

Bennett and Archie on a family outing on Lake Kemp, Texas in 1925.
Bennett and Al on the Divide Ranch
Bennett Nance family photos - Bennett seated; Family-Dan, Lucy, Nance, Steve, Bennett and Archie (Christmas 1966); Bennett celebrating his 90th birthday with Lucy and Steve, December 1991, Dallas, Texas.
Bennett Allen Nance is buried in the Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Texas.
Chapter Two

George Edward Nance

and

Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward Nance

Includes John and Mary Adelia Anderson Woodward
Jacob and Lucinda Hinch Woodward
Richard and Anna Montgomery Anderson
George Edward Nance

George Edward Nance was born February 28, 1865, in Hallettsville, Lavaca County, Texas and was the second child of Lewis and Charity May Nance. This small town is located on the Lavaca River, eighty miles southeast of Austin. At that time, as now, much of the economy of the area was based on agriculture and area farmers raised cattle, and grew rice, corn, hay, fruit, and pecans. George’s father, Lewis, farmed and raised cattle.

Around the time of George’s birth, the American Civil War was coming to a close and Texas was a Confederate state. Needless to say, the Nance family, like all Texans, must have been greatly impacted by this war. George’s father, Lewis, was enrolled for the duration of the war and was a corporal in Company D, 2nd Texas Cavalry.

In the years following the Civil War, Lewis Nance was doing what he could to provide for his growing family. In his book The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch, Jim W. Kuhlman provides a record of Lewis’ land transactions and livestock purchases in Lavaca County, Texas (Kuhlman, 41-47). Some of the land transactions were in partnership with his brother, Edward Y. Nance. He also registered for a livestock brand.
It is evident that he valued land ownership and raising cattle was his business. I imagine young George was required to help his father on the farm and was receiving some early lessons in farming, ranching, and the importance of owning land.

Unfortunately, there is little information about George’s childhood. However, when his father died, in 1874, the Nance family had five children (Mary Margaret, George, Katherine, Sarah, and Louis "Lou") and his mother was expecting a sixth child. Since George was only 9 years old when his father died and was the only son, it is likely he had to grow up very quickly. Undoubtedly his mother expected him to be “the man of the house” and depended on him to help with the chores on their farm. Jim Kuhlman gives two differing family perspectives on Edward’s young life.

_Bennett Nance wrote in ‘The Nance Family History’ in 1992 that George Edward was the boss at an early age and was spoiled by his sisters who had to do the work. Others in the family said he was adored by his five sisters for he had done so much for their mother Charity and the girls as they were growing up without a father. (Kuhlman, 47-48)_

It is likely there is some truth in both statements. Nevertheless, the views, one by a son and another by George’s sisters, give us a little insight on family dynamics.

George met the daughter of a neighbor John Woodward when he was in his early twenties. Her name was Lucinda “Lucy” Ann Woodward. Following a courtship they married on January 23, 1888, in the Mossy Grove Methodist Church in Lavaca County.

_George Edward and Lucy Ann Nance began their early married life on the Nance land south of Hallettsville along the east side of the Lavaca River in January 1888, raising cattle and farming. It has been said that he started with $17 dollars and a team of mules. George inherited the urge to acquire land from his father Lewis and the conservative way of life from his Cherokee grandmother Mary Upton May. Lucy Ann learned from her family, the Woodward’s, the value and importance of land and livestock. Losing her mother at twelve years of age, and having to help raise other brothers and sisters, prepared her to raise her own family. (Kuhlman, 73)_

**Note:** Mary Jane Upton’s Cherokee ancestry is family lore and has not been documented.

In his book, Kuhlman wrote that George Nance began early in life to develop a desire to own land, and between the years of 1888 and 1896, he made a number of land transactions in Lavaca County, Texas. One purchase of particular interest was from his sisters, Sally Nance and Margaret “Maggie” Nance Varnell. He paid them $100 for 150 acres 3 miles southeast of Hallettsville near the small community of Sweet Home. This eventually became known as the “Nance Homestead.” Records for all Lavaca County land transactions are in the Lavaca County Courthouse, Hallettsville, Texas. (Kuhlman, 73-74)

Three years after they married, George and Lucy Ann started their family with the birth of a daughter, Willie Mae, on January 28, 1891. By 1897, they had four more children -
Gladys Gertrude (August 10, 1892); Norma Dell (March 11, 1894); George Edison (January 3, 1896); and Sadie Ann (September 4, 1897). All were born in Lavaca County, Texas.

In 1900 we find the George Nance family living in Goliad County, Texas, their family of seven listed on the 1900 United States Federal Census. They lived near the small community of Charco located in the northeastern part of the county. This little burg was settled by at least four members of Stephen F. Austin’s Old Three Hundred. The Spanish charco means “pool” or “watering hole,” a name suggested by the numerous bodies of water that once dotted the area. In his autobiography, Bennett Nance says their farm was on the banks of the San Antonio River about 4 or 5 miles from Charco which at the time had one school, one grocery store, a cotton gin, and a blacksmith shop.

While living in Goliad County, the Nance family continued to grow with the birth of Bennett Allen, December 23, 1901 and John Allison “Al” September 18, 1903. In his autobiography Bennett Nance writes:

I was born in a shack, I remember, and Al was born in a new house Papa had built. I visited the old homestead a couple of years ago and the old house had burned down. It was very sad to see. All that remained were the foundation and chimneys.

In 1907, the Nance family moved to Wichita County, Texas as described by Bennett Nance.

We moved our furniture, plows, wagon, buggy, horses, and mules in one freight car to Electra, Texas. We moved into an old house that had formally been the home of W.T. Wagoner. It was a block from the old depot. He was the owner of the 600,000 acre Whiteface Ranch. Electra was named after his daughter. Electra was very small, maybe 200 people. The barn on our place was behind the house in the middle of the present town. The present bank in Electra is where our house was located and the Goldsmith Drug Store is now where our barn was located. We lived here only a for short time, and then we moved to a farm on Beaver Creek, 11 miles south of the town. This was a 984 acre stock farm which is still held by Nance descendants. (This is no longer the case in 2009 as I copy this information.) A school, Rocky Point, was built on the corner of our property and four of us started to school there. I remember Miss May Pridgen as my first teacher. Also, there was a Mr. Adrain.

The Nance family stayed on the Beaver Creek farm near Electra until about 1915 and then readied for their next move to Floyd County. In his book, Jim W. Kuhlman provides an excellent record of George Nance’s land transactions in Floyd County. (Kuhlman, 80-82) It seems he had quite a good eye for land and was an able dealer.

Oil had been discovered in 1911 near Electra, and in 1914, Papa Nance leased our farm to Texas Oil Company (later Texaco). Having a craving for land, Papa found this place west – a 320 acre farm 5 miles south of Lockney, Texas, in Floyd County. In 1915, we moved there, but we kept the Beaver Creek farm. In about 1916 oil was discovered on the Lockney farm and eventually there were more than 100 wells on the place. In 1915, we moved by train to a farm 5 miles south of Lockney, a town of maybe 100 homes. Every house in the town had a windmill. In those days no small town had waterworks. What a
sight! Back on Beaver Creek we did not have windmills, and I don’t remember one in Electra. An elderly couple was more than glad to sell Papa their farm. Their name was Keys. Again the school was on our property – Pleasant Valley. My sisters had all married by this time. Al and I went to school here. Our teacher was Miss Maggie Satawhite. My older brother, George, did most of the farming with me and Al helping out. We still used horses and mules. The first crop on the 320 acres was planted with mules and a planter called a “sod buster planter.” Since the World War I was being fought, we made enough grain at about $3.00 per hundred weight, which was enough to pay for the land with the first crop. (Bennett Nance autobiography)

After meeting with Bennett Nance, Jim Kuhlman shares some of their conversation about the Beaver Creek farm.

When Papa purchased the farm in Lockney and moved the family once again, he wanted to sell the 984 acres in Wichita County but Mama Nance would not hear of it, so they kept the property. She must have had a hunch something good was going to happen!

Not long after their move to Lockney, oil was discovered on the Beaver Creek property, around 1916. This certainly was a major turning point in the lives of the Nance family. On March 28, 1993, Bennett told me that some of the wells drilled back in the teen years were still producing today. ‘We had over 100 oil wells on that place at one time on 984 acres. My friend Herman Mitchell who I grew up with at Rocky Point School, said that the Nance place was the cream of the crop.’ (Kuhlman, 82)

During the years of 1914-1918 the world was embroiled in war. Like others in our nation, the Nance family was affected by this terrible event when George and Lucy Ann’s son, George Edison, joined the U.S. Navy on December 27, 1917. World War I was a conflict which involved most of the world's great powers and was centered on Europe. It has gone down in history as one of the largest and most deadly wars with more than 15 million people killed. It was also known as the Great War and the War to End All Wars. Having their son in the military must have been a terrible worry to George and Lucy Ann. I imagine they and their entire family were deeply concerned about his well-being and safety. Seeing an end to the conflict could not come soon enough.

My older brother, George, had by this time (1917 or 1918) volunteered for the Navy in World War I and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. The war was getting terrible. We moved to Abilene, Texas (1918). I was seventeen years old and in the 6th grade. I went to Simmons College where they also taught grammar school. It was 3 miles from home and I walked it twice daily until the Armistice was signed and then I rode a streetcar. (Bennett Nance autobiography)

World War I ended in 1918 and the Nance family is found on the 1920 United States Federal Census living at 418 Sycamore Street in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. George Nance was listed as a farmer and his son, George Edison, is a tool pusher meaning he worked in the oil fields. By this time, all of the Nance daughters were married and only the sons George, Bennett, and Al were named as a part of the household.

In 1921 George Nance turned his eyes to the Texas Panhandle. When he learned of some land available in southern Randall County, some of which was owned by the Harris family
from Floyd County, George Nance worked a trade of some of his Floyd County farm for the Randall County land. Jim Kuhlman gives the details of the trade. (Kuhlman, 127-128)

As it turned out, this was only the first land transaction for George Nance. More than ever, it is evident that George Nance had a hunger for land in his beloved Texas.

By February 1924 George Nance owned nine and one half sections which stretched five miles from the west border of section 117, which is next to the Schuette place, to the east border of section 121, on the Palo Duro Canyon. (Kuhlman, 134)

Note: A part of this land was purchased in 1929 by George and Lucy Ann’s son, George Edison, and his wife, Lucille, and they developed the renowned Nance Hereford Ranch.

While I was at Brown University, Papa had, in the meantime, traded for a ranch 6 miles east of Canyon, Texas, on the banks (edge) of what is now Palo Duro Park. At that time no one had ever thought of it being a park. I have been down there by horseback. Big Sunday Canyon, one of its tributaries, headed in our pasture. I attended classes again in Canyon at West Texas State Teachers College (currently a university). Of course, I helped at the ranch also. (Bennett Nance autobiography)

From his conversations with family members, Jim Kuhlman points out that it was well known that George Nance was a good stockman, trader, and businessman. His grandson shared that he was told that his grandfather would sit in the lobby of the local banks to learn what was going on and visit with the bank officers about different opportunities. He soon became a stock holder in a bank in Canyon. (Kuhlman, 132)

After his initial land purchase, George and Lucy Ann began thinking about another change, and in 1922 they moved from Abilene to a small primitive ranch house on one of the seven sections of land near the Palo Duro Canyon. While living here, George Nance purchased cattle for his new operation and most likely they were Hereford. They also raised their own forage feed, farming with horses and mules;

Besides having a lot of cattle, they usually had over 100 hogs to feed out; some were butchered for their own use each year. Like most farms in those days, they raised their own chickens for eggs and meat and there were always a few dairy cows to milk everyday. Farm chores required daily attention on the Nance ranch. (Kuhlman, 137)

The Nance family lived in the old ranch house until the spring of 1924 and then made the decision to build a new house on one of the sections of land.

The Nance family decided that the east one-half of section 118 would be a good location for a new home and a headquarters for their ranching operations. It was reasonably level land with good productive and nutritious native grasses including blue grama and buffalo grass. The pastures were free of trees and shrubs…

So early in the spring of 1924, a new home was built on a knoll on the north side of the half section that eventually became the home of the Nance Hereford Ranch. Bennett shared with me on March 29, 1993, ‘We had to pull all the nails out of the lumber from the house down in the header of the canyons to build the Nance home on the ranch. Papa Nance
wouldn’t throw away the nails; they and the lumber could be used again.’…As Bennett had mentioned earlier, his father was a very frugal person. He believed in paying cash, and definitely did not believe in charging purchases. Credit cards were unknown in those days. (Kuhlman, 134-135)

George and Lucy Ann Nance lived on their ranch near Canyon, Texas, until 1929 when they decided to retire. At that time their son, George Edison, and his wife, Lucille, purchased the ranch home place and two additional sections. George and Lucy bought a lovely home in Brownsville, located in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Their granddaughter, Lucy Ann Nance Croft wrote her memories of this home in her autobiography.

My paternal grandmother was affectionately called Mama Nance (Mrs. George E. Nance). Papa Nance died before I was born. Her home was in Brownsville, Texas. It was two-story stucco with a long porch across the front that was very inviting, with its large fan-backed rattan chairs and tables. There was an orange or grapefruit orchard behind the house. This very comfortable home was conservatively decorated, as you would expect from Mama Nance. I do remember the dining room, with its large mahogany table and china cabinet. At a reunion the family gathered around it for a photo. After my Aunt Norma Beeker became widowed, she lived with Mama Nance to help her take care of the house. (Croft, 28)

George Edward Nance died February 4, 1937, in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, and was buried in the Dreamland Cemetery near Canyon, Texas. Jim W. Kuhlman shows his admiration of George Nance with this wonderful tribute.

At seventy-one years of age, almost seventy-two, the very adventurous life of a major pioneer born in Hallettsville, Texas, came to an end. He certainly left a wonderful mark on this world and a shining example for all his family for generations to come. A great lover of land, he impressed upon his children ‘Never sell land.’ So even today some of the land that he put together in his lifetime is still owned by his descendants. (Kuhlman, 193)

Obituary from the Canyon News, Canyon, Texas, Thursday, February 11, 1937.

Mr. Nance was one of the large pioneer ranchers in this section of the country, and he and Mrs. Nance made their home at their ranch east of Canyon until six years ago when they moved to Brownsville because of his failing health. Mr. Nance was a kind, generous, and successful businessman, who was loved by all who knew him. He was formerly associated with the First National Bank of Canyon as Vice President and as a member of the Board of Directors. (Kuhlman, 193)

Sources


Chapter Two - George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward Nance


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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft
2010
George and Lucy with Willie Mae and Gladys

George and Lucy with daughters Willie Mae and Gladys about 1893.
Nance Siblings

George Nance with sisters, Maggie, Sarah Viola, and Lou, taken in the mid-1930's.
Chapter Two - George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward Nance

George and Lucy Brownsville Home
Dreamland Cemetery, Canyon, Texas

George and Lucy Nance are buried in Dreamland Cemetery along with their son George Edison and his wife Lucille Nance Jones.
Lucinda “Lucy” Ann Woodward Nance

Lucinda “Lucy” Ann Woodward’s story begins in Hallettsville, a small town in Lavaca County, Texas. She was born December 13, 1869, and her parents were John Southern and Mary Adellia “Della” Woodward. Hallettsville was named for John Hallet, one of the first settlers in this area and is located on the Lavaca River, eighty miles southeast of Austin. Like others in this part of Texas, Lucy’s father was a cattleman just as his father had been before him.

I have not found much information about Lucy Ann’s childhood and youth, but I imagine that her family lived a hard life. She was born only a few years after the country had been engaged in a Civil War and many Texans were still experiencing financial hardship as the state recovered from that conflict. Her father had served in the Confederate States Army, and like other veterans, had to engage himself in reestablishing a livelihood after the war.

When Lucy Ann was born, John and Della had two children (William and Kittie), and in the years following her birth, they had five more children (Betty, Beulah, John, Mary and Albert Tally). By any standard, it was a large family. Della was only 36 years old when she died. With four younger siblings, it is evident that Lucy Ann and her sister, Kittie, had to take on the household responsibilities as well as tending their younger siblings.
There is family lore that her father was a trail driver which meant he was gone for long periods of time. It had to have been a difficult time.

The Woodward and Nance families were neighbors and it seems probable that they would socialize from time to time. Perhaps it was on one of those occasions that Lucy Ann met her neighbor, George Edward Nance. As it turns out, in the late 1880’s they courted and then married January 24, 1888, in the Mossy Grove Methodist Church in Lavaca County. In his book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*, Jim W. Kuhlman has this to say about George and Lucy Ann’s early married life.

*George Edward and Lucy Ann Nance began their early married life on the Nance land south of Hallettsville along the east side of the Lavaca River in January 1888, raising cattle and farming. It has been said that he started with $17 dollars and a team of mules. George inherited the urge to acquire land from his father Lewis and the conservative way of life from his Cherokee grandmother Mary Upton May. Lucy Ann learned from her family, the Woodward’s, the value and importance of land and livestock. Losing her mother at twelve years of age, and having to help raise other brothers and sisters, prepared her to raise her own family.* (Kuhlman, 73)

**Note:** Mary Jane Upton’s Cherokee ancestry is family lore and has not been documented.

Lucy Ann’s husband, George, was a farmer when they married, but was developing what would become a life long interest in land transactions. Jim Kuhlman gives a good record of his transactions while in Lavaca County. He notes that one particular piece of land 3 miles southeast of Hallettsville became known as the “Nance Homestead.” (Kuhlman, 73-74)

While living in Lavaca County, George and Lucy had their first five children. They were: Willie Mae, born January 28, 1891; Gladys Gertrude, born August 10, 1892; Norma Dell, born March 11, 1894; George Edison, born January 3, 1896; and Sadie Ann, born September 4, 1897. Along with hard work, these people loved large families!

In 1900 we find the George Nance family living in Goliad County, Texas, their family of seven listed on the 1900 United States Federal Census. They lived near the small community of Charco located in the northeastern part of the county. This little burg was settled by at least four members of Stephen F. Austin’s Old Three Hundred. The Spanish *charco* means “pool” or “watering hole,” a name suggested by the numerous bodies of water that once dotted the area. In his autobiography, Bennett Nance says their farm was on the banks of the San Antonio River about 4 or 5 miles from Charco which at the time had one school, one grocery store, a cotton gin, and a blacksmith shop.

While living here, the Nance family continued to grow. In 1901 Bennett Allen was born, and in 1903, John Allison “Al” was born. Here is what Bennett writes:

*I was born in a shack, I remember, and Al was born in a new house Papa had built. I visited the old homestead a couple of years ago and the old house had burned down. It was very sad to see. All that remained were the foundation and chimneys.*
As I read Bennett Nance’s (my father) account of their life, my thoughts turn to my grandmother, Lucy Ann, and her daughters and I wonder how they dealt with their surroundings and life. They must have been made from strong clothe to endure these unpleasant conditions. There is an old saying, “You do what you have to do,” and that must have been their attitude. From my privileged vantage point, it boggles my mind when I try to determine how they managed just the cooking and laundry!

In 1907, the Nance family moved to Wichita County, Texas. In his autobiography, Bennett writes:

We moved our furniture, plows, wagon, buggy, horses, and mules in one freight car to Electra, Texas. We moved into an old house that had formally been the home of W.T. Wagoner. It was a block from the old depot. He was the owner of the 600,000 acre Whiteface Ranch. Electra was named after his daughter. Electa was very small, maybe 200 people. The barn on our place was behind the house in the middle of the present town. The present bank in Electra is where our house was located and the Goldsmith Drug Store is now where our barn was located. We lived here only a short time, and then we moved to a farm on Beaver Creek, 11 miles south of the town. This was a 984 acre stock farm which is still held by Nance descendants. (This is no longer the case in 2010 as I copy this information.) A school, Rocky Point, was built on the corner of our property and four of us started to school there. I remember Miss May Pridgen as my first teacher. Also, there was a Mr. Adrain.

The Nance family stayed on the farm near Electra until 1915 and then readied for their next move to Floyd County, Texas. Bennett Nance also writes about this time. Here is what he says:

Oil had been discovered in 1911 near Electra, and in 1914, Papa Nance leased our farm to Texas Oil Company (later Texaco). Having a craving for land, Papa found this place west – a 320 acre farm 5 miles south of Lockney, Texas, in Floyd County. In 1915, we moved there, but we kept the Beaver Creek farm. In about 1916 oil was discovered on the Lockney farm and eventually there were more than 100 wells on the place. In 1915, we moved by train to a farm 5 miles south of Lockney, a town of maybe 100 homes. Every house in the town had a windmill. In those days no small town had waterworks. What a sight! Back on Beaver Creek we did not have windmills, and I don’t remember one in Electra. An elderly couple was more than glad to sell Papa their farm. Their name was Keys. Again the school was on our property – Pleasant Valley. My sisters had all married by this time. Al and I went to school here. Our teacher was Miss Maggie Satawhite. My older brother, George, did most of the farming with me and Al helping out. We still used horses and mules. The first crop on the 320 acres was planted with mules and a planter called a “sod buster planter.” Since the World War I was being fought, we made enough grain at about $3.00 per hundred weight, which was enough to pay for the land with the first crop.

In 1920, the Nance family is found on the United States Federal Census in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. Since all of the Nance daughters were married, only the sons were named as a part of the household. Again we have Bennett’s account of the Nance family’s move to Abilene in about 1918.

My older brother, George, had by this time volunteered for the Navy in World War I and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. The war was getting terrible. We moved to Abilene,
Texas (1918). I was seventeen years old and in the 6th grade. I went to Simmons College where they also taught grammar school. It was 3 miles from home and I walked it twice daily until the Armistice was signed and then I rode a streetcar.

Here again, we had a nation and a family impacted by war, and this time it was a world war. World War I was a conflict which involved most of the world’s great powers and was centered on Europe. It has gone down in history as one of the largest and most deadly wars with more than 15 million people killed. It was also known as the Great War and the War to End All Wars. Having their son in the military must have been a terrible worry to George and Lucy Ann. I imagine they and their entire family were deeply concerned about his well-being and safety. Seeing an end to the conflict could not come soon enough.

In 1921, George Nance turned his eyes to the Texas Panhandle. When he learned of some land available in southern Randall County, some of which was owned by the Harris family from Floyd County, George Nance worked a trade of some of his Floyd County farm for the Randall County land. Jim Kuhlman gives the details of the trade. (Kuhlman, 127-128)

By February 1924 George Nance owned nine and one half sections which stretched five miles from the west border of section 117, which is next to the Schuette place, to the east border of section 121, on the Palo Duro Canyon. (Kuhlman, 134)

Note: A part of this land was purchased in 1929 by George and Lucy Ann’s son, George Edison, and his wife, Lucille, and they developed the renowned Nance Hereford Ranch.

Bennett Nance gives this description of that time.

While I was at Brown University, Papa had, in the meantime, traded for a ranch 6 miles east of Canyon, Texas, on the banks (edge) of what is now Palo Duro Park. At that time no one had ever thought of it being a park. I have been down in there by horseback. Big Sunday Canyon, one of its tributaries, headed in our pasture. I attended classes again in Canyon at West Texas State Teachers College (currently a university). Of course, I helped at the ranch also.

After his initial land purchase in the Panhandle of Texas, the George and Lucy Ann began thinking about another change. In 1922, they moved from Abilene to Randall County, Texas, into a small primitive ranch house on one of the seven sections of land near the Palo Duro Canyon. The Nance family lived in the old ranch house until the spring of 1924 and then made the decision to build a new house on one of the sections of land.

George and Lucy Ann Nance remained on their ranch near Canyon, Texas until 1929. At that time their son, George, bought a part of the Randall County ranch and they decided to retire from ranch life. They bought a lovely home in Brownsville, located in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Their granddaughter, Lucy Ann Nance Croft, wrote her memories of this home in her autobiography.
My paternal grandmother was affectionately called Mama Nance (Mrs. George E. Nance). Papa Nance died before I was born. Her home was in Brownsville, Texas. It was two-story stucco with a long porch across the front that was very inviting, with its large fan-backed rattan chairs and tables. There was an orange or grapefruit orchard behind the house. This very comfortable home was conservatively decorated, as you would expect from Mama Nance. I do remember the dining room, with its large mahogany table and china cabinet. At a reunion the family gathered around it for a photo. After my Aunt Norma Beeker became widowed, she lived with Mama Nance to help her take care of the house. (Croft, 28)

Evidently, one of the reasons that Papa and Mama Nance decided to retire from their ranch life was the fact that he was not in good health. It makes sense that the warmer climate of the Rio Grande Valley certainly would make their life more comfortable. As it turned out, Papa Nance died on February 4, 1937, about seven years after their move to Brownsville.

For many years following his husband’s death, Mama Nance remained in her home in Brownsville. When her daughter, Norma, was widowed she came to live with her mother. After Norma died in 1976, Mama Nance spent periods of time staying with her children. Finally, her last two years of life were in a small assisted-living home in Fredericksburg, Texas, near Bennett and Archie Nance who lived in Kerrville. Fortunately, they were able to visit her on a regular basis.

Her granddaughter Lucy Ann Nance Croft remembers Mama Nance in her autobiography this way.

Mama Nance was a reserved, simple woman who had experienced much hardness in life, particularly in her early years of marriage. I do not know anything about her childhood. She was always very easygoing and pleasant when I was around her, but I do not remember anything personal about our relationship. Since I am her namesake, I wish this could have been different. Most of what I know about her I heard from Mama or Daddy. Her one vice was dipping snuff—she called it her “chocolate.” She enjoyed good home-cooked food and was able to eat most anything. During the last years of her life, she lived with my parents for a year and then moved to a small assisted-living home in Fredericksburg. Several times a week Mama and Daddy would drive over to pay her a visit. She was ninety-seven when she died on March 3, 1967. (Croft, 41)

Lucy Ann Woodward Nance is buried in Dreamland Cemetery, Randall County, Texas.

Sources


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2010
Mama Nance with children

(Seated) Mama Nance, Gladys Nance Hager; (Standing L-R) Norma Nance Beeker, Al Nance, Bennett Nance, George Nance and Sadie Nance Oliver.
Nance Family Reunion

Nance family reunion in about 1954 in Brownsville, Texas

Chapter Two - George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward Nance

Mama Nance

Mama Nance in the early 1960's.
John Southern or Sidney Woodward

John Southern or Sidney was the fifth child of Jacob and Lucinda Woodward and was born January 13, 1844, in Hallettsville, Colorado, Texas. The family had been living in
Colorado County (became Lavaca April 6, 1846) about four years, and Jacob was farming and raising cattle. As it turned out, John would follow in the footsteps of his father and become a cattleman.

Note: Family researchers give John’s second name as Southern or Sommerville, but in a pension application made by his second wife and widow, Sarah Ann Woodward, she gave his name as John Sidney Woodward. The application was filed December 15, 1916. We are not certain which name is correct.

During the years following John’s birth, the Woodward family continued to grow. By 1850 the Woodward’s had seven children - Mary Jane (1836), Bernice (1838), Georgia Anne (April 5, 1840), Thomas (December 26, 1841), John (January 13, 1844), Lucian and Virginia (April 5, 1850). By 1860 three more children were born – Clarence Grant (March 13, 1852), Keron “Kittie” (January 7, 1855), and Henry (January 19, 1857). Having a large family was not that unusual in those days because in most cases, the children were needed to help with all the chores of the household. Even at young ages, children were expected to work along with their parents doing farm labor and helping in the home. Most likely that was the case in the Woodward household.

John was only 17 years old when the American Civil War began in 1861. Texas gave its allegiance to the Confederacy. This was a tumultuous time in our country and like other young men, John enlisted in the army. He was 18 years old. In his book, The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch, Jim W. Kuhlman gives the following information about John Woodward’s service.

John served in the Civil War with Company C, 13th Texas Infantry of the Confederate States Army. According to the records in the National Archives I Washington, D.C., he was enlisted by J.E. Love at Petersburg, Texas, which is in north Lavaca County, on July 6, 1862 for a period of three years or until the Civil War was over. He became a Private in the (2nd) Company C, Bates’ Regiment Texas Volunteers...Available records indicate he was on the Company Muster Roll of Company C, 13 Regiment, Texas Infantry his entire time of service from July of 1862 to April of 1865. (Kuhlman, 58-59)

At some point during the years John was serving his stint in the army, he met Mary Adelia “Della” Anderson. We do not know how long the courtship lasted, but they married June 29, 1864. She was only 15 years old. Jim Kuhlman points out that the Justice of Peace who performed their rites of matrimony was V.F. Wroe, the same person who married Lewis and Charity Nance in 1862.

Following the Civil War, John and Della began their life on a farm, and he began raising cattle very early on. As we might expect, they also started a family. By the time of the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Woodward’s had two children, William “Willie” Oscar (January 1, 1866) and Kittie Blanche (1868). There is some indication that a child named Betty was born in 1869. However, since she is not on the 1880 census, she must have died.

Information on the 1870 census record tells us that John listed his occupation as “Beef Speculator.” As early as May 9, 1874, he had recorded a new livestock brand, D+ with
a mark on the end of the left ear. Family lore is that he was also a part of the early
cattle drives. Jim Kuhlman shares a story given him by Bennett Nance who was John
Woodward’s grandson.

*My mother’s father, John Southern Woodward, was a cattleman and had small herds. He
would add his small herd to the larger herds being driven to Kansas during the large trail
driving days. I am told he went with the herd on the large drives several times. I was told
he took his pay in gold coins and put them in nail kegs. It was told he came home once
under the influence with his gold coins spilled in the back of his buggy, and another time
no coins. They say he liked to nip the bottle and was not very responsible when doing so.
Even then, people had their weaknesses.*

(Kuhlman, 61)

Jim Kuhlman quotes several excellent sources in describing the early cattle drives out
of Texas. One of the primary routes for the cattle drives was the “Chisholm Trail.” A
brochure from the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher, Oklahoma gives this
information.

*In 1866 Jesse Chisholm, half breed Cherokee Indian trader, drove a wagon through
Oklahoma Indian Territory to his trading post hear Wichita, Kansas. Cattle drivers who
followed his wagon ruts to Abilene gave the trail its name.* (Kuhlman, 62)

*As mentioned in the Chisholm Trail brochure, it was the historic cattle drives after the Civil
War and during the Reconstruction period that saved the state of Texas financially. The
people with money in Texas in those times were the owners of cattle.* (Kuhlman, 67)

*Also during this period after the Civil War and the trailing of cattle north from Texas, the
roots of the present day western rodeos were born. Many horses needed to be broken for
all the trail riders, and cattle had to be sorted and cut out of the large groups grazing in
Texas and often needed to be roped and worked for branding and other things. Thus
began the bronco riding, the steer wrestling and the calf roping which grew into fun
competitions among the cowboys to avoid boredom and loneliness on ranches and
wilderness cattle drives. It also was a way to wager one’s pay and prove manliness. Later
the suspenseful bull riding and other competitive activities became a part of the rodeo
scene.* (Kuhlman, 67)

By the time the 1880 United States Federal Census was taken, John and Della had four
more children – Lucinda “Lucy” Ann (December 13, 1869), Beulah (1872), John
Southern, Jr. (1875) and Mary Della (1878). We know that another son named Albert
Tally was born in late 1880 or 1881. Like his father, John had a large family.

Even though we have no record, family information indicates that John’s wife, Della,
died sometime in 1882 leaving him to raise several young children. Her life ended too
soon which gives us a hint of how difficult life was for women of that time. Medical care
was limited so that even the most common illnesses or conditions could be deadly.

In 1887 John remarried a woman by the name of Sally Moore. Jim Kuhlman writes that
she may have been the sister-in-law of Clarence Grant Woodward (John’s younger
brother). Clarence was married to Julia Ann Moore. On September 29, 1891, John and
Sally had a son whom they named Jacob Clinton.
John Woodward was recorded on the 1910 United States Federal Census in the household of his daughter Kittie Grimes and her family. Both John and his daughter were widowed. She had seven children from the ages of 3 to 20.

It is believed that John S. Woodward died October 16, 1916. He was buried in the Providence or Provident Cemetery in Lavaca County, Texas. There are no dates on the tombstone. The inscription reads: Co C, 12 TX Inf, CSA.

John lived during a colorful but challenging era in Texas. As a young man he was involved one of the worst conflicts in United States history, the Civil War. Like his father before him, John was among the pioneers of the cattle industry in Texas. I believe we could say he was a cowboy in the real sense of the word. His life was truly one that some have tried to portray in movies. In my opinion the actor Robert Duvall would be great in the role of John Southern Woodward! Of course, one has to read only a few historical accounts to realize life was not all that glamorous or romantic. Those early days in Texas were rough and gritty, but the men and women who endured them did what they had to do to both survive and thrive. In many ways they laid the foundations for the good lives we are free to enjoy today.

Sources


Lavaca County Cemeteries, “Providence Cemetery”, [http://www.txgenweb2.org/txlavaca/cemeteries_n_r.htm](http://www.txgenweb2.org/txlavaca/cemeteries_n_r.htm)


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson Woodward

Mary Adelia, daughter of Richard and Anna Anderson, was born April 29, 1846, in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana (created from St. Landry Parish in 1840). This area was a part of the territory known as the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Until that time, the population makeup had been French, Spaniards, French and Spanish Creoles, Africans and Appalouasa (and other Indian tribes). The Andersons were among the many Americans from the South and other parts of the United States who migrated to the area, “marking the arrival of the first large English-speaking population and the introduction of the need for more general use of English.”

