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We Were There, Too!

**Black Families of Scott, Cape Girardeau
and St. Louis Counties in Missouri**

by

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A Genealogical Work



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Forward

This work is dedicated with love and genuine respect to all of my ancestors, particularly those who were enslaved in what is euphemistically now called "*that peculiar institution*," -slavery in these United States.

This is in no way a complete or definitive treatise on those who have gone before me. It is simply a compilation of information on as many of my ancestors and relatives as possible who otherwise would have disappeared from history as though they had never lived. It is my sincere wish that this work will be a cornerstone publication for those on my father's side of the family who will come behind me and build on the information contained herein. As a family genealogist I know all too well how important and exhilarating it is to learn through conversation about deceased relatives, or to discover a deed, will, book, census page, letter, or scribbled note that contains the name of a searched-for ancestor. By gathering what has become available, I hope it will facilitate the search by others for forbears not yet found.

I dedicate this work, as incomplete and humble as it is, to my daughters, Vicky and Vanessa Lusby, my great-nephew, Mario Stanton, my mother, Dorothy Stubbs Stanton Malone, who recently completed her journey on this earth and now rests with her Creator - and to my father, Alvoyd Isaac Stanton, who began his all-to-short life in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

I am sincerely grateful to Mr. Charles Bain of Scott County and Mr. Ron Beasley of Cape Girardeau, and several members of the Cape Girardeau County Genealogical Society who volunteered to help locate information. Additionally, I am indebted to the skilled and generous staff of the Cape County Archives Center in Jackson, Missouri for their unselfish assistance throughout much of my research.

One note: I do not intend to spend time-consuming hours inserting footnotes at the bottom of each page, then moving and juggling them among subsequent pages as I discover and record new information. I feel a sense of urgency in completing this work and honestly, I must admit, I dislike footnoting! – the rigidity of the formatting process; the “ibids” and tiny numbered symbols– breaking the easy flow of information in order to search for the descriptive footnote that corresponds with the written data. Where possible, I will simply note the source of documented information within the body of the text. It may not be the approved scholarly method, but it will serve my purposes and hopefully add to the ease of understanding and flow of information.

About the Title of This Book

As far as I know there are no state senators, foreign diplomats, or discoverers of major medical cures in my ancestral tree. But there are hundreds of persons who labored at honest professions, provided important services to the public, kept ladies attired in the finest of fashion through the skill and art of needle work, provided undivided attention and love to the children of families for whom they worked and who were determined to give their own children a sense of pride, worth and value, sometimes against all odds. But, in historical records national or local, these long-suffering people have been purposely ignored and generally forgotten. You do not read about them in *Goodspeeds History of Southeast Missouri*. You do not see their names in print until they die, and if lucky, you will see a brief obituary mentioning where they were born and when they died. They were called Black, Mulatto, Colored or Negro. But they were here – working alongside the pioneers in Missouri; toiling tirelessly with little or no reward for their efforts; contributing to the growth of this state and the wealth of this nation. They were here. They lived! And so, the title of this genealogical work.

But first, a tiny bit of Missouri history.

Our school children hear of the *Emancipation Proclamation* signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1st 1863, but what is not always explained is that the Proclamation did not free all the slaves in the United States of America. It legally freed all slaves held in the “*states and parts of states wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States.*” Those states were:

Arkansas

Texas

Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and New Orleans, including the city of New Orleans.)

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida

Georgia, South Carolina

North Carolina

Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northhampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth.

(Source: Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopedia, Volume 9: Portions of the Emancipation Proclamation)

With the stroke of his pen, Lincoln’s bold action legally freed approximately 3,120,000 men, women and children enslaved in certain parts of the country (though official notice of freedom took several months to reach across the land).

You will observe that, though Missouri was a slave-owing state, it was not on the list above because Missouri did not succeed from the Union as did the other states and was, therefore, not in rebellion. Though a slave-owning state, it remained loyal to the Union. What this means is that the slaves in Missouri, quite a few of whom were my family members, were not freed by

the Emancipation Proclamation when it was signed into law in 1863. Many people do not understand that distinction. But what is even more interesting is that, though there was tremendous pro-slavery sentiment in the state, on January 11, 1865, at The Missouri Constitutional Convention held in St. Louis, an emancipation ordinance was passed immediately freeing the slaves in Missouri, making Missouri the first slave state to free its slaves.

(Source: The Springfield-Greene County Library District: "Community and Conflict, The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks-2009.")

Technically, slavery in the rest of the country, was not abolished and **all** slaves were not freed until the enactment of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which was ratified in December of 1865.

Missouri had its share of persons kept in bondage but it was not considered a large slave-owning state like Virginia, Louisiana or South Carolina.

According to the *Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks*, the following is a list of the number of slaves accounted for by the U.S. Federal Census records in each census year reviewed:

SLAVES IN MISSOURI

<u>1820</u>	<u>1830</u>	<u>1840</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>
10,222	25,096	58,240	87,422	114,931

SLAVES IN CAPE GIRARDEAU DURING THE SAME CENSUS YEARS

865	1,026	1,325	1,674	1,533
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In 1860, just prior to the beginning of the Civil War, there were approximately 3,572 free Negroes living in the state of Missouri. In 1850 there were only about 20 free Negroes in Cape Girardeau County.

(Source: Dr. Bob White, Southeast Missouri State University, Podcast KRCU "Going Public Archive": "Invisible Chains, Slavery in Cape Girardeau County, May 13, 2007)

Interestingly, of those slaves freed by their owners, in one way or another, there were an unusually high number of them classified as "mulatto," meaning obviously of mixed race. Of the 3,572 free blacks in Missouri in 1860, 1,660 were mulatto. (*"History of Negroes in Missouri 1790-1970," by Dr. Lorenzo J. Green, et al, Lincoln University, from the 1973-74 Missouri Manual.*)

These numbers speak to the fact of interracial unions, and suggest strongly that many of the free mulattos were the offspring of white men who felt at least something for the children they, or their family members, had fathered. Most Missouri slave-owners maintained anywhere from one to 20 persons in bondage. According to Dr. Bob White, a Mr. John Cross was the largest slave-owner in Cape Girardeau, having approximately 43-47 slaves at one time.

People who often held deep religious convictions, proclaiming loudly that “we are all children of one God,” found a way to justify the enslavement, maltreatment and sale of fellow human beings – and their twisted convictions were supported by many of the mainstream churches. One of the most perplexing areas of what I have named, *this “insane” institution*, is the real fact that though blacks were often considered not quite human, sub-humans, or of another racial type, white men continued to have sex with them, quite often through the pure act of brutal, debasing rape. Slave women had little or no recourse from such attacks, often routinely repeated. Laws enacted in Missouri, formally called the *Missouri Slave Codes*, sought to dehumanize blacks and “keep them in their place.” At the discretion of the owner whipping or “stripes” were allowed legally to be applied to a slave for any number of alleged infractions. Keep in mind that an 1825 Missouri law declared that blacks were incompetent as witnesses in any case involving a white person. A white man who raped a slave woman could not be prosecuted by the victim; only her slave-owner, if he/she so chose, could bring suit for “*trespass on the master’s property!*” In 1847, further *Slave Codes* made it illegal and punishable by not less than a \$500 fine (which was an enormous amount of money at that time) for operating a school or teaching a black to read or write. For a black person to be in any way literate, threatened this “insane” institution, as it could deprive whites of cheap or even free labor. (Dr. Lorenzo J. Green, *Lincoln University*, 1973-74.)

Many of my ancestors were slaves from South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Many others were born into slavery right there in Cape Girardeau and Scott Counties and lived the whole of their lives within a few miles from the place of their birth. Thank God so many survived the degradation and humiliation of an institution which I have personally deemed “insane.” Historians try to explain peoples’ aspirations for wealth or influence; the tremendous desire to prosper in this new land – and the avenue for accomplishing such was the importation, breeding or sale of other human beings whose skins were dark.

But when one steps outside of the objectivity of scholarly excuses, and looks at the entirety of the effect slavery had on the psyche of the slave-owners and the societal support system accorded to them, and then one imagines the minds, hearts and bodies of the dark-skinned victims who suffered grievously, one must feel a growing sense of mental instability if one tries to justify the strange, convoluted and entangling existences between the slave-owners and the enslaved in America at that time in our history.

It was a “peculiar institution,” a term generally associated with Dr. Kenneth M. Stampp, a noted historian. It was an institution fraught with denials, mental machinations, corrupted biblical interpretations, created and enforced dehumanizing laws, and a systematic oppression of a stolen people based on color alone. It was a sin against humanity and, though some would disagree, an oozing, festering sore in this nation, unhealed to this day.

I begin this recording with one of our earliest known ancestors.

Celeste Beatrice Stanton
Author

To Aunt Nellie Allen Stanton

For all of her love and gifts

Chapter 1



The Stantons of Scott, Cape Girardeau and St. Louis Counties in Missouri

First In A Series About This Family

By Celeste Beatrice Stanton

(Published in the *Collage of Cape County* – September 2010 Edition)

It was sometime in the mid-nineteen forties when I was about five years old that I came to understand the concept of slavery – that is, as much as an innocent child could. Summers in St. Louis are often unmercifully hot and humid, so my grandmother’s boyfriend, Monroe Ewing, would load us up in his big Buick and drive us down to the levee on the Mississippi River where the paddle wheelers docked. There he and my adopted-grandmother, Emily Delilah Stubbs, would pick a huge, cold watermelon from a wooden barrel in which floated large chunks of ice. The vendor would “plug” it so my grandmother could taste the fruit for ripeness before paying the fifty-cents.

While they haggled over price, I kept noticing huge black rings of various sizes imbedded securely in the upwardly sloping red brick pavement of the levee designed to protect the city of St. Louis from floods. Some rings lay alone, others had large, heavy black chains attached to them. When I asked the meaning of these odd iron pieces, my grandmother explained that back in the 1800s while slavery remained legal in Missouri, slaves would be off-boarded from river ships at this point on the levee for sale in and around the St. Louis area and they would be chained there. Other slaves, destined for God knows where, would be tethered to those chains and rings, waiting to be sold off and transported up or down the river. My mother explained what being a slave meant, but at age five or six, I could not understand how one person could own another human being. You own a house, or a car, or a pet – not a person. I kept asking why someone would own a person, and moreover, why they would sell that person. What had the person done to be sold like a piece of furniture? Every time we went to the river, I rubbed and handled those iron rings; I stuck my little leg through one; I tugged and strained at them. And, there was a growing sense of sadness as I tried to envision men, women and children shackled to those ponderous iron rings, sitting on those hard bricks unprotected from the merciless summer sun or shivering from fright and cold in the frozen St. Louis winters. I asked more questions, the kind that an intensely curious and mildly precocious child would ask – and my family gave me answers – honest and truthful answers, often concluding with the words, “*It was a terrible situation, a horrible, almost unspeakable institution, but that’s just the way it was back then.*”

During my formative years the “old folks” were reluctant to talk about the fact that much of our family, at least one side of it, came from slaves. It was as if there was some sort of shame attached to the term; that it was the slave’s fault for being a slave. I was in maybe fourth or fifth grade when I felt the bile in my stomach roil at what I had begun to read, and what my family had tried to tell me. It was the degradation, the humiliation of persons; the disregard for them and their bodies – and those of their children; the total helplessness of these poor unfortunates; the heartless destruction of families that was so shameful. And, unlike slavery in the bible, it was based purely on color.

It has become a mission in my late adult life to bring back to life the nameless, and often faceless existences of my progenitors – to speak their names – to find them and place them in the continuum of human existence. Whether their contributions were great or of little social significance, they lived, they were here. They survived every emotional hurt, every bodily insult inflicted upon them, so that I can be here. They should not be forgotten.

So it was that, of the many choices presented to me, I chose to do my Master’s Thesis on the Saulsbury slaves from Muhlenberg County, Kentucky from which began part of my maternal side of the family. Bound copies of that document are resident in the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City, Utah and the libraries of several states including California and Kentucky. (*Searching for the Roots, Grafting the Branches: The Saulsbury Family of Kentucky A Black History of Roots Lost in Slavery: California State University Dominguez Hills, Celeste Stanton Johnson, 1992.*)

Now it is time to try to put together as many of the puzzle pieces as I can of my father’s side of the family – The Stantons, Browns, Allens, Goines, Williams and others, most of whom lived in the counties of Scott, Cape Girardeau and St. Louis, Missouri. The frustration, I know from experience, will be that I can only go back so far in time before the doors of slavery will slam shut and the parentage and lives of so many ancestors will be forever lost. This work will in no way be total or comprehensive; that’s almost impossible given the fact that many of my ancestors are randomly listed as “Negro boy” or “Colored woman.” This work will simply be an effort to speak the names, and honor as many ancestors as I can.

So we begin with the oldest known ancestor at this time: **Grandma Cecelia.**

Cecelia (Celie) Wilson 1809? -1918

My introduction to Grandma Cecelia’s name was back sometime in the 1960s through a family member, cousin Ray Goines, born about 1897 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, son of George W. and Eliza Brown Goines. Eliza was the daughter of John Brown, Cecelia’s son, and one of her several granddaughters. Cousin Ray was about twenty-one years old when Grandma Cecelia died. He knew her personally but *what* he knew about her was more from family conversations than absolute fact. He told me often that “*Grandma Cecelia was half-Indian*” and that “*once she ran off to the Indians.*” He knew nothing of

her capture or return, if in fact, that oral history was correct, but he was sure that she lived much of her life as a slave in and around Cape Girardeau. As all of the kin lived within a few houses or blocks from one another, he knew her as Cecelia Brown and Cecelia Wilson, the mother of John and Emma Brown. John was his grandfather and Eliza's father.