Mary Adelia was her parents' fourth child and all were born in Louisiana. Her siblings were Susanne (Abt. 1839), Milton Victor (Abt. 1841) and Albert Berkley (March 31, 1843). She first appears on the 1850 United States Federal Census as "Adela." Her father Richard gives his occupation as "Planter." By 1850 there are two more sons - James Newton who was born May 30, 1847 and Richard, Jr. born in 1850. Only James appears on the census which means Richard was born after the census date.

Note: It is interesting to note that a Susanne Anderson is recorded on this census. I have not been able to document if she was, in fact, a child of John and Mary Adelia.

By the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census the Anderson family had moved to Lavaca County, Texas, where Richard was farming. All of their children except Susanne were living with them and working on the farm. This was the year before the onset of the Civil War so perhaps the community was beginning to hear rumblings of discontent. It is likely Adelia’s father was too old to enlist in the Confederate Army, but there is information that at least one brother, Albert, was enlisted.

Sometime in the early part of the 1860’s, Adelia (called Della) met John Southern Woodward. In such a small community their families were probably well acquainted. Even though John enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862, he courted Della. We do not know the duration of the courtship, but they married June 29, 1864. Della was only 15 years old, but it seems that life demanded her to grow up quickly.

Della’s husband, John, was a farmer and cattleman, and I feel sure she was well acquainted with the duties of a farmer's wife. Along with establishing a household, the young couple decided to start a family very early on. By the time of the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Woodward’s had two children, William “Willie” Oscar (January 1, 1866) and Kittie Blanche (1868). There is some indication that a child named Betty was born in 1869. However, since she is not on the 1880 census, she must have died.

In his book, The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch, Jim Kuhlman points out that information on the 1870 census shows that Della’s parents, Richard and Annie Anderson, live next to them. Richard’s occupation is shown as “School teacher.” The census record reveals that the Anderson’s real estate and property values had dropped...
considerably since the 1860 census. He felt this was due to the effects of the Civil War, and it is likely Richard had to supplement his income by teaching school. (Kuhlman, 60)

Another interesting note – Della’s brother, James Newton, married John Woodward’s sister, Karon, and they had eight children. In doing genealogy research I have found it was not uncommon in those days for brothers of one family to marry sisters of another family. This may have been more so in smaller communities where there were fewer “pickins.”

By the time the 1880 United States Federal Census was taken, John and Della had four more children – Lucinda “Lucy” Ann (December 13, 1869), Beulah (1872), John Southern, Jr. (1875) and Mary Della (1878). We know that another son named Albert Tally was born in late 1880 or 1881. Like his father, John had a large family.

Even though we have no record, family information indicates that Della died sometime in 1882 leaving John to raise several young children. Her life ended too soon which gives us a hint of how difficult life was for women of that time. Medical care was limited so that even the most common illnesses or conditions could be deadly.

As with other women in my family history, there is little information about Mary Adelia except on census records. Unfortunately, she left no diaries or letters that give insight into her daily life. I have tried to get a better understanding by reading well researched accounts of women of that era, and from those stories I am led to believe that Della’s daily life was difficult. She married while still a child and had to grow up quickly. Her husband may have done fairly well in the cattle business but was often away on cattle drives. Also, if you read between the lines of family lore, he may have had a drinking problem. She was called on to care for the farm, household, and children whether John was at home or away. It was a “hard scrabble” existence. Her body gave out at an early age, but I imagine her to be a person of unflagging spirit. For that wonderful quality Della holds my sincere admiration.

Sources


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
A crumbling old tombstone in the Hallettsville Graveyard (Texas) tells us that Jacob Woodward was born February 14, 1808, and died January 9, 1884. During those 76 years he would travel from his birthplace of South Carolina and eventually join Chapter Two - George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward Nance.
years he would travel from his birthplace of South Carolina and eventually join numerous other early settlers to the area of the United States that would become the state of Texas.

At this time, the only information we have about Jacob’s parents is that both were born in Virginia (1880 U.S. Census). We have no given names for his parents or siblings and know nothing about his childhood. Census records for Jacob give his birthplace as South Carolina.

As a young man, Jacob left South Carolina and headed west. At some point in his travels he met his wife, Lucinda Hinch. She was born January 17, 1820 in Missouri but by 1830 her family was in Randolph County in southwest Georgia. I think there is a good chance Jacob met Lucinda in Georgia. We do not have a marriage record, but it was sometime before 1836. The couple then left Georgia and traveled to Tuskegee, Alabama where their first two children, Mary Jane (1836) and Bernice (1838), were born.

In December 1839, Jacob Woodward, Lucinda and their two daughters arrived in the Republic of Texas, possibly settling first in Washington County and then moving on to the area that later became Lavaca County. As one of his many descendants and a native Texan, I am proud to say he can be counted among those first citizens of the Republic of Texas and is listed in the book *Texas First Families Lineages, Volume 2* published by the Texas State Genealogical Society.

During the days of the Republic of Texas, immigration was encouraged by the issuing of land grants. In his book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*, Jim Kuhlman gives the following information about Jacob Woodward receiving a land grant.

> Early records indicate that the Woodward’s arrived in the area that later became Lavaca County in late 1839. From a letter of November 8, 1955, from the General Land Office in Austin, Texas, it was found that ‘By Certificate No. 10, dated November 2, 1846, Jacob Woodward is issued a grant of 640 acres of land by the Board of Land Commissioners in Lavaca County. The land was located in Taylor County and patented July 18, 1853. The certificate states that he was a married man and had been a resident citizen in this state since December 1839.

> This would have been a Class 3 Land Grant. Class 3 land grants were given to arrivals in Texas after October 1, 1837, but before January 1, 1840. They were based on a conditional certificate which requires three years of responsible citizenship before an unconditional certificate could be issued that might lead to a patent. The land could not be sold in the meantime. (Kuhlman, 53)

There is a Jacob Woodward listed in the book *1840 Citizens of Texas, Volume 1, Land Grants* by Gifford White, but some of the information differs from that of Kuhlman making me wonder if this may have been a different person.

Like other pioneers, the Woodward family must have been drawn to this primitive country seeking land and opportunity. However, they could not have arrived at a more turbulent time since these early Texans were engaged in war with Mexico. According to
the *Handbook of Texas Online*, this area was a center of revolutionary activity. In addition, Indian raids, particularly by the Comanche and Tonkawa, continued until the late 1830's. Jacob and his family were among the courageous, determined folk dealing with unbelievable conditions.

We know that Jacob Woodward served in the Republic of Texas citizen's army. Jim Kuhlman quotes from the book *On the Headwaters of the Lavaca and the Navidad* by Paul Boethel.

*In March 1842 when General Vasquez with his Mexican forces captured San Antonio, (John Himes) Livergood was one of the first to join the citizen's army that mobilized at San Antonio, drove the invaders out of Texas, and then disbanded. Livergood, Jacob Woodward, Mason B. Foley, Beverly C. Greenwood, Isaac Zumwalt, Moses Moore, D.H. Lyons, Henry Bridger, John Wesley Hinch (brother of Lucinda Ann Hinch Woodward), Hutson Greenwood, W. Hudgeons and Hiram S. Foley, all settlers from the Lavaca, remained in the Service of Captain John C. ‘Jack’ Hay’s Spy Company on the Medina River, where they maintained a watch for the Mexican invaders. After six weeks of duty, they were all furloughed and sent home until they received certain intelligence that the enemy has invaded the country. (Kuhlman, 54)*

The Texas State Library & Archives Commission has a record of the Republic Claims submitted by Jacob Woodward. The certification is dated September 1, 1851. “The Republic Claims series of Comptroller's records includes claims for payment, reimbursement, or restitution submitted by citizens to the Republic of Texas government from 1835 through 1846. It also includes records relating to Republic pensions and claims against the Republic submitted as public debt claims after 1846...The records comprise four groups of payments made for services rendered during the period 1835-1846; Audited Claims, Republic Pensions, Public Debt Claims, and Unpaid Claims.”

Woodward’s record indicates he submitted a Public Debt Claim which would have been for services or goods provided between 1835 and 1846 that could not be paid before Annexation in 1845 and were eventually paid mainly from the 1850 Boundary Compromise money awarded Texas in exchange for the territory it lost.

The Republic of Texas remained a country for almost ten years, but after much political haggling and struggle, Texas was officially recognized by the United States Congress as a state on December 29, 1845.

During the first years after his arrival in the Republic of Texas we have evidence that Jacob Woodward received a land grant and was a citizen soldier but know little about his family life. Fortunately, we get our first clues on the 1850 United States Federal Census where he is listed as “J. F.” Woodard, age 38, occupation farmer, and birthplace S.C. owning real estate valued at $375.” Jacob and Lucinda now have seven children – Mary Jane, Bernice, Georgia Anne, Thomas J., John S., Virginia C. and Lucian. (Note: The census taker misspelled most of their names, so using my records, I have made corrections.) It is evident that a lot had been going on in their family during these difficult times. In the midst of war, Jacob and Lucinda established a household in this rugged country, began farming, and had five more children.
Besides farming, Jacob also raised cattle. In his book, Jim Kuhlman mentions that a record can be found in the Lavaca County Courthouse which indicates Woodward registered the cattle brand JW on January 31, 1849, making him one of the early settlers to reserve a brand in the county. In the Handbook of Texas Online it mentions ranching was a dominant occupation in this area of Texas. In 1846 tax rolls listed 3581 cattle in Lavaca County; two stockmen had more than 200, seven had herds ranging from 100 to 150, and fifteen had 50 to 100. By 1851 the total number of cattle had risen to 12,505, and seventeen ranchers were listed with more than 200 head. Jacob was definitely a part of the growing cattle industry in the early days of Texas.

It is interesting to note that Lavaca County was named after the Lavaca River located in the area. “La vaca” is Spanish for “the cow” which seems a very suitable name for this part of Texas where cattle ranching was a primary industry for many years.

During the next years Jacob and Lucinda settled into their Texas homestead. By the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census, their family has grown even larger with the births of Clarence, Karon or Kitty, and Henry. Jacob gives his occupation as “farmer” and it is quite likely he could have also called himself a “stockman.” Information on the census says he had real estate valued at $1000 and personal property valued at $6200. In his book, Jim Kuhlman states that it was likely that most of the personal property would have been cattle.

The information on the 1870 United States Federal Census indicates that the Woodward household is beginning to change shape with only the four youngest children listed. It is interesting to note, however, that a seven year old grandson was living with them – Richard Breeden. He was the son of their daughter Bernice and her husband, Richard Thomas Breeden. Could this mean that his parents were deceased? Jacob now gives his occupation as “stock raiser,” and has real estate valued at $3725 and personal property valued at $6000. After a life that must have been filled with privations and hardship, Jacob’s wife, Lucinda, died on January 23, 1877. As a very young woman she traveled with her husband to an unsettled part of the country during a time of war and unrest, set up a household, and gave birth to ten children. Hopefully, in her later years she was able to find some comfort in her existence. Though we have no written accounts of Lucinda’s personal experience, I have tried to gain a better understanding by reading true stories about women in Texas during the mid to late 1800’s. It is unbelievable to read about the obstacles they faced and what strength it required to survive on a day to day basis. Lucinda was buried in the Hallettsville Graveyard in Lavaca County. Her old broken tombstone stands by that of her husband, Jacob Woodward.

On the 1880 United States Federal Census we find that the widower Jacob Woodward was continuing to farm in Lavaca County. His three youngest sons, Lucian, Grant and Henry, were living with him along with Lucian’s wife, E. Maggie, and his daughter, M. Lucy Woodward. All the men were working on the farm. Jacob’s parents’ birthplaces are recorded on this census and we discover that both were born in Virginia.

From his tombstone in the Hallettsville Graveyard, we read that Jacob Woodward died
January 9, 1884. Like many other men of his time, he braved countless dangers and hardships traveling by wagon to new, unsettled territory. With courage he fought to bring about a better existence for his family and lay groundwork for a new community and state. In the state of Texas known for its cowboys and Indians, he was the "real McCoy." I like this tribute to the Woodward's written by Jim Kuhlman.

The Woodward's, Jacob and his son John and their families, were some of the early Texans to pioneer cattle raising as a serious business and were quite successful ranchers in Lavaca County in the 1870's and 1880's. Their love... knowledge, and experiences in the cattle industry were passed on to members of the family for several generations, including George Edison Nance, a grandson and great grandson of the Woodward's. (Kuhlman, 70)

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
Lucinda Ann Hinch is an ancestor who has been a challenge to research. Other than on census records, I have found very little information that sheds light on her life. She is listed on three United States Federal censes, two of which record her birthplace as Missouri.
Missouri and one records Tennessee. Since I do have a Howard County, Missouri marriage record for her parents, Michael Hinch and Polly Grant, I feel fairly safe in stating that Lucinda was born in Missouri. It is likely she was born in that same county. Her tombstone gives her birth date as January 17, 1820. While living in Missouri, Michael and Polly Hinch had another child, John Wesley, born April 19, 1822.

Jacob and Lucinda Hinch were certainly pioneer folk. Like many other brave souls of their day, they struck out to unknown territories, perhaps looking for “greener pastures.” Howard County, Missouri was definitely a place that offered rich land. According to the Missouri GenWeb site, “Its fertile soil promised, with little labor, the most abundant harvest. Its forests were filled with every variety of game, and its streams with all kinds of fish.” Living in this unsettled country also brought innumerable dangers, primarily from the Indians who lived in great numbers around them. Living here definitely was a risky existence for the Hinch family.

By 1825 the Hinch family was living in Georgia, first Pike County (1825) and then in Randolph County (1830). Lucinda’s father, Michael, was chosen and commissioned by the State as Sheriff of Randolph County, 1830-1831, and later, Sheriff of Stewart County. We know from census records that two more children were born in Georgia, Elizabeth C. in 1825 and Mary Jane in 1828.

Though I have not yet found a marriage record for Jacob Woodward and Lucinda Ann Hinch, I think they may have met and married in Georgia sometime between 1830 and 1835. By 1836, they are living in Tuskegee, Alabama, where their first two children were born, Mary Jane (1836) and Bernice (1838).

In December 1839, Jacob Woodward, Lucinda and their two daughters arrived in the Republic of Texas, possibly settling first in Washington County and then moving on to Lavaca County. As one of his many descendants and a native Texan, I am proud to say Jacob is counted among those first citizens of the Republic of Texas and is listed in the book *Texas First Families Lineages, Volume 2* published by the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Like other pioneers the Woodward family must have been drawn to this primitive country seeking land and opportunity. However, they could not have arrived at a more turbulent time since these early Texans were engaged in war with Mexico. According to the *Handbook of Texas Online*, this area was a center of revolutionary activity. In addition, Indian raids, particularly by the Comanche and Tonkawa, continued until the late 1830’s. Jacob and his family were among the courageous, determined folk dealing with unbelievable conditions.

Moving and getting settled in a new territory was undoubtedly rift with challenges, but more so since the country was involved in war. Some battles were waged against the Mexicans and others against hostile Indians. Jacob Woodward served in the Republic of Texas citizen’s army which meant Lucinda was left to care for the household, farm, and the children.
Not long after their arrival in the Republic of Texas, Lucinda gave birth to their third child, Georgia Ann. There is some indication she was born in Washington County on April 5, 1840. Jacob and Lucinda’s family continued to grow. Thomas was born on December 26, 1841 and John Southern was born in January 13, 1844, both in Colorado County (became Lavaca April 6, 1846).

The first time we find Lucinda on a United States Federal Census is in 1850. She is listed with her husband and eight children. Yes, twins, Lucian LeCamp and Virginia C., arrived on April 5, 1850. On the 1860 census we find that Jacob and Lucinda had three more children. Clarence Grant was born in March 13, 1852; Keron “Ketti” was born on January 7, 1855; and Henry was born in January 19, 1857. The Woodward family was large by any standard! They had ten children, and from my viewpoint, they were all born under arduous circumstances, particularly the firstborn children. Lucinda did what she had to do to endure and build a good life; I view her as a woman of incredible strength.

Being first citizens of the Republic of Texas, Jacob and Lucinda certainly were a part of the settling and building of the country in and around Lavaca County. Even the Texas Revolution did not bridle their efforts to build a life of their own. Jacob was both a farmer and cattleman, and it is likely Lucinda did her share of hard work both inside the house and outside on the farm. Her daily activities would have included growing and cooking the food; sewing the family’s clothes; tending sick children; and helping with the farm animals. And this would probably be considered a short list of her activities! Like other women of that day, she led a life of hard work and little leisure. At the same time, the children would have been expected to work along side of their parents. Land and census records give us some indication that Jacob Woodward must have provided fairly well for his family. Hopefully Lucinda benefited from his success.

Information on the 1870 United States Federal Census indicates that the Woodward household was beginning to change shape with only the four youngest children listed. It is interesting to note, however, that a seven year old grandson was living with them – Richard Breeden. He was the son of their daughter Bernice and her husband, Richard Thomas Breeden.

After a life that must have been filled with privations and hardship, Lucinda Hinch Woodward died on January 23, 1877. As a very young woman she traveled with her husband to an unsettled part of the country during a time of war and unrest, set up a household, and gave birth to ten children. Hopefully, in her later years she was able to find some comfort in her existence. Though we have no written accounts of Lucinda’s personal experience, I have tried to gain a better understanding by reading true stories about women in Texas during the mid to late 1800’s. It is unbelievable to read about the obstacles they faced and the inexhaustible physical resources required to survive on a day to day basis. Lucinda was buried in the Hallettsville Graveyard in Lavaca County, Texas. Her old broken tombstone stands by that of her husband, Jacob Woodward.
Chapter Two - George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward Nance

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft
2011
Richard Jordan Anderson and Anna Montgomery Anderson

Richard Jordan Anderson and Anna Montgomery Anderson married November 15, 1838, in the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana. I have limited information on each of them and most begin at this point in time. This short narrative will be a combination of the data collected on these two ancestors.

Both Richard and Anna are included on three United States Federal Census records, but varying birth places are given. However, using the census records along with information gleaned from other researchers on the internet, I am led to believe that Richard’s birth date was about 1802 in Virginia and Anna’s about 1810 in Georgia. However, I would like to add that this information is definitely not “written in stone.”

Prior to meeting and marrying Richard, Anna was previously married twice, first to Dr. Wilson Keller and then to Richard Fenner. She had one child with each husband, a daughter, Mary Ann Keller, and a son, Edward Fenner.

Richard and Anna lived in the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana. This area had been part of the territory known as the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Until that time the population makeup had been French, Spaniards, French and Spanish Creoles, Africans and Appalousa (and other Indian tribes). The Andersons were among the many Americans from the South and other parts of the United States who migrated to the area, “marking the arrival of the first large English-speaking population and the introduction of the need for more general use of English.”

There is an online record originally from the Bureau of Land Management, “Louisiana Pre-1908 Homestead and Cash Entry Patents” indicating that Richard Anderson purchased 114 acres of land in Opelousas, Louisiana on October 1, 1845. Opelousas has been the seat of government for the St. Landry Parish since its formation. It is likely the Andersons farmed this land. On the 1850 United States Federal Census, Richard gives his occupation as “planter.”

During the years that the Andersons lived in the Parish of St. Landry, they possibly had six children – Susanne (1839) Milton Victor (1841) Albert Berkley (1843) Mary Adelia (1846) James Newton (1848) and Richard Jordan (1850). Evidently their last son was born after the 1850 United States Federal Census was conducted because he was not recorded that year.

Note: It is interesting to note that there is a Susanne Anderson, age 11, listed on the 1850 United States Federal Census. I have not been able to document that she was, in fact, a daughter of John and Adelia.

By the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census the Anderson family had moved to Lavaca County, Texas, where Richard was farming. All of their children except Susanne were living with them and working on the farm. This was the year before the
onset of the Civil War so perhaps the community was beginning to hear rumblings of discontent. Undoubtedly, Richard was too old to enlist in the Confederate Army, but there is information that his son Albert was enlisted.

When the 1870 United States Federal Census is taken Richard and Anna Anderson are still living in Lavaca County. Richard’s occupation is shown as “School teacher.” In his book *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch* Jim Kuhlman points out that the census record reveals the Anderson’s real estate and property values had dropped considerably since the 1860 census. He felt this was due to the effects of the Civil War, and it is likely Richard had to supplement his income by teaching school. (Kuhlman, 60)

Unfortunately, this is where my information about Richard and Anna ends. Some family researchers think Richard died about 1892, and a few sources give Anna’s date of death as May 17, 1889. In both cases, this is undocumented information. I could not find either of them on the 1880 census records and the 1890 census is not available. Obviously these two ancestors will require further research.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
Chapter Three

Lewis Camerer Nance

and

Charity Melvina May Nance

Includes George May
Mary Jane Upton May
Lewis Camerer Nance

In the year 1841 when Lewis C. Nance was born in Clinton County, Missouri, this was a rugged part of the United States. In fact, it was settled only about eleven years earlier. The man credited with settling the area was John Livingston, and it is written “he killed close to fifty black bears, 22 where the present-day Clinton County Courthouse stands. Until the Platte Purchase (1834-1838) the area was the border county or sometimes known as the Gateway to the West.”

Information we have on Lewis’ parents, Edward and Margaret Nance, is very sketchy. We know that before Lewis’ birth they lived in Edgar County, Illinois, because it is on record that Edward bought land in 1846 and 1847. In 1840 he is found on the United States Federal Census and was living in Clinton County, Missouri. The census listed him, a wife, a daughter, and a son. Both children were less than 5 years of age. The 1840 Census does not give information about occupation. This was a year before Lewis was born.

Lewis was the third child of Edward and Margaret Nance. In 1841 when he was born,
the Nances had a daughter, Catherine, who was about 4 years old and a son. No records have been found that give the son’s name. He is not listed with the family on the 1850 census, so may have died or moved away at a young age.

Lewis was between 2 and 6 years old when the Nance family moved back to Edgar County, Illinois, and his father, Edward, was a miner. In his book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*, Jim W. Kuhlman has this to say about this time in the Nance family’s life.

*Between 1843 and 1847 they moved back to Edgar County, IL where Edward H. worked in the coal mines in the Northeast part of the county in Brouilletts Creek Township. These had to be extremely difficult times working in the mines. Two other children were born in Paris, Edgar County. Clara was born in 1853 and Viola in 1855. (Kuhlman, 9)*

I agree with Kuhlman. The Nance family must have lived a hard life in those years when Lewis was only a boy. By 1846, he had another sister and brother, Margaret “Maggie” and Edward Young. In 1853 another sister, Clara, was born. Inevitably he and his siblings grew up rapidly and were given chores to help their mother keep the household running. We do not know if Edward farmed his land but more than likely he did. Nevertheless, they lived a frontier life.

In 1850 the Nance family was still living in Edgar County, Illinois. However, as Kuhlman points out that sometime between Dovey Viola’s birth in 1855 and the 1860 United States Federal Census, they had moved to Lavaca County, Texas.

*As the crow flies, the distance between Edgar County, Illinois and Lavaca County, Texas is approximately 900 miles. That’s quite a challenge to undertake with a large family and all of one’s belongings. Travel most likely was by covered wagon and oxen. If they made two miles an hour they were really doing well. A hundred miles in a week was a good goal. One can only wonder why a family would move that great distance and endure the hardships one would entail along the way. One possibility was that land was very cheap and easy to obtain in those days. (Kuhlman, 9)*

*Upon arrival in Lavaca County, Lewis’ father, Edward, became involved in cattle production. Lewis and his younger brother, Edward Young, followed suit. From the early livestock brand records recorded in the Lavaca County Courthouse, it is indicated that on June 11, 1861, E.H. Nance and his son L.C. Nance each recorded brands. (Kuhlman, 11)*

Mary Jane Upton May was a neighbor of the Nance family. The 1860 United States Federal Census shows us that she was widowed and had four children living at home. Evidently, one of her daughters, Charity, caught Lewis’ eye and they “struck up a friendship.” By 1862, it had developed into a more serious relationship and they married April 30, 1862, in her mother’s home.

After their marriage, it was not long before Lewis and Charity decided to purchase some land. There is record of Lewis’ purchase of 4-9/10 acres located on the Lavaca River. This should have been a happy time for this young couple, but we know that this was a tumultuous time in the history of the United States. The country was engaged in the Civil War. Not long after Lewis made his land purchase, he enlisted in the
Confederate Army. On September 1, 1862, he was enrolled for the duration of the War by Captain George L. Patrick, 2nd Regiment, Texas Cavalry, Company D of the Confederate States Army. Information is from the National Archives Trust Fund Board, Washington, D.C.

During the months of September and October he was paid $24.40 for use of his horse and $50 for a bounty due him for enlistment. He continued to receive $12.20 a month for his horse. Captain Milby paid him $48.80 on February 28, 1863, for November through February.

Lewis Nance made the rank of Corporal in Company D. His service records indicate he was absent on sick leave several times. He was admitted to General Hospital in Houston, Texas on May 11, 1863, for ophthalmia. On May 18, he was furloughed for thirty days. He was on sick leave several other times in 1863 and during the month of April, 1864, according to Confederate Archives, Chapter 6, File No. 275, Page 158. (Kuhlman, 41)

Their family life was terribly disrupted during the time of the Civil War, but nevertheless, Lewis and Charity started a family. A daughter, Mary Margaret “Maggie” was born March 4, 1863, and a son, George Edward, arrived February 28, 1865. Having her family nearby must have been great consolation for Charity as she kept the farm running with two small children. Like her mother, she was a woman of strength and endurance.

Along with other Texans, Lewis had to get his life back together following the Civil War. Farming and raising cattle was his means of doing it. We can only imagine the terrific struggle it must have been. However, as you will see from the records of all his land transactions, Lewis had an intense inner drive and it was to acquire land.

Following are notes from Kuhlman’s book concerning Lewis Nance’s livestock and land purchases following the Civil War. (Kuhlman, 42-47) Records are from Abstracts and Deeds of Land Records and Livestock Brand Records, Lavaca County, Texas Courthouse.

- May 18, 1857, purchase of 17 head of livestock and 1 roan mare for $425. He also registered a brand “HR”.
- August 1, 1867, Lewis and his brother, Edward Y. Nance, purchased 104 acres of land from Z.N. Hanna for $104. Lewis also purchased 104 acres of land adjoining this from James Ballard.
- January 21, 1868, purchase of 21 more acres of land for $100 from J.M Briggs.
- August 6, 1867, Lewis and Edward Y. received the deed to 29-1/2 acres four miles south of Halletsville fronting on the Lavaca River for doing contracted labor to build a house for John S. Woodward.
- January 1868, purchase of a small piece of land adjoining the 104 acres previously purchased from James Ballard.
- Purchase of 21 acres for $100 located next to land Lewis had purchased from J.M. Briggs.
- July 25, 1870, purchase of 165 acres for $100 from Morgan, Judd, and Williams, Merchants, located in Petersburg on the east side of the Lavaca River.
Chapter Three - Lewis Camerer Nance and Charity Melvina May Nance

- July 25, 1870, purchase of 51-2/3 acres for $60 from John S. Woodward.
- In January 1868, Lewis purchased a small piece of land adjoining the 104 acres previous purchased from James Ballard.
- On January 21, 1868, Lewis purchased 21 acres for $100 from J.M. Briggs.
- On July 25, 1870, Lewis purchased 165 acres of land located on the east side of the Lavaca River for $100 from Morgan, Judd & Williams. On that same day, he purchased 51-2/3 acres along the river for $60 from John S. Woodward.
- October 4, 1870, Lewis and Edward Y. purchase of 3 tracts of land, 51 acres, 10 acres, and 6 acres for $500 from A.W. and Amanda A. Crawford, located near the NE corner of Hallettsville.
- January 25, 1871, land sold by Lewis, Charity, and Edward Y. Nance. 3 tracts previously described for $500 to John Zumwalt.
- January 27, 1872, Lewis Nance and William Harvey Turk purchased part of 10 acre tract of the John Hallett League in Hallettsville for $100.
- December 20, 1872, purchase of 15 acres for $3 in coins per acre from Nancy Zumwalt.
- September 1873, First Tuesday "Sheriff’s Sale," Lewis purchased 38-½ acres for $192.50, located about 3 miles southeast of Hallettsville on the east side of the Lavaca River.

The number of land transactions is amazing to me, but perhaps for Lewis it was both a necessity and a passion. Like others around him, he was a part of the rebuilding Texas after the devastating affects of the Civil War.

*The Nance brothers were always looking out for ways to add land when possible, or making land trades during these frustrating times in the rebuilding of Texas after the Civil War. Most likely some of their cattle were trailed to Abilene, Kansas.* (Kuhlman, 47)

During this time of building his business, Lewis and Charity were adding to their family. In 1873 they had another daughter, Louis “Lou." Some online family trees give her name as Louis after her father. However, this is confusing since his name is spelled differently in most records. We do know she was called “Lou” by the family.

There are no documented details about Lewis’ death. His tombstone in the Hallettsville Cemetery (sometime called the Old Hallettsville Graveyard) does not give any birth or death dates. The inscription reads:

*Lewis C. Nance, Corporal Company D, 2nd Texas Cavalry, CSA.*

There is family lore that Lewis died of sunstroke while plowing his fields. His wife was left a widow in her late twenties with five small children and pregnant with a sixth child. Their daughter Adelia “Addie” was born about 3 months after Lewis’ death. According to Jim Kuhlman, this information was given by a family member, Allen Belle Turrentine Johnson. (Kuhlman, 47)
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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2010
Chapter Three - Lewis Camerer Nance and Charity Melvina May Nance

Pedigree Chart for Charity Melvina May

John May
b: Nov 1760 in Essex, Virginia, USA
m: 24 Jun 1779 in Martinville, Henry, Virginia, USA
d: 26 Dec 1839 in Polk, Tennessee, USA

George May
b: 13 Sep 1798 in North Carolina, Tennessee, USA
m: 19 Feb 1825 in Chattanooga, Hamilton, Tennessee, USA
d: 1851 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

Charity Taylor
b: 16 Jun 1757 in Cumberland, Virginia, USA
d: 27 Dec 1842 in Polk, Tennessee, USA

James Harvey May
b: 1724 in Virginia, USA
m: Abt. 1754
d: Bet. 1800–1810 in Buncombe, North Carolina, USA

Elizabeth King
b: 1755 in British America, now Virginia, USA
d:

James Taylor
b: 26 Feb 1731 in Prob. Goodland or Henrico, British America, now Virginia, USA
m: 03 Dec 1755 in Cumberland, Virginia, USA

Ann Owen
b: 23 Sep 1730 in Charles City, Charles, Virginia, USA
d: 1814 in Grainger, Tennessee, USA

William Upton
b: Abt. 1742 in Ireland
m: Abt. 1776 in Blount, Tennessee, USA

Samuel Isaac Upton
b: Abt. 1774 in Ireland or England
m: d: Bet. 1820–1830 in Franklin, Tennessee, USA

Nancy Bogie
b: Abt. 1750 in Ireland
d: Blount, Tennessee, USA

Unknown Cherokee Maiden
b: Abt. 1759 in Tennessee, USA
d:

Mary Jane Upton
b: 22 Mar 1806 in Tennessee, USA
d: 19 Feb 1880 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA

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Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 86
This is a story about Charity Melvina May, a girl born of pioneer stock. Her father was Lewis Camerer Nance and Charity Melvina May Nance.

Charity Melvina May Nance with son George
This is a story about Charity Melvina May, a girl born of pioneer stock. Her father was an Indian scout and friend of Sam Houston as well as a citizen of the Republic of Texas. Family lore says her mother had Cherokee ancestry. Her family heritage was, indeed, fascinating, but her life was hard and filled with sadness.

Charity and her twin sister, Sarah Arkansas, were born October 28, 1846, in Marshall, Harrison County, Texas which, at this time, was a mere village. Caddo Indians lived in this part of East Texas for centuries before the Spanish explorers arrived as early as the sixteenth century. American pioneers did not begin to move into the area until the late 1830’s. When the Mayes lived in Harrison County in the 1840’s it was a rugged country filled with forests of pine, cypress, and oak.

Charity and Sarah were the last two children of George and Mary Jane Upton May. Records indicate that Mary Jane May possibly gave birth to ten children but three died as infants. Nevertheless, this was a large pioneer family that moved from Tennessee to Texas under difficult circumstances.

By the time Charity was 3 years old, her family was living in Victoria County, Texas. We know in 1849 her father, George May, recorded his last will and testament in the Victoria County Courthouse. In 1850 the May family is listed on the 1850 United States Federal Census living in Hallettsville, Lavaca County, Texas. There were six children living in the household – Josephine (18), Samuel H. (12), John (10), Mary (8), Sarah (4) and Charity (4). By the way, Charity’s name is spelled incorrectly as “Cherela.” As we know, the census takers were sometimes way off on their spelling!

One year later, George May died leaving his wife and large family to make it on their own. It has been said that Mary had learned the ways of the Indian very early in life and knew how to live under the direst circumstances.

Though little is known how they managed, the years after Charity’s father died must have been very difficult. We have read stories or seen movies that romanticized life in early Texas, but we should take those “with a grain of salt.” It is hard to imagine being a single parent providing food and clothing for a family; taking care of the business of raising cattle and the produce of a farm; and fighting disease or nursing childhood illnesses. I wonder what it was like to kill rattlesnakes or other varmints or suffer the sweltering heat and humidity in their crude houses. It sounds rough and rugged to me.

Chances are the childhood of Charity and her siblings was cut short. Like so many children living in these early days of Texas, they had to do the work of adults. Since there were two older boys in the family, Mary Jane would have depended on them to do the farm work while the girls helped in the house. They learned very early how to survive.

Charity was in her early teens when she met Lewis Nance. His family lived nearby and it is likely they visited occasionally. Lewis and Charity developed a relationship and married April 30, 1862.
This should have been a happy time in this young couple's life, but that was not meant to be. The United States was engaged in the Civil War, and not long after their wedding, Lewis enlisted in the Confederate States Army. Like her mother, Charity was left with the responsibilities of running a farm and home on her own.

About a year after they married, Lewis and Charity had their first child, Margaret "Maggie" Nance March 4, 1863. The Civil War was still going on and Lewis was away most of the time. Since she was so young and a new mother, having her mother and other family near by must have been important to her.

By 1865 the Civil War had ended and Lewis returned home and began working to get his life back together. Farming and raising cattle was his means of doing it. Land records in Lavaca County tell us that he began to acquire land. In his book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*, Jim W. Kuhlman gives a detailed account of Lewis' land transactions. (Kuhlman, 42-47)

Over the next years, Lewis and Charity's family began to grow and on February 28, 1865, they had their first and only son, George Edward. Two years later, Katherine "Katie" May was born on September 24, 1867; and then Sarah "Sallie" Viola arrived November 18, 1869, and Louise or Louie "Lou" came along sometime in 1873.

Evidently, as a cattleman and farmer, Lewis provided fairly well for his family after his time served in the military. Sadly he lived only until 1874. His tombstone in the Hallettsville Cemetery (sometime called the Old Hallettsville Cemetery) does not give any birth or death dates. The inscription is: "Lewis C. Nance, Corporal Company D, 2nd Texas Cavalry, CSA" There is family lore that Lewis died of sunstroke while plowing his fields. His wife, Charity, was left a widow in her late twenties with five small children and pregnant with a sixth child. Their daughter, Adelia "Addie," was born about 3 months after Lewis' death. This information was given by a family member, Allen Belle Turrentine Johnson. (Kuhlman, 47)

Jim Kuhlman gives this additional information about Charity's life after her husband's death.

> Marcus Reuben, a twenty-one year old white man helped with the farm work. Her mother, Mary Upton May, was good help raising the children. Her twin sister, Sarah, and her stock raising husband, Richard Jones Clark, lived close by. The only son, George Edward, was good help with the farm work. (Kuhlman, 47-48)

> In a phone visit with Allen Belle (Charity’s granddaughter) on May 20, 1995, she recalled that her grandmother, Charity Nance, would not speak much about her family because she was ashamed that her grandmother had been an Indian, the Indian woman who married the army officer. Allen Belle noted that she personally was very proud to be 1/16 Indian. 'I don’t think I resemble my Indian heritage and I was never wild, but I am proud of my Indian lineage,’ she said with a chuckle and a heart filled with sincerity. (Kuhlman, 48-49)

> Around December 1894, Charity purchased some property from J.P Nelson in Yoakum, Texas, located in the southern part of Lavaca County. She then moved from the Nance farm near Hallettsville to Yoakum. While living in Yoakum, Charity and her daughters made
a living boarding railroad men who worked out of Yoakum. Three of her daughters, Maggie, Katie, and Sallie, met their future railroad husbands waiting on tables at Charity’s boarding house. Later her daughter Sarah Viola “Sallie” Nance Pipkin boarded railroad men when she lived at Sweetwater, Texas, according to Dorothy L. Green in a telephone conversation on October 23, 1994. (Kuhlman, 50-51)

Spending her final years in Yoakum, Charity, the beautiful woman with such a rich family history, died on Wednesday morning, September 4, 1901. Her obituary was found in the Cameron Herald, September 12, 1901.

Mrs. C.V. Nance died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J.A. Turrentine in Yoakum last Wednesday at 4:25 a.m. after a 10-week illness. She is survived by five daughters and a son, Mrs. J.A. Turrentine of Yoakum, Mrs. John Bush of Houston, Mrs. J. Varnell of Cameron, Mrs. W.S. Pipkin of Beaumont, Miss Lou Nance of Yoakum, and G.E. Nance of Goliad County.

Charity May Nance was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Yoakum. The tombstone inscription is: Charity V. Nance, October 28, 1846 – September 4, 1901, “Mother”

Sources


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Memorial Grave Marker for George and Mary Upton May

On June 9, 1973, descendants of George and Mary Upton May dedicated a memorial marker placed at the gravesite of their ancestors. The inscription on the back of the marker states:

George May

George May was born September 13, 1798 in what is now McMinn County, Tennessee. At that time, this beautiful country was a part of North Carolina and Indian Territory. In fact, the territory currently included in McMinn County in southeastern Tennessee formed a part of the Hiwassee River District which the Cherokee Indians ceded to the United States by a treaty. In researching George May, I found that Native American people played a big role in his life – a colorful life destined for adventure in unknown territories.

George was the twelfth child of John and Charity Taylor May. Even though it is unimaginable to most of us today, at that time large families were not uncommon. Family information indicates that perhaps as many as five of the May children may have died at birth or shortly thereafter. The strength of these rugged men and women living in primitive country in unsettled times is amazing to me.

George was 26 years old when he married Mary Jane Upton on February 18, 1825. Like one of his siblings (Nellie), he married a Cherokee. This is the family lore that has been handed down through the years. Jim W. Kuhlman wrote the book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*, and has a great deal of information about the May family. Here is what he has to say about George and Mary Jane’s marriage.

_It has been handed down, although there are no records, that George May married Mary Jane Upton on February 18, 1825. Another piece of history that has been handed down through the family was that Mary Upton was born on March 22, 1806, at old Fort Lewis, an army post near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mary’s mother was a Cherokee maiden who married a U.S. Army officer. Although a marriage of this type might seem unusual, interracial marriages between the Indians and white Americans were fairly common even in those days. (Kuhlman, 24)_

The Mayes were like countless other courageous folks of that time who had a desire to move west. Even though the stories of our pioneer ancestors answering the call to “go west, young man, go west” sound adventurous to us, I doubt that adventure was their driving force. Perhaps the source of their pioneer spirit was the promise of the land or more freedom. Both George and Mary Jane had a connection with the Indians, and I wonder if that was a major influence on them.

Several years after they married, George and Mary Jane struck out on their journey west. During those years, they started a family. Family records say James Sanders was born September 15, 1825.

_George and Mary May came to Texas around 1830. She was the only woman to make the trip to Texas with a group of men, riding all the way on horseback, with pack horses carrying all their belongings, along with a young son approximately four to five years of age. Can you imagine a youngster making this long arduous trip across the hills and valleys? There is some indication that they were at Fort Gibson in Oklahoma territory in 1829. Sam Houston was there that same year. (Kuhlman, 27)_
By 1830 George and Mary Jane May were in Texas, settling first in Nacogdoches. At one time this area was considered the "east gateway to the Texas territory." About the time the May family arrived, they were among many immigrants from the United States coming into this Mexican province. Among this stream of people were various Indian groups which had been driven out of the Old South. There is evidence they stayed there for about five to six years, and we know those were tumultuous times as the "clouds of revolution" gathered. When the Texas Revolution began in 1836, Nacogdoches was a "seat of unrest and supplied the revolutionary cause with men and money." (Handbook of Texas Online)

During these unsettled times, life went on for George and Mary Jane. On February 19, 1833, she gave birth to a daughter, Malinda Josephine. According to the Census Report of Williams Settlement, April 21 1835 (Nacogdoches Archives) the May family was continuing to live in the area. Listed are George May, 37 years old; Mary May, 29 years old; James Sanders, 8 years old; and Josephine M. May, 2 years old. It was only a few days later that they had another child. A son was born on April 30, 1835, and he was named after George and Mary Jane's friend, Sam Houston.

Sometime in the late 1830's George and Mary Jane moved to Marshall, a small village in Harrison County, Texas. It is believed they were living here when on January 11, 1838, Mary Jane gave birth to a son, Isaac Upton. It is possible he was named for Mary Jane’s father, but there are no records verifying information about her father. Unfortunately, the boy had a very short life, dying less than a year later on January 3, 1839. Even though it seems unbelievable, Mary Jane gave birth to another son, John, on October 25, 1839, proving she was a woman of remarkable strength!

These were tumultuous times with War for Texas Independence raging. In his research of records and letters, Jim Kuhlman found valuable information about George May's involvement. He was a surveyor for Jim Bowie (of the Battle of the Alamo fame) and an Indian scout for Sam Houston. Records indicate that he was given four land grants for his services. (Kuhlman sources include “James Bowie Correspondence" and Writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863, Volume II, July 16, 1814-March 31, 1842, edited by Amelia W. Williams and Eugene C. Barker)

At one time George was an Indian Scout for Sam Houston in the Republic of Texas Revolution. He was chosen for this job because of his wife Mary's knowing and understanding of the Indians. It was important for Sam Houston to have the Indians on his side rather than the side of Mexico’s Santa Anna. (Kuhlman, 28)

It is likely the May family stayed in Marshall for about 10 years. On February 12, 1840, George was commissioned as the first sheriff of Harrison County and he served until February 1, 1841. The May family continued to grow. A daughter was born on April 11, 1844 and named Mary Jane after her mother. Twin daughters, Sarah Arkansas and Charity Melvina, were born October 28, 1846.

There is a record that indicates the May family was living in Victoria County in 1849. It was there that George May wrote and recorded his last will and testament. (Kuhlman, 30)
Know all Men, by there presents, that I, George May, of the State of Texas, and County of Victoria, being of a feeble state of health, but of sound mind, do, in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, make this, my last and only Will and Testament, in the following form and manner.

I give, will, and bequeath unto my lawful wife Mary May, during her natural life, for her use and benefit, all of my property, both real and personal, in the State of Texas, as well as money due me, from my share of my deceased Father’s Estate, in the state of Tennessee, and county of McMinn. And after the decease of my said wife, Mary May, to be equally divided among our children: James May, Malinda Josephine May, Samuel Houston May, Mary Jane May, John May, and the twins, Sarah Arkansas May and Charity Melvina May.

Witness my hand and Seal this 9th February, 1849.

George May

Witnessed by: P. Harper, E. Trevhlz and William Williamsen

By 1850 they had moved to Lavaca County and can be found on the U.S. Federal Census. The name is misspelled as “Mays.” George Mays (52) is listed along with Mary Mays (45), Josephine Mays (18), Samuel H. Mays (12), John Mays (10), Mary Jane Mays (8), Sarah Valani Mays (6) and Cherela V. Valani Mays (6). (Note the misspelled names of the twins.)

It was only one year later in 1851 that George May died in Lavaca County. He was buried in the old Hallettsville Graveyard. On June 9, 1973 the descendants of George and Mary Upton May dedicated a memorial marker which was placed at the gravesite. The inscription is as follows:


Sources


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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
More than any other of our ancestors, Mary Jane Upton is the most elusive. We have more questions than answers about her life. Perhaps the primary reason for this is because family lore says she had Native American ancestry, and in the genealogical research world, this is a common claim. There is definitely something romantic about the idea, but it is often a "sticky wicket" to prove the claim. This is our dilemma!

We have been told that Mary Jane’s mother was a Cherokee woman who married a British soldier by the name of Upton. Even though none of the information has been documented, most family members believe there is truth to the story, myself included. Here is the story as related by Jim W. Kuhlman in his book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*.
It has been handed down, although there are no records, that George May married Mary Jane Upton on February 18, 1825. Another piece of history that has been handed down through the family was that Mary Upton was born on March 22, 1806, at old Fort Lewis, an army post near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mary’s mother was a Cherokee maiden who married a U.S. Army officer. Although a marriage of this type might seem unusual, interracial marriages between the Indians and white Americans were fairly common even in those days...

When Mary’s mother’s tribe decided to leave the area near Chattanooga for the West, her mother decided to go along, so the father took Mary. According to a speech given by W. R. Smothers, son of Elsie Smothers, on June 9, 1973, at the dedication of a marker in memory of George and Mary Upton May, he said, ‘It is believed that her father was an Upton and he gave Mary to be raised by a foster mother that was either a sister or the mother of the young army officer.’ Her parents sent her to a Presbyterian Mission School for her formal education.

(EDITORIAL COMMENT: It appears, but no accurate records are available, that her father was Isaac Upton. In the 1820 Census of Tennessee it lists a Samuel Upton family and a James Upton family in Franklin County, which is just west of Chattanooga, that had a girl in their family who met Mary’s age.)

In a letter written to me by Elsie Smothers in June of 1994, she writes: The father of Mary Upton was Upton (last name) and he was a British Army Officer. He and a group of soldiers were about to leave the area there in Tennessee, when Upton said to the men, ‘Before I leave, I want to go and get my daughter who is half Cherokee and take her to my sister where she will be able to get a good education.’

There are several different interpretations of the Army Officer and the Indian maiden and how the daughter Mary Upton was taken and raised. The mystery of who Mary Jane Upton’s parents really were, probably will never be completely solved, but it really makes quite a unique and passionate story. The move of the Indians and her family possibly took place in February of 1818, when Chief John Jolly (Ooleteka) and some three hundred thirty-one members of the Cherokee tribe left Tennessee for Arkansas. ‘John Jolly’ was described in ‘A History of Hamilton County (Tennessee)’ as ‘being half Indian, and dressed as a white man, I should scarcely have distinguished him from an American, except by his language. He was very plain, prudent, and unassuming in his dress and manners; a Franklin amongst his countrymen and affectionately called the ‘beloved father.’

There is some speculation, although no proof, that Mary Upton May’s mother was a daughter of Chief John Jolly (Ooleteka). (Kuhlman, 24-26)

In an effort to find proof of Mary Jane Upton’s Native American ancestry, *Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) testing was done in 2008 on two female descendants, Jean Langley Casey and Joy Ann Lapham Wright. Testing was done by Family Tree DNA, Houston, Texas. Jean’s line of descent is - Mary Upton May, Charity Melvina May Nance, Sarah Viola Nance Pipkin, Willie Eugenia Pipkin Langley, and Jean Langley Casey. Joy’s line is - Mary Upton May, Sarah Arkansas May Clark, Charity Fedonia Clark Crabb, Mary Lorena Crabb Lapham, and Joy Ann Lapham Wright. In both cases the DNA HVR1 Haplogroup was found to be L3b. This haplogroup is found in Africa and is not one in which Native American ancestry is indicated. Of course, family researchers were disappointed to find no DNA proof in Mary Jane’s Native American ancestry in her
maternal line. At this point, we definitely feel that we are up against an insurmountable “brick wall.”

Family researchers believe that Mary Jane Upton’s father may have been English or Irish and there is no indication that he had NA ancestry. Therefore, if she had NA ancestry, it is possible it was in her maternal grandfather’s line. From circumstantial evidence, some think her maternal grandfather was John Jolly (Ooleteka) and that his daughter Sarah or Sallie was Mary Jane’s mother. However, no documented information has been found that proves John Jolly had a daughter named Sarah or Sallie who married Samuel Isaac Upton.

When reading history of this era in America you realize very quickly how difficult it is to get verified information on an ancestor – unless they were a renowned historical figure. The research gives you a whole new appreciation of the work of historians, sociologists, and anthropologists. The convergence of people from various nationalities and ethnic groups, each with their own customs, religion, and world view, living in situations complicated by politics, war, and expansion, makes it quite challenging to find records to verify oral tradition and family lore.

As mentioned, Mary Jane Upton may have been born at old Fort Lewis near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Here is a bit of information about this area found in two books, The Cherokees and Their Chiefs in the Wake of Empire by Stanley W. Hoig, and How to Research a Little Bit of Indian by Afton Reintjes.

Governors Glen (South Carolina) and Dinwiddie (Virginia) had different intentions regarding the Cherokees. Glen saw them as a protection against attack on South Carolina; Dinwiddie wished to use them in an offensive campaign to drive the French from the Ohio country. The two governors also quarreled over the building of a fort among the Overhills. Dinwiddie responded with only one thousand of the seven thousand pounds requested by Glen as Virginia’s share of the fort construction.

In the spring of 1754, as Glen had promised, South Carolina constructed Fort Prince George among the Lower Cherokees near Keowee…In 1756 he ordered a complete rebuilding of the fort and dispatched an agent to Chota to reassure the Overhill Cherokees that a second fort would soon be built there.

Taking personal charge of assembling and outfitting a three-hundred-man expedition, Glen was preparing to march in early June when he was succeeded as governor by thirty-four year old William Henry Lyttelton. In the meantime, Dinwiddie had learned of Glen’s plans. Not wanting to miss the opportunity of getting fighting help from the Cherokees, he hurriedly sent Maj. Andrew Lewis with sixty men, most of them laborers, with orders to build a fort near Chota under the terms agreed to the year before.

Lewis and his men were welcomed by Old Hop and his chiefs, but dissension soon arose. Some of the chiefs demanded two forts - one to guard them from enemies by land and another from those by water. There were others who were convinced that a fort in their country would lead to British domination, persuaded by the French agents that the British meant to enslave them. With the French and Indian War underway, the support of the various tribes had become a matter of fierce competition.
Not waiting for the arrival of the South Carolinians, the Virginians constructed a log fort on the north bank of the Little Tennessee a mile above Chota. When it was completed in August, Lewis found the chiefs reluctant to send the warrior help that Dinwiddie was expecting. Lewis could get only seven men and three women to accompany him back to Virginia. He recommended to Dinwiddie that a military expedition be sent to crush the Cherokees into submission. (Hoig, 28-29)

The fort built Aug 1756 by Virginia (Maj. Andrew Lewis) on the north bank of the Little Tennessee River, near Echota, Tennessee was never garrisoned. (Reintjes, 81)

As we see, there is much speculation about Mary Jane’s birth, ancestry, and early life. Nevertheless, from information on census records, we are reasonably sure she was born in Tennessee about 1806. At this time she and her family were on the edge of civilization. Evidently, after she completed some schooling, she met and married George May. Family records say that Mary Jane married George May February 18, 1825, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. On September 15 of that same year, Mary Jane gave birth to their first son, James A. Sanders.

Like countless other courageous folks of that time, the Mayes had a desire to move west. It certainly makes me wonder what inspired their bravery to venture into unknown territory. What was the source of their pioneer spirit? Could it have been their Native American connection?

George and Mary May came to Texas around 1830. She was the only woman to make the trip to Texas with a group of men, riding all the way on horseback, with pack horses carrying all their belongings, along with a young son approximately four to five years of age. Can you imagine a youngster making this long arduous trip across the hills and valleys? There is some indication that they were at Fort Gibson in Oklahoma territory in 1829. Sam Houston was there that same year. (Kuhlman, 27)

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During these unsettled times, life went on for George and Mary Jane. On February 19, 1833, she gave birth to a daughter, Malinda Josephine. According to the Census Report of Williams Settlement, April 21 1835 (Nacogdoches Archives), the May family was continuing to live in the area. Listed are George May, 37 years old; Mary May, 29 years old; James Sanders, 8 years old; and Josephine M. May, 2 years old. It was only a few days later that they had another child. A son was born on April 30, 1835, and he was named after George and Mary Jane’s friend, Sam Houston.

Sometime in the late 1830’s George and Mary Jane moved to Marshall, a small village
in Harrison County, Texas. It is believed they were living here when on January 11, 1838, Mary Jane gave birth to a son, Isaac Upton. It is possible he was named for Mary Jane's father, but there are no records verifying information about her father. Unfortunately, the boy had a very short life, dying less than a year later on January 3, 1839. Even though it seems unbelievable, Mary Jane gave birth to another son, John F., on October 25, 1839, proving she was a woman of remarkable strength!

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Kuhlman states that the May family was living in Victoria County in 1849. It was there that George May wrote and recorded his last will and testament. By 1850 they had moved to Lavaca County and can be found on the U.S. Federal Census. The name is misspelled as “Mays.” George Mays (52) is listed along with Mary Mays (45), Josephine Mays (18), Samuel H. Mays (12), John Mays (10), Mary Jane Mays (8), Sarah Valani Mays (6) and Cherela V. Valani Mays (6). (Note the misspelled names of the twins.)

Regrettably the following year George May died, leaving Mary Jane a widow with a house full of children living in the small town of Hallettsville, Texas. Perhaps this felt like civilization to her after all she had endured traveling across the country and settling in some very primitive areas. Nevertheless, it seems to me she had some challenging times ahead of her. If the stories are true, I imagine she was up to the task.

There are countless records, books, and stories about the brave people who moved into and settled the dangerous and primitive territory that became known as Texas. George and Mary Jane can be counted among its first citizens.

From letters and interviews with descendants, Jim Kuhlman and family members have gathered some interesting information and lore that shed light on our ancestor, Mary Jane Upton May. He tells about her ability to adapt to the pioneer way of life because she had been trained in the “Indian ways.” With her husband and children she traveled by horseback or wagon through unfamiliar and unfriendly territory, undoubtedly encountering a myriad of obstacles. Other written accounts of wagon train journeys tell of pioneers who, like George and Mary Jane, were faced with unfriendly Indians, swollen rivers, wild animals, the lack of food and water for the livestock, and the necessity of gathering firewood along the way to use for the campfires. Mary Jane gave birth to children when living on the edge of civilization and suffered the loss of their baby son. Like other pioneer women, she cooked over campfire and learned how to dress buckskin to make garments for her family. Because of her supposed Cherokee background, some say she may have assisted her husband in dealing with the Indians when he served as an Indian scout for Sam Houston.

In light of the information that Sam Houston was a friend of George and Mary Jane, Kuhlman shares an interesting story. Evidently one family member (descendant of
Mary Jane) possessed a letter from Sam Houston thanking Mary Upton May for making the wedding dress and bonnet for his second wife, and Indian bride, Diana (Tiana) Rogers Gentry. Kuhlman adds that Mary Jane and Diana might have known each other when (and if) they attended the same missionary school in Tennessee and perhaps were even related. Of course, this is a speculation since there are no records available.

The years following her husband's death must have been extremely hard for Mary Jane May. Being left a widow with six children, she faced difficulties that are unimaginable to most of us. I believe she was a woman of tremendous strength and courage. As a single mother she had to provide economic security for her family under very tough circumstances. With the help of her children, she managed by farming her land. This might have been too much for some women, but Mary Jane and her children were survivors.

In 1860 Mary was continuing to live in Hallettsville, Texas with four of her children, John, Mary, Charity, and Sarah. Information on the 1860 U.S. Federal Census tells us that she was a farmer and that her son, John, was a farm laborer.

By 1870 Mary was still in Hallettsville but was living with her daughter Mary Jane Turk and her husband, William Harvey Turk. We know that she also lived for a time with her widowed daughter, Charity. Kuhlman shares this story given to him by Bennett Allen Nance.

Grandma May (as she was called by his father George Edward) ran the house with an iron hand. She smoked a corn cob pipe and trained my father in economics and some of the social ways of the Indians. She trained my father to be boss and the girls did the labor. She made the girls wait on my father and he was very spoiled. What success my father had as a good stockman, land trader and being very frugal was because of Grandma May's training. (Kuhlman, 37-38)

Mary Jane Upton May died February 19, 1890, in Hallettsville, Texas and was buried beside her husband in the Hallettsville Graveyard. On June 9, 1973, descendants of George and Mary Upton May dedicated a memorial marker placed at the gravesite of their ancestors. The inscription on the back of the marker states:


Many of us believe there must be some truth in the family stories passed down through the years that Mary Jane Upton had Native American ancestry – even without the mtDNA proof. Years ago people would not admit to their Indian ancestry and kept it under wraps. Because of this, it is not surprising that her children kept no records. We live in a vastly different world where people are proud to discover and prove Native American ancestry.

It goes without saying that we still have many unanswered questions. Where and when did the African ancestry enter the picture? How many hundreds of years ago did that
occur? Who was Mary Jane’s maternal grandfather? If her father was Samuel Isaac Upton, who was he and where did his family originate?

Without a doubt, our ancestor Mary Jane Upton May was an amazing woman of pioneer stock. She faced challenges unimaginable to most of us living today and dealt with them courageously.

*Mitochondrial DNA: This mtDNA tracks the straight maternal line, mother to daughter. Y-DNA tracks the male line, father to son. A son may receive mtDNA from his mother but cannot pass it on. Both mtDNA and Y-DNA determine the ancestral origin and “haplogroup” of the person tested. Haplogroups are genetic population groups that identify where in the mtDNA tree of humanity you fit in. Haplogroups are what allow us to identify how large groups of people migrated starting from Africa over 60,000 years ago to different parts of the world. Lineages that historically remained in Africa include haplogroups L1, L2, L3, and M1.

In the case of the two descendants of Mary Jane Upton May, their haplogroup assignment was L3b. *Part of the L cluster of haplogroups, which has been concretely characterized as representing the original human mitochondrial lineage, haplogroup L3b is found in Africa. This haplogroup dates to approximately 20,000 years ago, and is detected in highest frequency in north and west Africa. Future work will further document the historical distribution of this haplogroup and closely related haplogroups of the L cluster.* ([infor@familytreedna.com](mailto:infor@familytreedna.com))

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
Mary Jane with grandson

Mary Jane Upton May with grandson C.C."Lum" Turk taken about 1870.

*Photo from the collection of Elsie Turk Smothers*
Chapter Four

Edward H. Nance

and

Margaret Camerer Nance
Edward H. Nance

At the time this biographical sketch of Edward H. Nance is being written (2011) he has the distinction of being our “brick wall” Nance ancestor. There are several descendants searching for information, so we hope that one of these days someone will have a breakthrough. Nevertheless, let me tell you some of the things we do know about this man.

We are fairly certain Edward was born in Virginia in about 1810 as indicated in data from the 1860 United States Federal Census. The names of his parents or siblings are not known. In his book, *The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch*, Jim Kuhlman writes that it is likely that when Edward left Virginia he traveled by wagon on the historic National Road. This was the nation’s first federally funded interstate highway opening the nation to the west. It began in Cumberland, Maryland, in 1811 and eventually reached as far as Vandalia, Illinois, in 1838.

Edward’s wife was Margaret Cammarrar (most commonly spelled Camerer). She was born in about 1815 in either Pennsylvania or Ohio. Records indicate that her family moved to Brouilletts Creek, Edgar County, Illinois, in 1830. Edward and Margaret met sometime after that time and were married October 31, 1834.

After their marriage, they continued living in Edgar County for about five or six more years. During that time Edward and Margaret started a family. A daughter, Catherine, was born in 1836. They also had a son but there is no information giving his name or birth date.

Bureau of Land Management records indicate that in 1836 and 1837, Edward purchased land in both Edgar County, Illinois, and Vermillion County, Indiana, which is just across the county line from Edgar County.

Edward Nance is found on the 1840 United States Federal Census in Clinton County, Missouri. At this time the census recorded only the head of household and his family consisted of a male and a female, ages 20 to 30; and a male and a female both under the age of 5. The census also records one person employed in agriculture. While living in Clinton County, the Nance family continued to grow. A son, Lewis C., was born in 1841, and a daughter, Margaret A., was born in 1843.

Sometime before 1846 the Nance family moved back to Edgar County, Illinois. We know from the 1850 census that Edward worked as a miner. I agree with Jim Kuhlman when he says that working as a miner had to be an extremely difficult job. According to an article entitled “The U.S. Coal Industry in the Nineteenth Century” by Sean Patrick Adams, the coal mines in this area during the 1840’s tended to be small and labor intensive operations often limited to a few skilled miners aided by lesser skilled laborers. The coal miners worked close to the surface, often in horizontal drift mines, which meant that work was not as dangerous in this era before deep shaft mining. Nevertheless, the work of these coal miners was extremely arduous.
By the time of the 1850 United States Federal Census, Edward and Margaret had another child, Edward Y. Nance (born November 4, 1846). Listed with their parents are Catherine, Lewis, Margaret A., and Edward Y. Note that the son born between 1834 and 1840 is not included on this census. We do not know what happened to this son. Jim Kuhlman does mention some information that might be a possible clue.

*Also listed living in District Nineteen of Edgar County, Illinois in 1850 was Hugh Nance. He was eighteen years old, born in Owen County, Indiana and was working as a farm laborer for Robert Faris, an eighty-five year old framer. Owen County, less than fifty miles east of Edgar County, also was a coal mining area. Could Hugh have been the son listed in the 1840 Census of Clinton County, Missouri? (Kuhlman, 9)*

Margaret’s father, Lewis Camerer, died on November 26, 1855, and was buried at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, also known as Carmel-Light Cemetery, in Edgar County, Illinois. Margaret inherited a 1/9 share of the estate and subsequently sold the property to her brother Daniel Camerer, as did five of her seven sisters. The deed was executed on February 11, 1858, and a justice of peace noted that both Edward and Margaret Nance personally appeared and were delivered the deed. (Wood, 4)

The Nance family lived in Edgar County, Illinois, until after 1855 because information in later census records shows that two more daughters were born there. A daughter, Clara, was born in 1853, and another daughter, Dovey Viola, was born in 1855.

*At some point between the birth of Viola in 1855 and the July 5, 1860 Lavaca County Census, the Edward Nance family pulled up stakes in Illinois and moved to Lavaca County, Texas. Lavaca County lies some sixty miles southeast of Austin and (is) approximately eighty miles west of Houston, Texas.*

*As the crow flies, the distance between Edgar County, Illinois and Lavaca County, Texas is approximately 900 miles. That’s quite a challenge to undertake with a large family and all of ones belongings. Travel most likely was by covered wagon and oxen. If they made two miles an hour they were really doing well. A hundred miles in a week was a good goal. One can only wonder why a family would move that great a distance and endure the hardships one would entail along the way. One possibility was that land was very cheap and easy to obtain in those days. (Kuhlman, 9)*

*Note: In light of the fact that Edward and Margaret personally appeared and were delivered the deed of sale of her inherited property on February 11, 1848, they must have moved after that time. Patte Wood commented in a private email communication that she wondered if perhaps the money from the sale of the property helped finance the Nance family move to Texas. That certainly seems likely to me.*

There is an interesting occurrence that lends to more questions than answers about the Edward Nance family. Their oldest daughter, Catherine M. Nance, died on December 28, 1858, in Collin County, Texas. Catherine was owed $68.25 by Joseph Setter in Edgar County, Illinois. Margaret Camerer Nance’s brother, Daniel Camerer, was named administrator of Catherine’s estate on May 3, 1859. The heirs, all who were believed to be residing in Texas according to Daniel Camerer, were named as:
Father: E.H. Nance
Brothers and sisters: Margaret A. Scaggs, Edward Y. Nance, Clara E. Nance, Dovey V. Nance, and Lewis C. Nance. (Wood, 4-5)

This raises the question - why was Catherine located in a different place than her parents? Were there relatives in Collin County?

The Nance family settled in Lavaca County, Texas. Information on the 1860 United States Federal Census lists Edward and Margaret Nance along with their five children, Margaret, Lewis, Edward, Clara, and Viola. Edward’s occupation is farmer and his 16 year old son Lewis is working with his father as a farm laborer. It is on this census that Edward gives his birthplace as Virginia.

It is interesting to note that Lavaca County was named after the Lavaca River located in the area. “La vaca” is Spanish for “the cow” which seems a very suitable name for this part of Texas where cattle ranching was a primary industry for many years.

Like others in this area of Texas, Edward began to raise cattle. His sons Lewis and Edward Young followed in his footsteps. From the early livestock brand records recorded in the Lavaca County Courthouse, it is indicated that on June 11, 1861, E.H. Nance and his son L.C. Nance each recorded brands. On November 3, 1862, Edward recorded a slightly different brand. On April 20, 1863, Edward’s son, Edward Y., recorded his brand. These records were found by Jim Kuhlman in the Lavaca County Courthouse. (Kuhlman, 11)

As we know, the United States was engaged in the Civil War between 1861 and 1865. Even though Edward would have been too old to enlist, there are records indicating that his sons, Lewis C. and Edward Y., were enlisted. This was a tumultuous time for our country and life for all people in Texas must have been affected on many levels.

It is regrettable that following the 1860 United States Federal Census and the registration of his cattle brands, Edward Nance almost falls off the “radar screen!” Nevertheless, Patte Wood is another descendant and Nance family researcher and has found a few pieces of information.

Edward H. Nance apparently did not linger long in Lavaca County according to the information he provided when he registered to vote in Dallas County. On 23 September 1867, E.H. Nance was the 1,028 person to register. He stated he was a native of Virginia; had been in Texas for nine years; in Dallas County for six years; and in the Dallas County precinct for six years. This would mean Edward H. left Lavaca County sometime during 1861. Nevertheless, records indicate Edward H. registered a brand in Lavaca County in 1862.

The tax rolls of Dallas County were searched from 1861 to 1869. E.H. Nance was not located until 1868. He purchased 230 acres of land valued at $400. The original grantee was Robert Clayburg. In addition, he had five horses worth $200. The total amount of his assessed property was $770 and his taxes for the year were $2.04.

By census time 1870, no record is found of Edward H. Nance. It is my belief that Edward H. Nance died sometime between 1868 and 1869 when taxes were assessed in Dallas County. (Wood, 7)
In light of the fact that Edward’s daughter, Catherine, died in Collin County, Texas on December 28, 1858, it is a possibility that he had relatives in that area. (Collin County is located next to Dallas County.) If so, perhaps that was a reason for his move to that area.

There are many unanswered questions we have about the life of our ancestor Edward H. Nance. It would be wonderful to break down that “brick wall” to discover more about his parents and siblings. If he was born in Virginia - where? Why did he leave his family to live in Dallas County? Were there relatives in Dallas or Collin County? Where did he die and where is he buried?