Grandma Cecelia's exact date of birth leaves many questions. Often slaves did not know precisely when they were born. In an information-filled newspaper article at the time of her death in 1918, her age is listed as 109, but if census records are correct, and often they are not, it is possible that she was less than 109 when she died. The 1880 United States Census for Cape Girardeau, Missouri lists Cecelia Wilson in the home of her daughter Emma, (who was married to Monroe McKee). Cecelia is listed as 55 years of age, mulatto, can read and write, and both parents are born in Missouri. On the 1900 census of the same town, she is still in the home of her daughter, (Emma whose last name is now Telford), and she shows a birth date of August 1824; she is black, widowed and again, both parents are shown as born in Missouri. The 1910 Cape Girardeau census lists her as Celie Wilson, mulatto, mother of Emma Telford, and Celie is listed as a 90 year old widow. She has given birth to three children, two of them still alive. Interestingly, her mother's place of birth is shown as "United States." We often see this among ex-slaves when their family members are unsure of where the ancestor was born. We see it also when the male parent was white or possibly a slave-owner. Celie died eight years after this census, so it is possible that she was 98 when she died. What is important is that she survived so long.

Another thing to be noticed on the same 1910 census page is that cousin Ray Goines, my original source of information, and his family lived on Frederick Street, only one house from Grandma Cecelia and Emma. It is certain that he came in contact with her on a fairly regular, almost daily basis as a child and as a young man.

We need to mention here the term *mulatto*. That designation was and is often given to a person who is of mixed black and white heritage; a black person of light or light brown color. For whatever the reason back in the 1800s and later, it was common to make the distinction between a person of mixed black and other heritage, and a person who simply "looked black." Often, it was up to the census taker to make that distinction. Though there is no known photo of Grandma Cecelia at this time, we can come to the conclusion that she was of lighter skin, and may have had facial features that showed her of mixed ancestry.

We now know when she died, so let's look at some aspects of her life as a slave, and the years after that vile institution was legally abolished.

Fortunately, Emily Camster Green (later, Emma McKee Telford Rodman) Grandma Cecelia's daughter, was interviewed sometime between 1936 and 1938 during the Federal Writers' Project for the Works Project Administration (WPA) which documented the *Slave Narratives*. She provided invaluable information about the three families that owned Grandma Cecelia, and it is with this eye-witness information, and legal documents

from the Cape Girardeau County Archives, that we are able to piece together some pertinent elements of Emma's and Grandma Celie's existence as slaves.

**The following is excerpted from the Federal Writer's Project, 1936-38,
Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

My mammy was **Celie** Camster en my daddy was Jack McGuire. We lived out in Bollinger County an' belonged to Massa George Camster. De white folks had a big house, made o' logs, wid chinkins in 'tween en 'nen dobbed over. Us cullud folks had little cabins an' we had good livin' dar. Ole 'Massa an' Missus Patsy was mighty good to us. Eatin's? Lawd we had everthin'--not de mess we has to make out wid now.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

I fell to young Missie Janie an' was her maid an' when Missie Janie carried Mista Bradley I went with 'em down to Cha'leston in Mississippi County.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

Missie Janie an' her Mista Bradley rode in a buggy an' I sits behind. I member de fust time I seed de big ribber. Dar was a boat on it. I aint nebber seed a boat befo' an' I says, "Oh! Miss Janie dat house gonna sink." She laf at me an' say dat a boat. Pore Miss Janie--dat Mista Bradley made her believe he had a big plantation an lots o' money an when we gits dar he warn't nuthin' but a overseer on de Joe Moore place. Pore Missie Janie! she was so purty an' she had lotsa beaux--she coulda' married rich but she jes tuk de wrong one.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

We had good times fore we lef' de ole place, fore Ole Massa died. We usta git together in de ebenin's. Dey'd say "I's gon'a step over to do udder cabin"--en word ud git aroun' an "for" you knowd it dey'd be a crowd. We allus said "jest step over" no matter how far it was. Den some er de women ud put in a quilt an' some ud git to cookin' an' bakin M mml de lassus cakes we used to have! An' den wen de quilt was finished an de eatin done dey'd clean out de room an dance. Dem sho was good times. But I 'members de las' dance we had. Ole Massa was sick. We's habbin' de dance an' Aunt Mary was dar. She was a spiritualis' woman--you knows whut a spiritualis is, don' you? Well, everybody was dancin' an' habbin' a good time--Aunt Mary say, "Hush! I's gonna ask is Ole Massa gonna git well". Den she say--"If Ole Massa gonna die, rap three times." Den in a minnit comes a loud blam! blam! blam! right across de house. Den we all cry an' go home cause we knows Ole Massa's gonna die!

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

Bout dat time my daddy die too an my mammy marry Levi Wilson. He belong to Nelson Ellis an' when Ole Massa Ellis's daughter married Beverly Parrot dey went to Texas an' tuk my step-daddy along. Cose he never 'spected to see my mammy again an' he married a young woman down dar. Atter de war, dey comes back up dar an' he seed my mammy but she says, "Go way. I libbed wid you sebben year an' nebber had no chillun by you. Now you got a young woman an' she got chillun. You stay with her. I won't bother you none."

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

My mammy allus stayed wid Ole Missus Patsy. Ole Tom Johnson, de nigger, trader tuk her two brothers an' sent um to New Orleans. He usta libe in dat big house dat was war de postoffice is now, an' he usta keep de slaves he buy dar at he's house till he can send um down de ribber on de boat.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

One time a slave at a neighbor farm was workin' in de feel' an when he comes in, in de ebenin's he's wife was gone an' de cradle was emty. He's Massa done sold 'em. De ole man fell down on he's knees an' he begin prayin' an he pray an' he holler "Oh! nobody know but Jesus! Nobody know but Jesus!" An' he kep' dat up a prayin' en a hollerin like dat. His ole Massa hear him, an' it made him feel bad. De ole darky keep on a prayin' an a hollerin, "Nobody know but Jesus." Ole Massa keep on a hearin' it, till atter awhile, he git right down der on de flo' wid de darky an' he' fess religion.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

After Ole Massa George died, Ole Missus Patsy married Woodson Parrot and went to his place in Scott County. Dey had a nice big home dar an he were a good man. When he lay yin he was sick a long time an' dey was allus some lodge men roun' him an my mammy was skeered of de men. De nite he died, Ole Missus Patsy had been up wid him so much she was sleepin--an he call out, "Oh! Patsy! Oh! Patsy! Oh! Patsy!" three times jes like dat. Mammy was skeered o' dem men an she wouldn't go in an wake Ole Missus Patsy. Den ole Massa Parrot say, "Oh! Patsy, I aint nebber made a prayer in my life an' here I'se dyin." Ole Missus Patsy nebber did forgive my mammy for not wakin' her till de day she died.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

Miss Janie allus had to live on rented places. Mista Bradley warn't smart an' he didn't have nuthin but she stayed with him an' done de bes' she could.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

We seed lotsa sojers cum by durin' de war, but dey nebber bothered us much. De Ku Kluxers cum roun' sometimes but mostly to see dat darkies stay whar dey belong. When de war was over I wanted to stay wif Missie Janie but my mammy cum an' got me. We worked for a German family livin on Jackson Hill.

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

I cud a been a spiritualis woman if I'd had a little education. I allus had visions an' ud see thing but I nebber' know'd whut dey mean. When I tell my mammy she allus say, "Hush chile, you allus asee'in things."

State: Missouri

Interviewee: Green, Emily Camster

My mammy's daid now a long time but she offen comes to see me. One night I seed her carryin a bright light. She allus comes to see me when I'se in trouble but I ain't seen her now for a long time.

Validation of Emily (Emma's) statements to the interviewer can be found in *the Cape Girardeau County Court Probate Papers of George Campster and his wife, Martha*, and from the newspaper article on the event of Grandma Celie's death in 1918.

Evidentially George Campster was a man of means for those times, owning several horses, cattle, dozens of hogs, numerous household and farm items, and between 7 and 10 slaves, depending on how many were sold, how many slave babies were born, and which slave died. Celie, spelled *Sely and child*, were two of those slaves.

On the *List of the Property Belonging to the Estate of Geo Camster deceased as Appraised....July 11, 1845*, Grandma Celie (Sely), about age 18, is listed with six other slaves and is valued with her child at \$600. On the subsequent *Inventory of the Estate of George Camster Deceased late of the County of Cape Gerardeau and State of Missouri, dated 19th of August 1845*, George Camster's wife, Martha, attests to the validity of the inventory and Grandma Celie is again shown along with other slaves, George-age 38, Patience-age 30, Betsey-age 23 and child, Edmund about age 7, and Harriette-age 4.

1	Boy	George	about 38 years old	500 00
1	Woman	Patience	about 30 years old	450 00
1	"	Betty	& child 23 years old	600 00
1	"	Jelly	& child about 18 years	600 00
1	Boy	Edmund	about 7 years	250 00
1	girl	Harriet	4 years of age	150 00
				<u>£3446.35</u>

We the undersigned appraisers certify that we have viewed said property above mentioned in the list and find the whole to amount to 3446 Pounds 5 Shillings given under our hands this 11th day of July 1845

William Sibsony

Continued - Inventory of Camster Estate - August 1845

about 3000. Close hedged east
 in corner of pond, and black cloth riding
 harness black grand horse
 about 4 years
 1 grey boy George age about 36 years
 do woman Patience do do do
 Betty and 2 children do do
 Jelly and child 18 do
 Harriette 4 years old

Papers, etc. by B. P.
 also some accounts in the houses of Mr
 and Constable for collection

Emily (Emma) states in the *Narratives* that George Camster and Martha were good to the slaves, but it is curious that among his possessions was “one whip” which certainly could have been a riding whip for the horses. But what was the “one whip lash” which cost his estate fifteen cents, owed and paid to a Mr. Benjamin Wolf on December 22, 1847 after Camster’s death?

After George Camster died, his widow, Martha, married Woodson Parrot and moved with him to Scott County. Celie went with Martha to the new home. And according to Emma’s account in the *Slave Narratives*, Celie remained in Scott County with the Parrot’s until the Civil War ended and Emancipation came.

Emma had gone to Charleston in Mississippi County, Missouri with Janie Camster Bradley after Janie married, and remained there with her mistress until Grandma Celie came to get her after the Civil War ended. How Celie managed, we do not know. Did she walk from one county to another to retrieve her daughter? Did she have enough resources to pay passage on a wagon? How did she get from Scott County to Mississippi County? More importantly, how did she get there and back without running into members of the Ku Klux Klan?

NEGRO WOMAN, 109 YEARS OLD, DIED LAST NIGHT

DESCENDANTS TO THE FIFTH
GENERATION MOURN DEATH
OF OLDEST GIRARDEAN.

Cecil Wilson, colored, undoubtedly the oldest citizen in Cape Girardeau county and probably the oldest person in the entire state of Missouri, died at the home of her daughter, Emma Rodman, corner Bellevue and Frederick street at 10 o'clock Tuesday night.

While the exact day of the month when she was born is not known her children say she was 109 years old, having been born in the month of August, 1809. She was born in Cape Girardeau county in slavery and was first owned by a family named Matthews. Later she was sold to a man named Campster, a brother-in-law of her former master, and then to Woodson Parrott, who owned her at the time all slaves were given their freedom.

When but a few years old Cella Wilson's mother was sold and she never again saw her. Her mother was taken out of the county by her new master and never again did they meet. As soon as Cella was old enough to work she was placed in the Ford school and there received

NEGRO WOMAN, 100 YEARS OLD, DIED LAST NIGHT

(Continued from First Page.)

training which few other colored folks had the opportunity to get at that time.

Active Until the Last.

Although she had reached such an advanced age Cella enjoyed good health until recently. On August 3, when Emancipation Day was celebrated by the colored folks in Cape Girardeau, she was up and about and sold soda water from the little restaurant, which her grandson operates on North Frederick street. On the following day she was taken to bed and then gradually declined until the end came.

There are two children, a son, John Brown and daughter, Emma Rodman, left to mourn her death, as well as 28 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 7 o'clock Thursday afternoon, services to be said at the A. M. E. church on North street by Rev. M. S. Smith. She was a Baptist but as that church is now without a preacher, she requested before her death that services over her body be conducted at the A. M. E. church. Burial will take place in Fairmount cemetery.

She was a member of Excelsior Court No 25 and that lodge will have charge of the funeral.

Above is shown an enlarged copy of the death notice of Grandma Cecelia in the local Cape Girardeau Newspaper, August 1918. Her tombstone in the Fairmount Cemetery is a dark upright granite or concrete marker with her dates of birth and death and a notation of her membership in the Excelsior Masonic Organization. According to cemetery records, she was laid to rest on August 13, 1918. I remember her grave marker at the beginning of a row.

So we have validated the three slave owners for whom Celie labored. We know of the Matthews place, ostensibly on which Grandma Celie was born. Who was her mother? Why was her mother sent away when Celie was about twelve years old. Was Celie the mixed-race offspring of a Matthews? Is this why she is listed as mulatto? Who was her father? There can be all kinds of speculation as to why she was separated from her mother, and why she, a slave, was allowed to attend the Ford School, when most slaves were not even allowed to learn the art of reading? There is much documentation by many historians about slave-masters giving certain forms of preferential treatment to their illegitimate offspring. Did Grandma Celie benefit from this sort of benevolence because of who she was? We may never know.