In spite of all these questions, we know enough to realize Edward was a hard working man who farmed the land, worked as a coal miner, and eventually involved himself in the cattle industry. When Edward traveled with his family by wagon across the country from Illinois to Texas through dangerous territory, he showed he was a man of great stamina and courage who was seeking a better life for his family.

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patteatlakeway@aol.com

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2011
Chapter Four - Edward H. Nance and Margaret Camerer Nance

Marriage Record for Edward H. Nance and Margaret Camerer

State of Illinois.

Edgar County, I hereby certify that on the 2nd day of June 1833, I joined in the holy state of matrimony David Lebus and Jane Stephens, according to the usual custom and the laws of the state of Illinois, given under my hand, and seal this 2nd day of June AD 1833.

John W. Riley

State of Illinois.

Edgar County, I hereby certify that on the 31st day of Oct. 1834, I joined in the holy state of matrimony, Edward Nance and Margaret Camerer, according to the usual custom and the laws of the state of Illinois, given under my hand.

John W. Riley

State of Illinois.

Edgar County, I hereby certify that on the 24th of Oct., 1834, David Lebus was legally joined together as man and wife, witness my hand, Sept. 24th, 1834.

James Adams, S.C.
Margaret Camerer Nance

Nance family history researchers believe that our ancestor Margaret Camerer was born about 1815 in either Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania or Clermont County, Ohio. Records indicate that her family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio around the time of her birth, so it is difficult to determine the exact place. She was the second child of Lewis and Catherine Camerer. The surname is found spelled several ways—Kemmerer, Kammerer, Cammarrar, and Camerer (the most common spelling).

During the early 1800’s, the heavily wooded wilderness of Pennsylvania became home for numerous immigrant settlers and the German Kammerer family was among them. As one area became more “crowded,” people moved on west to Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. We see this pattern in the migration of Margaret Camerer’s family.

Early in 1815 Lewis moved his family to Clermont County, Ohio. Land records give evidence that Lewis purchased 142-¾ acres of land on June 10. As it turned out the Camerer family put down roots in this area and stayed for approximately fifteen years. Their family grew by leaps and bounds during that time. When the 1830 United States Federal Census was taken, they had ten children under the age of 20 years old.

Life in this Ohio rugged country was hard and fraught with dangers. All of us have read true accounts of how difficult it was for settlers trying to build a new life while fighting the harsh elements of nature, wild animals, and Indians. In the Camerer family of ten children I think it was a given that the oldest began to help in the house and on the farm very early on. More than likely Margaret and her older sister Mary Ann had to assume many household responsibilities at very young ages. Certainly all the children grew up very quickly.

On September 30, 1830, Margaret’s father, Lewis Camerer, sold his Clermont County land. In mid October 1830, he purchased land in Brouilletts Creek Township, Edgar County, Illinois, and moved his family to the area. Margaret would have been about 15 years old. A young man by the name of Edward H. Nance lived in the county and in the early 1830’s, he and Margaret met. They married October 31, 1834.

After their marriage, they continued living in Edgar County for about five or six more years. During that time Edward and Margaret started a family. A daughter, Catherine, was born in 1836. They also had a son but there is no information giving his name or birth date.

Edward Nance is found on the 1840 United States Federal Census in Clinton County, Missouri. At this time, the census recorded only the head of household and his family consisted of a male and a female, ages 20 to 30; and a male and a female both under the age of 5. The census also records one person employed in agriculture. While living in Clinton County, Edward and Margaret’s family continued to grow. A son, Lewis C., was born in 1841, and a daughter, Margaret A., was born in 1843.
Sometime before 1846 the Nance family moved back to Edgar County, Illinois. The 1850 United States Federal Census lists Edward and Margaret and their four children. A fourth child, Edward Y. Nance, was born November 4, 1846, in Illinois. Other children listed are Catherine, Lewis, and Margaret A. Note that the son born between 1834 and 1840 is not included on this census. We do not know what happened to this son. Jim Kuhlman does mention some information that might be a possible clue.

Also listed living in District Nineteen of Edgar County, Illinois in 1850 was Hugh Nance. He was eighteen years old, born in Owen County, Indiana and was working as a farm laborer for Robert Faris, an eighty-five year old farmer. Owen County, less than fifty miles east of Edgar County, also was a coal mining area. Could Hugh have been the son listed in the 1840 Census of Clinton County, Missouri? (Kuhlman, 9)

Margaret’s father, Lewis Camerer, died on November 26, 1855, and was buried at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, also known as Carmel-Light Cemetery, in Edgar County, Illinois. Margaret inherited a 1/9 share of the estate and subsequently sold the property to her brother Daniel Camerer, as did five of her seven sisters. The deed was executed on February 11, 1858, and a justice of peace noted that both Edward and Margaret Nance personally appeared and were delivered the deed. (Wood, 4)

The Nance family lived in Edgar County, Illinois, until after 1855 because information in later census records shows that two more daughters were born there. A daughter, Clara, was born in 1853, and another daughter, Dovey Viola, was born in 1855.

At some point between the birth of Viola in 1855 and the July 5, 1860 Lavaca County Census, the Edward Nance family pulled up stakes in Illinois and moved to Lavaca County, Texas. Lavaca County lies some sixty miles southeast of Austin and (is) approximately eighty miles west of Houston, Texas.

As the crow flies, the distance between Edgar County, Illinois and Lavaca County, Texas is approximately 900 miles. That’s quite a challenge to undertake with a large family and all of ones belongings. Travel most likely was by covered wagon and oxen. If they made two miles an hour they were really doing well. A hundred miles in a week was a good goal. One can only wonder why a family would move that great a distance and endure the hardships one would entail along the way. One possibility was that land was very cheap and easy to obtain in those days. (Kuhlman, 9)

Note: In light of the fact that Edward and Margaret personally appeared and were delivered the deed of sale of her inherited property on February 11, 1848, they must have moved after that time. Patte Wood commented in a private email communication that she wondered if perhaps the money from the sale of the property helped finance the Nance family move to Texas. That certainly seems likely to me.

There is an interesting occurrence that lends to more questions than answers about the Edward Nance family. Their oldest daughter Catherine M. Nance died on December 28, 1858, in Collin County, Texas. Catherine was owed $68.25 by Joseph Setter in Edgar County, Illinois. Margaret Camerer Nance’s brother, Daniel Camerer, was named administrator of Catherine’s estate on May 3, 1859. The heirs, all who were believed to be residing in Texas according to Daniel Camerer, were named as:
Father: E.H. Nance
Brothers and sisters: Margaret A. Scaggs, Edward Y. Nance, Clara E. Nance, Dovey V. Nance, and Lewis C. Nance. (Wood, 4-5)

This makes me wonder why Catherine was located in a different place than her parents. Were there relatives in Collin County?

By the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census the Nance family is in Lavaca County, Texas. Edward and Margaret Nance are listed along with their five children. The names, ages, occupation, and birth places are as follows.

Edward Nance, age 50, farmer, birth place Virginia.
Margaret Nance, age 45, housewife, birth place Ohio.
Margaret Nance, age 17, spinster, birth place Missouri.
Lewis, age 16, farm laborer, birth place Missouri.
Edward, age 13, birth place Illinois.
Clara, age 7, birth place Illinois.
Viola, age 5, birth place Illinois.

As we know, the United States was engaged in the Civil War between 1861 and 1865. Even though Margaret’s husband Edward would have been too old to enlist, there are records indicating that their sons, Lewis C. and Edward Y., were enlisted. This was a tumultuous time in the United States. Along with all people in Texas, life for the Nance family must have been affected on many levels.

Other than census records there is little information during the next years that sheds light on Margaret’s life. Her husband Edward is not found on any more census records. However, Patte Wood found that he registered to vote in Dallas County on September 23, 1867. She also found him on 1868 tax rolls in that same county. These two bits of information about Edward indicate that sometime after 1860 he left Lavaca County and moved to Dallas County without his family. It certainly makes me ask the questions – “Why did he leave?” and “Why did Margaret stay in Lavaca County?” Did they have relatives in that area? Was there a financial reason?

When the 1870 United States Federal Census was taken, Margaret was living with her daughter and son-in-law, Thomas and Margaret Scaggs. Margaret’s children, Edward Nance and Dovey Nance, are also listed in this household.

By the time of the 1880 census, Margaret was living with her son Edward and his wife, Mary Jane. After this census, the only records found about Margaret were located by Patte Wood in the Waco Directories at the Waco City Library, Waco, Texas. Margaret was found in the residence of Joseph and Dovey Willings (son-in-law and daughter) in the following years: 1888-1889; 1890-1891; 1898-1899; 1900-1901 and 1902-1903. It is curious that she was not found living in the Willings household in the 1900 United States Federal Census. (Wood, 8-9)

Patte Wood gives this additional information about her research on Margaret Nance.
Joseph Willings was an Assistant Sexton at the Greenwood Cemetery, located directly across the road from his residence on Earle. He and his wife Dovey Viola Nance Willings are buried at this cemetery.

Margaret Nance was not located in the Greenwood Cemetery Association’s records. According to the Waco City Secretary’s Office, record keeping of the association was “sketchy” when the City Secretary assumed recording responsibility. Neither is Margaret listed in the Index to Early McLennan County Deaths, compiled by John M. Usry, copy in the Waco, Texas McLennan County Public Library.

There is an unknown Nance buried in the China Springs Cemetery. On 17 August 2007 I contacted the China Springs Cemetery Association. Early records recorded only the purchaser of the plot which is about 24 feet X 30 feet. There is no record of a Nance or Willings buying a plot. The association stressed that this did not preclude a Nance or Willings being buried in the cemetery. (Wood, 9)

Margaret Camerer Nance’s final years along with her date of death and burial are a mystery to us. It seems that her husband moved away leaving her in the care of her children. Considering that during some of those years the country was in the midst of war and two of her sons were enlisted in the Confederate Army, it must have been a very difficult. Undoubtedly, her family needed her help and strength as their lives were impacted by the circumstances.

I envision Margaret being a woman of strength and endurance who “played the cards as they were dealt.” At least in her last years she was surrounded by those who meant the most to her and was able to be an integral part of their lives. As she had cared for them in their early years, they in turn took care of her.

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Wood, Patte Patterson, “Descendants of Edward H. Nance,” 2007, patteatlakeway@aol.com

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft
2011
Chapter Five

Ahnentafel Report

For

Bennett Allen Nance
Ancestors of Bennett Allen Nance

Generation 1

1. **Bennett Allen Nance**[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] was born on 23 Dec 1901 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA[8, 9, 10, 11, 12]. He was the son of 2. George Edward Nance and 3. Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward. He died on 17 Feb 1994 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[8, 13, 14, 15]. He married Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus on 01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[16, 17], daughter of George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk. She was born on 01 Dec 1904 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[18, 19, 20, 21]. She died on 05 Aug 1987 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA[22, 23, 24].

Generation 2

2. **George Edward Nance**[25, 26] was born on 28 Feb 1865 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[28, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32]. He was the son of 4. Lewis Camerer Nance and 5. Charity Melvina May. He died on 04 Feb 1937 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA[26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38]. He married Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward on 24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA[39, 40].

3. **Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward** was born 13 Dec 1869 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47], died 03 Mar 1967 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie, Texas, USA[47, 48, 49, 50], married 24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA[59, 40]. She was the daughter of 6. John Southern or Sidney Woodward and 7. Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson.

Children of George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward are:

i. **Willie May or Mae Nance** was born 28 Jan 1891 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 24 Jun 1932 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA[51], married Arthur "Doc" Fisher 12 Jan 1910 in Electra, Texas, USA.

ii. **Gladys Gertrude Nance** was born 10 Aug 1892 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 23 Aug 1990 in Canyon, Randall, Texas, USA, married Harry Bateman Hager 11 Jun 1914 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA.

iii. **Norma Dell Nance** was born Mar 1894 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 30 Nov 1976 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA, married Samuel Fred Beeker 20 Apr 1915 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA.

iv. **George Edison "Brother" Nance** was born 03 Jan 1896 in Ezzell, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 04 Nov 1954 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, married Bessie Lucille Parker 01 Oct 1924.

v. **Sadie Ann Nance** was born 05 Jul 1897 in Sweet Home, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 17 Aug 1992 in Amarillo, Potter, Texas, USA, married William Thomas "W.T." Oliver 24 May 1917 in Lockney, Floyd, Texas, USA[52].

+ 1. **vi. Bennett Allen Nance** was born 23 Dec 1901 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA[8, 9, 10, 11, 12], died 17 Feb 1994 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[8, 13, 14, 15], married Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus 01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[16, 17].

vii. **John Allison "Al" Nance** was born 18 Sep 1903 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA, died 13 Dec 1972 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA, married Rosetta Casey 28 Jun 1929 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[53].

Generation 3

4. **Lewis Camerer Nance**[54, 55] was born in 1841 in Clinton, Missouri, USA[56, 57]. He was the son of 8. Edward H. Nance and 9. Margaret Cammarrar or Camerer. He died in 1874 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[58, 59]. He married Charity Melvina May on 30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[60, 61].
5. **Charity Melvina May** was born 28 Oct 1846 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA, died 04 Sep 1901 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married 30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA. She was the daughter of 10. George May and 11. Mary Jane Upton.

Children of Lewis Camerer Nance and Charity Melvina May are:

i. Mary Margaret "Maggie" Nance was born 04 Mar 1863 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 23 Aug 1952 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, married John Varnell 05 Jan 1881 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

ii. **George Edward Nance** was born 28 Feb 1865 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 04 Feb 1937 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA, married Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward 24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

iii. Katherine May "Katie" Nance was born 24 Sep 1867 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 11 Nov 1909 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Jarred Allen Turrentine 25 Jan 1887 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

iv. Sarah Viola "Sallie" Nance was born 18 Nov 1869 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 24 Oct 1952 in Sweetwater, Nolan, Texas, USA, married William Stewart Pipkin 30 Nov 1892 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

v. Louise or Louis "Lou" Josephine Nance was born 02 Oct 1872 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 28 Sep 1950 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, married John George Bush Bef. 1912.

vi. Adelia "Addie" Nance was born Dec 1875 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 12 Apr 1908, married John George Bush Bef. 1898.

6. **John Southern or Sidney Woodward** was born on 13 Jan 1844 in Hallettsville, Colorado, Texas, USA. He was the son of 12. Jacob T. Woodward and 13. Lucinda Ann Hinch. He died on 16 Oct 1916 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA. He married Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson on 29 Jun 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

7. **Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson** was born 29 Apr 1846 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, USA, died Abt. 1882 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, married 29 Jun 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA. She was the daughter of 14. Richard Jordan Anderson and 15. Anna Montgomery.

Children of John Southern or Sidney Woodward and Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson are:

i. William "Willie" Oscar Woodward was born 01 Jan 1866 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 07 Jun 1938 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

ii. Kittie Blanche Woodward was born Abt. 1868 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 16 Feb 1960 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA, married William Thomas Grimes 23 Nov 1887 in Lavaca, Texas, USA; married Oliver King Bef. 1920.

iii. Betty Woodward was born 1869.

iv. Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward was born 13 Dec 1869 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 03 Mar 1967 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie, Texas, USA, married George Edward Nance 24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

v. Beulah Woodward was born 1872 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 16 Apr 1933.
Ancestors of Bennett Allen Nance

Generation 3 (con't)

vi. John Southern Woodward Jr. was born 1875 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 04 Nov 1904 in Williamsburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Minnie Leggett 1893 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

vii. Mary Della Woodward was born 05 Aug 1880 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 26 Aug 1926.


Children of John Southern or Sidney Woodward and Sally Moore are:

i. J.B. Woodward was born 02 May 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 15 Jul 1892 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

ii. Jacob Clinton Woodward was born 29 Sep 1891 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 02 Aug 1964.

Generation 4

8. Edward H. Nance was born about 1810 in Virginia, USA[81, 82, 83, 84]. He was the son of 16. Unknown Nance. He died between 1868-1869 in Texas, USA. He married Margaret Cammarrar or Camerer on 30 Oct 1834 in Edgar, Illinois, USA[85, 86, 87, 88, 89].

9. Margaret Cammarrar or Camerer was born Abt. 1815 in Pennsylvania or Ohio, USA[90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95], died Aft. 1902 in Texas, USA[96], married 30 Oct 1834 in Edgar, Illinois, USA[85, 86, 87, 88, 89]. She was the daughter of 18. Ludwig "Lewis" Kammerer or Camerer and 19. Catherine.

Children of Edward H. Nance and Margaret Cammarrar or Camerer are:

i. Catherine Nance was born Abt. 1837 in Edgar, Illinois, USA[97], died 28 Dec 1858 in Collin, Texas, USA[98].

ii. Son Nance was born Bef. 1840.

+ 4. iii. Lewis Camerer Nance was born 1841 in Clinton, Missouri, USA[99, 100], died 1874 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[101, 102], married Charity Melvina May 30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[103, 104].

iv. Margaret A. Nance was born 1843 in Clinton, Missouri, USA[105, 106], married W. Thomas Scaggs or Sceggs 14 Jul 1859 in McLennon, Texas, USA[107, 108].

v. Edward Young Nance was born 04 Nov 1846 in Cairo, Edgar, Illinois, USA[109, 110], died 03 Jun 1932 in Knox City, Knox, Texas, USA, married Mary Jane Pierson or Pearson 25 Dec 1879 in McLennon, Texas, USA.

vi. Clara Nance was born 1853 in Paris, Edgar, Illinois, USA[111, 112], married J.H. Scaggs 1869 in TX.

vii. Dovey Viola Nance was born 23 Mar 1855 in Paris, Edgar, Texas, USA[113, 114], died 20 Jan 1929 in McLennon, Texas, USA, married Joseph Spurgen Willings 1879.


Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 125
Ancestors of Bennett Allen Nance

Generation 4 (con't)

11. **Mary Jane Upton** was born 22 Mar 1806 in Tennessee, USA, died 19 Feb 1890 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married 18 Feb 1825 in Chattanooga, Hamilton, Tennessee, USA. She was the daughter of 22. ?Samuel Isaac Upton and 23. Unknown Cherokee Maiden.

Children of George May and Mary Jane Upton are:

i. James A. "Jim" Sanders May was born 15 Sep 1825 in Tennessee, USA, died 07 Apr 1851 in Mule Springs New Mexico, USA.

ii. Malinda Josephine May was born 19 Feb 1833, married John Fisher 04 Jan 1852 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

iii. Sam Houston May was born 30 Apr 1835.

iv. Isaac Upton May was born 11 Jan 1838, died 03 Jan 1839 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA.

v. John F. May was born 25 Oct 1839 in Texas, USA, married Mary Jane Woodward 03 Sep 1863 in Texas, USA.

vi. Mary Jane May was born 11 Apr 1844 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA, died 12 Dec 1894 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married William Harvey Turk 26 Oct 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

+ 5. vii. Charity Melvina May was born 28 Oct 1846 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA, died 04 Sep 1901 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Lewis Camerer Nance 30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

viii. Sarah Arkansas May was born 28 Oct 1846 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA, died 28 Mar 1883 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Richard Jones Clark 28 Dec 1865 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

12. **Jacob T. Woodward** was born on 14 Feb 1808 in Marion, South Carolina, USA. He died on 09 Jan 1884 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA. He married Lucinda Ann Hinch before 1836.

13. **Lucinda Ann Hinch** was born 17 Jan 1820 in Missouri, USA, died 23 Jan 1877 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Bef. 1836. She was the daughter of 26. Michael Henry Hinch and 27. Mary "Polly" Grant.

Children of Jacob T. Woodward and Lucinda Ann Hinch are:

i. Mary Jane Woodward was born 1836 in Tuskegee, Alabama, USA, died 1922 in Karnes City, Texas, USA, married John F. May 03 Sep 1863 in Texas, USA; married Lewis Smith 13 Nov 1856 in Lavaca Co, TX.

ii. Bernice Woodward was born 08 Aug 1838 in Tuskegee, Alabama, USA, married Richard Thomas Breeden 02 Jan 1861.

iii. Georgia Anne Woodward was born 05 Apr 1840, died 13 Sep 1923 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Wilson Tarkington 10 Oct 1861 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

iv. Thomas I. Woodward was born 26 Dec 1841 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 26 Dec 1841.
Generation 4 (con't)

+ 6. v. John Southern or Sidney Woodward was born 13 Jan 1844 in Hallettsville, Colorado, Texas, USA[73, 74, 75], died 16 Oct 1916 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA[76, 77], married Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson 29 Jun 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA[78]; married Sally Moore 1887.

vi. Virginia C. "Jennie" Woodward was born 15 Apr 1848, died 10 Oct 1935 in Dickerson, Galveston, Texas, USA, married David Arthur Cummings 14 Feb 1867 in Lavaca Co, TX.

vii. Lucian LeComp Woodward was born 05 Apr 1850, died 21 Mar 1918 in Karnes City, Karnes, Texas, USA, married Margaret "Maggie" Ester Stockton 1879.

viii. Clarence Grant Woodward was born 13 Aug 1852 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 27 Feb 1940, married Julia Ann Moore 1880.

ix. Keron "Kittie" Woodward was born 07 Jan 1855 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, died 17 Feb 1895 in Lavaca, Texas, USA.

x. Henry Woodward was born 19 Jan 1857 in Lavaca Co, TX, died 09 Oct 1931 in Schulinburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married Nancy Annie Wade 01 Feb 1876.


15. Anna Montgomery was born 1810 in Georgia, USA, died 17 May 1889 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA, married 12 Nov 1838 in St Landry, Louisiana, USA[130].

Children of Richard Jordan Anderson and Anna Montgomery are:

i. Milton Victor Anderson was born Abt. 1841 in St Landry, Louisiana, USA.

ii. Albert Berkley Anderson was born 31 Mar 1844 in St Landry, Louisiana, USA, died 11 Mar 1919 in London, Nueces, Texas, USA.

+ 7. iii. Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson was born 29 Apr 1846 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, USA[79, 80], died Abt. 1882 in Lavaca, Texas, USA, married John Southern or Sidney Woodward 29 Jun 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA[78].

iv. James Newton Anderson was born 30 May 1848 in St Landry, Louisiana, USA, died 03 Mar 1916 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA.

v. Richard Anderson Jr. was born 1850 in St Landry, Louisiana, USA.

Sources

1 Bennett Allen Nance, birth certificate no. 211604-PC.Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
Ancestors of Bennett Allen Nance

Sources (con’t)

7 Nance, Bennett Allen, Autobiography of Bennett A. Nance; Rancher in Real County from 1927 to 1948, n.p., p. 1.
13 Bennett Allen Nance, death certificate no. 017460, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
14 Bennett Allen Nance grave marker (photo), Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Kerr, Texas.
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17 Nance, Bennett Allen, Autobiography of Bennett A. Nance; Rancher in Real County from 1927 to 1948, n.p., pp. 2-3.
18 Archie Carlisle LeBus, birth certificate no. 59000, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
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33 George Edward Nance, death certificate no.6978, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
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38 Ancestry.com, Texas Death Index 1903-2000. [database online]. Provo, UT, USA.
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63 Charity Nance grave marker (photo), Oak Grove Cemetery, near Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas.
66 Charity Nance grave marker (photo), Oak Grove Cemetery, near Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas.
Sources (con’t)

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101 W.T. Scaggs and M.A. Nance marriage record, Texas Marriage Records, 1850-1870, Vol. 1, Frances T. Ingmire,
102 Estate Packet for Catherine Nance, 03 May 1859, Office of Circuit Clerk, Edgar, Illinois.
Sources (con’t)


111 Tise, Sammy, Texas County Sheriffs, Oakwood Printing, Albuquerque, NM, 1989, p 245.


113 Kuhlman, Jim W., The History of the Nance Hereford Ranch, 1996, p. 30

114 George May grave marker, Hallettsville Memorial Park, Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas.


119 May Upton May grave marker, Hallettsville Memorial Park, Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas.


124 Jacob Woodward grave marker (photo) Hallettsville Memorial Park, Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas.

125 Lucinda H. Woodward grave marker, Hallettsville Memorial Park or Hallettsville Graveyard, Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas.


130 State of Lousiana, Parish of St. Landry, marriage license no.122.
PART TWO

ARCHIE CARLISLE LEBUS

FAMILY HISTORY
George Franklin LeBus Family

George and Ethel LeBus with family at the "Big House" in Wichita Falls, Texas. (Seated L-R) Hazel LeBus Grizzle, Ethel, George, Ethel Marie LeBus, Archie LeBus Nance. (Standing L-R) Homer Grizzle, Laura V. LeBus Knight, C.D. Knight, Paul Bilbrey, Irene LeBus Bilbrey, Frank LeBus, Genie Cox LeBus, Roy LeBus, Lavina Taylor LeBus, Bennett Nance, Louise Latham LeBus and G.F. LeBus
Ancestry of Archie Carlisle LeBus

The family name of LeBus is much less common than the Nance surname. The family line that is included in this work is as follows: George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk; John Blackburn LeBus and Lucy Ann Leyburn; and Andrew Morandus LeBus and Margaret Simmington.

Fortunately, we have some data on the origin of this LeBus family line. Frank Blackburn LeBus, son of George Franklin and Ethel LeBus, found information that Andrew Morandus LeBus immigrated from the Alsace-Lorraine region of Europe. The information was received in a letter to Frank LeBus from Eugen Hubscherlen, Burgermeister of Largitzen, France on February 8, 1937.

Related surnames included in this research include: Calk, Daniels, Irving, Larrimore, Leyburn, Simmington and Titsworth.

Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2014
Chapter One

Archie Carlisle LeBus
Chapter One - Archie Carlisle LeBus

Pedigree Chart for Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus

John Blackburn LeBus
b: 07 Dec 1850 in Columbus, Ohio, USA
m: 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois
d: 29 Dec 1915 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma

George Franklin LeBus
b: 14 Dec 1876 in Pecora, Clay, Illinois, USA
m: 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
d: 26 Dec 1936 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA

Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn
b: 05 Oct 1853 in Knox, Indiana, USA
d: 16 Jul 1905 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, USA

Andrew Morandus LeBus
b: 14 Jul 1826 in Langfiz, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France
m: 16 Nov 1845 in Columbus, Ohio, USA
d: 01 Aug 1900 in Clay, Illinois, USA

Margaret Simington
b: 03 May 1826 in Columbus, Ohio, USA
d: 29 Feb 1913 in Fann, Clay, Illinois, USA

John L. Leyburn
b: Abt. 1831 in Pennsylvania, USA
d: Oct 1852 in Knox, Indiana

Nancy Jane Ruby
b: Abt. 1834 in Indiana
d: Abt. 1873 in Loudon, Loudon, Tennessee

Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus
b: 01 Dec 1864 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
m: 01 Jan 1885 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA
d: 03 Aug 1887 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA

Early Jackson "Jack" Calk
b: 06 Dec 1846 in Clarke, Alabama, USA
m: 20 Jan 1890 in Castrovile, Medina, Texas, USA
d: 15 May 1906 in Necona, Montague, Texas, USA

Thomas Clayton Calk
b: 21 Nov 1820 in Clarke, Alabama, USA
m: 04 Feb 1847 in Clarke, Alabama, USA
d: 28 Dec 1891 in Lytle, Atascosa, Texas, USA

Mary E. Larrimore
b: Oct 1829 in Alabama, USA
d: 06 Dec 1882 in Arkansas, USA

Ethel Cleora Calk
b: 09 Sep 1881 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
d: 01 Oct 1930 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA

Wincy Louise Titzworth
b: 20 May 1855 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
d: 28 Jan 1908

Levi Nicholas Titzworth
b: 04 Oct 1836 in Tipton, Tennessis, USA
m: 05 Feb 1852 in Cass, Texas, USA
d: 06 Jun 1893 in Fannin, Texas, USA

Julia Clementine Daniels
b: 23 Nov 1839 in Henderson, Tennessise, USA
d: 05 Mar 1873 in Fannin, Texas, USA
Archie Carlisle LeBus Nance

Archie Carlisle LeBus was born on December 1, 1904, in Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. She was the third child of George and Ethel Calk LeBus, and they named their baby girl after her two uncles, Archie LeBus and Levi Carlisle Calk. Bonham is a small community in Northeastern Texas, one of the oldest towns in the state (settled in 1837). At the time of her birth Archie’s “Papa” owned a machine shop.
Unfortunately, there are few stories to relate about Archie’s childhood except that her father was a man of entrepreneurial spirit and provided well for his family. Her mother was the consummate homemaker and a wonderful example to Archie. It is entirely possible that if her younger brothers or sisters could be asked, they might say that Archie was like a second “mother” to them. Evidently, her early life was a training ground. As her children can attest, as a wife and mother, nothing pleased Archie more than keeping a lovely home, cooking good meals for her husband, Bennett, and nurturing her children and supporting them in their endeavors.

In 1910 the LeBus family was living in Henrietta, Texas, and Archie now had three younger siblings. By 1920 they had moved to Electra, Texas, and George and Ethel had completed their family of nine children - Frank, Hazel, Archie, Jack, Irene, Roy, Laura V., George Franklin "G.F.", and Ethel Marie.

Neither George nor Ethel LeBus had a great deal of formal education but they must have encouraged Archie’s interest in learning and education. After graduation from Electra High School in 1922, Archie attended Ward Belmont in Nashville, Tennessee (1922-1923) and then later Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas (1923-1924). At both schools she developed a number of wonderful friendships. As those who knew Archie might expect, she remained in contact with some of these friends for many years. Even at the time of her death, several of her friends from school days sent letters of condolence to Archie’s husband and children.

Archie met her future husband, Bennett Allen Nance, when they were both seniors in Electra High School in Electra, Texas (1921-1922). After graduation they each went their separate ways for several years but remained in contact.

Bennett Nance gave a wonderful gift to his family when he wrote a short autobiography. In it he shares thoughts about this time in his and Archie’s life together.

"On a trip back to Electra, I was re-acquainted with Archie (we had been corresponding) and I decided I wanted to get married. It was the luckiest thing that ever happened to me, to acquire such a priceless pearl. She was the greatest thing that ever happened to me. We were married on January 1, 1925, in Wichita Falls, Texas, at the First Christian Church. Though nothing was ever said about their eloping, the ceremony must have been very small because Bennett says - her brother, Jack LeBus stood up for us, not mentioning any other people.

We went on our honeymoon in a Model T Ford. After this, we decided to move back to Canyon with my folks. There were three families of us - my father and mother, my brother George and his wife, Lucille, and Archie and myself living in one house.

Mom (Archie) and I were never happy on the ranch in Canyon with my folks, so we went to Electra and I went to work at the LeBus and Friend (L & F) Chevrolet Company selling cars and helping out front at the gas pumps. In the meantime, Papa (Bennett’s father) had sent me word that if I could find a ranch that I liked, he would look into the matter. I began to look around for another location and found an area that intrigued me around Rocksprings down in the Hill Country of Texas. (Bennett Nance)
In 1926, while Bennett and Archie were still living in Electra, a very sad life event occurred. Their first child was born on September 16 – a baby girl who they named Aileen. Regrettably, we know she died the same day. It must have been devastating for Archie and Bennett to lose their first child. As a mother myself I cannot think of anything more difficult than the loss of a child, no matter the age. There is record of her death but no information about the cause. My mother, Archie, never shared anything about her first pregnancy or this terrible event with me. It must have been too painful. Fortunately, she did have a large family around to bring her comfort and consolation. Even though early childhood death may have been more common in those days, it does not negate the fact that it was a very sad time in Bennett and Archie’s early life together.

In his autobiography, Bennett Nance writes that his father told him if he found a good ranch he would buy for him. Bennett went looking and found a ranch in central Texas.

_Papa Nance purchased the ranch from the Rudisl’s. It was located on the Divide of the Edwards Plateau where the Frio River started and it became known as the Divide Ranch, 35 miles east of Rocksprings and 65 miles west of Kerrville. Archie and I moved south to take over the operation of this ranch._

_In late August, 1927, we had all of our belongings loaded and traveled to the ranch to start our new adventure. I drove a truck and Archie followed in the car. We drove on mostly dirt roads. I can remember driving up to the ranch and going through the gate that was just about 100 yards from the house. The gate was too narrow and I ripped our new bedsprings off the side of the truck. Archie was upset and crying. You must remember this was a real change for her, but she was determined to try and be a good wife and mate._

_We started improving the ranch. I was very pleased now being in what I thought was the best place on earth and in a new business. I knew nothing about sheep and goats, although, I had the advantage of being a country boy. The Great Depression was starting, but we were always able to get groceries once a week on credit payable when the mohair or wool sold. (Bennett Nance)_

It is a treasure to have Bennett’s recollections of his and Archie’s early life on the Divide Ranch. He does not make big issue of it, but this new lifestyle was a huge change for Archie. She was not a country girl and had grown up surrounded by a large supportive family. Undoubtedly, she had to call on some deep reserves of strength and faith as she adjusted to life on a sheep and goat ranch in a remote area of Texas. It seems to me she rose to the occasion!

More changes occurred in 1929 when Bennett and Archie were expecting a baby. Because Archie needed to be near a doctor and medical attention, they decided to move back to Electra. Having lost their first child, it makes sense that they had some anxiety about this second baby and felt relief knowing she would also have family support there in Electra. Dan Allen was born April 10, 1929. Happily they welcomed their healthy baby boy! After Archie and Dan were strong enough to travel, they moved back to the ranch.

_On October 25, 1931 Archie gave birth to a beautiful baby daughter, Nancy. Again, they_
had moved near a doctor but this time to Kerrville which was only 65 miles from the ranch. By this time, they had built a new home on the ranch which was more comfortable and suitable for their growing family. I recall hearing about the larger kitchen with both a wood-burning iron stove and a gas stove. Archie probably enjoyed her better equipped kitchen since cooking for her family was something she absolutely loved.

In his autobiography, Bennett says that by 1935 living in such a remote area presented a "school problem" for Dan and Nancy. To help remedy this they built a small school house and employed a tutor, Miss Dorothy Sikes, from Center Point, Texas to live in and teach the children. However, as the Depression continued to worsen, home schooling worked for only a short time. They decided to rent a house in Kerrville during the fall and winter so that Dan and Nancy could attend school. Bennett commuted back and forth from town to ranch.

Bennett and Archie’s family continued to grow and on February 22, 1937, their baby girl, Lucy Ann, was born at home in Kerrville. (She was named after Bennett’s mother.) Perhaps it was more common at that time to give birth at home, but it must have required some special preparations and, of course, a doctor who made house calls! In her autobiography, Lucy Nance Croft shares some memories her brother Dan had about her birth.

*The first thing I can remember about you is Mom’s preparations for your being born at home. At the time it was 925 Myrta Street. Of course, that’s in Kerrville. I remember Mom and her friends obtained a hospital bed somewhere. They made up a lot of absorbent pads. They also had a crib and other things around. I can recall the big event but really not in great detail. (Croft, 7)*

In the fall of 1938 there was another move for the Nance family. The school situation again presented a problem and the decision was made to rent a home in San Antonio so that Dan and Nancy could attend better schools. This was a longer commute to the ranch for Bennett but it was necessary.

Continuing to search for a solution to the "school problem," Bennett and Archie decided to purchase a home and move to Wichita Falls, Texas so that Dan and Nancy could attend school there and Archie would be near her family. Bennett continued to commute to the ranch but says that because he had good help he could stay in Wichita Falls for longer periods of time. However, this changed in 1941 with the advent of World War II. He had to do his part in the war effort by raising food, mohair, and wool. This meant spending more time at the ranch and away from his family. With her husband away for periods of time, Archie must have been happy to be near her family during this time of national and world upheaval.

A very happy event occurred on July 25, 1943, when Bennett and Archie added a beautiful little red haired baby boy, Steven Anthony, to the family! Not long after his birth, the family sold their home in Wichita Falls and moved back to Kerrville. They lived at the ranch for about six months while the house at 901 Myrta Street was being
remodeled. During that time, Nancy and Lucy attended a one-room school on the Divide while Dan was enrolled at Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri.

When the Nance family moved into their Kerrville home in early 1944, Archie’s days in the country were over. Though their life was in Kerrville, they would go out to the ranch on occasion until it was sold in 1948. It makes me wonder how Archie felt about all of this change – perhaps a mixture of joy, relief, and nostalgia. In her book, Lucy Nance Croft shares some of her memories of life on the Divide Ranch.

- The ranch house with a large screened in porch.
- The rocking chairs on the porch and Daddy holding and rocking me.
- Daddy teaching me to ride my horse, Tom Thumb, a Shetland pony.
- Having a pet fawn.
- Sheep shearing time.
- Mama cooking on the large, wood-burning iron stove.
- Swimming in a large water tank.
- Barbecue suppers when the ranchers and their families from the Divide gathered to visit and break bread.
- Clothes drying on the clothesline.
- Playing records on a wind-up “Victrola.”
- Making blanket houses on the porch and being stung by a scorpion!
- Mama making clabber and butter in a hand-operated churn.
- Windmills.
- The rocky countryside and barbed wire fences.

With their family complete, Bennett and Archie began their life in Kerrville and being a part of this Texas Hill Country community became very important to them. As it turned out, 901 Myrta Street was the Nance home for 47 years. During those many years they lived a full, rich life filled with the joys and sorrows of raising their children and then welcoming grandchildren into their lives. To Denise, Ben, Hank, George, Bennett, Leslie, Lyle, Lloyd, Stephanie, and Laura, they were affectionately called “Mom and Pop.” Nothing pleased Mom more than being with her dear grandchildren and spoiling them a bit with her delicious homemade biscuits! I am sure if asked, each of them would have a story about hanging out in her kitchen.

Later in their life together, Pop and Mom bought a small country house on 60 acres of land near Leakey, Texas. It was a very pretty property adjacent to Rosetta Nance’s home and very near the Frio River. They called it “El Charco.” Perhaps Pop enjoyed this rustic spot more than Mom, but nevertheless, it provided a little “get-away” for them. It is possible that it reminded them a little of their early days living on the Divide ranch.

In her autobiography, Lucy Nance Croft fondly remembers her mother.

Mama loved to cook! We in the family, children and grandchildren alike, will always picture her spending many hours each day in her kitchen. She knew everyone’s favorite foods and delighted in preparing these special dishes for them. Her specialties included homemade
biscuits, lemon cake, sweet potato pie, combread, chicken and dumplings, and peach preserves—made from Fredericksburg peaches. She loved the study of nutrition and made sure her meals were not only tasty but healthy as well. She said many times “I plan to die healthy”—and she did!

Another activity my mother enjoyed was sewing. She always kept her sewing machine set up and ready for action. She took pride in her appearance—and ours as well. She had a special knack for repairing, altering, and redoing, so that we all had clothes that were stylish and in great shape. Needlepoint was another of her pleasures, particularly if she was making a pillow or decorative item as a gift for a loved one.

Style, not vanity, was certainly one of Mama’s attributes. She had a real sense of style and quality, and it was important to her that it was reflected in her personal appearance. Her wardrobe included lovely clothes, jewelry, shoes, and purses. Many remember her beautiful steel gray hair and lovely skin.

Like my dad, Mama spent many afternoon and evening hours reading. She was a devotee of the Science of Mind Magazine that emphasized the importance of a healthy mind and spiritual growth. Of course, she loved home magazines and books about nutrition and health. She appreciated good music and could play a few tunes on the piano. A favorite leisure activity was listening to recordings of religious or popular songs. Unlike Daddy, she really enjoyed television movies and sporting events such as golf and football.

Church activities were of great interest to Mama, particularly when we were growing up. She attended worship and women’s groups and helped on numerous occasions with church-related dinners and parties. In her later years, she and Daddy enjoyed watching Robert Schuler’s television worship service, The Hour of Power, from the Crystal Cathedral in California. She also liked his books on tape. Unfortunately, one of her unrealized dreams was to attend a service in the cathedral.

Mama was basically a serious-minded woman, but she could enjoy a joke or funny story, unless it was on her! Like most of us, criticism, direct or otherwise, was difficult for her. She was a person of great integrity and honesty and was quite moderate in her tastes, religion, and politics. She valued her family, her religious freedom, and her country. She appreciated and respected the natural world and its beauty and fragility. I believe this was demonstrated in the way she adapted to life on the ranch as a young woman and by her loving care of growing things. She spent hours in her beautiful yard, working to make it more attractive and healthy.

Traveling with Daddy and the family was one of her pleasures, and together they enjoyed the beauty of the United States and Canada. I remember her saying she would love to go to Hawaii, but unfortunately they never got there. Flying was not their favorite means of travel, so that may have been one reason the trip never materialized.

Mama influenced me in so many ways, and as is so often the case, I did not see it until I was an adult. Each of my children has told me that in certain ways I remind them of “Mom,” as she was known to her grandchildren. I consider that a great compliment, especially when I consider her love of the home and family life; her deep spirituality and Christian faith; the importance she placed on education, reading, and study; the significance she placed on good health as demonstrated in her delicious and nutritious food; her desire to please and, to not only do things right, but to do the right thing; the love of people she exhibited in reaching out to others; and her sense of style and beauty shown in how she
cared for herself, her home, and her family. And last but not least, her graciousness and gentleness. (Croft, 32-35)

August 5, 1987 was a very sad day for Bennett Nance and his family - his beloved wife Archie died. Every year Bennett and Archie made a trip to the Rio Grande Valley to check out the cotton crop on their farm. While visiting there in early August, she died without warning. Her funeral was held in Kerrville and her burial at the Sunset Cemetery in Mountain Home.

Archie LeBus Nance

Our fondest memories of our mother

Being a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother...A love of cooking and entertaining...Her Loving patience...An enjoyment of sewing and needlework...Her love of reading and study of nutrition...Enjoyment of travel with family around the United States...Collector of photographs, antique glassware, and furniture...Her love of inspirational literature and music.

Sources


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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft
2010
Chapter One - Archie Carlisle LeBus

Archie's Life in Pictures

High school graduation photo - Electra High School Class of 1922.
College Days

Archie (upper left) with girlfriends at Ward Belmont College 1923.
The LeBus Women

Ma LeBus with daughters (R-L) Hazel, Archie, Irene, Laura V. and Ethel Marie. Photo may have been taken in the 1930's.
Nance Family in California

Archie, Dan, Nance, Bennett and Lucy visiting in California about 1939.
Someone's in the Kitchen with Mom!

Mom gets help in the kitchen after Christmas Dinner about 1966. (L-R) Steve, L.K., Mom, Nancy, Lucy, Eunice and Tom.
Bennett and Archie Celebrating 50 Years

Bennett and Archie Nance
50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
Archie LeBus Nance is buried in the Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Texas.  
(Note: Birthdate should be Dec. 1, 1904)
Chapter Two

George Franklin LeBus

and

Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Includes Early Jackson Calk and
Wincy Louisa Titsworth Calk
Thomas Clayton Calk and Mary Larrimore Calk
Levi Nicholas Titsworth and Julia Daniels Titsworth
George Franklin LeBus

George Franklin LeBus' story begins December 14, 1876, in Flora, Clay County, Illinois. He was the second child of John and Lucy Ann “Annie” Leyburn LeBus. George’s father was a blacksmith in this small town in southeastern Illinois. By 1880, John, Annie, and
their family were living in Loudon, Tennessee. Perhaps they moved there to be near her siblings. From information on the 1880 United States Federal Census, John (J.A. Lebus), is continuing his trade as a blacksmith.

Unfortunately, I know little about George’s childhood and youth, but sometime between 1880 and 1899, he made his way to Texas and settled in Bonham. There he met and married Ethel Cleora Calk, November 5, 1899. He was operating a blacksmith and machine shop. Eventually this business developed into the LeBus Rotary Tool Works. Family lore tells us that George was an inventive man with an entrepreneurial spirit. This must have been true because in the early 1900’s he developed a thriving business manufacturing and selling “specialty tools for the booming west Texas oil fields. Tool pushers and/or owners would see a specific need for a new tool and LeBus would forge the new tools on demand.” (www.lebus-intl.com)

On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, George and Ethel were interviewed by Frances Hyland, a reporter for the *Wichita Daily Times*. George’s comments add a little color to the story of his arrival in Bonham and his early life there.

_A blacksmith by trade, he had chosen Bonham as the scene of his operations because of the horse racing activity there at that time. ‘Did you tell the reporter that I rode the rods into Bonham?’ Mr. LeBus asked his wife with a sly grin. Then, he hastened to explain that ‘Oh, I had money all right, but I didn’t want to waste it on the cushions.’_

_Thus it was that the thrifty 24 year old blacksmith was financially able to take a bride._

_‘I had my trade,’ he says, ‘and as my responsibilities grew I was able to prove my theory that God doesn’t expect anything from us which He does not equip us…He has given us the tools with which to do the job if we are willing to do it.’_

While living in Bonham, George and Ethel started their family with the birth of Frank Leyburn, September 9, 1900. Their first son was followed by two daughters, Hazel Annabelle, born January 23, 1902, and Archie Carlisle, born December 1, 1904.

Sometime before 1906, the LeBus family moved to Madill, Oklahoma. Undoubtedly, George’s business required that they move there. While living in Madill, two more babies were born. Jack Blackburn arrived on April 17, 1906, and Irene Clementine was born February 17, 1908. The LeBus clan was growing!

At the time of the 1910 U.S. Federal Census, George, Ethel and their family were living in Henrietta, located in north central Texas. While there, two more children were born. Roy Henderson arrived on April 10, 1910, and Laura V. was born January 18, 1913.

George went where his work was needed and after their move he opened another tool company in Henrietta. On the LeBus International website there is a brief history of the company with a few old photographs. One picture is of workers at the old Henrietta plant.

By 1917 George and Ethel had moved again, taking their family to Electra, Texas, located in Wichita County about 15 miles northwest of Wichita Falls. This little town
grew somewhat after oil was discovered in 1911 and the Electra Oilfield developed. It is likely this was one reason George decided to bring his tool manufacturing business to the area. His machine shop and blacksmith shop later developed into the LeBus Rotary Tool Work and the LeBus Motor Company.

While living in Electra, the LeBus family continued to grow. George Franklin, Jr. was born May 10, 1917, and Ethel Marie arrived on August 6, 1919. They had one more child, Donavel Calk, born March 13, 1925 and died March 22, 1925. I do not have any information about the death this child, but I imagine it was a sad event in the life of George, Ethel and their entire family. Donavel was their last child.

A world event that must have impacted the LeBus family and their community was World War I. Even though George was not drafted into the military service, he was required to register. Like all United States citizens, he must have felt the effects of his country at war. It is possible that his business and the oil industry, too, may have played a part in providing supplies for the war effort. (This is speculation on my part. I have no documentation.) This conflict involved most of the world’s great powers and was centered on Europe. It has gone down in history as one of the largest and most deadly wars with more than 15 million people killed. It was also known as the Great War and the War to End All Wars.

The LeBus family lived in Electra for about fifteen years which seemed like a long time for this family to be in one location. George had established a good business and provided very well for his family. Undoubtedly, this large family required a lot of care and attention. On the 1920 U.S. Federal Census, there are fourteen people in the LeBus household, including one daughter-in-law (Frank’s wife, Thelma) and two servants. That was one busy home!

By the time of the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, the LeBus household was much smaller. George and Ethel are listed with three children and one servant. The older children had married and started families of their own. The LeBus family continued to grow but now grandchildren were added into the “fold.” I imagine they enjoyed their new roles as grandparents. They were affectionately called “Pa and Ma” by the little ones.

George LeBus knew he had to go where there were business opportunities, so when the East Texas oil boom occurred, the LeBus family moved to Longview to open a machine shop in 1934. This company later developed into LeBus International.

When deep oil was discovered at Kamay in 1938, George decided to move back to Wichita Falls. After turning the LeBus Rotary Tool Works over to some of his children, he entered the oil business.

One interesting note – Frank, the oldest son, was a machinist and became involved in George’s tool manufacturing business at a young age. Eventually, it was Frank who was one of the founders of LeBus International in Longview, Texas.

Upon their return to Wichita Falls, George and Ethel bought a large home on Harrison
Chapter Two - George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Street. It was magnificent and became known in the family as the “Big House.” In her autobiography, Lucy Ann Nance Croft shares her memories of this house.

As I try to recall memories of Ma and Pa LeBus’s home (Mr. and Mrs. George F. LeBus, maternal grandparents) in Wichita Falls, Texas, the word that comes to mind is “palatial.” The house I am referring to was the one I remember visiting as a small child; they called it the Big House. They purchased this thirteen-acre estate in the early 1930s and lived there for about twenty years. Amid my mother’s memorabilia, I found the newspaper clipping from the Wichita Falls Record News about my grandparent’s home.

‘George F. LeBus, who left Electra a few years ago to enter competition in the East Texas oil field at Longview, made his return to this area auspiciously significant when he purchased the baronial home name by which the estate is known to Wichitans, covers an expanse of 13 acres on Harrison Avenue in southwest Wichita Falls. The construction of the home is of brick and reinforced concrete, towering three stories and supplied with 19 rooms and six bathrooms . . . the architecture is English colonial. An ornamental iron fence surrounds the grounds, on which are, in addition to the luxurious home, tennis courts, tea house, greenhouse, rose arbor, rose garden, lily ponds, fountain and a four-car garage over which are comfortable quarters for two servants and laundry room.’

~ Wichita Falls Record News

I recall that even though my grandparents were quite wealthy, lived in a lovely mansion with a high-profile life, and had many children and grandchildren, they were both very loving and caring to each and every one of us. There was a lot of laughter, visiting, and hugging in the Big House. Large family holiday gatherings, lively dinners, reunions, birthdays, and dances in the ballroom in the basement were not unusual in such a large family. As Ma said, “it takes a lot of living in a house to make it home.” My grandparents certainly accomplished that. (Croft, 25-27)

George and Ethel along with their children and grandchildren loved that big home with its beautiful well-tended grounds. Even though larger groups gathered at holiday times or on special occasions, many enjoyed the times when a few family members or friends gathered around a dinner table or in the den to discuss a myriad of subjects and concerns. I imagine some of those discussions may have become heated as they tried to solve all the world’s problems! Many in the LeBus family were known to be opinionated and outspoken!

Both George and Ethel gave their time and resources to the communities in which they lived. His obituary in the Wichita Falls Times had this to say.

A firm believer in the theory, ‘God doesn’t expect anything from us for which He does not equip us,’ LeBus gave freely of his time and money in an effort to prepare youthful citizens of the area for productive careers. In 1953, LeBus and his wife established a perennial scholarship fund amounting to approximately $6000 annually at Midwestern University. The fund provided for eight scholarships annually – four for men and four for women. In addition to establishing the scholarship fund, LeBus has contributed heavily in the past to Midwestern University building programs.

In 1945 George LeBus wrote and published a small book entitled, Think It Over. I am amazed at his eloquence and depth of expression. His intent in sharing his thoughts is found in an excerpt from The Author’s Preface.
But time is valuable and life is short and one does not have the opportunity to say all he thinks and to explain all the implications. However, upon extended requests, I pick up my pen to add clarity to the bits of philosophy that have made my life happy and triumphant. I do so with humility but with definite conviction; I do so trusting that this little book may contribute something worthwhile to the world. (Page vii)

The book concludes with some LeBus Proverbs. They are quite revealing of the man.

He who expects little things in life will only find little things.

A man is nothing more or less than what he thinks.

He who gets dollar in his eye and six o’clock on his brain is an unhappy man.

The best formula for failure is, ‘Don’t put your heart in your work.’

If you are a Son of God then act like one.

He who worships his ancestors is half dead already.

A machineless machine is as intelligent as a loveless faith.

Just as the beach is near the sea; so brotherhood is near God.

If you don’t want to get well then don’t go to work; idleness will kill you.

Give people the flowers while they are alive so they can enjoy them.

You cannot solve life’s problems with hate just as you cannot put a square in a round hole.

The time came when Pa and Ma LeBus decided to sell the Big House. I do not know the reasons, but perhaps they reached a time and age when they wanted a change of lifestyle. That change came in about 1946 and it was a big one. After vacationing in California, they decided to move there. Other family members moved out west at the same time, so Pa and Ma either led the way or followed the family pack. Chances are they led the way! Some of us have memories of taking summer trips out to visit and join them in seeing the sights and basking on the beach. There were tales of them meeting some movie stars, but of course, it is possible the stories were embroidered a bit! Nevertheless, George and Ethel enjoyed their time in California for about one year and then decided to head back “home” to Texas.

Both Pa and Ma were beginning to have some health issues and that was probably a consideration in deciding to return to Texas. They built a lovely home on Miramar Street in Wichita Falls. It was a large house but not like the Big House. The architectural style was traditional with many features that made it very manageable and comfortable for an older couple. With its spacious living room, kitchen, and dining room, their home continued to be a gathering place for family and friends.
After a full, rich life, George Franklin “Pa” LeBus died on December 24, 1956, in Wichita Falls, Texas. Here is an excerpt from his obituary in the Wichita Falls Times.

One of Wichita Falls leading oil men and civic leaders, George F. LeBus, Sr., 2204 Miramar, died Saturday night in a Wichita Falls hospital following a heart attack suffered early Saturday afternoon.

LeBus, 80, suffered a heart attack at 1:45 p.m. Saturday while in the Petroleum Club in the Kemp Hotel.

A resident of Wichita County for 45 years, LeBus was a retired oil man and machine shop operator, having begun his long and colorful career as a blacksmith in Bonham, Texas.

In her autobiography, Lucy Ann Nance Croft remembers her grandfather, “Pa,” this way:

Pa LeBus was an outgoing, friendly man, but I was told that he was quite dogmatic at times. His favorite subjects of discussion or debate were politics and religion, and I understand he could be very opinionated. Even so, Pa was a loving person. He was small in stature but big in spirit. I think of him as being a “doer,” very energetic and involved. He took great pleasure in people and having his large family gathered to eat, visit, and enjoy each other.

I know very little about how Pa LeBus made his fortune except that it was in the oil equipment business. He was a self-made man, working early in his life as a blacksmith and then developing his company during the oil boom in East Texas. During that time he invented some drilling equipment that was patented and used on every oil-drilling rig. (Croft, 41)

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2010
George and Ethel

George and Ethel Calk LeBus
Wedding November 5, 1899
Bonham, Texas
"Pa" LeBus Relaxing
George and Ethel Calk LeBus 50th Wedding Anniversary
Wichita Falls, Texas

Golden Wedding Celebration is Inspiration for Reminiscences and Elaborate Reception of Couple

Prominent Longtime Texans

George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Chapter Two - George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 166
Chapter Two - George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Pedigree Chart for Ethel Cleora Calk

Elijah Calk
b: Abt. 1770 in Northumberland, Virginia, USA
m: 13 Mar 1820 in Clarke, Alabama, USA
d: After 31 Dec 1852 in Clarke, Alabama, USA

Mary "Polly" Younse Unknown
b: 1785 in South Carolina, USA
d: After 31 Dec 1852 in Clarke, Alabama, USA

William M. Larrimore
b: Abt. 1787 in South Carolina, USA
m: 24 Nov 1888 in Clarke, Alabama, USA

d: 09 Oct 1887 in Clarke, Alabama, USA

Hessy Ann Cobb
b: 1796 in South Carolina, USA
d: 09 Oct 1887 in Clarke, Alabama, USA

Christopher Greenup Titsworth
b: 1811 in Kentucky, USA
m: 1866 in Hunt or Fannin Co, TX

d: 1866 in Hunt or Fannin Co, TX

Mary Louise Peyton
b: 1813 in Kentucky, USA
d: Titus or Cass Co, TX

Robert Daniels
b: 1792 in North Carolina, USA
m: 
d: 

Julia Clementine Daniels
b: 23 Nov 1833 in Henderson, Tennessee, USA
d: 05 Mar 1873 in Fannin, Texas, USA

Wiseco Travis
b: Abt. 1739 in Kentucky, USA
d: 

Winny Louisa Titsworth
b: 26 May 1855 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
d: 26 Jan 1908

Levi Nicholas Titsworth
b: 06 Oct 1836 in Tipton, Tennessee, USA
m: 06 Feb 1852 in Cass, Texas, USA
d: 06 Jun 1883 in Fannin, Texas, USA

Mary E. Larrimore
b: Oct 1829 in Alabama, USA
d: 07 Dec 1862 in Arkansas, USA

William M. Larrimore
b: 08 Dec 1848 in Clarke, Alabama, USA
m: 20 Jun 1890 in Castrovile, Medina, Texas, USA
d: 15 May 1908 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA

Ethel Cleora Calk
b: 09 Sep 1861 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
m: 03 Nov 1868 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
d: 01 Oct 1950 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA

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Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 168
Ethel Cleora Calk would have been amazed had she known about the rich, full life awaiting her in the future. I say this because she was born into a very modest home on September 9, 1881, in the small town of Bonham in northeastern Texas. Her parents
were Early Jackson “Jack” and Wincy Titsworth Calk. Both of them had previously been married and Wincy had a 6 year old son, Levi Carlisle. Jack later adopted him.

According to both the 1880 and 1900 U.S. Federal Census records, Jack was a farm laborer. Chances are the Calk family lived a very simple life. I imagine that along with her family, Ethel learned to live modestly and frugally. In the years following Ethel’s birth the Calks had five more children – Clementine “Clemmie” (about 1882); Maude (1884); Helen (1886); Granvill (1889); and Early “Earl” Jackson (1894). I have little information on these siblings. However, it seems possible that Ethel had a lot of experience playing the role of “big sister” and, undoubtedly, was given a great deal of responsibility helping her mother in this busy household.

Sometime before 1899, Ethel met her future husband, George Franklin LeBus. He had moved to Bonham between 1880 and 1899. Family lore tells us that he was an inventive man with an entrepreneurial spirit, so I imagine him being a persuasive suitor. By the time they married, November 5, 1899, George had opened a blacksmith and tool manufacturing shop. I am sure they had hopes of growing a successful business, but little did they know that the door was opening to a life beyond their wildest dreams.

Along with a growing business, George and Ethel started their family with the birth of their first child, Frank Leyburn, born September 9, 1900. During the next few years while continuing to live in Bonham, the family grew larger with the births of two daughters. First, Hazel Annabelle was born January 23, 1902, and then Archie Carlisle, born December 1, 1904.

George’s tool manufacturing business continued to grow, and in about 1905 his services were required in Madill, Marshall County, Oklahoma. He felt living here was important enough to move his family. While living there, Ethel gave birth to another son, Jack Blackburn, born April 17, 1906; and a daughter, Irene Clementine, born February 17, 1908.

By 1910 George had opened yet another place of business in Henrietta, Clay County, Texas. On the LeBus International website there is a brief history of the company with a few old photographs. One picture is of workers at the old Henrietta plant. So, as you might expect, George moved his family to this little community in north central Texas.

While living in Henrietta, George and Ethel added two more children to their family. Roy Henderson was born April 10, 1910, and Laura V. was born January 28, 1913. Unfortunately, we have no photographs of the LeBus family at this time of their life together, but I imagine it would have been a grand picture of George, Ethel, and their seven children. However, they are not finished growing yet!

By 1917 we find the LeBus family in Electra, Wichita County, Texas. It seems that this little town grew somewhat when oil was discovered in 1911 and the Electra Oilfield developed. I believe this to be one of the reasons George wanted to bring his business to the area.
Living in Electra must have agreed with George and Ethel because they lived there for about fifteen years. During that time they would have three more children. George Franklin, Jr. was born May 10, 1917, and Ethel Marie came along August 6, 1919. Their last son, Donavel Calk, was born March 13, 1925. Sadly he died on March 22, 1925. I do not have information about the death of this child, but I think it was a tragic event in the life of this large family.

By the time of the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, the LeBus family had grown much smaller. George and Ethel are listed with their youngest three children and one servant. As expected, the older children married and had begun families of their own. The LeBus family continued to grow, but this time it was with the addition of grandchildren. Because I am one of those grandchildren, I know that “Pa and Ma” loved their grand-parenting role. Nothing made them happier than being surrounded by their children and grandchildren and hearing of their accomplishments.

George LeBus knew he had to go where there were business opportunities, so when the East Texas oil boom occurred, the LeBus family moved to Longview to open a machine shop in 1934. This company developed into LeBus International.

In 1938 George and Ethel decided to make yet another move, this time to Wichita Falls, Texas. They found a very large and beautiful home there and the one which became a legend in the family. They called it “The Big House.” In her autobiography, Lucy Ann Nance Croft remembers it this way.

As I try to recall memories of Ma and Pa LeBus’s home (Mr. and Mrs. George F. LeBus, maternal grandparents) in Wichita Falls, Texas, the word that comes to mind is “palatial.” The house I am referring to was the one I remember visiting as a small child; they called it the Big House. They purchased this thirteen-acre estate in the early 1930s and lived there for about twenty years. Amid my mother's memorabilia, I found the newspaper clipping from the Wichita Falls Record News about my grandparent’s home.

‘George F. LeBus, who left Electra a few years ago to enter competition in the East Texas oil field at Longview, made his return to this area auspiciously significant when he purchased the baronial home name by which the estate is known to Wichitans, covers an expanse of 13 acres on Harrison Avenue in southwest Wichita Falls. The construction of the home is of brick and reinforced concrete, towering three stories and supplied with 19 rooms and six bathrooms . . . the architecture is English colonial. An ornamental iron fence surrounds the grounds, on which are, in addition to the luxurious home, tennis courts, tea house, greenhouse, rose arbor, rose garden, lily ponds, fountain and a four-car garage over which are comfortable quarters for two servants and laundry room.’
~ Wichita Falls Record News

I recall that even though my grandparents were quite wealthy, lived in a lovely mansion with a high-profile life, and had many children and grandchildren, they were both very loving and caring to each and every one of us. There was a lot of laughter, visiting, and hugging in the Big House. Large family holiday gatherings, lively dinners, reunions, birthdays, and dances in the ballroom in the basement were not unusual in such a large family. As Ma said, “it takes a lot of living in a house to make it home.” My grandparents certainly accomplished that. (Croft, 25-27)
Ma LeBus loved “The Big House” with all its lovely furnishings and grounds. However, it must have been the glorious good times there that meant the most. It was, indeed, a luxurious environment. Best of all, Pa and Ma loved having family and friends gathered there to enjoy it with them.

As much as Pa and Ma enjoyed their big old house, a time came when they began to consider selling it. Even with servants, it must have required a lot of Pa and Ma to maintain such a property. Perhaps this was one of many reasons to sell “The Big House” and make a move. In about 1946 they made quite a big change after they sold the lovely home. Evidently they vacationed in California and liked it so much, they decided to move there! Some other family members moved there at the same time, so Pa and Ma must have led the way. Some of us recall taking summer trips out to visit them and hearing all the Hollywood stories. They lived there for about one year and I imagine it was a year long holiday for them!

At this time in their life together, Pa and Ma made the decision to move back to Wichita Falls. I suppose they felt it was really “home” to them. Undoubtedly, they had many long time friends there and deep roots in the community. I recall that they were especially involved in the First Christian Church. They built a lovely home on Miramar Street which was both large and comfortable. As always, it was important that their home be a gathering place for family and friends, and this home filled the bill having a spacious living room, dining room, kitchen, guest rooms and lovely yard.

After moving back to Wichita Falls, a very memorable event in the life of the LeBus family was George and Ethel’s 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration on November 5, 1949. It was, indeed, an evening to remember. Here is an excerpt from an article in the *Wichita Daily Times* about the event.

*Mr. and Mrs. G.F. LeBus, who observed their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, were honored guests for an elaborate reception held at the Wichita Falls Country Club. More than 500 family, friends, and relatives called between the hours of 7 and 11 o’clock. Hosts and hostesses for the affair were the couple’s eight sons and daughters, each sharing duties with his wife or husband.*

On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, George and Ethel were interviewed by Frances Hyland, a reporter for the *Wichita Daily Times*. Ma LeBus gives us an insight into her full, rich life being married to Pa for all those years.

*It’s like a big party all the time,’ says smiling Mrs. G. E. LeBus in describing her family life. And, that’s easy to imagine because now, as Mr. and Mrs. LeBus are completing 50 years of married life, they are surrounded, quite frequently, by most of their eight children, 27 grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and the various and sundry ‘in-laws.’*

*Like all big families, the LeBuses enjoy being together and seldom let a day pass without seeing one another if it’s at all possible. And, all is quite congenial, the mother says, because they have made it an unwritten rule to laugh away any differences that might arise.*

As they aged, both Pa and Ma began to have some health issues. Ma may have been
frailer, but it was Pa who died first. On December 24, 1956, Ethel lost her beloved husband, George. Even with very good help and health care, along with family to keep her company, life after Pa's death was difficult for her. After being plagued by Parkinson’s disease during her last years, Ethel LeBus died on October 1, 1960 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Here is an excerpt from her obituary.

Mrs. George F. (Ethel) LeBus,) 79, resident of Wichita Country almost 50 years, died Saturday afternoon at her residence, 2204 Miramar. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at the First Christian Church with Dr. George R. Davis officiating. Burial will be in Crestview Memorial Park under direction of Owens & Brumley Funeral Home.

Survivors include three sons, Roy LeBus, George F. LeBus, Jr., and Frank LeBus; five daughters, Mrs. Hazel Grizzle, Mrs. Paul Bilbrey, Mrs. C.D. Knight, Mrs. Denzel Morrow, and Mrs. Bennett Nance; and one brother, Earl Calk; 34 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.

Reared in Bonham, where she was born Sept. 9, 1881, Mrs. Ethel LeBus and her late husband were married at the home of her parents in that city Nov. 5, 1899...Always active in community affairs, Mrs. LeBus was one of Electra’s busiest P.T.A. workers, and taught a Sunday School class. In Wichita Falls, she was a conscientious member of the First Christian Church, the Woman’s Forum, and the Garden Club and for a time served as sponsor of the Senior-Junior Forum.

In her autobiography, Lucy Ann Nance Croft remembers her grandmother Ma LeBus.

Ma LeBus was a very affectionate, caring woman who would always reach out to me for a hug and a kiss. Having her family gathered around was extremely important to her. Even though she had servants who helped keep her home in beautiful condition, her house reflected her good taste and style in its design, art, and furnishings. If you were a guest, she was concerned about your comfort and gave you special attention. I think of her as a religious person but not overly pious. She and Pa were interested in their church (Christian Church) and were committed to its work and worship. (Croft, 41)

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft

2010
Ethel Cleora Calk

Ethel as a young woman in about 1898.
George and Ethel LeBus Family

LeBus family portrait taken about 1921. (Seated L-R) George LeBus, Ethel Marie, Laura V., Roy, G.F., Ethel LeBus. (Standing L-R) Irene, Hazel, Frank, Jack and Archie.
"Ma" LeBus with her five daughters

(Seated L-R) Hazel LeBus Grizzle, Ma LeBus, Archie LeBus Nance.  
(Standing L-R) Ethel Marie LeBus Morrow, Irene LeBus Bilbrey  
and Laura V. LeBus Knight
Early Jackson Calk

Early Jackson was the first child of Thomas Clayton and Mary Larrimore Calk. Their home at the time was Clarke County, Alabama, which is located in the southwest part of the state with the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers forming its borders. I am somewhat confused about Early Jackson’s exact birth date. His tombstone inscription gives December 8, 1845 as the date, but three census records record 1848 and one records 1846. I am inclined to think the census records may be more on target since information for tombstones was often given by a person who may have been misinformed.