I wonder, was Grandma Celie kept warm during the harsh winters so common in Missouri? Who helped her give birth to her three children? Was there a slave mid-wife or did a Matthews or Camster family member attend her deliveries? And what did she look like; how tall was she? So many questions, for which there may never be any answers. But, for my purposes, she is not forgotten, and now she will always be remembered.

In doing this kind of work, I and other genealogists hope that others will add pieces to this life story. Where was the Ford School? Who were the students? How long did it operate? Is there a photo anywhere of this woman – who came before and lived so long? We speak the name of Cecelia (Celie) Wilson; we honor her life.

Author: Celeste Beatrice Stanton
Great-great-great granddaughter of Cecelia Wilson

July 15, 2010

Chapter 2



**The Stantons of Scott, Cape Girardeau, and St. Louis
Counties in Missouri**
Second in a Series About This Family
by Celeste Beatrice Stanton

(Published in the *Collage of Cape County* – March 2011 Edition)

Emma Camster Green,
Daughter of Cecelia (Celie) Wilson, ex-slave

Emma is the only living daughter of Grandma Celie (Sely) Wilson, who both lived out their entire lives in and around Scott and Cape Girardeau Counties in Southeastern Missouri. Emma, as her mother, was born a slave, but unlike her mother, Emma knows the name of her father – another slave by the name of Jack McGuire. Emma is one of those persons in history whose life would remain obscure if it were not for a single event. Between the years of 1936-1938, the United States government employed persons in the *Federal Writer's Project* to interview former slaves and capture their stories before they all died. These are simply known as "*The Slave Narratives*." It is often through the eyes of these survivors that we struggle to envision the degradation and horrors inflicted on them in that insane institution. Yet, they and as many as possible of their offspring, who were not worked to death or summarily murdered, fought against crippling odds to survive. Through these narratives, not just hearsay, we hear from their own mouths what it was like to live as a slave. We see the anger and disgust at cruel masters and mistresses. We hear gratitude for the attention and care given them by more benevolent masters. We see the slaves as feeling, thinking, grieving, often cunning, but caring human beings – with the same needs as all other people, not just dehumanized bodies devoid of souls, as they were often categorized by elements of American society at the time.

Emma is one of only a few former slaves interviewed from the Cape Girardeau area and she recounts her life, and that of her mother, with clarity and candor. Importantly, she gives us, her family, a chronology of their lives, being owned by up to three different slave-holders. Born June 15, 1856, her mother had already been owned by two different slave-owners. Emma would have been one of the babies born on the land owned by a member of the Camster family. After George Camster died, his widow Patsy English Camster married Woodson Parrot and took Emma and her mother with her to Scott

County. Later Emma moved with her young mistress, Janie Camster Bradley, to what she infers as a rather disappointing existence for her mistress in Charleston, Mississippi County, Missouri for whom she worked until after the end of the Civil War. In Emma's testimony she states that "*Mista Bradley warn't smart an' he didn't have nuthin but she stayed with him an' done de bes' she could.*"

On the *US Federal Census, taken June 11, 1880 for Cape Girardeau*, Emma is age 28, listed as mulatto, is apparently married to Monroe McKee, a drey driver, and her mother Cecelia Wilson is with her in the home. A boy of 8, Charles Hamilton, is listed as a nephew to the head of the household, Mr. McKee.

On the *1900 US Federal Census*, Emma no longer carries the name of McKee and is now listed as Emma Telford, head of household and she is a widow, has borne two children but both have died. Her mother is still living with her, and there is a boarder by the name of Edward Greer, a widower, now residing with the family.

In 1910, Emma Telford is listed again as widowed, head of household and age 52. Her mother, Celie Wilson is shown as age 90 and there are three other persons at home listed as boarders - Robert King, Jesse Smith and George Giboney. The data shows that she owns the home in which they live at 242 N. Frederick Street.

I have been unable at this writing to find a marriage record between Emma and either Mr. McKee or Mr. Telford. At the time of Grandma Cecelia's death, her newspaper obituary listed Emma with the last name of Rodman. It would not be unusual for a couple to take up residency together, with the woman taking the last name of the man, and live in a common-law relationship without benefit of a formal marriage ceremony. At the time Emma was interviewed, however, she was legally married to Al Green. Their marriage license #8904 issued in Cape Girardeau on April 30, 1913 was filed and recorded on May 6th of the same year. So she was listed as Emily Camster Green, Camster, being the name of her mother's former owner up until at least, and probably after, 1845.

Apparently Emma's health failed particularly in the last few years prior to her death on December 15, 1937. Her death certificate from Cape Girardeau lists her as age 81, an invalid, and under treatment by a physician from January 1935 until her death. Cause of death is *carcinoma of uterus*. On December 17th she was buried, as with many of our family members, at Fairmont cemetery. It is curious that the informant on her death certificate, Eliza Goins did not provide information on Emma's parents or where she was born. Eliza Goins is Emma's niece - the daughter of John and Amanda Brown. John Brown is Emma's brother and they all lived within blocks of one another.

Because she had no heirs, if it were not for this one single event, that of being interviewed for the *Slave Narratives*, Emma Camster McKee Telford Rodman Green, would dissolve into obscurity like tens-of-millions of other Americans. Instead, Emma, my great-great-grand aunt has become an important part of written American history.

We speak the name of Emma Camster Telford Rodman Green, we honor her life.

Respectfully submitted:

Celeste Stanton

Note: When this article was published I did not have the capability of imbedding photos or documents into the text. It is now possible so the marriage record and her death certificate have been added to her story as explained above.

8904

Marriage License

ISSUED TO

Ol Green

AND

Emmal Telford

on the 30 day of April 1851

FILED FOR RECORD May

on the 6th day of 1851

RECORDED

in Marriage Record L at page 101

H. F. Sierrant
Recorder of Deeds.

By _____ Deputy.

NOTICE TO PERSONS SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGES.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, or a resident of and pastor of some church in this state, besides possessing the other necessary legal qualifications, you can not solemnize marriages, and would be liable to both fine and imprisonment for so doing. Read License carefully.

A Certificate of Marriage must be given by the person performing this ceremony to the persons married, showing the names, residences, date of marriage, county from which license was issued, date of license, etc. Sec. 8385 E. S. 1850. (Use the attached blank for this purpose.) And the person performing the ceremony must keep a RECORD of the same under a penalty of a fine of five hundred dollars. See 8390 E. S. 1850.

The book for this purpose can be purchased from the Standard Printing Co., Newark, N. J.

SEC. 8385. Revised Statutes, 1850. Penalty for Falsehood in Record of Return License. . . . Every officer or person who shall fail to return a license within ninety days after the issuing of the same, or who shall make a false return thereon, or any Recorder who shall wilfully make a false record of any marriage license or return thereon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars.

Sec. 4783. Revised Statutes, 1850. . . . And every person not authorized by law to solemnize marriages who shall falsely represent that he is so authorized, and who by any pretended marriage ceremony which he may perform, shall deceive any innocent person or persons, shall on conviction be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by fine not less than five hundred dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 8392. Marriages may be solemnized by any judge of a court of record or any justice of the peace, or any minister or ordained preacher of the gospel, who is a citizen of the United States or who is a resident of and a pastor of any church in this state.

JAN 15 1938

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Do not use this space.

1. PLACE OF DEATH

County Cape Girardeau

Registration District No. 120

Primary Registration District No. 3019

File No. 44954

Registration No. 703

Township Cape Girardeau

2. FULL NAME Emma Jelford Jones

(a) Residence No. 242 N. Federal St. Ward. 1
(Usual place of abode)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

3. SEX Female 4. COLOR OR RACE col. 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED widow

6. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OR (OR) WIFE OF

7. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) June 15 - 1853

8. AGE YEARS 81 MONTHS 6 DAYS 0 If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

9. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, weaver, bookkeeper, etc. Invalid

10. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. 202

11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation

12. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Mo.

13. NAME Mr. J. J. Sparks

14. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Mo.

15. MAIDEN NAME W. J. Sparks

16. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY)

17. INFORMANT Clara Jones

18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL PLACE Fairport DATE Dec. 17 1937

19. UNDERTAKER F. J. Sparks

20. FILED 12-15-37 J. M. Thompson Registrar

21. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) 12-15-37

22. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from Jan 3 1935 to Dec 15 1937

I have been alive on June 1 1937 Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at 242

The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows: Carcinoma of uterus

Other contributory causes of importance: 48

Name of operation ✓ Date of ✓

What test confirmed diagnosis? ✓ Was there an autopsy? ✓

23. If death was due to external causes (violence), fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? no Date of injury ✓

Where did injury occur? ✓ (Specify city or town, county, and State)

Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.

Manner of injury ✓

Nature of injury ✓

24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? If so, specify (Signed) W. J. Sparks (Address) Cape Girardeau Mo.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Chapter 3



The Stantons of Scott, Cape Girardeau and St. Louis Counties in Missouri

An Addendum to the Article Published in the Cape Collage, December 2010 Edition
On the Life of Cecelia (Celie) Wilson

By
Celeste Beatrice Stanton

The Bits and Pieces Finally Come Together

Since at least 1993, I have had in my possession a copy of the 1918 obituary for Celie (Cecelia) Wilson, my great-great-great grandmother, published in the SouthEast Missourian Newspaper at Cape Girardeau. One of the most intriguing, and difficult to understand statements in that obituary is that she, as a slave, “*was placed in the Ford school and there received training which few other colored folks had the opportunity to get at that time.*” The probability of having any form of education was, for the social climate, not unheard of, but exceptionally rare – especially when one considers that in many communities around the country it was against the law to teach a slave to read and write. But there it was, a written and published statement that her owner apparently felt a desire, maybe even a duty, to provide some education for this slave girl. Was it because she was a known offspring of one of the slave-owner’s family members? After all, she was frequently listed on the Federal Census as “*mulatto.*” And in 1829 when she was no more than two or three years old we know from court records that she was owned by the English family. For whatever the reason, Celie went to school for a time. Over the years, I have looked for a Ford School in or around the Cape Girardeau/Scott Counties area, but could find no record. In 2010, I paid for the services of a local genealogist to continue the search for the illusive Ford School. Despite his diligent efforts - no luck.

In preparation for a long-planned trip to Cape Girardeau (which finally happened in May 2011, accompanied by my great-nephew, Mario Stanton), I reviewed every line of every document I have concerning Grandma Celie. Most of the documents were sale/transfer records between and among the Thomas English heirs and in-laws which included George Camster, and his widow Patsy English Camster (Parrott). Within those court documents, and abstracts of such, Celie was listed on the *Inventory of Property* as early as 1829 and as late as 1845 and we see her moved from one family member to another.

On a small slip of paper, no larger than 3 inches by 7 inches in a sometimes faded script, I read something that I had previously glanced over and ignored. It said:

*Received of Mrs. Camster
Administrator of George Camster Dec'd (paid ??)
by the hand of Samuel H. Ford
Eighteen Dollars and forty four cents in
full of principal and interest of the
above allowed account April 22, 1848. Dalton OBannon (signature)*

Of all of the many names listed in the Matthews, English and Camster *Inventories, Appraisals and Lists of Property* items sold to individuals, the Ford name has never once surfaced. But here it was, a debt owed to and paid to Mr. Samuel H. Ford possibly for a service. What service did he render? Some of the documents in the pile of English/Camster records specify what was being paid for. This one is vague. Here is where a genealogist's understanding of cultures and history becomes an asset, even if that knowledge leads to speculation.

Quite often, slave-owners were barely educated themselves. Some could neither read nor write but they wanted better for their children. In the 1800s all across this nation, schools were few and far between. To provide education for their children, the more affluent often hired tutors, generally males, to come into the home (who often resided temporarily in the home for a designated period of time) to provide the desired instruction. Or, they provided a room or space, sometimes a cabin, on the farm or plantation for a "school." Language arts, basic mathematics, and etiquette were more or less the standards taught. For some females great emphasis was placed on sewing and the domestic arts. There are many documented cases of such arrangements. The tutor was often a young school teacher, a minister of the gospel or a very learned person with impeccable credentials who earned his living by erudition rather than farming.

In other settings, a slave-girl was sometimes sent away to the school as a servant to her underage mistress, not as a student. That would not be the case here as little Janie Camster would only have been five to six years old in 1848.

While at the Cape Girardeau Archives Center in Jackson, I visited with Mr. Ron Beasley, a fellow genealogist, a new-found friend of mine and friend of the staff there. I showed him the faded document regarding Mrs. Camster's payment to Mr. Ford, which he shared with the director of the center, Steven Pledger. As I went about my research the two gentlemen talked in Mr. Pledger's office and within a few minutes, Mr. Beasley emerged with a single sheet of paper – and the answer to more than eighteen years of questioning about the Ford School. The document from *Cathcart's Baptist Encyclopedia, 1881*, read as follows:

"Samuel H. Ford, Son of Rev. Thomas H. Ford, was licensed in 1840, passed through the classes in the State University of Missouri, and was ordained in 1843, at Bonne Femme church, in Boone Co., Mo. He became pastor at Jefferson City, Mo, and in two years after of the North church in St. Louis for two years; also at Cape Girardeau, Mo., and the East Baptist church, Louisville, Ky..."

The biography goes on to describe his splendid credentials and noted that he had a “cultured and talented wife,” who authored several works of literary value.