Like many other pioneers the Calk’s were a farming family living a rugged and harsh existence in Clarke County, Alabama. The 1850 United States Federal census records J.J. Calk, age 30; Mary Calk, age 20; Early Calk, age 2; and William Calk, age 0.
By the time of the 1860 census was taken the Calk family had left their long time home of Clarke County, Alabama, and was living in Sevier County, Arkansas. Four more children had been born. The family of eight consisted of Thomas, age 40; Mary, age 31; Early Q., age 12; William M., age 9; Thomas B, age 8; Anna E. age 6; Elijah age 4; and Sarah Q., age 1. The census taker or transcriber misspelled the name as “Cork” as well as recording inaccurate initials for Early Jackson and Sarah Jane. Sometime after this census one more daughter named Molly was born before the family left Arkansas.

It is my feeling the Calk’s were on the way to Texas and may have stayed in Arkansas for only a few years. I have not been able to find either Thomas or Early Jackson on an 1870 United States Federal Census, so I cannot back up my suppositions. Perhaps the name is spelled incorrectly, but for some reason they have fallen through the “genealogical cracks.” This will require more research.

Another Calk family researcher by the name of Wayne Calk shared the family lore that while traveling on a wagon train from Arkansas to Texas, Mary Larrimore Calk died. It is possible she died while giving birth. If true, this story gives us an indication of the difficult circumstances our ancestors faced as they traveled into unknown territories seeking a better life. I am amazed at the strength and determination of these men and women.

Wherever the Calks were living during the 1860’s their lives must have been affected by the United States Civil War. Both Arkansas and Texas seceded from the Union in 1861 to join forces with the Confederacy. It was a tumultuous time no matter where you lived. I imagine it would have been a very difficult time to move and settle into a community, not to mention establishing a means of livelihood. Most citizens were called on to assist in the war effort, especially in supplying the military with needed resources. If the Calks were farming, it is likely they had to do their part.

The next time I found any information about Early or his father, Thomas, they are in McLennan County, Texas. Marriage records for both father and son were furnished by family researcher Wayne Calk. Early Jackson married Louisa S. Champion on June 1, 1867, and his father Thomas married Minerva Randolph Fitzgerald on May 25, 1868. Both marriages were in McLennan County. Calk family lore says Early’s wife Louisa died in 1872.

Early J. Calk is recorded on the 1880 United States Federal Census in Atascosa County, Texas. The census was taken on June 12. It is interesting to note that same day a marriage license was issued in Medina County, Texas for E.J. Calk and Wincy Titsworth. The wedding ceremony was performed by William C. Newton on June 20 in Castroville.

Evidently Wincy had previously been married and had a 6 year old son named Levi Carlisle. One undocumented internet source gives the first husband’s name as Bell. However, it is also possible her child was born out of wedlock. I found Wincy and Levi Titsworth (not Bell) on the 1880 United States Federal Census in Atascosa County, Texas, living with the John L. McCaleb family. The record states the relationship as
“cousins.” Of course, this could mean they are cousins of John McCaleb or his wife, Elizabeth. As mentioned above, the census was taken a very short time before Early and Wincy married. Evidently, Early adopted Levi because he later uses the name “Calk.”

After their marriage Early and Wincy moved to Bonham, Fannin County, Texas, and it was there they had their first child. A daughter, Ethel Cleora, was born September 19, 1881. Over the next years their family continued to grow. From internet information I retrieved the names of several of their children but not much else. Clementine was born about 1882, followed by Maude in 1884, Helen in 1886, Granvill C. in 1889, and Early Jackson III on January 1, 1894. I have verified that Ethel and Early Jackson III were born in Bonham but have no information about the other children.

When the 1900 United States Federal Census was taken the Calks were in Bonham, Texas. They were recorded as follows. Note the misspelled names. Early J. Call, age 53; Nincy Call, age 45; and Early Call, age 4. Early’s occupation is “Farmer.” I do know that Levi, Ethel, and Clementine married before 1900, but since none of the younger children were listed it makes me wonder if perhaps they were no longer living. If that was the case, they faced a lot of sadness in their married life.

I do have information about four of their children. Levi married Martha Dell Davis; Ethel married George Franklin LeBus (my maternal grandparents); Clementine married John Ervin LeBus, George’s brother; and Early “Earl” Jackson III married Zora Maurice Taylor. Listed below are the children and grandchildren of Early and Wincy Calk.

Levi Carlisle and Martha Dell Davis Calk
- Cleora Parilee Calk
- Elizabeth “Bessie” Louise Calk
- Mildred Bernice Calk
- Daisy Dell Calk
- William Carlisle Calk
- James Ralph Calk

George Franklin and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus
- Frank Leyburn LeBus
- Hazel Annabelle LeBus
- Archie Carlisle LeBus
- Jack Blackburn LeBus
- Irene Clementine LeBus
- Roy Henderson LeBus
- Laura V. LeBus
- George Franklin LeBus, Jr.
- Ethel Marie LeBus
- Donavel Calk LeBus
John Ervin and Clementine “Clemmie” Calk LeBus

John Ervin LeBus, Jr.
Margaret LeBus
Annabel LeBus
Johnnie LeBus

Early “Earl” Jackson III and Zora M. Taylor Calk

Earl Calk, Jr
Jesse William Calk

Sometime after 1900 the Calks moved to Nocona, Montague County, Texas, located in far north Texas. It was there that Early Jackson Calk died at age 58, a young man by today’s standards. His tombstone gives his death date as May 15, 1906 and he is buried in the old Greenbriar Cemetery in Montague County.

If this narrative about Early Jackson Calk seems rather sketchy, it is because my primary sources of information were from the United States Federal census records. That made “reading between the lines” quite difficult. Nevertheless, I imagine that as a farmer he had a hard life trying to provide for his family, particularly during the years following the Civil War. If there is truth in family lore, he experienced the death of his first wife and several of his children. On a more positive note - he lived to see several of his children marry and have families. Early and Wincy were able to experience being grandparents and that must have been a source of great satisfaction.

Sources


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Marriage Record for E. J. Calk and Wincy Titsworth
Wincy Louisa Titsworth Calk

When Wincy Louisa was born on May 20, 1855, her family was living in Bonham, Fannin County, Texas. She was the second child of Levi Nicholas and Julia Clementine Daniels Titsworth. Bonham is located in northeastern Texas, and at that time was primarily a small farm community where the majority of its residents depended on agricultural products as a means of support, with livestock being the predominant product. Information on census records indicates that like many others in the area, Levi was a farmer.

In 1860 Wincy is listed with her family on the United States Federal Census and by this time the family had two more children. The four children recorded are Tennessee P., age 7; Weney I., age 5; Jo, age 2 and Clory Titsworth, age 5 months. Note that three of the children’s names are misspelled. Joseph was born October 19, 1857, and Clave was born January 5, 1860. The Titsworth’s were on their way to having a large family.

During the 1860’s the United States was engaged in the Civil War. Texas was aligned with the Confederacy and Fannin County was considered an important supply center. A Confederate commissary was located in Bonham and hosted the military headquarters of the Northern Sub-district of Texas, C.S.A. Confederate Civil War Records indicate that Wincy’s father Levi was enlisted in the Texas 11th Light Artillery Battery. Like many other families, the Titsworth’s were personally impacted by this terrible war.
The Titsworth's had a son named Levi who was born September 27, 1862, but unfortunately, he died March 7, 1864. That must have been a sad time for Levi and Julie. Undoubtedly the situation was made more difficult in a time of war and social upheaval.

It is interesting to note that by the time the 1870 United States Federal Census was taken Wincy’s father, Levi, gave his occupation as “Chairmaker.” However, following the Civil War many people were hard pressed to support themselves and their families. It is quite likely that with the assistance of his wife and older children, Levi also continued farming. There were a lot of mouths to feed in his large family. With the addition of Clement Rogers, born March 23, 1866; and Charles Carlton, born September 14, 1868, Levi and Julie had six children.

Even though no records have been found, sometime in the early 1870's, Wincy may have married a man by the name of Bell. We do know that she gave birth to a son January 29, 1875 in Bonham, Texas, and named him Levi Carlisle. If Wincy did, in fact, marry a Mr. Bell, either they divorced or he died. However, it is also possible she had the child out of wedlock.

At some point in time before 1880, Wincy met Early Jackson Calk. The date, place, and circumstances of their courtship remain a mystery. Nevertheless, both Wincy and her son Levi were found on the 1880 United States Federal Census and using Wincy’s maiden name, Titsworth. They were living in the household of John L. McCaleb and family in Atascosa County, Texas. The relation to the head of the household was given as “cousin” for both Wincy and Levi. It begs the questions – when did Wincy move to Atascosa County and why did she go there?

Early J. Calk is also recorded on the 1880 United States Federal Census in Atascosa County, Texas, and was living near the McCaleb family. The census was taken on June 12 and that same day a marriage license was issued in Medina County for him and Wincy Titsworth. The wedding ceremony was performed by William C. Newton on June 20 in Castroville.

Following their marriage Early Jackson adopted Wincy’s son, Levi, because in later records, he gives his surname as Calk.

After their marriage Early and Wincy moved to Bonham, Fannin County, Texas and it was there they had their first child. A daughter, Ethel Cleora, was born September 19, 1881. Over the next years their family continued to grow. I obtained the names of several of their children from information shared by other Calk family researchers. Clementine was born about 1882, followed by Maude in 1884, Helen in 1886, Granvill C. in 1889, and Early Jackson III on January 1, 1894. I have verified that Ethel and Early Jackson III were born in Bonham but have no information about the other children.

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53; Nincy Call, age 45; and Early Call, age 4. Early’s occupation is “Farmer.” I do know that Levi, Ethel, and Clementine married before 1900, but since none of the younger children were listed, it makes me wonder if perhaps they were no longer living. If that was the case, Early and Wincy faced a lot of sadness in their married life.

I do have information on four of their children. Levi married Martha Dell Davis; Ethel married George Franklin LeBus (my maternal grandparents); Clementine married John Ervin LeBus, George’s brother; and Early “Earl” Jackson III married Zora Maurice Taylor. Listed below are the known children, spouses, and grandchildren of Early and Wincy Calk.

**Levi Carlisle and Martha Dell Davis Calk**

- Cleora Parilee Calk
- Elizabeth “Bessie” Louise Calk
- Mildred Bernice Calk
- Daisy Dell Calk
- William Carlisle Calk
- James Ralph Calk

**George Franklin and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus**

- Frank Leyburn LeBus
- Hazel Annabelle LeBus
- Archie Carlisle LeBus
- Jack Blackburn LeBus
- Irene Clementine LeBus
- Roy Henderson LeBus
- Laura V. LeBus
- George Franklin LeBus, Jr.
- Ethel Marie LeBus
- Donavel Calk LeBus

**John Ervin and Clementine “Clemmie” Calk LeBus**

- John Ervin LeBus, Jr.
- Margaret LeBus
- Annabel LeBus
- Johnnie LeBus

**Early “Earl” Jackson III and Zora M. Taylor Calk**

- Earl Calk, Jr
- Jesse William Calk

Sometime after 1900, the Calks moved to Nocona, Montague County in far north Texas. It was there that Wincy’s husband, Early Jackson, died at age 58, a young man...
by today’s standards. His tombstone gives his death date as May 15, 1906 and he is buried in the old Greenbriar Cemetery in Montague County.

Regrettably, I do not know how Wincy spent the last years of her life. Family information found on the internet gives her death date as January 28, 1908. If that was the case, she died when she was only 52 years old. Her husband was buried in Montague County. There is a partial tombstone next to his in the Greenbriar Cemetery, but it is too badly deteriorated to detect any inscription and there was no cemetery record of her burial there. Some undocumented family information says that she may have died in Madill, Marshall County, Oklahoma. Her brother-in-law, William Calk, lived in Oklahoma, so it is possible she lived with him and his family. However, when I applied for an Oklahoma death record, they were not able to find one. Verifying her place of death and burial will require more research.

We do have a wonderful photo of Wincy with eleven of her grandchildren. Two of the youngest in the picture were born in 1906, so perhaps the 1908 date of death is correct. Seeing this lovely portrait is a testament to the fact that she had much for which to be thankful in a life that may have been filled with hardship and sadness.

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Thomas Clayton Calk

Chapter Two - George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Thomas Clayton Calk
Thomas Clayton, first son of Elijah and Mary “Polly” Calk, was born in Clarke County, Alabama, November 21, 1820. Polly was Elijah’s second wife. The name of his first wife is unknown but between the years 1789 and 1818 they had eight children. Six of these children were living in 1820, so Thomas was born into a large family of step brothers and sisters.

Clarke County, Alabama, is a fertile wooded part of the state. The country website describes the area as “diversified with hills and valleys” with rich soil along the banks of the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers which form its boundaries. Since this was farming and timber country more than likely Elijah’s family depended on the land for their livelihood.

Early in the 1840’s, Thomas met and courted Mary Elizabeth Larrimore. They married February 4, 1847, in Clarke County. Thomas was twenty-six years old and Mary was seventeen. Just over one year later on December 6, 1848, their first son Early Jackson was born.

Thomas and his fast growing family remained in Clarke County for eight more years and during that time four more children were added to the fold – William Matthew (1850) Thomas (1852) Anna (1854) and Elijah Clayton (1856).

By the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census, Thomas and his family had moved to Red River, Sevier, Arkansas. The name on the record is incorrectly listed as “Cork.” Thomas and Mary’s family had grown by one – a one year old daughter, Sarah.

We do not know how long the Calk family stayed in Sevier County, Arkansas, but it is believed that in about 1862 Mary gave birth to another daughter named Molly before their departure.

Another Calk family researcher by the name of Wayne Calk shared this bit of family lore with me.

_The story is passed down in my line was that Thomas C. family left for Texas in a wagon train and that Mary and the youngest child died on the trip to Texas. It was said that both died during childbirth. I accepted this as fact because I have never found Thomas or any of this children on the 1870 Texas (except William) census and I knew they were there in 1868 because of a marriage record I found. I finally found a newspaper [article] in an Oklahoma newspaper that mentions William Calk and sister Mollie who were meeting after not seeing each other for over 50 years. I finally found a husband for her by the name of George Danner (or Dammer). I’ve never found anymore info on them._

I have not located the marriage record mentioned by Wayne Calk nor have I found Thomas Calk on the 1870 United States Federal Census. So there is little we know about him during the years between 1860 and 1880. Of course, we have to remember that the American Civil War occurred from 1861-1865 and certainly affected the lives and livelihood of all people. I have not found a military record for Thomas and none of his sons would have been of an age to serve.
We do know from the 1880 census that Thomas was married Minerva Fitzgerald Collins Ray and they had four more children, Jerry W. (Jerry Walter), Iry Del (Ira Dell), Alonzo E. (Alonzo Evans), and Thurmenta (Lula Samantha). Also living with the family were children by Minerva’s previous two marriages – Columbus Anderson and Sarah E. Ray. The family was living in Frio County, Texas, and Thomas' occupation was “farmer.”

Before his death Thomas and Minerva had one more son named John W., born in about 1884. Thomas died December 28, 1893 in Lytle, Atascosa, Texas. He and his second wife, Minerva, share a grave marker in the Benton City Cemetery in Atascosa County.

Sources


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, July 2014
Chapter Two - George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus

Thomas and Minerva Calk Grave Marker

Thomas Calk and his second wife, Minerva, are buried in the Benton City Cemetery, Lytle, Atascosa, Texas.
Marriage Record for Thomas Clayton Calk and Mary E. Larrimore
Mary Elizabeth Larrimore Calk

Mary Elizabeth pictured with an unidentified child.
Mary Elizabeth Larrimore Calk

Information about Mary Elizabeth Larrimore is very difficult to find. In fact, it boils down to a marriage record, three census records and a bit of family lore. It is believed that she was born in October 1829 in Clarke County, Alabama, the fifth child of William M. and Hexey Ann Cobb Larrimore. The 1840 United States Federal Census lists one female between the ages of ten and fourteen living in the household of Wm. Laramore. Only the name of the head of household with age ranges for other members is given on this record.

In her short time on this earth, Mary married at the age of seventeen and gave birth to seven children, possibly eight if she died in childbirth as passed down in family lore. One of those children (Anna) died as an infant. Another Calk family researcher by the name of Wayne Calk shared this bit of family lore with me. “The story is passed down in my line was that Thomas C. family left for Texas in a wagon train and that Mary and the youngest child died on the trip to Texas.” Mary died sometime between 1863 and 1868.

Perhaps it goes without saying but her life must have been extremely difficult. The hard life that our women ancestors faced during those early days is beyond my imagination. Like other women of that time, Mary had seven children under very primitive circumstances and with little medical care. It is entirely possible she died while birthing an eighth child. Her young life was spent caring for her children and toiling to provide basic household needs. What we might consider necessities of life were non-existent. Here are a few excerpts from the book *Women of the West* by Cathy Luchetti in collaboration with Carol Olwell that give us a glimpse into the life Mary might have experienced.

> Limited water supplies and scant privacy rendered even the necessities of life difficult...Unsanitary trail conditions contributed heavily to disease and death. Men, women, and children suffered from dysentery...If a woman survived dysentery there were typhus, cholera, malaria, and childbed fever to contend with, to say nothing of the extreme depression known as melancholia. Little wonder that many popular campfire ballads lamented the early death of young women...(Luchetti, 26-27)

**Sources**


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, July 2014
Levi Nicholas Titsworth and Julia Clementine Daniels

Levi Nicholas Titsworth was the first child of Christopher Greenup and Mary Louise Peyton Titsworth. He was born October 4, 1830 in sparsely settled Tipton County, Tennessee. I say this because at that time the population of this western county was only 5317 people. Both parents were born in Kentucky and must have been among those brave pioneers seeking new horizons.

When the 1840 United States Federal Census was taken Christopher and Mary had moved to Spring River, Lawrence, Arkansas. It records the head of the household, C.G. Titsworth, one free white male under five; one free white male five through nine; one free white male between twenty and twenty-nine; one free white female under five; and one free white female twenty through twenty-nine. This differs from my records of a family with three sons, Levi (1830), Thomas Peyton (1835), John Harrison (1837) and one daughter, Sarah (1839).
The Titsworth family remained in Arkansas at least five more years before making their way to northeast Texas. I do not know their reasons for the move but in 1850 they were living in Titus County, Texas. The census record lists C.J. Titsworth (39), Louisa Titsworth (37), Levi Titsworth (19), Peyton Titsworth (15), John Titsworth (13), Sarah (11), Lemuel Titsworth (9) and Minerva Titsworth (4). C.G. Titsworth’s occupation was recorded as “Christian Clergyman.”

Levi met and courted a young woman named Julia Clementine Daniels, the daughter of Robert and Wincey Travis Daniels. They married February 6, 1852, in Cass County located in the piney woods of northeastern Texas. Very soon thereafter they moved and settled in Bonham, Fannin County, Texas, for the remainder of their lives.

Levi and Julia wasted no time starting what would become a very large family. Their first child, Tennessee Parilee Titsworth, was born in 1852; Wincy Louisa was born in 1855, and Joseph came along in 1857. When the 1860 United States Federal Census was taken, their family had grown by yet one more son – Clave Titsworth.

We know that as the Titsworth family settled into life in Bonham it was the eve of the Civil War and, like other citizens, Texans must have been deeply concerned about the sectional controversies dividing the northern and southern states. Secessionist leaders in Texas “issued an address to the people calling for the election of delegates to a state Secession Convention.” Against the wishes of Governor Sam Houston, the legislature approved the convention. It was held January 28, 1861 wherein the delegates adopted an ordinance of secession and that was then approved by voters of the state on February 23, 1861. The Convention reconvened and declared Texas out of the Union thus joining forces with the southern Confederacy.

Like other men in Fannin County, Levi Titsworth was enlisted as a private in the Texas army. It is recorded he was in the 11th Light Artillery Battery. By the end of 1861, 25,000 Texans were in the Confederate army. Needless to say, like other families, the lives of Levi, Julia and their children were greatly disrupted before, during and following the Civil War. The war affected everything from farming to manufacturing, deeply altering the lives of ordinary Texans. When men were away from home serving in the military, greater responsibilities and burdens were placed on women and children to assume care for the home and livelihood of the family. This certainly would have been the case for Julia and her young children.

As mentioned early in this narrative, Levi and Julia had a very large family. With each census more children have been added to the fold. By 1870 they had two more sons, Clement Rogers (1866) and Charles Carlton (1868). However, there is a sad note. Their son Levi died in 1864 at the age of two. On the 1870 census Levi’s occupation was no longer given as “farmer” but rather “chair maker.” It is certainly likely he may have performed both roles to provide for his large family.

Evidently Julia was pregnant when the 1870 census was taken because on November 20 of that year another son, Griffith, was born. It is amazing to me but Julia’s childbearing was not complete. Harvey Dane Titsworth was born August 28, 1872.
have not seen her death certificate but it is possible her health failed after that time. At only fifty years of age, Julia Clementine Daniels Titsworth died March 5, 1873. She was buried in the Whiterock Cemetery in Fannin County.

Being widowed with a large family and several very young children, it is not surprising that Levi married again very soon after Julia’s death. His second wife’s name was Minerva Jane Bashem Austin. Like Levi, she was also widowed and had one young daughter, Lilly.

This family continued to grow! When the 1880 United States Federal Census was taken Levi and Minerva had two more daughters – Tiney or Tina (1874) and Julia Marion (1875). Sadly Minerva died several years later leaving Levi widowed again.

We have a record indicating that Levi married for a third time to Sallie Howard on September 19, 1886. I have no information about her.

Levi Nicholas Titsworth died June 8, 1893, and was buried in the Whiterock Cemetery along with his first wife, Julia.

It is primarily through census records that I have reviewed Levi and Julia’s lives. Unfortunately we have no diaries, family records or lore to add more “color” to their biographies. Perhaps someday I will have the good fortune to communicate with some other descendants and be able to add to the picture. It seems to me they had a hard life providing for their large family during times of war and duress. Lacking riches, it is my hope their children and friends brought them some joy and pleasure balancing the good and not-so-good times.

Sources


Chapter Two - George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk LeBus


Texas State Historical Association, [www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/art](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/art)

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, July 2014
Chapter Three

John Blackburn LeBus

and

Lucy Ann Leyburn LeBus
John Blackburn LeBus

John Blackburn LeBus was born December 7, 1850, in Columbiana County, Ohio, the third child of Andrew and Margaret Simmington LeBus. Even though information on the LeBus family is limited, we know from census records that his father was born in Largitzen, Alsace, France, and his mother was born in Ohio. Nevertheless, I think we can rightfully say that John and his siblings were among the first generation Americans.

Agriculture was a principal industry in Columbiana County in the years John’s family lived there, but there were other small varieties of business and manufacturing developing such as grist and flour mills, sawmills, and paper mills. We know from the 1860 U.S. Federal Census information that Andrew LeBus was a blacksmith by trade. (John would later follow in his footsteps.)

By 1860 the LeBus family is living in Wayne County, Illinois, and they have added to
their fold. Listed on the 1860 United States Federal Census are Andrew and Margaret Labus (note misspelled name) and their seven children: Mary A. (14), Thomas (12), John (10), George (8), Jackson (6), Ida L. (4), and Nancy E. (1).

I have found no military record of John’s father, Andrew, enlisting in the Civil War, but like all people at that time, they must have been impacted by it. Here is an excerpt from an article in the USGenWeb Archives entitled, “Life in Wayne County during the Civil War, Wayne County, Illinois.”

*When the call reached Wayne County there was great excitement. All the loyal men hurriedly met to make plans to go to Mt. Vernon to enlist. But first, they must decide how their families should be cared for and protected during their absence.*

*They agreed that those with some physical disability and the few physicians should remain to protect and defend the homes and families if it should be necessary. Also, the crops must be put in for food and it would require some who were able bodied to organize the young boys and girls and plant and care for each farm.*

*At this time, many of the community sympathized with the Southerners and they called a meeting and organized a society called ‘The Knights of the Golden Circle’ to act as spies against the Northern men, and hinder them in every way possible and to give assistance to the Southern Army…*

*To combat this marauding society, the Union League was organized. A meeting was called at the home of Syria J. Branson and by unanimous vote he was elected to be captain of the League.*

This gives us a small glimpse of the chaotic atmosphere. The Civil War was being waged between states and within communities. We have heard about families and family members turning against each other, and that must have been the case in Wayne County, Illinois. It makes me wonder how John’s father reacted to this situation. Was he a supporter of the Union or the Confederacy?

Sometime before 1870 the LeBus family moved to Flora, Clay County, Illinois. According to the 1870 United States Federal Census, John was listed as 19 years old and his occupation was given as “Blacksmith.” Along with his parents, seven other siblings are listed. Three more LeBus children were born since the 1860 census – Lydia (7), Lincoln (5), and Joseph (1).

John met his bride-to-be in Flora, and her name was Lucy Ann “Annie” Leyburn. They married October 6, 1872. By 1874 they had started their family with the birth of a daughter, Maggie. During the next six years their family grew even more with the births of George Franklin, December 14, 1876; Archie, 1877; and Laura, 1878.

By 1880 John, Annie, and their family were living in Loudon, Tennessee. Perhaps they moved there to be near her siblings. From information on the 1880 United States Federal Census, John (listed as J.A. Lebus) is continuing his trade as a blacksmith. Along with Annie (24) the children are listed as Marie (should be Maggie), Archie,
George and Leif (should be Link). This fourth child, Lincoln, was given the nickname “Link.” For some reason, their daughter Laura is not shown on the census record.

The 1890 United States Federal Census is no longer in existence. Only a few fragments survived a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington, D.C. on January 10, 1921. Neither Indiana nor Illinois have records serving as a census substitute. Therefore, there is a large span of time where I have no recorded information for John and Annie LeBus.

There is no record of why the LeBus family returned to Illinois or where they resided, but from information on the 1900 United States Federal Census, we know that three more of their children were born in Illinois. John Ervin was born December 24, 1881 in Illinois; Ruby was born 1886 in Illinois; and Goldie was born 1888 in Illinois.

By 1900 the LeBus family is living in Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma. The family name is shown on the 1900 United States Federal Census as Labus. Listed are John B. Labus (50), Anna Labus (45), Ruby Labus (13), Golle (11), Beatrice Labus (7), Irene Labus (4), and John Labus (19). Both Beatrice and Irene were born in Oklahoma.

I am sure John's life was drastically altered when his wife, Annie, died July 16, 1905. However, John can be found on the 1910 United States Federal Census and he had remarried. Though the name is spelled "Leber," there is a John Leber, age 59. He was born in Ohio, and his father was born in France. His wife is listed as Clarence Leber, age 52. It shows that they have been married two years. John Leber’s occupation is shown as “Blacksmith.” Census information shows his two youngest daughters, Beatrice and Irene, were living with their sister Laura and her husband, Edward Bullock, in Coal Creek, Pawnee, Oklahoma.

John Blackburn LeBus died December 29, 1915, in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, and was buried in the Grace Hill Cemetery.

Note: George and Ethel “Pa and Ma” LeBus named their second son Jack Blackburn after his paternal grandfather. I have not seen his birth certificate, but it is possible his name was actually John since the name “Jack” is commonly used as a nickname.

I have no record of when John and Annie LeBus arrived in Oklahoma or what attracted them to that area. However, in reading about Noble County in the late 1800’s, I see they may have arrived at a very interesting time in that state’s history. Noble County is located in north-central Oklahoma and was the home of Native Americans for hundreds of years. In 1835 the region became part of the Cherokee Outlet, created by treaty with the Cherokee Nation. During the period of Cherokee ownership, white cattle ranchers of the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association lease much of the Indian land for grazing.

It was on September 16, 1893, that the famous Oklahoma land run occurred. If the LeBus family was there at the time or participated in the event, it would have been amazing to witness. Here is how a Rev. Fred Belk describes the scene.

At one minute of 12 o’clock noon on September 16, 1893, a tense silence broken only by
the occasional nervous whinny of a horse or braying of a mule fell along the line of the entry of the Cherokee Outlet (Strip). Then, a single shot rang out and one of the most exciting runs' in the history of the United States began. The silence of the treeless plains were suddenly filled with screaming men, thundering wagons, cracking ships, plunging animals and yapping dogs, and the tidal wave of humanity, surrounded by a cloud of dust, swept towards Perry and its adjoining countryside. They were honest men and thieves, bankers and paupers, adventurers and homesteaders, all wanting some of the virgin land that made the “outlet” famous.

By nightfall, a city of canvas with well over 40,000 population had risen. Estimates are that over 100,000 men, women, and children took part all along the run. The “Strip” as it was later called was 57 miles wide, stretching from the Kansas border to Orlando, and 200 miles long extending to the Texas line and compromising 1/5 of the present state of Oklahoma. Osage, Pawnee, Kay, Noble, Grant, Alfalfa, Major, Woods, Woodward, Harper, and Ellis counties were involved in the “run” and “bread basket” Oklahoma was born.

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Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft 2010
Updated July 2014
STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
Ogle County,  

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,  

To all who shall see these Presents, -- - GREETING:

KNOW YE, That license and permission has been granted to any minister of the Gospel, authorized to marry by the church or society to which he belongs; any Justice of the Supreme Court; Justice of any Inferior Court, or Justice of the Peace, to celebrate and ratify the marriage of

John LeBus and Lucy Ann Leyburn,

now both of this County, according to the usual custom and laws of the State of Illinois.

WITNESS, S. R. Opperon, Clerk of the County Court, in and for the County of Ogle, and the seal of said Court hereunto affixed at Louisville this 6th day of October, A. D. 1872.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on the 6th day of October, A. D. 1872, I joined in the Holy State of Matrimony

John LeBus and Lucy Ann Leyburn,

according to the usual custom and laws of Illinois.

Given under my hand and seal, this 6th day of November, A. D. 1872.

L. S. Hopkins, J. P.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CLAY

I, BRENDA BRITTON, COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER, IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY, IN THE STATE AFORESAID, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE ABOVE RECORD AS THE SAME APPEARS FROM THE RECORDS, AND FILES NOW IN THIS OFFICE, REMAINING.

DATED: Nov 18, 2010

BRENDA BRITTON
CLAY COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER

Marriage Record for John LeBus and Lucy Ann Leyburn  
(Note the incorrect spelling of Layburn)
Lucy Ann Leyburn LeBus

I begin this narrative on a personal note. I was named for my paternal grandmother, Lucy Ann Woodward Nance. Much to my surprise, it was not until about 1988 that I found I had another ancestor by the name of Lucy Ann. I was perusing some of my mother’s mementos, scrapbooks, and photo albums and came across a list of her family including the names of her grandparents. There was the name of my great grandmother, Lucy Ann Leyburn LeBus. I could not believe my mother had never told me, but perhaps she did not know much about her to share.

With that being said, I make this disclaimer: Most of the information I have about Lucy Ann “Annie” Leyburn has been gleaned from the United States Federal Census records. Therefore, it was necessary for me to make some assumptions since census information does not always give us all that we want to know about a person. Another Leyburn ancestor sent me a copy of a memoir written by Lucy Ann’s sister Jennie which gave me a bit of information about their parents.

The first place I found Lucy Ann Leyburn was on the 1860 census, living with her parents and two siblings in Vigo Township, Knox County, Indiana. The census enumerator spells the name “Leyborn”. Lucy Ann was the first child of John L. and Nancy Jane Ruby Leyburn. Her age is recorded as 5 years old and birthplace was Indiana. Her two siblings were Franken I. (3) and Mary E. (1) and both were also born in Indiana. John Leyborn (29) was a carpenter and was born in Pennsylvania. Nancy Leyborn (26) was born in Indiana.

Not long after Lucy Ann’s birth the United States became engaged in the Civil War. Indiana was a part of the Union despite the fact that a large part of the population was sympathetic to the Confederate cause. I found no military record for John Leyburn but it is likely he was called upon to lend his support in some way. As all families, the Leyburns must have felt the upheaval, danger, and distress of a country at war. It is likely they had friends and family who served in the military and died in the war.

Even though I have not found the John Leyburn family on the 1870 United States Federal Census, I have this information from the memoir by Jennie Leyburn Harris (Lucy’s youngest sister).

*When I was about 2 years old, my mother’s health began to fail. After the doctors had done all they could for her, they advised my father to take her south to a warmer climate. So sunny Tennessee (as it was called in the north) was thought the best place for her. My grandfather Irving, still living near Edwardsport, on hearing the doctor’s decision, would not permit my father to move until he (my grandfather) came and looked the country over. He liked Tennessee so much he came back and sold his place, and we all came together in ’73. On the eve of our departure, my older sister Anne, ran away and married so she might stay in the north – a great sorrow to my mother and father. The change, however, was not to her what my father had hoped for, and in a few months, she passed away leaving him in a strange land with his little children. He could not rise above the sorrow and loss of one he loved so dearly. She had meant so much to him, smoothing out the rough places in life.*
The first years of their marriage had been very prosperous and happy, but when the years of adversity came, she met them with her same sweet and gentle manner. (Harris, pp. 2-3)

Another Leyburn family researcher, Susan Keeling, shared information that John and Nancy Leyburn had eight children, the last born in 1872. Her information shows three children were born in Edwardsport, Knox, Indiana; four born in Vincennes, Knox, Indiana, and one in Flora, Clay, Illinois. To date (2013) six names have been found – Lucy Ann, Fanny, Franklin, Mary, Willie and Jennie.