It appears that the situation of a learned person giving formal instructions in the home may not be the situation here. After searching for more bits and pieces, following receipt of that major clue at the Archive Center, I have just found that, in fact, there was a Ford School in Cape Girardeau in the late 1840s and into the 1850s. The school did not, however, carry the Reverend Samuel H. Ford’s name and that is why it has been so difficult to pin point. According to Sam Frank Taylor’s 1912 account in the *Baptist Homepage*, regarding Reverend Ford, *“From St. Louis he went to Cape Girardeau, where, in connection with his work as pastor, he established the Washington Seminary. This institution, under the management of various teachers, was successfully conducted up to the opening of the Civil War.”*

So let’s do the math. Patsy Camster paid the \$18.44 cents – a generous sum at that time – in 1848. Mr. Ford was ordained in 1843; pastored for two years (1843-45) in Jefferson City and then spent probably 1845 or 46 and 47 at the North church in St. Louis. It is reasonable to believe based on the biography that he was in Cape Girardeau in 1847-48. Patsy Camster paid him April 22, 1848. I truly believe the mystery of Grandma Celie’s schooling has been solved by a tiny scrap of paper and the kindness of a pair of alert and astute fellow genealogists.

Because I love this work, I searched further on the internet after returning home and happened across an article from Cape Girardeau about Cape’s Civil War Hospital – which turned out to be the Sherwood-Minton House. I am imbedding portions of that article, and a photograph of that building here:

Facts about the Sherwood-Minton House

- The deed goes back to the early 1800s, when it was part of a farm owned by a fur trader, who sold the land to **Don Louis Lorimier**.
- The **Rev. and Mrs. Adriel Sherwood** bought 4.55 acres from **Alfred Ellis**, whose father, **Charles Ellis**, had bought 20 acres when Lorimier’s estate was settled in 1819.
- Rev. Sherwood selected **E.B. Deane**, the architect who built the Ellis-Wathen-Ranney house on North Main, to design the house.
-



- In 1849, the **Washington Female Seminary** settled in the Sherwood home. The Rev. David Edward Young Rice was the first principal. Tuition for boarding students was \$65 for a five-month session; an additional dollar was added each session to pay for fuel for the classroom.

- During the early part of the Civil War, the home housed officers.
- Later in the war, the home served as a U.S. smallpox hospital.
- Rumors that there is a tunnel under the house have floated around for years.
-

A key phrase in the paragraph above is that “the Washington Female Seminary **settled in** the Sherwood home” in 1849. That would lead one to believe that it’s inception as a school began elsewhere. And if Grandma Celie was in attendance, wherever it was, then she would have been one of its earliest students. Genealogical research creates as many questions as it answers. Were the first classes held in a local church? In a home? That will be the commission to other researchers, digging through heretofore misplaced, dusty old papers to possibly locate original student attendance records.

But in the meantime, it is documented that Grandma Celie went to the Ford School. The question must again be put forth – why was she, a person frequently listed on assessments of personal property **as** personal property, a person valued **and** sold at a dollar amount - permitted such training? Why was she kept for a lifetime within the extended Matthews/English/Camster family and not sold off as were others? There is only one logical answer. She was biologically family! And the English and Camster families knew it.

These recent “gifts” of information are indicative of the way much of family genealogy happens. We spend countless hours verifying or debunking oral family tradition, scrutinizing written documentation, digging, analyzing and questioning. We dedicate years of our lives doggedly searching for one single clue and then one day – bits and pieces fall together almost serendipitously to create the whole.

Because I believe in miracles – against all odds - I pray that somewhere, somehow preserved, there is a photo of Grandma Celie.

Again, we speak Grandma Cecelia Wilson's name; we honor her life.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Stanton

Created: 05/15/11

Submitted for publication in the Collage of Cape County – June 2011 Edition.

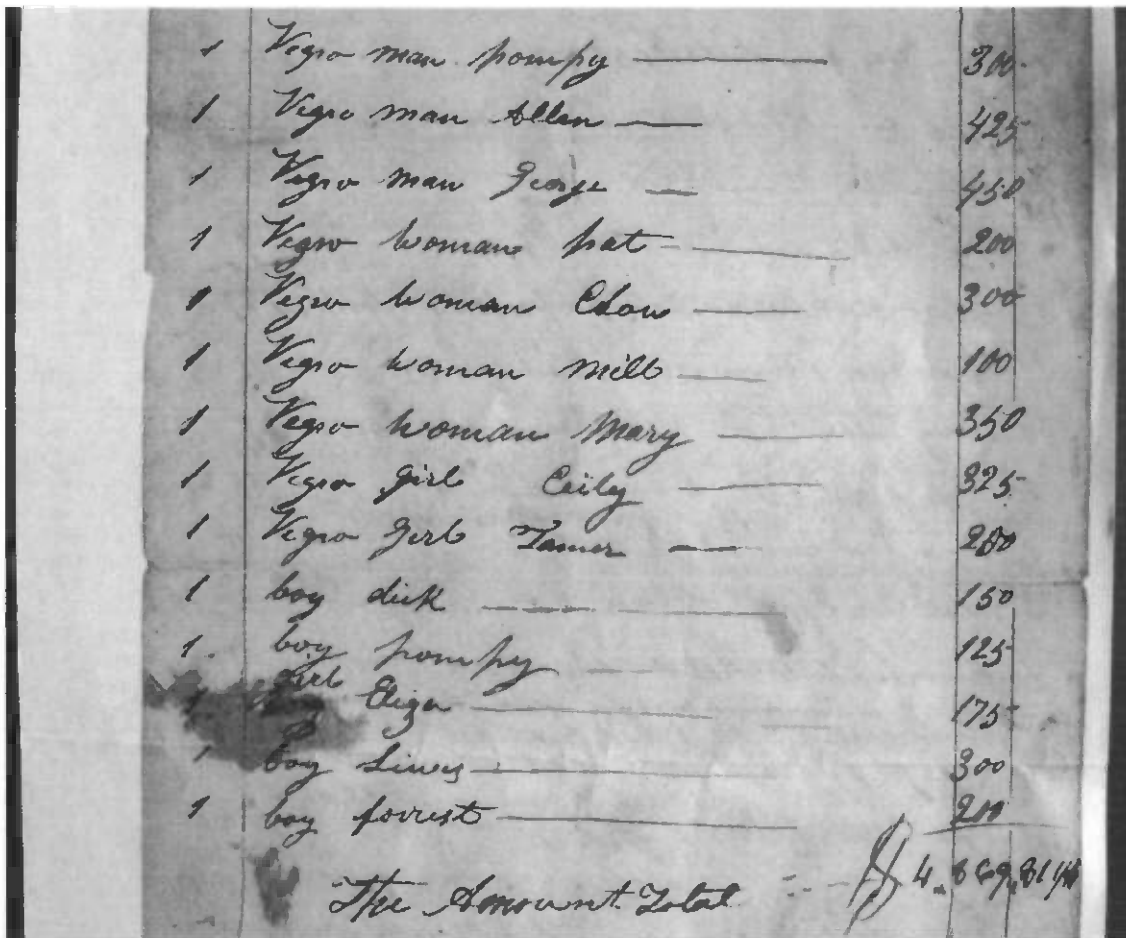
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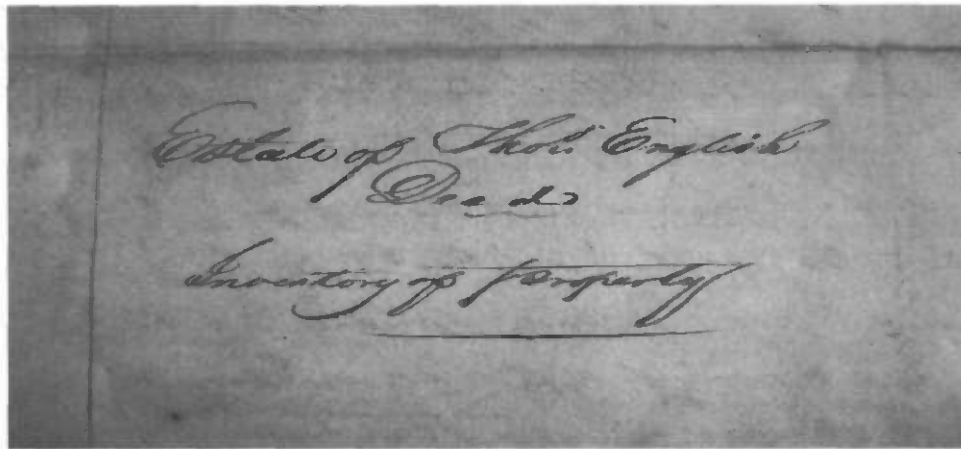
The Other Side of Grandma Celie's Family

We strongly suspect that we know Celie's relationship to the English and Camster family. But what about Celie's other family? All of the ones who were taken away from her. From the written record, her mother was sold away from her when she was a small child. Most likely we may never know the true identity of Celie's mother and therein lies one of the horrors of slavery and an ache in my heart. My guess is that her mother was one of the four slave women owned by the Thomas English family.

On November 26, 1829, Celie (Ceily) is listed among the fourteen slaves counted in the *Inventory and Appraisal of the Property of the Estate of Thomas English Sen. deceased.*



1	Negro man Pompey	300
1	Negro man Allen	425
1	Negro man George	450
1	Negro woman Pat	200
1	Negro woman Edow	300
1	Negro woman Millb	100
1	Negro woman Mary	350
1	Negro girl Ceily	325
1	Negro girl Tamer	280
1	boy Dick	150
1	boy Pompey	125
1	girl Biza	175
1	boy Lewis	300
1	boy Forrest	200
The Amount Total		\$ 4,669.81 1/4



Among the females listed as women on that document are Pat, Clow, Mill and Mary. Based on backward calculations from 1845 where Celie (Seely) is listed as age 18 with child, we know that she was approximately 2-3 years old in 1829. She was just old enough to be weaned from her mother's breast. On the February 1, 1830 *List of Sales Made on February 1, 1830 of the following negroes then the property of Thomas English, Senior deceased*, Pat, Mill and Mary are no longer listed. They are gone. If they were sold or traded in a private sale, we may never know to whom. Clow was still there but was sold to George Camster. Camster was married to Martha (Patsy) English. As a family member by marriage and living geographically close to the English heirs, there surely would have been contact between Camster's household and Joseph English's, who purchased Celie (Seely) on that 1830 document. So logic, which is not always correct, says that either Clow, Pat, Mill or Mary is Celie's mother. Of the four women, only Clow remained in 1830. Was she Seely's mother? Or was one of the other three the mother who had been sent away when Celie was very young? We do not know what happened to Clow. At the age of about 3, Celie was old enough for another slave woman to parent her. But who did? Keep in mind that there is no record to indicate that Celie knew who her mother was, only that her mother was sold away.

This is the part that pains the family genealogist. This is the part that causes that uneasy lump to surface again and again in my stomach. First we have a child with no discernible mother. Someone gave birth to her. Some slave woman carried her close to her heart as she struggled through the fields in the stifling summer heat. Some woman protected her swollen belly as she labored in the home of the slave-owner. Some woman laid in the grip of body-rending pains pushing her out into what was certainly a hostile world. Some woman put her to the breast and insured that she would live. And that same woman probably screamed in anguish as she was stripped away from her infant and sold or given away, never to see that child again. Don't ever think that because many generations separate now from then, that the sense of outrage is in any way diminished! And now, that woman, who probably had no choice in being impregnated, but did choose to give Grandma Celie life, will forever be unnamed – but I swear to you who read this – she will never be forgotten.

We can only guess at who Celie's father might have been based on the one word listed on her death certificate – "*Name of Father: Furgeson!*" How did Celie's daughter, who is the informant on her death certificate, choose that name? Had Celie been told over the years by someone who really knew the name of her biological father? Did she bear such a striking resemblance to a particular man, most probably a member of the English family, that there could be no doubt as to her paternity? Had there been a situation or circumstance where one or more family members knew that something had transpired between a Furgeson (Ferguson) and Celie's slave mother? Though the connection is difficult to trace at this time, there was a Ferguson who intermarried with an offspring or descendant within the larger English family.

And as we ponder this question, keep in mind that tens of thousands of slave women were raped, repeatedly, and at the whim of a slave-owner or any male member of a family who so wished to take advantage of *a lowly piece of property!* They were available *bodies* and, therefore, at the mercy of any man. In fact, a black woman could be brutally raped by a stranger and she had no recourse in the law, unless her owner felt aggrieved that "his property had been somehow spoiled!" Some were bought for the sole purpose of providing pleasure for the owner. Others were purchased as breeders. Their *issue from their bodies* would increase the value of the owner's property. I do not contend that the Matthews, English or Camster families bred slave women. What I do note is that when Thomas English Sr. deceased, appraisal of property was conducted in 1829, of the \$4869.81 valuation, \$3600 of that sum was the value put on the bodies of his slaves. Aside from what land he may have owned, the majority of his appraised wealth appears to reside in his slaves.