I feel safe in saying that Annie met her future husband, John Blackburn LeBus, sometime before 1872 in Flora, Clay County, Illinois. They married October 6, 1872 in Flora, Illinois. By 1874 they had started their family with the birth of a daughter, Maggie. During the next six years their family grew even more with the births of George Franklin, December 14, 1876; Archie, 1877; and Laura, 1878.

By 1880 John, Annie, and their family were living in Loudon, Tennessee. Perhaps they moved there to be near her siblings. From information on the 1880 United States Federal Census, John (listed as J.A. Lebus) is continuing his trade as a blacksmith. Along with Annie (24) the children are listed as Marie (should be Maggie), Archie, George and Leif (should be Link). This fourth child, Lincoln, was given the nickname “Link.” For some reason, their daughter Laura is not shown on the census record.

I was able to find that three of Lucy’s siblings were also living in Loudon, Tennessee at the time of the 1880 United States Federal Census. They were residing with their paternal step grandfather and grandmother listed as J.R. Irving and N.A. Irving. J.R (probably J.B.) was 72 years old, born in Scotland and was a wool manufacturer. N.A. was 72 years old and was born in Pennsylvania.

Note: After the death of John L. Leyburn’s father, his mother remarried J.B. or Benjamin Irving.

The 1890 United States Federal Census is no longer in existence. Only a few fragments survived a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington, D.C. on January 10, 1921. Neither Indiana nor Illinois have records serving as a census substitute. Therefore, there is a large span of time where I have no recorded information for John and Annie LeBus.

There is no record of when the LeBus family returned to Illinois or where they resided, but from information on the 1900 United States Federal Census, we know that three more of their children were born in Illinois. John Ervin was born December 24, 1881; Ruby was born 1886; and Goldie was born 1888.

By 1900 the LeBus family is living in Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma. The family name is shown on the 1900 United States Federal Census as Labus. Listed are John B. Labus (50), Anna Labus (45), Ruby Labus (13), Golle (misspelling of Goldie, (11), Beatrice Labus (7), Irene Labus (4), and John Labus (19). Both Beatrice and Irene were born in Oklahoma.
There is an interesting bit of information found on the 1900 census. Two of the questions asked are: “Mother of how many children?” and “Number of those children living?” Annie’s answers give us information that she and John had thirteen children but only eleven living children. We have no record of the names of the other two children or the dates of birth and death.

Lucy Ann “Annie” Leyburn LeBus died July 16, 1905 in Perry, Oklahoma, and was buried beside her husband, John, in Grace Hill Cemetery (Perry, Oklahoma).

Getting a glimpse into the life of my ancestor, Lucy Ann Leyburn LeBus, has been quite a challenge. It seems quite likely that her family experienced a harsh existence. When Annie was a young teen her mother was quite ill, so it is likely she had to assume added household and childcare responsibilities. Annie married when she was 17 years old. By our standards this seems quite young, even though it was more common at that time. Her sister, Jennie, says in her memoir that this marriage greatly upset their parents. Annie gave birth to 13 children within twenty-six years, losing two of those children to death. During those years John and Annie moved several times and we know how difficult travel was at that time – long and arduous.

Note: When naming a first born son, it was often the custom to use the paternal grandmother’s maiden surname. George and Ethel “Pa and Ma” LeBus named their first son, Frank Leyburn.

When I consider what life would have been like for women like Annie, I am astounded at their strength and bravery. Most women were as courageous and hard-working as the men. Their daily tasks were basic but necessary – rearing children, cooking meals, fetching water, sewing clothes, growing gardens, and washing laundry. Even though I know so little about Annie’s life, much less her personality or temperament, I would like to think that she was like the wife described in Proverbs.

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. Proverbs 31: 10-12

Sources


Clay County, marriage certificate, Clay County Clerk's Office, Louisville, Illinois.
Harris, Jennie Leyburn, “History of my family and events in my own life.”

Keeling, Susan, “Notes on the Leyburn Family.”


Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft 2010
Updated November 2013
Grace Hill Cemetery, Perry, Oklahoma

John Blackburn and Lucy Ann LeBus are buried in Grace Hill Cemetery.
Chapter Four

Andrew Morandus LeBus

and

Margaret Simington LeBus
Andrew Morandus LeBus and Margaret Simmington LeBus

Andrew Morandus LeBus came to America with his family from Alsace, France which is located on the eastern border of France on the west bank of the Rhine. It is adjacent to Germany and Switzerland, so it abounds in both French and German influences. Our LeBus ancestors resided in Alsace during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, years
when its citizens were subjected to a number of conflicts greatly affecting their lives and wellbeing. When Andrew was born July 14, 1826 in Largitzen, Alsace, France, the country was recovering from foreign occupation. A dramatic surge in population growth caused an economic depression resulting in hunger, housing shortages and lack of work. This may have been the reason for the LeBus family immigrating to America.

Andrew was either the first or second child of Seraphin and Marieanna “Anne” Hubschwerlen LeBus. We have some documentation of this family in a transcription of Seraphin’s will dated 14th day of April A.D. 1868. Their four sons, Morandus, Lewis, Francis Joseph and Anthony along with two daughters, Anne Swaney and Mary Ewing are mentioned. They may have had two other daughters (Marieanna and Teresa) who died as infants but we have no information documenting that.

Even though I have not located this LeBus family on a passenger list or found a naturalization record for Seraphin, I am led to believe they immigrated to America between 1826 and 1831, after Andrew’s birth. Their son Anthony LeBus was born April 11, 1828, and census records for him give his birth place as France and Pennsylvania, so that muddies the water a bit. Daughter Anne LeBus was born January 9, 1831, in Columbiana County, Ohio.

Andrew’s father, Seraphim Labes, can be found in the 1840 United States Federal Census living in Hanover, Columbiana, Ohio with a household consisting of nine people. (Note misspelling of name.) The 1840 census gives only the name of the head of household with age ranges for other members of the household. Listed are one male and one female under five years old; one male and two females between the ages of five and nine; two males between the ages of ten and fourteen; one male between the ages of thirty and thirty-nine; and one female between the ages of seventy and seventy-nine. Seraphin’s wife Anne died in April 1, 1839, so perhaps the older female was her mother.

Andrew Morandus LeBus married Margaret Simington in 1845 and they are recorded on the 1850 United States Federal Census living in Smith, Mahoning, Ohio, with their two children, Mary A. (Ann) age four and Thomas C. age one. The name is incorrectly spelled as Labus. Andrew’s given birthplace is France. Margaret and children were born in Ohio.

By 1860 the LeBus family had moved to Wayne County, Illinois, and five more children were added to the household – John, George, Jackson, Ida and Nancy. Andrew’s given occupation was blacksmith. Unfortunately, I have no data or family lore that explains when they moved to Illinois or the reason for their move. Several of his siblings moved to Kentucky but none to Illinois. The years leading up to the Civil War were a turbulent time in America, so perhaps it played a part in the family’s move.

I have not found a record showing Andrew was enlisted in the military, but like all people at that time, he and his family must have been impacted by it. Here is an excerpt from an article from USGenWeb Archives entitled, “Life in Wayne County during the Civil War, Wayne County, Illinois.”
When the call reached Wayne County there was great excitement. All the loyal men hurriedly met to make plans to go to Mt. Vernon to enlist. But first, they must decide how their families should be cared for and protected during their absence.

They agreed that those with some physical disability and the few physicians should remain to protect and defend the homes and families if it should be necessary. Also, the crops must be put in for food and it would require some who were able bodied to organize the young boys and girls and plant and care for each farm.

At this time, many of the community sympathized with the Southerners and they called a meeting and organized a society called ‘The Knights of the Golden Circle’ to act as spies against the Northern men, and hinder them in every way possible and to give assistance to the Southern Army…

To combat this marauding society, the Union League was organized. A meeting was called at the home of Syria J. Branson and by unanimous vote he was elected to be captain of the League.

This gives us a glimpse of the chaotic atmosphere. The Civil War was being waged between states and within communities. We have heard about families and family members turning against each other, and that must have been the case in Wayne County, Illinois. It makes me wonder how Andrew reacted to this situation. Was he a supporter of the Union or the Confederacy?

When the 1870 United States Federal Census was conducted, Andrew and his family had moved to Flora, Illinois, and they had three more children – Lydia (7), Lincoln (5) and Joseph (1). Their son Jackson was not listed so I think he died before 1870. Andrew and his three sons, John, Thomas and George, all give “blacksmith” as occupations. One interesting note is that Andrew gave his place of birth as Pennsylvania. I have no idea why this occurred since in other census records he gave France.

Andrew and Margaret remained in Flora, Illinois for the remainder of their lives. They had one more daughter, Margaret “Maggie” Jane, born in 1871. One the 1900 United States Federal Census we find information that they had eleven children, three of which died before 1900. Andrew was continuing his work as a blacksmith along with his son Joseph. This son, along with his wife and three daughters, lived with Andrew and Margaret.

Andrew died August 1, 1900, and is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Clay County, Illinois.

Other than census records and death information, I have little data about Margaret Simington LeBus. She was born May 3, 1826, in Columbiana County, Ohio. Census records give Ireland as the birth place of her father and Ohio for her mother. Of course there are no names of parents.

Margaret died February 28, 1913 in Flora, Illinois. Like her husband she is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery, Clay County, Illinois. The following is an excerpt from her obituary.
appearing in The Southern Illinois Record, March 6, 1913. The obituary and burial information can also be located on the Find A Grave website, Memorial number 32539952.

*Mrs. Lebus was converted and became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Dungano, O., at the age of fourteen years and remained a faithful member till called to the church on high.*

*Mrs. Lebus and her husband were charter members of the Flora M. E. Church and bore a full share in the erection of the present church edifice. They were interested and helpful factors in all the work of the church.*

The present generation is greatly indebted to the fathers and mothers gone before who by their toils and sacrifices laid the foundation, stimulated the growth and made possible the religious privileges of the present.

*Today we honor the name and pay a tribute of affection to one of these pioneers, now called to her eternal reward. It is ours to carry on the unfinished task, while she rests from her labors…*

*The death of Mrs. Lebus removes from Flora another one of its oldest and most highly respected pioneer citizens. She was a woman of strong character, loyal and true to her church, her friends and all good work.*

**Sources**


Hbschweriaen, Eugene, Correspondence with Frank LeBus, February 8, 1937, Largitzen, France.


Web: Illinois, Find A Grave Index, 1809-2012
http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=Web

Written by Lucy Ann Nance Croft, 2014
Chapter Five

Ahnentafel Chart

for

Archie Carlisle LeBus
Ancestors of Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus

Generation 1

1. **Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus**[1] was born on 01 Dec 1904 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[2, 3, 4, 5]. She was the daughter of 2. George Franklin LeBus and 3. Ethel Cleora Calk. She died on 05 Aug 1987 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA[6, 7, 8]. She married Bennett Allen Nance on 01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[9, 10], son of George Edward Nance and Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward. He was born on 23 Dec 1901 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA[11, 12, 13, 14, 15]. He died on 17 Feb 1994 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[15, 16, 17, 18].

Generation 2


3. **Ethel Cleora Calk** was born 09 Sep 1881 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[30, 31, 32, 33], died 01 Oct 1960 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[34, 35, 36], married 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[28, 29]. She was the daughter of 6. Early Jackson "Jack" Calk and 7. Wincy Louisa Titsworth.

Children of George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk are:

i. Franklin "Frank" Leyburn LeBus was born 09 Sep 1900 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 07 Nov 1972 in Longview, Gregg, Texas, USA, married Thelma Ruth Henderson Bef. 1920.

ii. Hazel Annabelle LeBus was born 23 Jan 1902 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 08 Sep 1981 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA, married Homer Grizzle 03 Jul 1921.

+ 1. iii. Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus was born 01 Dec 1904 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[2, 3, 4, 5], died 05 Aug 1987 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA[6, 7, 8], married Bennett Allen Nance 01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[9, 10].

iv. Jack Blackburn LeBus was born 17 Apr 1906 in Madill, Marshall, Texas, USA, died 19 Jul 1938 in Greenville, Hunt, Texas, USA, married Nora Iona Neeley Feb 1929.

v. Irene Clementine LeBus was born 17 Feb 1908 in Madill, Marshall, Texas, USA, died 21 Jun 1983 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA, married Paul Bilbrey 16 Oct 1927.

vi. Roy Henderson LeBus was born 10 Apr 1910 in Henrietta, Clay, Texas, USA, died 14 Jan 2000 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA, married Lavena Mae Taylor 16 Oct 1929.

vii. Laura V. LeBus was born 28 Jan 1913 in Henrietta, Clay, Texas, USA, died 25 Nov 1996 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA, married Clarence Denton "C.D." Knight 14 Feb 1940.

viii. George Franklin LeBus Jr. was born 10 May 1917 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA, died 25 Jul 1990 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA, married Louise Latham 28 Jun 1937.

ix. Ethel Marie LeBus was born 06 Aug 1919 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA, died 23 Nov 2010 in Cedar Park, Williamson, Texas, USA, married Denzil Bane Morrow 1940.

x. Donavel Calk LeBus was born 13 Mar 1925 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA, died 22 Mar 1925.

Generation 3
4. **John Blackburn LeBus** was born on 07 Dec 1850 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA[37, 38, 39, 40, 41]. He was the son of 8. Andrew Morandus LeBus and 9. Margaret Simington. He died on 29 Dec 1915 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma[42]. He married Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn on 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois[43, 44].

5. **Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn** was born 05 Oct 1853 in Knox, Indiana, USA[45, 46, 47], died 16 Jul 1905 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, USA, married 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois[43, 44]. She was the daughter of 10. John L. Leyburn and 11. Nancy Jane Ruby.

Children of John Blackburn LeBus and Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn are:

i. Margaret "Maggie" LeBus was born Abt. 1874 in Illinois, USA, died 29 Mar 1938 in Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas, USA, married Bert Gillespie Bef. 1895.

ii. Archie LeBus was born 26 Jan 1875 in Illinois, USA, died 31 Jul 1892 in Oklahoma, USA.

+ 2. iii. George Franklin LeBus was born 14 Dec 1876 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA[19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25], died 29 Dec 1956 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[25, 26, 27], married Ethel Cleora Calk 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[28, 29].

iv. Laura LeBus was born Dec 1878 in Illinois.

v. Lincoln "Link" LeBus was born Abt. 1879 in Illinois or Tennessee, USA.

vi. John Ervin Lebus was born 22 Dec 1880 in Tennessee, USA[48, 49, 50, 51, 52], died 24 Nov 1952 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA, married Clementine "Clemmie" Calk Bef. 01 Jun 1900 in Oklahoma, USA; married Ollie Melvina Carlock Bef. 1925 in TX; married Annie Unknown Bef. 1910 in Texas, USA.

vii. Ruby LeBus was born Oct 1886 in Illinois, USA.

viii. Jake Harrison LeBus was born Abt. 1887 in Illinois, USA, died 17 Apr 1935 in Wichita, Texas, USA, married Frances Sophia Scheen 11 May 1912.

ix. Goldie Bell LeBus was born Sep 1888 in Illinois, USA, married Edwin "Ed" Taylor Sweet Bef. 1908.

x. Beatrice Alma LeBus was born 21 Nov 1894 in Noble, Oklahoma, USA, died 10 Oct 1996 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA, married Daniel W. Mack Bef. 1914.

xi. Irene Lucille LeBus was born 13 Apr 1896 in Noble, Oklahoma, USA, died 24 Dec 1989 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, married J. Frank Pollack Abt. 1920; married Noble Ballou Bef. 1930; married George Clifford Hughes Abt. 1934.

6. **Early Jackson "Jack" Calk**[53, 54] was born on 08 Dec 1848 in Clarke, Alabama, USA[55, 56, 57]. He was the son of 12. Thomas Clayton Calk and 13. Mary E. Larrimore. He died on 15 May 1906 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA. He married Wincy Louisa Titsworth on 20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA[58].

7. **Wincy Louisa Titsworth** was born 20 May 1855 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[59, 60, 61, 62], died 28 Jan 1908, married 20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA[58]. She was the daughter of 14. Levi Nicholas Titsworth and 15. Julia Clementine Daniels.

Children of Early Jackson "Jack" Calk and Wincy Louisa Titsworth are:
Generation 3 (con't)

i. Levi Carlisle Calk was born 29 Jan 1875 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[83], died 26 Jan 1958 in Kyle, Hays, Texas, USA[64], married Martha Dell "Mattie" Davis 26 Dec 1896.

+ 3. ii. Ethel Cleora Calk was born 09 Sep 1881 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[30, 31, 32, 33], died 01 Oct 1960 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[34, 35, 36], married George Franklin LeBus 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[28, 29].

iii. Clementine "Clemmie" Calk was born Abt. 1882, died Bef. 1910 in Texas, USA, married John Ervin LeBus Bef. 01 Jun 1900 in Oklahoma, USA.

iv. Maude Calk was born 1884 in Texas, USA.

v. Helen Calk was born 1886 in Texas, USA.

vi. Granvill C. Calk was born 20 Nov 1889 in Atascosa, Texas, USA, died 16 Oct 1890 in Atascosa, Texas, USA.

vii. Early Jackson III "Earl" Calk was born 01 Jan 1894 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[65], died 29 Oct 1963 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, married Zora Maurice Taylor 1916 in Williamson, Texas, USA.

Generation 4

8. **Andrew Morandus LeBus** was born on 14 Jul 1826 in Largitzen, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France[66, 67, 68, 69, 70]. He was the son of 16. Seraphin LeBus and 17. Marieanna (Anne) Hubscherlen. He died on 01 Aug 1900 in Clay, Illinois, USA[71, 72]. He married Margaret Simington on 16 Nov 1845 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA.

9. **Margaret Simington** was born 03 May 1826 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA[73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78], died 28 Feb 1913 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA[73], married 16 Nov 1845 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA. She was the daughter of 18. Unknown Simington and 19. Lydia Unknown.

Children of Andrew Morandus LeBus and Margaret Simington are:

i. Mary Ann LeBus was born 07 Dec 1846 in Ohio, USA, died 05 Feb 1929 in Wayne, Illinois, USA, married James Stephen Hubble 05 Oct 1864.

ii. Thomas LeBus was born 19 Apr 1848 in Ohio, USA, died Aft 1930.

+ 4. iii. John Blackburn LeBus was born 07 Dec 1850 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA[37, 38, 39, 40, 41], died 29 Dec 1915 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma[42], married Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois[43, 44]; married Clarisa Bef. 1910.

iv. George LeBus was born 11 Feb 1852 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA, died 07 Dec 1875 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA.

v. Jackson LeBus was born 16 Jan 1854 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA, died Bef. 1870 in Illinois, USA.

vi. Ida Lenlee LeBus was born 03 Apr 1857 in Illinois, USA, died 1937 in Clay, Illinois, USA, married George Adkins Bef. 1906.

vii. Nancy LeBus was born 23 Oct 1859 in Illinois, USA.
Generation 4 (con't)

viii. Lydia LeBus was born 08 Nov 1862 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA, died 07 Dec 1877 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA.

ix. Lincoln LeBus was born 15 Mar 1865 in Illinois, USA, died 23 Dec 1905 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, USA, married Julia Tade Bef. 1895.


xi. Margaret "Maggie" Jane LeBus was born 10 Jul 1871 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA, died 07 Apr 1965 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA, married Charles Middleton Bef. 1891.


11. Nancy Jane Ruby was born Abt. 1834 in Indiana[82], died Abt. 1873 in Loudon, Loudon, Tennessee, married Oct 1852 in Knox, Indiana. She was the daughter of 22. Unknown Ruby and 23. Jennie Lemon.

Children of John L. Leyburn and Nancy Jane Ruby are:

+ 5. i. Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn was born 05 Oct 1853 in Knox, Indiana, USA[45, 46, 47], died 16 Jul 1905 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, USA, married John Blackburn LeBus 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois[43, 44].

ii. Franklin I. Leyburn was born Abt. 1857 in Indiana[83].

iii. Mary E. Leyburn was born Abt. 1859 in Indiana[83].

iv. Fanny Leyburn was born 28 Oct 1860 in Tennessee, USA, died 23 Jan 1933 in Loudon, Loudon, Tennessee, USA, married William Churchwell Waller 14 Mar 1877 in Tennessee, USA.

v. Willie Leyburn was born 1870 in Illinois.


12. Thomas Clayton Calk was born on 21 Nov 1820 in Clarke, Alabama, USA[84, 85, 86, 87]. He was the son of 24. Elijah Calk and 25. Mary "Polly" Youse Unknown. He died on 28 Dec 1893 in Lylte, Atascosa, Texas, USA. He married Mary E. Larrimore on 04 Feb 1847 in Clarke, Alabama, USA[88].

13. Mary E. Larrimore was born Oct 1829 in Alabama, USA[89, 90], died 07 Dec 1862 in Arkansas, USA[91], married 04 Feb 1847 in Clarke, Alabama, USA[88]. She was the daughter of 26. William M. Larrimore and 27. Hexey Ann Cobb.

Children of Thomas Clayton Calk and Mary E. Larrimore are:

+ 6. i. Early Jackson "Jack" Calk was born 08 Dec 1848 in Clarke, Alabama, USA[55, 56, 57], died 15 May 1906 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA, married Wincy Louisa Titsworth 20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA[58]; married Louisa S. Champion 01 Jun 1867 in McLennan Co., TX.
Generation 4 (con't)

ii. William Matthew Calk was born 1849 in Clarke, Alabama, USA, died 24 Jan 1929 in Archer, Pottawatomie, Oklahoma, USA.

iii. Thomas B. Calk was born 1852 in Clarke, Alabama, USA, died 20 Apr 1939 in Bexar, Texas, USA.

iv. Anna E. Calk was born 1854 in Clarke, Alabama, USA.

v. Elijah Clayton Calk was born Sep 1856 in Clarke, Alabama, USA, died 16 Feb 1934 in Alvin, Brazoria, Texas, USA.

vi. Sarah Jane "Sally" Calk was born Bef. 1860 in Sevier, Arkansas, USA, died 28 May 1945 in Kyle, Hays, Texas, USA.

vii. Molly Calk was born Abt. 1863 in Sevier, Arkansas, USA, died Arkansas or Texas.

Children of Thomas Clayton Calk and Minerva Randolph Fitzgerald are:

i. Jerry Walter Calk was born 26 Jun 1870 in Bell, Texas, USA, died 22 Jun 1934 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, married Rebecca Adeline Williams Bef. 1897.

ii. Ira Dell "Bud" Calk was born 20 Apr 1873, died 27 Sep 1960 in Beasley, Fort Bend, Texas, USA.

iii. Alonzo Evans Calk was born 17 Apr 1876 in Moody, Bell, Texas, USA, died 25 Oct 1948 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, married Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Welch 14 Jan 1910 in Johnson Co., TX, married Myrtle "Myrette" Fuller Aft. 1914; married Susie Reid Bef. 1897.

iv. Lulu Samantha Calk was born 05 Jul 1880 in Frio, Frio, Texas, USA, died 15 Jun 1963 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, married Robert Monroe Bighorn 21 Jun 1905.

v. John W. Calk was born Aug 1884.

14. Levi Nicholas Titworth was born on 04 Oct 1830 in Tipton, Tennessee, USA[92, 93, 94, 95]. He was the son of 28. Christopher Greenup Titworth and 29. Mary Louise Peyton. He died on 08 Jun 1893 in Fannin, Texas, USA[96, 97]. He married Julia Clementine Daniels on 06 Feb 1852 in Cass, Texas, USA[98].

15. Julia Clementine Daniels was born 23 Nov 1833 in Henderson, Tennessee, USA[99, 100], died 05 Mar 1873 in Fannin, Texas, USA[101, 102], married 06 Feb 1852 in Cass, Texas, USA[98]. She was the daughter of 30. Robert Daniels and 31. Wincey Travis.

Children of Levi Nicholas Titworth and Julia Clementine Daniels are:

i. Tennessee Parilee Titworth was born 11 Jan 1852 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 22 Jun 1938 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, married Braz Joe A. Biggerstaff 06 Jun 1872 in Fannin Co, TX.

+ 7. ii. Wincy Louisa Titworth was born 20 May 1855 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[59, 60, 61, 62], died 28 Jan 1908, married Early Jackson "Jack" Calk 20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA[59].

iii. Joseph Titworth was born 19 Oct 1857 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 17 Sep 1940 in Grayson, Texas, USA, married Molly Sims Bef. 1879 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA; married Laura Julia Doan 14 Sep 1885 in Dallas Co., TX.
Generation 4 (con't)

iv. Clave Titsworth was born 03 Jan 1860 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 27 Jul 1937 in Fannin, Texas, USA, married Mary Elizabeth Agnew 15 Nov 1883.

v. Levi Titsworth was born 27 Sep 1862 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 07 Mar 1864 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA.

vi. Clement Rogers Titsworth was born 23 Mar 1866 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 18 Jun 1944 in Montague, Montague Co., TX, married Daisy Noe Morehead Bef. 1899.

vii. Charles Carlton Titsworth was born 14 Sep 1868 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 02 Aug 1933 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA.

viii. Griffith Titsworth was born 20 Nov 1870 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 09 May 1931 in Cariza Springs, Dimmitt, Texas, USA.

ix. Harvey Dane Titsworth was born 28 Aug 1872 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA, died 07 Jan 1958 in Santa Clara, California, USA, married Johnnie Mae 1897.

Children of Levi Nicholas Titsworth and Minerva Jane Basham are:

i. Lina or Tina Titsworth was born 19 May 1874 in Fannin, Texas, USA, died Jul 1896.

ii. Julia Marion Titsworth was born 05 Nov 1875.

Sources

1 Archie Carlisle LeBus, birth certificate no. 59000, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
2 Archie Carlisle LeBus, birth certificate no. 59000, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
8 Archie L. Nance grave marker (photo), Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Kerr, Texas.
9 Wichita County, marriage certificate no. 12846, Wichita County Clerk's Office, Wichita Falls, Texas.
10 Nance, Bennett Allen, Autobiography of Bennett A. Nance; Rancher in Real County from 1927 to 1948, n.p., pp. 2-3.
16 Bennett Allen Nance, death certificate no. 017460, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
Sources (con't)

17 Bennett Allen Nance grave marker (photo), Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Kerr, Texas.
26 George F. LeBus death certificate no. 68553, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
28 Fannin County, marriage certificate no. 103410, vol. L. P. 508, Bonham, Texas.
29 George and Ethel LeBus 50th Wedding Anniversary (newspaper article), Wichita Daily Times, Wichita Falls, Texas, November 6, 1949.
34 Ethel C. LeBus death certificate no. 62986, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
36 Ethel C. LeBus obituary, Wichita Falls Times, Wichita Fall, Texas.
37 Clay County, marriage certificate, Clay County Clerk's Office, Louisville, Illinois.
Ancestors of Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus

Sources (con't)

58 Medina County, marriage license no. 13370, Medina County Clerk's Office, Medina, Texas.
71 Andrew and Margret LeBus grave marker (photo), Elmhurst Cemetery, Flora, Clay, Illinois.
73 Margaret S. LeBus obituary (photocopy) Southern Illinois Record, Flora, Illinois, Mar 6, 1913.
Sources (con't)

81 Harris, Jennie Leyburn, History of my family and events in my own life, n.p.
96 Levi N. Titsworth grave marker, White Rock Cemetery, Fannin, Texas.
97 Levi N. Titsworth burial record, Fannin County, TXGenWeb Whiterock Cemetery.
101 Julia Titsworth burial information and grave marker photo, email message from Ann Titsworth 08-16-04. (jessiann@sbcglobal.net)
102 Julia Titsworth burial record, Fannin County, TXGenWeb Whiterock Cemetery.
PART THREE

Nance Family Group Sheets

Bennett Allen and Archie Carlisle LeBus Nance
George Edward Nance and Lucy Ann Woodward Nance
Lewis C. and Charity May Nance
Edward H. and Margaret Camerer Nance

RELATED FAMILIES
John S. and Mary Adelia Anderson Woodward
Jacob and Lucinda Ann Hinch Woodward
Richard Jordan and Anna Montgomery Anderson
George and Mary Jane Upton May
## Family Group Sheet for Bennett Allen Nance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Bennett Allen Nance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>23 Dec 1901 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>17 Feb 1994 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>19 Feb 1994 in Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>George Edward Nance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Lucinda &quot;Lucy&quot; Ann Woodward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>01 Dec 1904 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>05 Aug 1987 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>Sunset Cem. Mountain Home, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>George Franklin LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Ethel Cleora Calk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children:

1. **F**
   - Name: Aileen Nance
   - Birth: 16 Sep 1926 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - Death: 16 Sep 1926 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA

2. **M**
   - Name: Dan Allen Nance
   - Birth: 10 Apr 1929 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: 31 Aug 1949 in Portalis, New Mexico, USA
   - Spouse: Eunice Smith
   - Other Spouses: Sue Ellen Tucker (07 Jun 1985 in Wheatridge, CO)

3. **F**
   - Name: Nancy Nance
   - Birth: 25 Oct 1931 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: 24 Mar 1951
   - Spouse: Thomas Henry Boothe

4. **F**
   - Name: Lucy Ann Nance
   - Birth: 22 Feb 1937 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: 12 Jul 1958 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA
   - Spouse: Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft

5. **M**
   - Name: Steven Anthony Nance
   - Birth: 25 Jul 1943 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: 03 Jan 1970 in Lubbock, Lubbock, Texas, USA
   - Spouse: Paula Mauldin
   - Other Spouses: Judith Burch Weindorff (2006)
# Family Group Sheet for George Edward Nance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband: George Edward Nance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 28 Feb 1865 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 04 Feb 1937 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: 05 Feb 1937 in Canyon, Randall, TX, Dreamland Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Lewis Camerer Nance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Charity Melvina May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Lucinda &quot;Lucy&quot; Ann Woodward</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 13 Dec 1869 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 03 Mar 1967 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Canyon, Randall Co TX, Dreamland Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: John Southern or Sidney Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Mary Adelia &quot;Della&quot; Anderson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children:

1. **F**
   - **Name:** Willie May or Mae Nance
   - **Birth:** 28 Jan 1891 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - **Death:** 24 Jun 1932 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - **Marriage:** 12 Jan 1910 in Electra, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** Arthur "Doc" Fisher

2. **F**
   - **Name:** Gladys Gertrude Nance
   - **Birth:** 10 Aug 1892 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - **Death:** 23 Aug 1990 in Canyon, Randall, Texas, USA
   - **Marriage:** 11 Jun 1914 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** Harry Bateman Hager

3. **F**
   - **Name:** Norma Dell Nance
   - **Birth:** Mar 1894 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - **Death:** 30 Nov 1976 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA
   - **Marriage:** 20 Apr 1915 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** Samuel Fred Beeker

4. **M**
   - **Name:** George Edison "Brother" Nance
   - **Birth:** 03 Jan 1896 in Ezzell, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - **Death:** 04 Nov 1954 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA
   - **Burial:** 06 Nov 1954 in Dreamland Cemetery, Canyon, TX
   - **Marriage:** 01 Oct 1924
   - **Spouse:** Bessie Lucille Parker

5. **F**
   - **Name:** Sadie Ann Nance
   - **Birth:** 05 Jul 1897 in Sweet Home, Lavaca, Texas, USA
   - **Death:** 17 Aug 1992 in Amarillo, Potter, Texas, USA
   - **Marriage:** 24 May 1917 in Lockney, Floyd, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** William Thomas "W.T." Oliver