Keep in mind also that white women of that age, the wives of slave-holders, overseers, male family members or neighbors, disavowed the fact that their men could possibly lay down with a black woman, yet they continued to see these light-skinned babies being born of dark-skinned mothers, whose only contacts with whites were the men by whom, they too, were dominated. Many of these wives simply turned their heads and tried to ignore the infidelity and humiliation. Some were particularly cruel to the slave women with whom they knew their husbands/brothers/sons had bred children. And when the insult and outrage was too overwhelming, they pressed for the slave woman to be sold away so that there was little daily reminder of the affront to their sacred positions as wives. (I must ask if this is what happened to Celie's mother?) Generally speaking, what could the wife do? With limited education, finances ruled by the husbands, abridged legal rights, and scarce or no employment for any woman, what could the wife do, but stay in the marriage, try to hold her head high in public and deny the abuse heaped upon her by the actions of her husband and a system that, for the most part, allowed the savage deflowering of innocent young slave girls, often as sport, with no legal repercussions to the aggressor. Again, despite all the *religious piety* of the times, slaves were legally considered property, and a man could conceivably do whatever he wanted with his own property! The honey-hued to extremely fair-skinned with often aquiline features and straighter hair of increasing numbers of *mulatto* children are indisputable proof that white men lusted after and impregnated countless black women. They could piously take their assigned seats in their chosen houses of worship on Fridays or Sundays and decry the

biblical *weakness of the flesh* but the truth of the conduct of their lives walked among them and their wives.

For all intents and purposes Celie was a motherless and fatherless slave child, and then in the *Slave Narratives*, Celie's daughter, Emma Camster Green, states that Celie had two brothers, who were also sold away from her. Within the *Digital Library on American Slavery*, a marvelous repository of slavery records out of the University of North Carolina-Greenville, I managed to pull up a record of *The Heirs of George Camster in Petition 21185207*. To me, this document is a rare find. It shows "Seal" age 24 in 1852, owned by Camster, as head of a small household of three male children. There is John, her son, age approximately 3 in 1852 (and John is specified as "Identified Immediate Family"—John, son). Then there are: Edmond (Edmund), age 13 in 1852 and Frederick (Fred) approximately 6 in 1852. Are Edmond and Fred Celie's brothers? Edmond is listed on the 1845 George Camster list of property as age 7; on the Library document in 1852 he is about age 13. That's the same boy. If Celie's mother was still in the picture, it would be conceivable that Edmund could be Celie's brother, but he is eleven years younger than Celie and her mother has been gone for as much as twenty years.

On a separate *List of Slaves and Ages* obtained at the Cape Girardeau Archives Center, Thomas B. English's estate owns a boy, Frederick, age one. And there is a notation next to Frederick's name that he was *purchased with his mother Amy from the James Goza Estate. Amy is age 23, and Frederick is age 7 months as of 12/01/1845*. Amy is approximately the same age as Celie in 1845, so she cannot be her mother, and Frederick is not Celie's brother, but if this is the same Frederick, he winds up in Celie's household in 1852 – (the ages do match).

So her brothers will also go unnamed – but because Emma Camster Green mentioned them being sold down the river by the slave-trader, Johnson, we will call the names of their spirits, even if we do not know their given names. We lament their loss. But we honor their lives wherever they may have been.

Tombstone of Grandma Celia Wilson

MOTHER
Celia Wilson
Born Cape Girardeau Co.
Year 1809
Died Aug. 13, 1918
Age 109 Yrs.
Member Excelsior
No. 25 H. of J
Safe in the arms of Jesus



Burial site, Lot #284, Grave 8, Fairmount Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
Photo taken May 9, 2011

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Cape Girardeau Registration District No. 15 File No. 35839
Township or Village or City Cape Girardeau Precinct Registration District No. 2009 Registered No. 136
Ward _____
2 FULL NAME Celie Wilson Death occurred in hospital or institution (For use in case of death and death certificate)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>Black</u>	5 MARRIAGE STATUS <u>Widow</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>Aug 13th 1918</u>	17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from _____ to _____ 101 _____ 101 _____ that I am now _____ alive on _____ 101 _____ and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Heart Failure</u>
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Aug 10 1899</u>	7 AGE <u>19</u>	8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>House work</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (for employees)	18 CAUSE OF DEATH (See Instructions, Form 101)	
9 BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>Cape Girardeau Mo</u>	10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Ferguson</u>	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>Don't know</u>	19 SEX OF DECEASED <u>Female</u> 1918 (Address) <u>Cape Girardeau</u> 19 CAUSE OF DEATH (See Instructions, Form 101) 19 CAUSE OF DEATH (See Instructions, Form 101)	
12 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>Don't know</u>	14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Signature) <u>Harry Al Green</u> (Address) <u>Cape Girardeau Mo</u>		20 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Brinkopf Co</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>Aug 14 1918</u>	
21			20 UNDERTAKER <u>Brinkopf F & U Co</u> ADDRESS <u>Cape Girardeau Mo</u>	

1. This form shall be filled out by the attending physician, or other person who has attended the deceased, or by the registrar, or other person who has attended the deceased, or by the registrar, or other person who has attended the deceased.

LOCATING THE PLACE FROM WHICH CELIE WAS BURIED

There are numerous reasons why a death certificate is such an important document to recover when doing this kind of research. And on this document there is the only known indication of who Grandma Celie's father might have been – and even then, we are not sure how accurate this information really is. But what this death certificate also includes is the funeral home which handled her body and was responsible for her burial. Note: Brinkopf F & U. Co. as the undertaker. There is no longer such an establishment but by tracing back through records, checking the names of currently existing undertaking establishments and making telephone calls, not only was I able to locate this funeral establishment, I was able to find a current photograph of the original old building.

Brinkopf Furniture and Undertaking Company was established in Cape Girardeau in 1906. Later it was named Brinkopf and Howell Funeral Home. The business was taken over by Ford and Sons Funeral Home, and at this writing (May 2011), the company remains Ford and Sons Funeral Home with two locations, one on Sprigg Street and one on Mount Auburn Street. The original building, however at 536 Broadway, is no longer used as a funeral home. It is now an antiques shop – Annie Laurie's Antiques – and here is the photograph found on a website from Cape Girardeau.



The old Brinkhopf Howell Funeral Home – now Annie Laurie's Antiques.

So with this entry, we have taken Grandma Celie from near the time of her birth, as early as 1829 when she was about 2-3 years old, a slave baby with no identifiable mother, to a woman of nearly one hundred years old, celebrated as possibly the oldest living Cape Girardeau in 1918 – to her death and burial marked by a solid but deteriorating tombstone in Fairmont Cemetery. Hopefully her final place of rest will be visited occasionally by all of the great-great-great-great grandchildren she made possible to have life, by her life.

The search for a photo or likeness of her will continue.

Chapter 5



The Immediate Family of Cecelia (Celie) Wilson

As a part of the previous articles on Grandma Celie, there was a request for help from others in the Cape Girardeau area who might have information on the life of this remarkable woman who lived for almost a century. That call was royally answered by some of the kindest and most generous people I have come to know through emails, letters and phone calls. I want them all to know how grateful I am for their help in bringing Grandma Celie's existence back to life. With the help of these dedicated genealogists, there is now additional and/or clarified data concerning my third great-grandmother Cecelia Wilson.

What I have acquired over the many months of personal research is that Grandma Celie gave birth to at least 3 children, two of whom lived to adulthood – John L. Brown, born about 1844 and Emma Camster, born about 1856, all having lived as slaves of the English family of Cape Girardeau, George Camster or a relative of his. Heretofore, little was known about John's early years or his absolute connection to Cecelia as he is not shown with her on any of the regular census registers. But, from the initial *Collage* article, I was introduced to a wonderful website, *The Digital Library on American Slavery*, created by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In their records was found the concrete link between John and his mother, Celie.

Copied from:

**Digital Library on American Slavery
Slave Ownership History for
Heir(s) of CAMSTER, George in Petition 21185207**

Seal	Female	In 1852	Inheritance	Title Ownership
Frederick (Fred)	Male	In 1852	Inheritance	Title Ownership
John	Male	In 1852	Inheritance	Title Ownership
Edmond (Edmund)	Male	In 1852	Inheritance	Title Ownership

Details for Heir(s) of CAMSTER, George in Petition 21185207		Name: Seal
Name: CAMSTER	Heir(s) of George	Petition: 21185207 filed in Missouri, 1852
Petition:	21185207 filed in Missouri, 1852	Color and Gender: black female
Role in Petition:		Status: slave
Color and Gender:	white male	Identified Immediate Family: John – son
Status:		Economic Profile: SALE – 1853 – Report of Sheriff's Sale
Identified Immediate Family:		Age: approx 24 years of Age In 1852
Economic Profile:	SALE – 1853 – Report Of Sheriff's Sale	
Owned slaves?	Yes	

**List of Slaves in Petition 21185207
People Listing**

Name	Enslavement Status	Color	Gender	Age
Edmond (Edmund)	Slave	Black	Male	Approx 13 years of age in 1852
Frederick (Fred)	Slave	Black	Male	Approx 6 years of age in 1852
John	Slave	Black	Male	Approx 3 years of age in 1852
Seal **	Slave	Black	Female	Approx 24 years of age in 1852

- Note: There were 10 columns in this chart, 5 had no entries in them. Those columns were: *Role in Petition, Birth, Death, Owned slaves?, and Occupation.*

** On one of the additional documents Seal (who is Celie) is listed as head of household with these children. This is rare and most unusual. Frederick and Edmond are not her biological children.

JOHN BROWN

Once Grandma Cecelia went to Mississippi County after the Civil War and retrieved her daughter, she and Emma remained together for the rest of their lives in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. There is much written about Cecelia's relationship to her daughter, but very little about John.

If we refer back to the *List of Property Belonging to the Estate of Geo Camster deceased as Appraised – July 11, 1845*, we see Celie (Sely) age about 18 with a child, the set valued at \$600. That child is most probably John, who we later determined was born in or about 1844. Though John is clearly listed as her son in this document and then again in her obituary in the newspaper of Cape Girardeau in 1918, we only see him clearly in census records after he is an adult.

On the *1850 U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedule*, we can *guess* that one of the slave children owned by Margaret Camster is John, but it becomes an educated guess.

Slave Owners			
Name	Home in 1850	View Census	Save This
Margaret Camster	District 14, Cape Girardeau, Missouri		
Slave Information			
Age	Gender	Race	View Census
40	Female	Black	
22	Female	Mulatto	← Is this Celie?????
12	Male	Black	
5	Male	Mulatto	← Is this John?????
0	Male	Mulatto	

The 22 year old mulatto female is almost certainly Celie – we can intuit this from the legal documents and Emma's narrative. If John was born around 1844, and this is the 1850 census, then it is likely that this is John. What is so frustrating and so dehumanizing is that these human beings were not even given names, only an age and sex

– as property!!! Is the infant mulatto child Celie’s or the other 40 year old female’s child? Who knows!!

There are numerous John Browns, white, black and mulatto in and around Cape Girardeau and the state, but truly unidentifiable as our John until the 1870 U.S. census. There he is listed as age 21, mulatto, employed as a laborer, born in Missouri and can read and write. With him is his wife, Amanda, age 21, black, born in Missouri, keeping house and can read and write. At this writing, we do not have a photograph of John, but we are privileged to have one of Amanda.



Amanda Williams Brown

Born 1858- Died Nov. 25, 1901(2)
(date of photograph unknown)

John and Amanda were formally married December 13, 1867, 2 years after the end of the Civil War.

In John and Amanda’s household on the 1870 census are Catherine, about age 5 (who is my great-grandmother), and Josephine age 7 months at the time of the census. This census does not list a street or address but the family lived in the 2nd Ward of Cape

Girardeau City. Both John and Amanda list their places of birth as Missouri. Interestingly, they live next door to Amanda's parents, George and Eliza Williams.



On the 1876 Cape Girardeau County census, a county record, John and Amanda now have four children, Catharine, Josephine, Elisa and a son, Jesse.

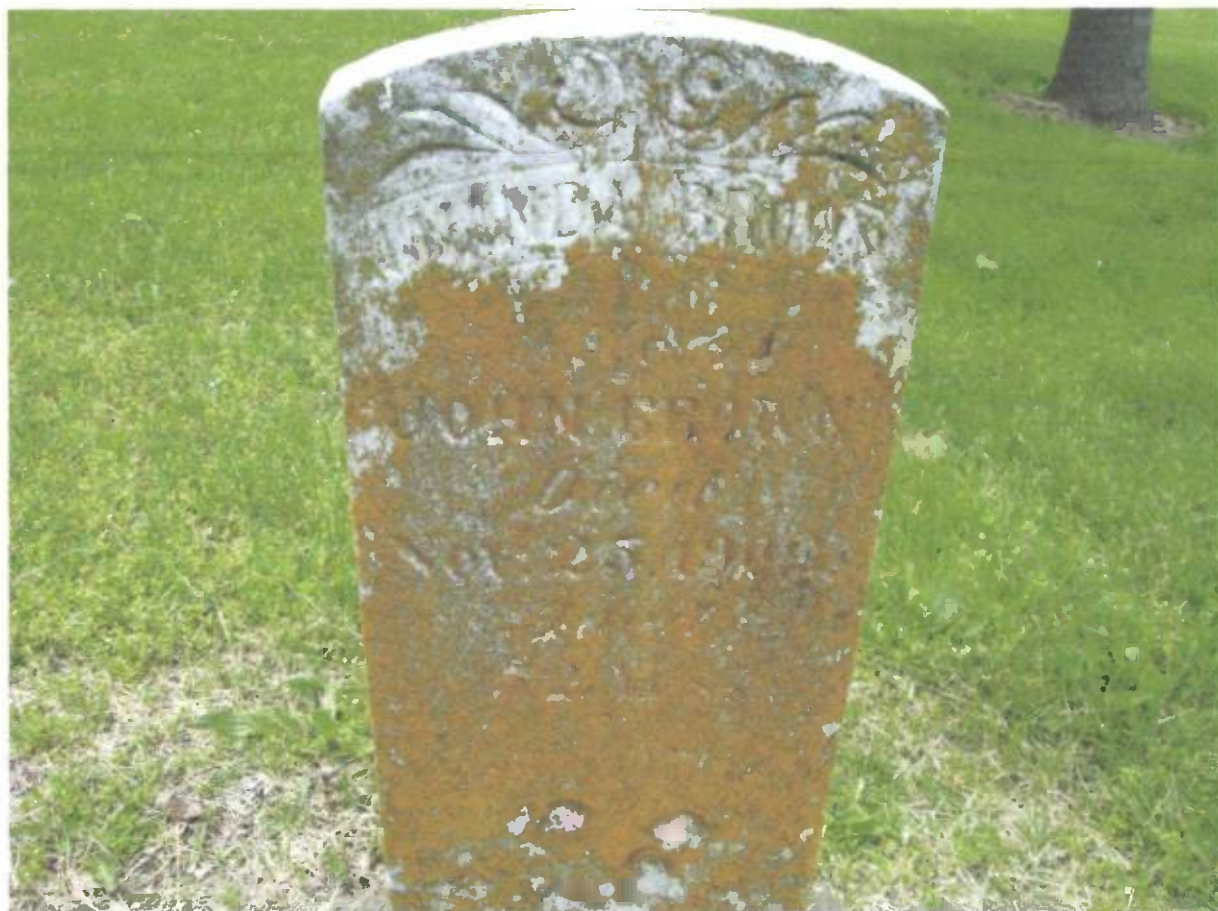
By 1880 census John lists his place of birth and that of both parents in Missouri. Amanda lists her place of birth as Missouri, but her father as having been born in Kentucky and her mother as born in Virginia. On this census, John and Amanda have expanded their family to 5 children in the home: Catherine, age 15, Josephine age 10, Liza age 8, Jesse a son, age 5 and Lulu (who is probably Beulah) age 1. John is now listed as age 34 and Amanda is 32.

Because so much information was lost in the 1890 census, we do not see the youngest daughters, Nona and Emily, born into the family but they were there and Emily's death certificate many years later attests to John and Amanda as her parents.

Throughout his life, John is employed generally as a laborer, yet he was able to support his rather large family, made up of all but one child, by girls! And we know how

expensive girls can be! I occasionally wonder how different his life might have been if the society in which he lived allowed blacks to have other than the lowest paying and most menial of jobs.

Amanda preceded John in death on November 25, 1901, dying of breast cancer which affected the lymph gland-carcenoma. She was approximately age 52 at the time of her death. She is burid near her mother-in-law's grave (Celia Wilson) and next to her husband, John, in Fairmount Cemetery, Lot 284, grave #3.



Tombstone of Amanda Brown wife of John Brown, Nov. 25, 1902, aged 52 years
(Note: Her death certificate says 1901, her tombstone says 1902)

John lived on to marry again – to a Ms. Sarah J. Blackburn on December 11, 1904 in Cape Girardeau. It does not appear that there were any children of that marriage. On the 1910 census, only John, Sarah J. and John's son Jesse, age 34, by his first marriage to Amanda, are residing together in the home at 229 South Fountain Street in the 3rd ward. (They lived next door to the Abernathys, a family name I remember from Aunt Nellie's conversations. A Cora Abernathy was one of her best friends.)

John died on December 24, 1919 and is buried in Fairmount Cemetery near his mother, Celia Wilson, and next to his first wife, Amanda, in Lot #284, grave 4. Except for the inscription, his tombstone is identical to Amanda's. His obituary from the local newspaper reads:

John Brown Dies At Home in Haarig

John Brown, for many years a street sweeper in Harig, died at his home on Good Hope street Wednesday afternoon following an illness with asthma. While he had been sick for a long time he was bedfast but two days, having attended to his duties as late as last Monday. John Brown was about 73 years old and was one of the best-known negroes in Cape Girardeau. He was respected among the white people and had hundreds of friends among the colored residents. The funeral arrangements were not completed today and will not be until his son arrives. He will be buried in Fairmount cemetery. (Southeast Missourian Newspaper, December 26, 1919)

There is a discrepancy between the place of his residence in the obituary and on his death certificate. One lists his residence on South Fountain, and the other on Good Hope Street, which is only a block or so away.

I wish there was information from family and friends besides the obituary to describe the persons that both John and Amanda lived to be. Born in slavery, they knew the harshness and unfairness of that institution. Having lived at a time after the formal abolition of slavery, certainly they knew discrimination and segregation which was the continuing climate of a nation still struggling with the heinous legacy of that institution. Employment was limited, social mobility was restricted and John functioned in a society which, by all historical accounts across this country, could insult and denigrate him for an alleged "improper" glance at a white woman – and in the worst case scenario – take his life for that alleged transgression. History tells me that his life was not easy as he struggled as bread-winner and head of a large household. Though he was lauded as a respected citizen of Cape Girardeau upon his death and most probably worked hard at something all of his life, his final occupation was as a street sweeper. It is an honorable occupation but one usually relegated to blacks, no matter how competent they were. One must wonder what dreams he might have kept close to his heart; what aspirations he might have had if the social setting surrounding his world had been more equitable.

We speak the names of John Brown and Amanda Williams Brown; we honor their lives.

Chapter 6



Parents of Amanda Williams Brown, John's Wife

George and Eliza Williams

It is important to mention here that many marital unions took place between blacks, but most were not legally recognized or “legitimated” until after the end of the Civil War.

“Generally, Negro marriages were not recognized by churches in the period before the Civil War. The law supported the churches in the view. Slave marriages were considered moral agreements having no legal force. After the Civil War, a state law was passed requiring all ex-slave couples who were living together as man and wife be remarried, legally.” The Role of the Negro in Missouri History-1719-1970: Dr. Lorenzo J. Green, Antonio F. Holland and Gary Kremer, Lincoln University, 1973-74.

It must be remembered that no matter how much an enslaved couple loved one another and struggled to have an intact family union, at the whim of the slave-owner, that union could be severed by selling off one or the other party. Often it was a matter of financial necessity as each slave had a monetary value and if need be, would be sold to reconcile a debt or provide income to the slave owner. An immediate case on point is Grandma Celie's spouse, Levi Wilson, who was taken with his white owner, Beverly Parrot, when he moved to Texas. (Refer back to the *Slave Narrative provided by Emma Camster Green – 1837-1838.*) Thinking he'd never see Celie again, which was extremely possible, Levi entered into another union in Texas to which children were born. Slaves were rarely allowed to formally marry, and only then with the approval of their slave owners. Yet even with that permission the marriages could be easily dissolved by the owner's decision to sell or trade one of the spouses. Slave families lived with the realization that, though committed to one another, the slave owner could, would and often did, sell one spouse and even the children, away from the other. As human beings, with a desire for love and family, they maintained what we call today common-law marriages, and when the Civil War ended, many rushed to solemnize those unions feeling that for the first time they had some merit and protection under the law.

Amanda Williams Brown's parents are representative of that condition. Though together as a couple prior to the Civil War, based on the ages of their children, George Williams and Eliza Scott did not *officially* marry until July 23rd, 1865 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The recording of that union is shown on the *Marriage Report of Freedmen 1815-1869*,

Cape Girardeau, Mo. The officiant for the ceremony was E. O'Brien, Minister of the Gospel, who apparently married numerous black couples during that time period. On that document George is listed as age 48 and Eliza as 46. They have three male children and eight female children! According to a genealogical article published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly 95 (December 2007): 281-301 by Ruth Randall, Reverend E. O'Brien was Chaplain of the 17th Illinois Cavalry garrisoned at Cape Girardeau through at least 1866. He officiated at the marriage of numerous black couples, after all, by that date, they were free. The copy below was obtained from the FamilySearch.org site – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, often called the Mormon Library Site.

COPY AND SAMPLE OF FREEDMANS DOCUMENT AND COLUMNS

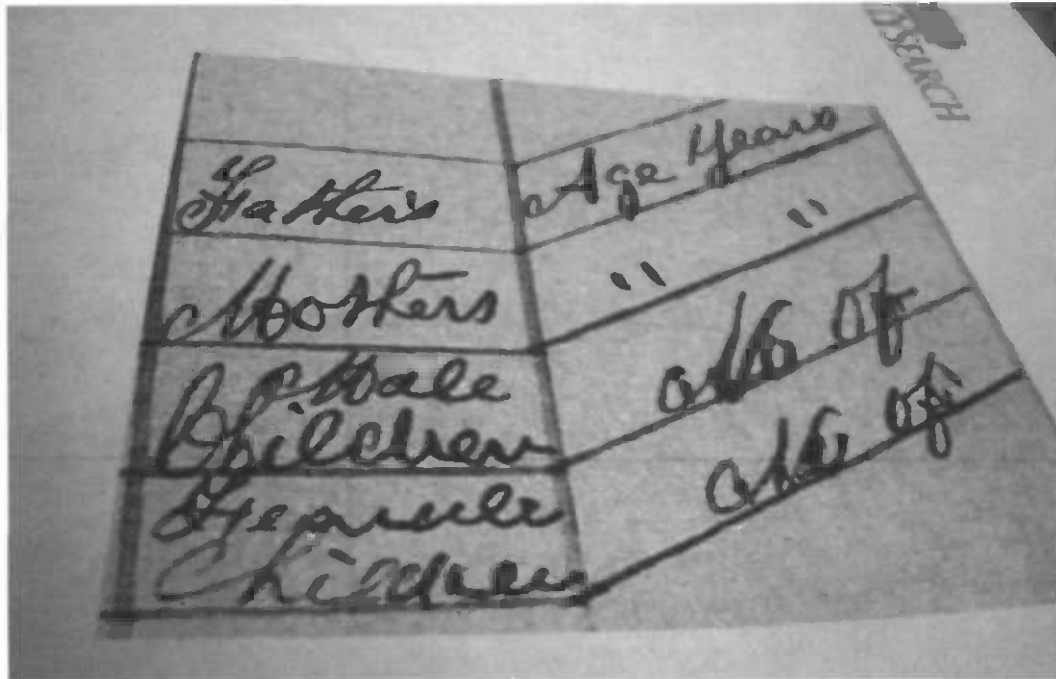
Marriage Report		Where Married	By Whom	Age of Groom	Age of Bride
Robert O. Be. Gentry	&	Virginia Buckley	Cape Girardeau	E. O'Brien Minister of the Gospel	48 46
Amos Johnson	&	Hannah Byler	"	"	49 46
Henry Jacobs	&	Hattie Thomas	"	"	50 45
Sarah Sample	&	Olya Wheeler	"	"	50 45
James Jackson	&	Esther Parker	"	"	50 45
Thomas Adams	&	Sarah Bays	"	"	50 45
Robert Bond	&	Martha Thomas	"	"	50 45
James George	&	Eliza Williams	"	"	50 45
Randall Reed	&	Louisa Thompson	"	"	50 45
Alfred Williams	&	Eliza Thomas	"	"	50 45
Charles Adams	&	George Wilson	"	"	50 45
Thomas Shavers	&	Frances Thomas	"	"	50 45
Amos Wilson	&	Louisa Carter	"	"	50 45
Samuel Best	&	Hannah Woods	"	"	50 45
Anderson W. Adams	&	Ann Casey	"	"	50 45
John Hartman	&	Louisa Williams	"	"	50 45
Abraham Best	&	Eliza J. Williams	"	"	50 45
Thomas Bond	&	Emily Adams	"	"	50 45

SEE GEORGE WILLIAMS AND ELIZA SCOTT, BOTTOM OF PAGE BELOW

Freedmen's Bureau Marriages - 1815 - 1869, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Henry Jones	x	Melba Jones	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	60	58	8	2
Sarah Sample	x	Olga Parker	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	50	48	6	6
James Jackson	x	Esther Parker	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	68	59	6	6
James Brown	x	Isabella King	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	85	26	1	1
Robert Kansas	x	Urbana Thomas	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	28	20		
James King	x	Mary Williams	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	28	23	1	1
Randall Reed	x	Laura Thompson	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	28	28		
Alfred Williams	x	May Brown	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	27	20		
William Brown	x	Elonga Wilson	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	45	20	1	8
Charles Shavers	x	Hannay Seneca	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	68	45	8	5
James Wilson	x	Louis Clegg	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	45	30		8
Samuel Vestal	x	Hannah Buckle	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	20	27	2	2
William McPherson	x	Ann Casey	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	28	30		
John Northern	x	Lucy Williams	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	49	27		3
Thomas East	x	May J. Walker	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	37	35	5	5
Thomas Buchanan	x	Emily Brown	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	45	39	2	9
Maranda Richards	x	Christiana Lewis	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	21	29	1	2
George Fowler	x	Caroline Snyder	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	42	35		
George Johnson	x	Daphnia C. Walker	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	40	20		
Louis Myrtle	x	Anna B. C. C.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	44	31		1
Miranda Bonnet	x	Louisa Martin	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	62	46	5	8
Charles Dyer	x	Abana Allen	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	58	48		
Joseph Roberts	x	Phyllis Cox	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	48	46	3	5
George Williams	x	Olga Scott	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	38	35	5	1
Robert King	x	Sarah Brown	"	"	"	"	"	"	"				

READING LAST COLUMNS REGARDING NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN



Looking back at these columns, one column is for the age of the father, one for the age of the mother, one for the number of male children and the last for the number of female children born to this couple as of their formal marriage date in 1865. George and Eliza had three sons and eight daughters registered on that date.

(On the 1868 *Missouri State Census Collection-1844-1881*, I find a George Williams listed in Cape Girardeau; black, and has been taught to read and write. He is in the category of "Of twenty-one and under forth-five". This would neither be our George nor his son, George, Jr., as the ages in no way match.)