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Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 245
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Burial</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bennett Allen Nance</td>
<td>23 Dec 1901 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA</td>
<td>17 Feb 1994 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA</td>
<td>19 Feb 1994 in Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, TX</td>
<td>01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>John Allison &quot;Al&quot; Nance</td>
<td>18 Sep 1903 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA</td>
<td>13 Dec 1972 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Leakey, TX, Leakey Cemetery</td>
<td>28 Jun 1929 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Rosetta Casey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Husband:</strong></td>
<td>Lewis Camerer Nance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>1841 in Clinton, Missouri, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Burial:</strong></td>
<td>Hallettsville, Lavaca Co, TX Old Hallettsville Graveyard</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Father:</strong></td>
<td>Edward H. Nance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong></td>
<td>Margaret Cammarrar or Camerer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wife:</strong></td>
<td>Charity Melvina May</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>28 Oct 1846 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>04 Sep 1901 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Burial:</strong></td>
<td>Yoakum Oak Grove Cemetery, FM 318, near Yoakum, TX</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father:</strong></td>
<td>George May</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong></td>
<td>Mary Jane Upton</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Name: Mary Margaret &quot;Maggie&quot; Nance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>04 Mar 1863 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>23 Aug 1952 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>05 Jan 1881 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Name: George Edward Nance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>28 Feb 1865 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>04 Feb 1937 in Brownsville, Cameron, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Burial:</strong></td>
<td>05 Feb 1937 in Canyon, Randall, TX, Dreamland Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spouse:</strong></td>
<td>John Varnell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Name: Katherine May &quot;Katie&quot; Nance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>24 Sep 1867 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>11 Nov 1909 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>25 Jan 1887 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas. USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spouse:</strong></td>
<td>Lucinda &quot;Lucy&quot; Ann Woodward</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Name: Sarah Viola &quot;Sallie&quot; Nance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>18 Nov 1869 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>24 Oct 1952 in Sweetwater, Nolan, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>30 Nov 1892 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spouse:</strong></td>
<td>Jarred Allen Turrentine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Name: Louise or Louis &quot;Lou&quot; Josephine Nance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>02 Oct 1872 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>Bef. 1912</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spouse:</strong></td>
<td>John George Bush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Name: Adelia &quot;Addie&quot; Nance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth:</strong></td>
<td>Dec 1875 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Death:</strong></td>
<td>12 Apr 1908</td>
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<td><strong>Marriage:</strong></td>
<td>Bef. 1898</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spouse:</strong></td>
<td>John George Bush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Group Sheet for Edward H. Nance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Husband:</strong> Edward H. Nance</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: Abt. 1810 in Virginia, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death: Bet. 1868–1869 in Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage: 30 Oct 1834 in Edgar, Illinois, USA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Father: Unknown Nance</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wife:</strong> Margaret Cammarrar or Camerer</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: Abt. 1815 in Pennsylvania or Ohio, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: Aft. 1902 in Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Ludwig &quot;Lewis&quot; Kammerer or Camerer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Catherine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Name: Catherine Nance Birth: Abt. 1837 in Edgar, Illinois, USA Death: 28 Dec 1858 in Collin, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Name: Son Nance Birth: Bef. 1840</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Name: Lewis Camerer Nance Birth: 1841 in Clinton, Missouri, USA Death: 1874 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA Burial: Hallettsville, Lavaca Co, TX Old Hallettsville Graveyard Marriage: 30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA Spouse: Charity Melvina May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Name: Margaret A. Nance Birth: 1843 in Clinton, Missouri, USA Marriage: 14 Jul 1859 in McLennon, Texas, USA Spouse: W. Thomas Scaggs or Sceggs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Name: Edward Young Nance Birth: 04 Nov 1846 in Cairo, Edgar, Illinois, USA Death: 03 Jun 1932 in Knox City, Knox, Texas, USA Marriage: 25 Dec 1879 in McLennon, Texas, USA Spouse: Mary Jane Pierson or Pearson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband: John Southern or Sidney Woodward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 13 Jan 1844 in Hallettsville, Colorado, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 16 Oct 1916 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Providence Cemetery, Lavaca Co. TX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 29 Jun 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Jacob T. Woodward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Lucinda Ann Hinch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Spouses: Sally Moore (1887)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Mary Adelia &quot;Della&quot; Anderson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 29 Apr 1846 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: Abt. 1882 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Richard Jordan Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Anna Montgomery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1
| M |
| Name: William "Willie" Oscar Woodward |
| Birth: 01 Jan 1866 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death: 07 Jun 1938 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Burial: Yoakum Oak Grove Cemetery |
| Spouse: Ida Mae McClure |
| Other Spouses: Lavina Unknown |

| 2 |
| F |
| Name: Kittie Blanche Woodward |
| Birth: Abt. 1868 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death: 16 Feb 1960 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA |
| Burial: San Jose Burial Park, San Antonio, TX |
| Marriage: 23 Nov 1887 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Spouse: William Thomas Grimes |
| Other Spouses: Oliver King (Bef. 1920) |

| 3 |
| F |
| Name: Betty Woodward |
| Birth: 1869 |

| 4 |
| F |
| Name: Lucinda "Lucy" Ann Woodward |
| Birth: 13 Dec 1869 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death: 03 Mar 1967 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie, Texas, USA |
| Burial: Canyon, Randall Co TX, Dreamland Cemetery |
| Marriage: 24 Jan 1888 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Spouse: George Edward Nance |

| 5 |
| F |
| Name: Beulah Woodward |
| Birth: 1872 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death: 16 Apr 1933 |

| 6 |
| M |
| Name: John Southern Woodward Jr. |
| Birth: 1875 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Death: 04 Nov 1904 in Williamsburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Burial: Mossy Grove Cemetery |
| Marriage: 1893 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
| Spouse: Minnie Leggett |

Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 251
| 7 | Name:     | Mary Della Woodward
|     | Birth:    | 05 Aug 1880 in Lavaca, Texas, USA
|     | Death:    | 26 Aug 1926
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spouse:</th>
<th>Harlen A. Long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8 | Name:     | Albert Tally "Tal" Woodward
| M  | Birth:    | Abt. 1881 in Lavaca, Texas, USA
|     | Death:    | 14 Dec 1970 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA
|     | Marriage: | Bef. 1912
|     | Spouse:   | Bernice Nora McMillan |
# Family Group Sheet for Jacob T. Woodward

**Husband:** Jacob T. Woodward  
**Birth:** 14 Feb 1808 in Marion, South Carolina, USA  
**Death:** 09 Jan 1884 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
**Burial:** Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
**Marriage:** Bef. 1836  
**Father:**  
**Mother:**  

**Wife:** Lucinda Ann Hinch  
**Birth:** 17 Jan 1820 in Missouri, USA  
**Death:** 23 Jan 1877 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
**Father:** Michael Henry Hinch  
**Mother:** Mary "Polly" Grant  

## Children:

1. **F**  
   **Name:** Mary Jane Woodward  
   **Birth:** 1836 in Tuskegee, Alabama, USA  
   **Death:** 1922 in Karnes City, Texas, USA  
   **Marriage:** 03 Sep 1863 in Texas, USA  
   **Spouse:** John F. May  

2. **F**  
   **Name:** Bernice Woodward  
   **Birth:** 08 Aug 1838 in Tuskegee, Alabama, USA  
   **Marriage:** 02 Jan 1861  
   **Spouse:** Richard Thomas Breeden  

3. **F**  
   **Name:** Georgia Anne Woodward  
   **Birth:** 05 Apr 1840  
   **Death:** 13 Sep 1923 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
   **Marriage:** 10 Oct 1861 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
   **Spouse:** Wilson Tarkington  

4. **M**  
   **Name:** Thomas I. Woodward  
   **Birth:** 26 Dec 1841 in Lavaca, Texas, USA  
   **Death:** 26 Dec 1841  

5. **M**  
   **Name:** John Southern or Sidney Woodward  
   **Birth:** 13 Jan 1844 in Hallettsville, Colorado, Texas, USA  
   **Death:** 16 Oct 1916 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
   **Burial:** Providence Cemetery, Lavaca Co. TX  
   **Marriage:** 29 Jun 1864 in Lavaca, Texas, USA  
   **Spouse:** Mary Adelia "Della" Anderson  

6. **F**  
   **Name:** Virginia C. "Jennie" Woodward  
   **Birth:** 15 Apr 1848  
   **Death:** 10 Oct 1935 in Dickerson, Galveston, Texas, USA  
   **Marriage:** 14 Feb 1867 in Lavaca Co, TX  
   **Spouse:** David Arthur Cummings
### Family Group Sheet for Jacob T. Woodward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Birth:</th>
<th>Death:</th>
<th>Burial:</th>
<th>Marriage:</th>
<th>Spouse:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lucian LeComp Woodward</td>
<td>05 Apr 1850</td>
<td>21 Mar 1918 in Karnes City, Karnes, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Karnes Co, TX</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Margaret &quot;Maggie&quot; Ester Stockton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Clarence Grant Woodward</td>
<td>13 Aug 1852 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>27 Feb 1940</td>
<td></td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Julia Ann Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Keron &quot;Kittle&quot; Woodward</td>
<td>07 Jan 1855 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>17 Feb 1895 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>James Newton Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Henry Woodward</td>
<td>19 Jan 1857 in Lavaca Co, TX</td>
<td>09 Oct 1931 in Schulenburg, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Speaks Cemetery, Lavaca Co., TX</td>
<td>01 Feb 1876</td>
<td>Nancy Annie Wade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 254
Family Group Sheet for Richard Jordan Anderson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Richard Jordan Anderson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>Abt. 1802 in Virginia, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>Abt. 1892 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>12 Nov 1838 in St Landry, Louisiana, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>James Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Susannah H “Sukey” Brown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Anna Montgomery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>1810 in Georgia, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>17 May 1889 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 M</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 F</td>
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<td>4 M</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5 M</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Family Group Sheet for George May

**Husband:** George May  
**Birth:** 13 Sep 1798 in North Carolina, Tennessee, USA  
**Death:** 1851 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
**Marriage:** 18 Feb 1825 in Chattanooga, Hamilton, Tennessee, USA  
**Father:** John May  
**Mother:** Charity Taylor  

**Wife:** Mary Jane Upton  
**Birth:** 22 Mar 1806 in Tennessee, USA  
**Death:** 19 Feb 1890 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA  
**Father:** ?Samuel Isaac Upton  
**Mother:** Unknown Cherokee Maiden  

### Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>James A. &quot;Jim&quot; Sanders May</td>
<td>15 Sep 1825 in Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>07 Apr 1851 in Mule Springs New Mexico, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Malinda Josephine May</td>
<td>19 Feb 1833</td>
<td>04 Jan 1852 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>04 Jan 1852 in Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>John Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sam Houston May</td>
<td>30 Apr 1835</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Isaac Upton May</td>
<td>11 Jan 1838</td>
<td>03 Jan 1839 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA</td>
<td>03 Jan 1839 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>John F. May</td>
<td>25 Oct 1839 in Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td>03 Sep 1863 in Texas, USA</td>
<td>Mary Jane Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mary Jane May</td>
<td>11 Apr 1844 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA</td>
<td>12 Dec 1894 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>26 Oct 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>William Harvey Turk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Charity Melvina May</td>
<td>28 Oct 1846 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA</td>
<td>04 Sep 1901 in Yoakum, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>30 Apr 1862 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Lewis Camerer Nance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Group Sheet for George May

| 8 | Name: Sarah Arkansas May |
|   | Birth: 28 Oct 1846 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, USA |
|   | Death: 28 Mar 1883 in Hallettsville, Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|   | Burial: Clark Family Cemetery, South of Hallettsville, Lavaca Co., TX |
|   | Marriage: 28 Dec 1865 in Lavaca, Texas, USA |
|   | Spouse: Richard Jones Clark |
PART FOUR

LeBus Family Group Sheets

George Franklin and Ethel C. Calk LeBus
John Blackburn and Lucy Ann Leyburn LeBus
Andrew Morandus and Margaret Simington LeBus

RELATED FAMILIES
Early Jackson and Wincy Louisa Titsworth Calk
Thomas Clayton and Mary Elizabeth Larrimore Calk
Levi Nicholas and Julia C. Daniels Titsworth
# Family Group Sheet for George Franklin LeBus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband: George Franklin LeBus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 14 Dec 1876 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 29 Dec 1956 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: 31 Dec 1956 in Wichita Falls, Wichita Co, TX, Crestview Memorial Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: John Blackburn LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Lucy Ann &quot;Annie&quot; Leyburn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Ethel Cleora Calk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 09 Sep 1881 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 01 Oct 1960 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: 03 Oct 1960 in Wichita Falls, Wichita Co, TX, Crestview Memorial Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Early Jackson &quot;Jack&quot; Calk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Wincy Louisa Titsworth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 M Name: Franklin &quot;Frank&quot; Leyburn LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 09 Sep 1900 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 07 Nov 1972 in Longview, Gregg, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: Bef. 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse: Thelma Ruth Henderson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2 F Name: Hazel Annabelle LeBus |
| Birth: 23 Jan 1902 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA |
| Death: 08 Sep 1981 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA |
| Burial: Crestview Memorial Park, Wichita Falls, TX |
| Marriage: 03 Jul 1921 |
| Spouse: Homer Grizzle |

| 3 F Name: Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus |
| Birth: 01 Dec 1904 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA |
| Death: 05 Aug 1987 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA |
| Burial: Sunset Cem. Mountain Home, TX |
| Marriage: 01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA |
| Spouse: Bennett Allen Nance |

| 4 M Name: Jack Blackburn LeBus |
| Birth: 17 Apr 1906 in Madill, Marshall, Texas, USA |
| Death: 19 Jul 1938 in Greenville, Hunt, Texas, USA |
| Marriage: Feb 1929 |
| Spouse: Nora Iona Neeley |

<p>| 5 F Name: Irene Clementine LeBus |
| Birth: 17 Feb 1908 in Madill, Marshall, Texas, USA |
| Death: 21 Jun 1983 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA |
| Burial: Crestview Memorial Park, Wichita Falls, TX |
| Marriage: 16 Oct 1927 |
| Spouse: Paul Bilbrey |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Place of Death</th>
<th>Marriage Date</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Laura V. LeBus</td>
<td>28 Jan 1913</td>
<td>Henrietta, Clay, Texas, USA</td>
<td>25 Nov 1996</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
<td>14 Feb 1940</td>
<td>Clarence Denton &quot;C.D.&quot; Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>George Franklin LeBus Jr.</td>
<td>10 May 1917</td>
<td>Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
<td>25 Jul 1990</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
<td>28 Jun 1937</td>
<td>Louise Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ethel Marie LeBus</td>
<td>06 Aug 1919</td>
<td>Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
<td>23 Nov 2010</td>
<td>Cedar Park, Williamson, Texas, USA</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Denzil Bane Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Donavel Calk LeBus</td>
<td>13 Mar 1925</td>
<td>Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
<td>22 Mar 1925</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Family Group Sheet for John Blackburn LeBus

**Husband:** John Blackburn LeBus  
**Birth:** 07 Dec 1850 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA  
**Death:** 29 Dec 1915 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma  
**Marriage:** 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois  
**Father:** Andrew Morandus LeBus  
**Mother:** Margaret Simington  

**Wife:** Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn  
**Birth:** 05 Oct 1853 in Knox, Indiana, USA  
**Death:** 16 Jul 1905 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, USA  
**Father:** John L. Leyburn  
**Mother:** Nancy Jane Ruby  

## Children:

1. **Name:** Margaret "Maggie" LeBus  
   **Birth:** Abt. 1874 in Illinois, USA  
   **Death:** 29 Mar 1938 in Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas, USA  
   **Marriage:** Bef. 1895  
   **Spouse:** Bert Gillespie  

2. **Name:** Archie LeBus  
   **Birth:** 26 Jan 1875 in Illinois, USA  
   **Death:** 31 Jul 1892 in Oklahoma, USA  

3. **Name:** George Franklin LeBus  
   **Birth:** 14 Dec 1876 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA  
   **Death:** 29 Dec 1956 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA  
   **Burial:** 31 Dec 1956 in Wichita Falls, Wichita Co, TX, Crestview Memorial Park  
   **Marriage:** 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA  
   **Spouse:** Ethel Cleora Calk  

4. **Name:** Laura LeBus  
   **Birth:** Dec 1878 in Illinois  
   **Spouse:** Edward Bullock  

5. **Name:** Lincoln "Link" LeBus  
   **Birth:** Abt. 1879 in Illinois or Tennessee, USA  
   **Spouse:** Julia Unknown  

6. **Name:** John Ervin Lebus  
   **Birth:** 22 Dec 1880 in Tennessee, USA  
   **Death:** 24 Nov 1952 in Electra, Wichita, Texas, USA  
   **Marriage:** Bef. 01 Jun 1900 in Oklahoma, USA  
   **Spouse:** Clementine "Clemmie" Calk  

7. **Name:** Ruby LeBus  
   **Birth:** Oct 1886 in Illinois, USA  
   **Spouse:** Ray Dobson  

---

*Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 265*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Group Sheet for John Blackburn LeBus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name: Jake Harrison LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: Abt. 1887 in Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 17 Apr 1935 in Wichita, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 11 May 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse: Frances Sophia Scheen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name: Goldie Bell LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: Sep 1888 in Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: Bef. 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse: Edwin &quot;Ed&quot; Taylor Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name: Beatrice Alma LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 21 Nov 1894 in Noble, Oklahoma, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 10 Oct 1996 in Los Angeles, California, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: Bef. 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse: Daniel W. Mack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11 F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name: Irene Lucille LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 13 Apr 1896 in Noble, Oklahoma, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 24 Dec 1989 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: Abt. 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse: J. Frank Pollack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Family Group Sheet for Andrew Morandus LeBus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Andrew Morandus LeBus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>14 Jul 1826 in Largitzen, Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>01 Aug 1900 in Clay, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>Aug 1900 in Harter Twp., Clay County, Illinois; Elmwood Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>16 Nov 1845 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Seraphin LeBus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Marieanna (Anne) Hubscherlen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Margaret Simington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>03 May 1826 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>28 Feb 1913 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Unknown Simmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Lydia Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Children:

1. Name: Mary Ann LeBus  
   Birth: 07 Dec 1846 in Ohio, USA  
   Death: 05 Feb 1929 in Wayne, Illinois, USA  
   Marriage: 05 Oct 1864  
   Spouse: James Stephen Hubble

2. Name: Thomas LeBus  
   Birth: 19 Apr 1848 in Ohio, USA  
   Death: Aft 1930

3. Name: John Blackburn LeBus  
   Birth: 07 Dec 1850 in Columbiana, Ohio, USA  
   Death: 29 Dec 1915 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma  
   Marriage: 06 Oct 1872 in Clay, Illinois  
   Spouse: Lucy Ann "Annie" Leyburn

4. Name: George LeBus  
   Birth: 11 Feb 1852 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA  
   Death: 07 Dec 1875 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA

5. Name: Jackson LeBus  
   Birth: 16 Jan 1854 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA  
   Death: Bef. 1870 in Illinois, USA  
   Burial: Perry, OK

6. Name: Ida Lenlee LeBus  
   Birth: 03 Apr 1857 in Illinois, USA  
   Death: 1937 in Clay, Illinois, USA  
   Marriage: Bef. 1906  
   Spouse: George Adkins

7. Name: Nancy LeBus  
   Birth: 23 Oct 1859 in Illinois, USA  
   Spouse: Jake Jackson

8. Name: Lydia LeBus  
   Birth: 08 Nov 1862 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA  
   Death: 07 Dec 1877 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lincoln LeBus</td>
<td>15 Mar 1865 in Illinois, USA</td>
<td>23 Dec 1905 in Perry, Noble, Oklahoma, USA</td>
<td>Bef. 1895</td>
<td>Julia Tade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Margaret &quot;Maggie&quot; Jane LeBus</td>
<td>10 Jul 1871 in Flora, Clay, Illinois, USA</td>
<td>07 Apr 1965 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA</td>
<td>Bef. 1891</td>
<td>Charles Middleton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Family Group Sheet for Early Jackson "Jack" Calk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband: Early Jackson &quot;Jack&quot; Calk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 08 Dec 1848 in Clarke, Alabama, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 15 May 1906 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Greenbriar Cemetery, Nocona, Montague, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Thomas Clayton Calk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Mary E. Larrimore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Wincy Louisa Titsworth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 20 May 1855 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 28 Jan 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Greenbriar Cemetery, Nocona, Montague, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Levi Nicholas Titsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Julia Clementine Daniels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Children:

1. **M**
   - Name: Levi Carlisle Calk
   - Birth: 29 Jan 1875 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
   - Death: 26 Jan 1958 in Kyle, Hays, Texas, USA
   - Burial: Kyle, Hayes County, Texas, United States; Kyle Cemetery
   - Marriage: 26 Dec 1896
   - Spouse: Martha Dell "Mattie" Davis

2. **F**
   - Name: Ethel Cleora Calk
   - Birth: 09 Sep 1881 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
   - Death: 01 Oct 1960 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA
   - Burial: 03 Oct 1960 in Wichita Falls, Wichita Co, TX, Crestview Memorial Park
   - Marriage: 05 Nov 1899 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
   - Spouse: George Franklin LeBus

3. **F**
   - Name: Clementine "Clemmie" Calk
   - Birth: Abt. 1882
   - Death: Bef. 1910 in Texas, USA
   - Marriage: Bef. 01 Jun 1900 in Oklahoma, USA
   - Spouse: John Ervin Lebus

4. **F**
   - Name: Maude Calk
   - Birth: 1884 in Texas, USA

5. **F**
   - Name: Helen Calk
   - Birth: 1886 in Texas, USA

6. **M**
   - Name: Granvill C. Calk
   - Birth: 20 Nov 1889 in Atascosa, Texas, USA
   - Death: 16 Oct 1890 in Atascosa, Texas, USA

7. **M**
   - Name: Early Jackson III "Earl" Calk
   - Birth: 01 Jan 1894 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA
   - Death: 29 Oct 1963 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA
   - Marriage: 1916 in Williamson, Texas, USA
   - Spouse: Zora Maurice Taylor
Family Group Sheet for Thomas Clayton Calk

**Husband:** Thomas Clayton Calk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>21 Nov 1820</td>
<td>Clarke, Alabama, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>28 Dec 1893</td>
<td>Lytle, Atascosa, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benton City Cemetery, Lytle, Atascosa, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>04 Feb 1847</td>
<td>Clarke, Alabama, USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Father:** Elijah Calk  
**Mother:** Mary "Polly" Younse Unknown  
**Other Spouses:** Minerva Randolph Fitzgerald (25 May 1868 in McLennan Co., TX)

---

**Wife:** Mary E. Larrimore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Oct 1829</td>
<td>in Alabama, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>07 Dec 1862</td>
<td>in Arkansas, USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Father:** William M. Larrimore  
**Mother:** Hexey Ann Cobb

---

**Children:**

1. **M**  
   **Name:** Early Jackson "Jack" Calk  
   **Birth:** 08 Dec 1848 in Clarke, Alabama, USA  
   **Death:** 15 May 1906 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA  
   **Burial:** Greenbriar Cemetery, Nocona, Montague, TX  
   **Marriage:** 20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA  
   **Spouse:** Wincy Louisa Titsworth  
   **Other Spouses:** Louisa S. Champion (01 Jun 1867 in McLennan Co., TX)

2. **M**  
   **Name:** William Matthew Calk  
   **Birth:** 1849 in Clarke, Alabama, USA  
   **Death:** 24 Jan 1929 in Archer, Pottawatomie, Oklahoma, USA  
   **Spouse:** Lucy Ann Conn

3. **M**  
   **Name:** Thomas B. Calk  
   **Birth:** 1852 in Clarke, Alabama, USA  
   **Death:** 20 Apr 1939 in Bexar, Texas, USA

4. **F**  
   **Name:** Anna E. Calk  
   **Birth:** 1854 in Clarke, Alabama, USA

5. **M**  
   **Name:** Elijah Clayton Calk  
   **Birth:** Sep 1856 in Clarke, Alabama, USA  
   **Death:** 16 Feb 1934 in Alvin, Brazoria, Texas, USA

6. **F**  
   **Name:** Sarah Jane "Sally" Calk  
   **Birth:** Bef. 1860 in Sevier, Arkansas, USA  
   **Death:** 28 May 1945 in Kyle, Hays, Texas, USA

7. **F**  
   **Name:** Molly Calk  
   **Birth:** Abt. 1863 in Sevier, Arkansas, USA  
   **Death:** Arkansas or Texas  
   **Spouse:** George Danner

---

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## Family Group Sheet for Levi Nicholas Titsworth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband:</th>
<th>Levi Nicholas Titsworth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>04 Oct 1830 in Tipton, Tennessee, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>08 Jun 1893 in Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>White Rock Cemetery, Fannin Co., TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage:</td>
<td>06 Feb 1852 in Cass, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Christopher Greenup Titsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Mary Louise Peyton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Spouses:</td>
<td>Minerva Jane Basham (28 Aug 1873) Sallie Howard (09 Sep 1886 in Fannin Co., TX)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife:</th>
<th>Julia Clementine Daniels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>23 Nov 1833 in Henderson, Tennessee, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death:</td>
<td>05 Mar 1873 in Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial:</td>
<td>White Rock Cemetery, Fannin Co., TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Robert Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother:</td>
<td>Wincey Travis</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>Other Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tennessee Parilee Titsworth</td>
<td>11 Jan 1852 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>22 Jun 1938 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>06 Jun 1872 in Fannin Co, TX</td>
<td>Braz Joe A. Biggerstaff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wincy Louisa Titsworth</td>
<td>20 May 1855 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>28 Jan 1908</td>
<td>20 Jun 1880 in Castroville, Medina, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Early Jackson &quot;Jack&quot; Calk</td>
<td>Unknown Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Joseph Titsworth</td>
<td>19 Oct 1857 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>17 Sep 1940 in Grayson, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Bef. 1879 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Molly Sims</td>
<td>Laura Julia Doan (14 Sep 1885 in Dallas Co., TX)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clave Titsworth</td>
<td>03 Jan 1860 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>27 Jul 1937 in Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>15 Nov 1883</td>
<td>Mary Elizabeth Agnew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Levi Titsworth</td>
<td>27 Sep 1862 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>07 Mar 1864 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Family Histories of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle LeBus: 273
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Burial</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clement Rogers Titsworth</td>
<td>23 Mar 1866 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>18 Jun 1944 in Montague, Montague Co., TX</td>
<td>Montague, Montague Co, TX, Montague Cemetery</td>
<td>Bef. 1899</td>
<td>Daisy Noe Morehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Charles Carlton Titsworth</td>
<td>14 Sep 1868 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>02 Aug 1933 in Nocona, Montague, Texas, USA</td>
<td>Montague, Montague Co, TX, Montague Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
<td>Martha &quot;Mattie&quot; Charlotte Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Griffith Titsworth</td>
<td>20 Nov 1870 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>09 May 1931 in Cariza Springs, Dimmitt, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Damiana Salas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Harvey Dane Titsworth</td>
<td>28 Aug 1872 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA</td>
<td>07 Jan 1958 in Santa Clara, California, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Johnnie Mae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART FIVE

Simple Register Report

Descendants of Bennett and Archie LeBus Nance

Includes Five Generations
Descendants of Bennett Allen Nance

Generation 1

1. Bennett Allen Nance-[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] was born on 23 Dec 1901 in Charo, Goliad, Texas, USA[8, 9, 10, 11, 12]. He died on 17 Feb 1994 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[8, 13, 14, 15]. He married Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus on 01 Jan 1925 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA[16, 17]. daughter of George Franklin LeBus and Ethel Cleora Calk. She was born on 01 Dec 1904 in Bonham, Fannin, Texas, USA[18, 19, 20, 21]. She died on 05 Aug 1987 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA[22, 23, 24].

Children of Bennett Allen Nance and Archie Carlisle (Carlyle) LeBus are:

i. Aileen Nance, B: 16 Sep 1926 in Electra, Wichita, Texas. USA[25], D: 16 Sep 1926 in Electra, Wichita, Texas. USA[26].

2. ii. Dan Allen Nance, B: 10 Apr 1929 in Electra, Wichita, Texas. USA[27, 28, 29], M: Eunice Smith, 31 Aug 1949 in Portalis, New Mexico, USA.


Generation 2

2. Dan Allen Nance-[2(Bennett Allen-1) was born on 10 Apr 1929 in Electra, Wichita, Texas. USA[27, 28, 29]. He married Eunice Smith on 31 Aug 1949 in Portalis, New Mexico, USA. He married Sue Ellen Tucker on 07 Jun 1985 in Wheatridge, CO.

Children of Dan Allen Nance and Eunice Smith are:

i. Denise Nance, B: 30 Aug 1951 in San Benito, Texas. USA, D: Jan 1998 in Denver. Colorado, USA.

ii. Ben Nance, B: 20 Jul 1954 in Harlingen, Cameron, Texas, USA, D: 08 Aug 2015 in Indian Wells, Riverside, California, USA.

3. Nancy Nance-[2(Bennett Allen-1)[35, 36] was born on 25 Oct 1931 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA. She married Thomas Henry Boothe on 24 Mar 1951. He was born on 27 Sep 1929 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[37, 38, 39, 40]. He died on 17 Sep 2006 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.

Children of Nancy Nance and Thomas Henry Boothe are:

i. Thomas Henry Boothe III, B: 20 Jul 1954 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA, D: 19 Oct 1985 in Austin, Travis, Texas, USA.


7. iii. Bennett Nance Boothe, B: 09 Jan 1960 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA.

4. Lucy Ann Nance-[2(Bennett Allen-1)[33] was born on 22 Feb 1937 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[30, 31, 32, 33]. She married Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft on 12 Jul 1958 in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas, USA[34], son of Lloyd Ollie Croft and Gertrude Kathlena Koenning. He was born on 12 Feb 1935 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA[41, 42].
Descendants of Bennett Allen Nance

Generation 2 (con't)

Children of Lucy Ann Nance and Lloyd Koenning "L.K." Croft are:

8. i. Leslie Elaine Croft, B: 22 Oct 1959 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA, M: Andres Martinez, 21 Dec 1985 in Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA.


10. iii. Lloyd Bryan Croft, B: 22 Apr 1964 in Bethesda, Montgomery, Maryland, USA, M: Stacy Jean Ljungdahl, 09 Jul 1988 in College Station, Brazos, Texas, USA.

5. Steven Anthony Nance-2(Bennett Allen-1) was born on 25 Jul 1943 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, USA. He married Paula Mauldin on 03 Jan 1970 in Lubbock, Lubbock, Texas, USA. She was born on 05 May 1943. He married Judith Burch Weindorff in 2006.

Children of Steven Anthony Nance and Paula Mauldin are:

i. Stephanie Anne Nance, B: 06 Apr 1973 in Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas, USA.

11. ii. Laura Paige Nance, B: 23 Nov 1975 in Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas, USA, M: Jeff Kahan, 24 Apr 2004 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.

Generation 3

6. George Bennett Boothe-3(Nancy-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 27 Aug 1956 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA. He married Sherri.

Children of George Bennett Boothe and Sherri are:

i. Eva Angienette Boothe, B: 26 Apr 1979.


7. Bennett Nance Boothe-3(Nancy-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 09 Jan 1960 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA. He married Jena Krisie Foster.

Children of Bennett Nance Boothe and Jena Krisie Foster are:

12. i. Bennett Nance II Boothe, B: 29 Nov 1987 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA.


8. Leslie Elaine Croft-3(Lucy Ann-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 22 Oct 1959 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA. She married Andres Martinez on 21 Dec 1985 in Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, son of Dario Pimental Martinez and Maria de Jesus Alcala. He was born on 16 Jan 1950 in Galveston, Galveston Co, TX.

Child of Leslie Elaine Croft and Andres Martinez is:

i. Daniel Croft Martinez, B: 28 Oct 1988 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.
Descendants of Bennett Allen Nance

Generation 3 (con't)

9. **Lyle Allen Croft**: 3(Lucy Ann-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 06 Aug 1961 in Tucson, Pima, Arizona, USA. He married Erin Riley Ross on 29 Apr 1995 in Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA, daughter of David Garrett Ross and Sara Lee Morton. She was born on 25 May 1967 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA.

Children of Lyle Allen Croft and Erin Riley Ross are:
   i. Bennett Ross Croft, B: 16 Jun 1999 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.
   ii. Camille LeeAnn Croft, B: 17 Jan 2003 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.

10. **Lloyd Bryan Croft**: 3(Lucy Ann-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 22 Apr 1964 in Bethesda, Montgomery, Maryland, USA. He married Stacy Jean Ljungdahl on 09 Jul 1988 in College Station, Brazos, Texas, USA, daughter of Philip Warren Ljungdahl and Patricia June Woodruff. She was born on 14 Jul 1964 in Austin, Travis, Texas, USA.

Children of Lloyd Bryan Croft and Stacy Jean Ljungdahl are:
   i. Lloyd Jeffrey Croft, B: 23 Nov 1994 in Arlington, Dallas, Texas, USA.
   ii. Philip Bryan Croft, B: 08 Aug 1995 in Richardson, Dallas, Texas, USA.

11. **Laura Paige Nance**: 3(Steven Anthony-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 23 Nov 1975 in Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas, USA. She married Jeff Kahan on 24 Apr 2004 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.

Children of Laura Paige Nance and Jeff Kahan are:
   i. Bennett Alan Kahan, B: Aug 2007 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.
   ii. Maggie Carlyle Kahan, B: 12 Aug 2011 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA.

Generation 4

12. **Bennett Nance II Boothe**: 4(Bennett Nance-3, Nancy-2, Bennett Allen-1) was born on 29 Nov 1987 in San Antonio Bexar, Texas, USA. He married Tana Lee Ray.

Child of Bennett Nance II Boothe and Tana Lee Ray is:
   i. Jase Aiden Boothe, B: Jan 2012 in Colorado, United States.

Sources

Descendants of Bennett Allen Nance

Sources (con't)

13 Bennett Allen Nance, death certificate no. 017460, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
14 Bennett Allen Nance grave marker (photo), Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Kerr, Texas.
16 Wichita County, marriage certificate no. 12846, Wichita County Clerk's Office, Wichita Falls, Texas.
17 Nance, Bennett Allen, Autobiography of Bennett A. Nance; Rancher in Real County from 1927 to 1948, n.p., pp. 2-3.
18 Archie Carlisle LeBus, birth certificate no. 59000, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
24 Archie L. Nance grave marker (photo), Sunset Cemetery, Mountain Home, Kerr, Texas.
26 Texas Death Index, 1903-2000. Ancestry database. (Father's name Bennett A. Nance given in index.)
34 Kerr County, marriage license, Kerr County Clerk's Office, Kerrville, Texas.
Descendants of Bennett Allen Nance

Sources (con't)

35 Kerr County, Texas Birth Records, 1877-1935, compiled by Gloria Clifron Dozier, p. 204.
36 Kerr County, Texas Birth Records, 1877-1935, compiled by Gloria Clifron Dozier, p. 204.
41 Lloyd Koenning Croft, birth certificate no. 710, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.
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