I am next able to see this couple and some of their children at home enumerated on the 1870 US Federal Census, *Cape Girardeau City, 2nd Ward, August 10*, of that year. In the family unit are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>Real Est.</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>Pers. Est</u>	<u>Birth</u>
Williams, George	52	M	B	Laborer	\$400	\$150	Kentucky
" , Eliza	52	F	B	Keeps Hs			Virginia
" , Catharine	29	F	B	Washwoman			Missouri
" , George	15	M	B	Brickyard hand			Missouri
" , Caroline	17	F	B	At Home			Missouri
" , Julia	13	F	B	" "			Missouri
Graves, George	11	M	B	" "			Missouri

Some of their children have either left the home or possibly died as only four or five of the eleven remain listed. Both George and Eliza would have been about 40+ when slaves were officially freed so we can assume that they had several children brought into the world as slaves. There is another possibility – that as some of their children reached an age where they were more valuable to the slave-owner sold, that George and Eliza saw the children from their bodies torn away from them and sold for reasons completely out of their control. My heart cannot go to that place to try to understand the pain, anger and hopelessness they surely would have felt.

It is to be noted that on this census (and in the 1880 census), George and Eliza's family live either in the same house or next door to Amanda and John Brown's family, as Amanda is the daughter of George and Eliza.

In 1876, a *Missouri State Census of Cape Girardeau County* was conducted, and we find George, Eliza and their children, Tyler, Julia and George in the home. Both George and Eliza's ages are shown in the columns entitled "Black Male (or Black Female), Age 45 and upward."

On the *1880 US Federal Census of Cape Girardeau City*, George and Eliza, both age 58, still live next door to their daughter Amanda and son-in-law, John Brown. Now both George and Eliza are listed as age 58 – which age progresses them only 6 years in the 10 year interim between the 1870 and 1880 censuses, but the age discrepancy is not unusual. In the home with them now are Tyler, male, mulatto, age 34, son, single, employed as a laborer, can read and write, and is born in Missouri. There is George, Jr., mulatto, age 20, son, unemployed and suffers from an "abcess of liver." Julia is also in the home, female, black, age 22, daughter, single and is employed as a servant. She is also born in Missouri. Quite possibly between 1870 and 1880 Tyler went off to work elsewhere and is now back in the home.

Using the dates from the *Freedman Marriage Record* on 1865, it would appear that at age 48, George's date of birth would be around 1817. On the 1870 census five years later, listed as age 52, that would put his date of birth about 1818. The same goes for Eliza in terms of discrepancies. In 1865, she was shown to be age 46, but in 1870 she was listed as the same age as George, age 52. Undoubtedly, this is the same couple and much has been written concerning the discrepancies in the exactness of recorded ages, especially for blacks. Suffice it to say, George and Eliza were born sometime between 1817-1818 and 1822.

Oral family history says that George gave his daughters a piece of land or a house when each married. I can find no property records to verify this statement and at this writing, the Cape Girardeau Archives Center does not have any deed abstracts past 1846. It is of interest that in 1870 George has a fair amount of "wealth" - \$550 all total – only five years after the end of the Civil War. That was a considerable sum back then. With such a large family, how did he acquire that amount of property???

Researchers at the Cape Girardeau Archives Center have just advised me that George and Eliza are shown on the 1890 Cape Girardeau Reconstructed Census. Because the Federal US 1890 Census was mostly destroyed in a fire in Washington, DC, many states and their counties are using other existing documents to recover information on their citizens. In this instance, Cape Girardeau used the Personal Property Tax List for the Year 1890 to determine which citizens paid taxes in that year. Since George and Eliza are listed, it is certain that one or both were still alive in that year.

Mr. Ron Beasley has recently discovered burial information for Eliza by going back to the cemetery on my behalf. On a hunch, he brushed off the lichens and moss that were taking over this particular tombstone, and sure enough, it said:



TOMBSTONE OF ELIZA SCOTT WILLIAMS
Inscription

Eliza Williams
Born 10/1/1821
Died 11/9/1894
Age 73 yrs 1 mo 5 days

Photo taken for me by Mr. Ron Beasley, July 2011

As Mr. Beasley reported, the inscription is remarkably clear and legible. Eliza is buried in Fairmount Cemetery only about 30 or 40 feet east of the grave site of Grandma Cecelia Wilson (who is buried in Lot #284, grave 8.) Though the lots are laid out in a somewhat confusing manner, Eliza is buried in Lot #514, grave 4.



Photo taken by Mr. Ron Beasley at Fairmount Cemetery, July 2011

This is a more distant shot of Eliza Williams' tombstone. In the background immediately next to the dark bush, which partially obscures the cemetery office, is the tombstone of Grandma Cecelia Wilson.

Next to and near Eliza's final resting place are a couple of noticeable depressions, but are unmarked. One of them might be her husband's grave, but to date, there is no record of George's burial there. Mr. Terrell Weaver, the City Cemetery Sextant, has done a remarkable job of documenting as many graves as possible, but previous records are often scarce or in error. As of this writing, we do not find our George Williams listed anywhere at Fairmount or Old or New Lorimier Cemeteries. But we will keep looking.

HOW DID THEY COME TO CAPE?

On various US Federal census records, George and Eliza's places of birth are notated. George was born in Kentucky and Eliza in Virginia. We must assume that they arrived in Missouri as slaves of early Missouri settlers. We do not know when. We must assume the *why* which is to labor for the sake of their owners. Did Eliza come to Missouri as a child with her slave family; was she sold to new owners and transported over the many miles, walking behind the wagon; did she meet George Williams in Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri or somewhere along the way; were all of her children the biological children of George Williams, with whom she was married for many years? Probably not if history is any teacher for the plight of an enslaved woman. So much we do not – will never- know about her life.

In doing continuing research, which never ends, my interest has been peeked by the name of Eliza Scott, a free woman of color, born and living in Richmond, Virginia in 1830 and 1840. Could this possibly be our Eliza?

Whatever will be learned in the future, we speak the names of George Williams and Eliza Scott Williams. We honor their lives.

Catherine is the oldest of the Brown children, born about 1866 in Cape Girardeau. On the 1870 census she is listed as “at school” which means that she had some formal education, but on the 1880 census she was single and “at home” meaning she was no longer a student. Later she married John (Johnny) Allen of Cape Girardeau. There is a separate article to follow on her marriage and children.



CATHERINE BROWN – 1866-1900 – (Age of photo unknown.)

Josephine, the second oldest daughter of John and Amanda, born about 1869-70 according to census records. She remained a life-long resident of Cape Girardeau, and there is a separate article to follow dedicated to her life. Josephine was thrice married.



JOSEPHINE BROWN

Photo taken about 1900 ?

Elizabeth (Eliza) (Liza) is the third daughter of John and Amanda Brown, born March 5, 1872 in Cape Girardeau. We do not have a photograph of her. As a young woman, she married George Goines, who was born February 29, 1871, possibly in Tennessee as were his siblings. The marriage took place in Cape Girardeau and from that union eleven (11) children were born.

Georgia Born 1893

Roy Born 1895

Ray O. Born 1897

Ralph W. Born 1899

Freddie Born 1901

Wilbert Born 1903

Edgar E.) →

Edna P.) → Twins – Born 1905

Albert E. Born 1909

Florence Born 1909-10

Hazel Born 1911

Eliza's husband, George Goines, preceeded her in death on January 25, 1925 and is buried at Fairmount Cemetery in Lot #382, grave 2.

We speak the name of George Goines; we honor his life.

Eliza died March 11, 1938 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and is buried in Fairmount Cemetery next to her husband in Lot #382, grave 3. Cause of death was "carcinoma of stomach". We have both Eliza's death certificate and the record of her funeral arrangements.

Official Death Certificate of Elizabeth (Eliza) Brown Goines

Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Do not use this space.

REC'D APR 18 1938

10337

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Cape Girardeau Registration District No. 125
 City Windsor Primary Registration District No. 5009
 St. _____ Ward _____

2. FULL NAME Elizabeth Goins 52.0
 (a) Residence No. 2387 1/2 Federal Ward _____
 (Usual place of abode)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da. (If nonresident, give city or town and State)
 Has long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS					MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>col</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>widow</u>	6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) <u>Mar. 5, 1972</u>		21. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) <u>March 11, 1938</u>	22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Jan 14 1938 to March 10 1938</u> I have been alive on <u>March 11, 1938</u> Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at _____ m. The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows: <u>Carcinoma of Stomach</u> Date of onset _____ Other contributory causes of importance: <u>466</u>
7. AGE	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	If LESS than 1 day, hr. or min.		
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as operator, surveyor, bookkeeper, etc.	9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.					
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)	11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation					
12. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Cape Girardeau Missouri</u>					Name of operation _____ Date of _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____ 23. If death was due to external cause (violence), fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide. _____ Date of injury _____ 19____ Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. Manner of injury _____ Nature of injury _____ 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? If so, specify _____ (Signed) <u>Herbert M. D.</u>	
13. NAME <u>John Brown</u>						
14. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Missouri</u>						
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Amanda Williams</u>						
16. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Missouri</u>						
17. INFORMANT (ADDRESS) <u>Spencer W. Davis</u>						
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL PLACE <u>Fairmount Cem.</u> DATE <u>Mar 14 1938</u>						
19. UNDERTAKER (ADDRESS) <u>J. J. Sparks</u>						
20. FILED <u>3-11-38</u>						

M. D. Callahan

Record of Eliza's Funeral Arrangements

RECORD OF FUNERAL

Total No. 19 Yearly No. 9 Date March 11, 1938

Name of Deceased Mrs. Elizabeth Goins (Cole) M.A.
(What Name) (Where Born)

Charge to Geo. Goins
Wife - Widow (What Name)

Address 238 N. Industrial

Order Given by Edgar Goins

How Secured

Date of Funeral March 14, 1938

Place of Residence 238 N. Industrial

Place of Death 238 N. Industrial

Funeral Services at St. James A.C. Church

Time of Funeral Service at 10:00 A.M.

Clergyman Rev. L. T. Green

His Address Windsor (Miss)

Certifying Physician H. D. Ashley

His Residence Spring Broadway

Cause of Death Carcinoma of the neck
(Primary) (Secondary)

Date of Death March 11, 1938

Occupation of the Deceased None

Single or Married Widow Religion P. M. E.

Date of Birth March 5, 1872

Age 66 Years 9 Months 6 Days

Name of Father John Brown

His Birthplace Mo.

Name of Mother Rosanda Williams
(Maiden Name)

Her Birthplace Mo.

Body to be Shipped to

Size and Style of Casket Steel Gray 63
Half Couch, Patented

Manufactured by Fager - St. Louis

Informant at Parment Cemetery

Casket	125.00
Metallic Lining	
Outside Box	3.00
Grave Vault	
Suit or Dress, \$	Hose, \$
Slippers, \$	
Embalming Body (with Fluid)	25.00
Dressing Body, \$	Shaving, \$
Hair Dressing	
Use of Folding Chairs	
" " Candelabrum, \$	Candles, \$
Door Hedge, \$	Gloves, \$
Hearse	
Auto Limousine to Cemetery	15.00
Autos to R. R. Station	0.00
Other Vehicle Service	
Aeroplane Service	
Death Notices in Newspapers	
Flowers, \$	4.00
Rental of Plants	
Outlay for Lot	
Opening Grave or Vault	5.00
Lining Grave with Evergreen or Muslin	2.00
Matting, \$	Tent Rental, \$
Use of Lowering Device	3.00
Rental of Vault	
Outlay for Shipping Charges	
Removal Charges	5.00
Incineration	
Personal Services	10.00
Singers	
Church Charges, \$	Minister, \$
Pall Bearer Service	
Telegrams and Telephone Charges	
Radio and Cable Charges	
<u>Funeral Home</u>	137.00
<u>2 1/2</u>	5.00
<u>50 1/2</u>	1.00
Total Footing of Bill	211.00
By Amount Paid in Advance	
Balance	
Entered into Ledger, page	of below

To Funeral Charges	Total \$	211.00	By Cash	March, 1938	211.00
			<i>Paid in full</i>		

Note cost of a funeral with a steel coffin in Cape Girardeau, Missouri in 1938 - \$211.00

Eliza's funeral services were conducted at St. James A.M.E. Church from which other family members were also buried. Edgar (Bud) Goines, her son, was in charge of her final arrangements.

We speak the name of Eliza Brown Goines; we honor her life.

Jesse Brown, born during the year 1875 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri he is the only son of John and Amanda Brown. We do not have a photograph of Jesse at this time and very little is known about his life other than what can be gleaned from the US Federal Census records. We know that he was of medium to light complexion as he is shown as mulatto each time he is listed. If he was of similar color as his sisters, Catharine, Josephine and Nona (discussed below), then it is reasonable to believe that he, too, was of lighter skin, indicative of his mixed racial heritage. In 1910 he was 34 years old, single, working as a laborer at odd jobs and living in the home of his father, John Brown and John's second wife, Sarah at 229 Fountain Street. Jesse Brown was a very common name in Cape, at that time, so it has been somewhat of a chore to clearly identify him. There were other men by the same name and born within a four to five year period near his age range, but we have now been able to identify him from his date of death. Born in 1875, which the 1880 Federal US Census indicates, he was approximately three years younger than his sister, Eliza, and three to four years older than his sister, Lulu. Jesse's death is recorded on the *Index of Burials at Old Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau as June 6, 1912*. He was 37 that year. He is buried in Lot #148. We know almost nothing of the years in between his birth and his death except that he lived in an intact family, labored long and hard due to the times, and preceded his father in death. We speak the name of Jesse Brown; we honor his life.

Beulah (Lulu) Brown, born 1879 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is the 5th child of John and Amanda Brown. At this time, we know very little of Lulu's life except that she is alleged to have married a John Hackey. No verification of this fact has been made at this time.

We speak the name of Beulah (Lulu) Brown; we honor her life.

Emily (Emma) Brown, was born August 19, 1881 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to John and Amanda Brown. We know little of her life until she married August Cardell on May 15, 1902 in Cape Girardeau. She was 20 years of age and he was 22 on the date of their marriage. On the 1910 Federal Census, Emma and August lived at 419 Middle Street with their three children: Leonard A., age 7, Jesse C., son, age 7, and Maria A., one year 2 months old. All family members are listed as mulatto. Her husband works as a porter at a saloon and they own their home. In 1920 according to the census, there are two more children added to the family unit: Myrtle G., age 3 and a one month old infant, August W. Cardell, Jr. On the 1930 census, Emma and August, now known as *Negro*, had four children still in the home: Jessie Cordell, age 23; Marie Cordell, age 21; Myrtle

Cordell, age 13; and William Cordell, age 10. August is employed as a porter at a shoe factory and they still own their own home on Middle Street. Note that the last name is spelled Cordell but all other records, including the death records spell the last name as Cardell. Because it is a telling item about a person's appearance, on the 1930 census August is listed as mulatto, but now Emma and all the children are shown as black. This would lead a researcher to suppose that August was very fair-skinned. Emma was age 63 when she died of cardiac mitral insufficiency on October 21, 1944 and was buried in Fairmount Cemetery on October 25th. August passed this life about three years later at the age of 67 on June 21, 1947 of gastric hemorrhage and was buried at Fairmount Cemetery on June 25th. Both were living in their residence at 419 N. Middle Street, Cape Girardeau, which they owned for more than four decades, at the time of their deaths. Emma's parents are shown as John and Mandy Brown. August's parents are not specified and listed as unknown. We speak names of Emily Brown Cardell and August Cardell; we honor their lives.

Nona Brown, born about 1886, the youngest child of John and Amanda Brown. .



Photograph of Nona Brown - Age about mid-20s

Again, because of the loss of the 1890 census, we do not find Nona in the Brown home and we do not find her in 1900. She does not appear until the 1910 census. At that time she is living in a boarding house at 2641 Pine Street in St. Louis, Missouri and is employed as a maid in a private home. Her age is listed as 24 and she is mulatto. She has had no children. Coincidentally, she lives in that boarding house with a first cousin, Zora Allen (daughter of John and Catharine Allen). Possibly both women moved to the big city in search of more and better opportunities. She is alleged to have married Ike Bullinger (Bollinger), probably in St. Louis. However, I do not find a license or certificate for such marriage at this time. There is a marriage record for a Nona Brown issued in Schuyler County, Missouri, recorded on page 334, with Mr. Robert Forbes on November 9, 1912 at which time her age, as is his, is listed as 26. But this is **not** our Nona. After checking the 1900, 1920 and 1930 census records, that Nona Brown Forbes is white, as is Mr. Forbes and members of that household.

Nona would be described as a beautiful woman with thick, lustrous, long black hair and though very fair, I doubt that she would be mistaken for white? I am blessed to have a photograph of her.

We speak the name of Nona Brown; we honor her life.

Chapter 8



John (Johnny) and Catherine Brown Allen

John Allen, born in 1860 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, most probably as a slave, is the son of Charles and Elizabeth Allen and the brother of Rachel, James, Charles, Jr. and Granville Allen. On the *US Federal Census of 1870*, John is 10 years old and lives with his family consisting of:

1870 United States Federal Census about John Allen

Name:	John Allen	
Birth Year:	abt 1860	
Age in 1870:	10	
Birthplace:	Missouri	
Home in 1870:	Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau, Missouri	
Race:	Black	
Gender:	Male	
Value of real estate:	View image	
Household Members:		
	Name	Age
	Charles Allen	53
	Elisebeth Allen	34
	Rachael Allen	16
	James Allen	13
	John Allen	10
	Charles Allen	8
	Granville Allen	2
	Ella Rodney	14
	William Rodney	12
	Duffy Rodney	8

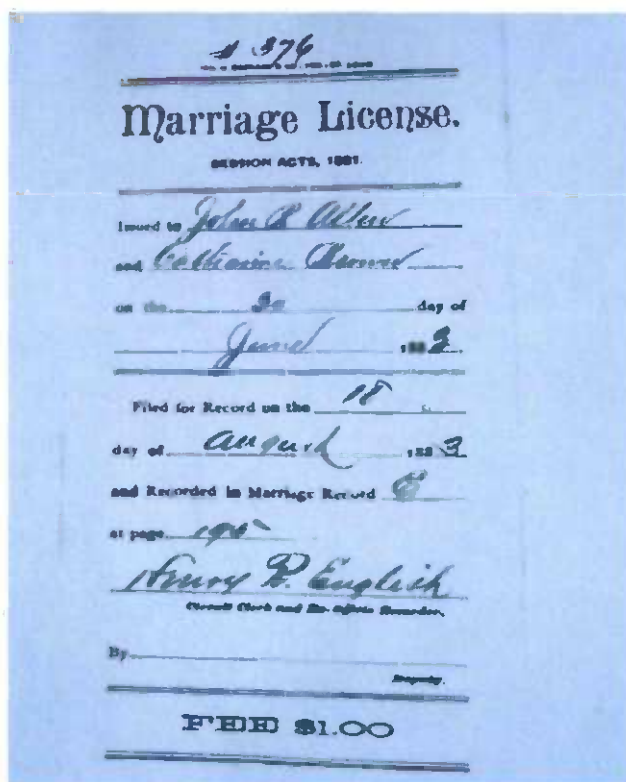
The 1870 census does not speak to each person's relationship to the head of the household. We can assume that the members of the household with the last name of Rodney are relatives of Elisabeth Allen, as that is her maiden name and are possibly a niece and two nephews. I note that this census taker did not indicate when children were "at school" as other's did in subsequent years. The children are listed as "at home" but

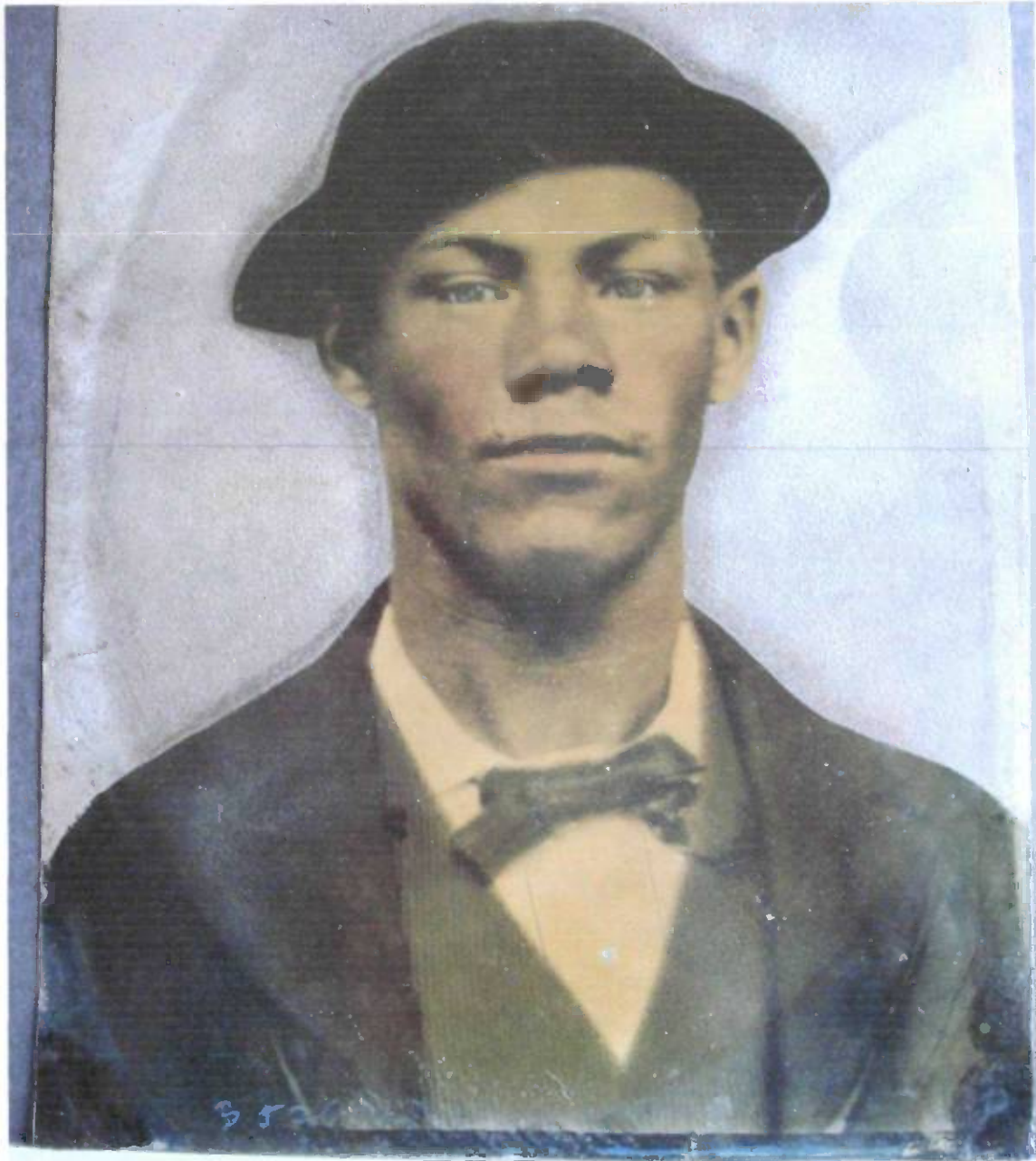
looking at the far column we see that John had attended school within the year. His older sister, Rachael also attended school within the year and could read and write. James was at school and could write. There is no indication if Charles, Jr. at age 8 had the beginnings of any formal education. Ella and William Rodney were in school that year and interestingly, at age 14, Ella was already working as a seamstress.

On the 1880 census, John now age 20, still resides at home and works on a farm with, we presume, his father Charles. William Rodney and Charles Allen are employed as barbers. There are two additional children now in the family: Dewitt Allen, age 8 and Mary G. Allen, age 2. I note here that on both the 1870 and 1880 censuses, Charles Allen, Sr. is listed as black and all other members of the family are listed as mulatto.

On June 30, 1883, at the age of about 23, in Cape Girardeau, John married my great-grandmother, Catherine Brown, age 17, eldest daughter of John and Amanda Williams Brown. In a previous chapter we discussed Catherine's parents and her siblings. (See photo of Catherine, Chapter 7, Page 43.) Catherine, born after the end of the Civil War was born free, however, to a racially charged, unsettled society.

It is worthwhile to detail the officially documented record of their lives, but there is no one to tell us what they wore, or how nervous yet joyous this young couple might have been on that wedding day. We have an understanding of what the limited and restricted social climate was like in Cape Girardeau at the time, but in the microcosm of their limited world, I ache to know what the beginning of their lives together was like.





PHOTOGRAPH OF JOHN (JOHNNY) ALLEN AT ABOUT AGE 20

Note: This is a tintype picture of John. These are somewhat rare for Blacks of that day and I am privileged to have this in my possession. This tintype was left to me by my Aunt Nellie Allen Stanton, John's daughter.

Also note: John is quite a handsome man and has piercing blue-grey eyes.

See page 43 for individual photograph of Catherine.

To the marriage of John and Catherine were born four children:

Lawrence Allen	born about 1882-83
Nellie Allen	born about January 1885
Zora Allen	born January 17, 1886
Helen Allen	born September 18, 1890



**PHOTOGRAPH OF THE JOHN AND CATHERINE ALLEN FAMILY
ABOUT 1891**

**Left to right: Zora, mother Catherine, standing, father John, holding Helen,
Lawrence and Nellie. Nellie is my grand-aunt who left me these photographs.**

Since the children were born in the 1880-1892 period, we cannot find them in the nuclear family unit on census forms due to the devastating fire in Washington, DC which destroyed most of the Federal Census records of 1890. Thank God, and Aunt Nellie, for this family photo which allows us to see the family group, because by the next 10-year census in 1900, Catherine was dead and so was John.

For more than ten years, I have tried to determine when these great-grandparents died. I knew from family conversations and supporting census data that the four children had been parceled out among family and friends.

On the *1900 Federal US Census, Cape Girardeau County, Cape Girardeau Township, Sheet No. 23*, we find Helen, age 9, in the home of her aunt, Josephine and husband, David Piercefield. Helen is listed as their adopted-daughter born September 1890. She has attended school for nine months during that year. Dates of Helen's birth are often shown off by one year. In fact, the *Cape Girardeau County Birth Notice Book* lists Helen R. Allen as the 4th child born to John and Catherine on September 18, 1891

Coincidentally, we find Zora, age 14, living right next door to her aunt Josephine's, with another related family – the Goines. She is listed as a niece. Eliza Brown, the sister of Catherine and Josephine, married George Goines, so Zora is living with her maternal aunt's family. Again the *Cape Girardeau County Birth Notice Book* lists Zora Lee Allen as the 3rd child born to John and Catherine on January 17, 1886.

Lawrence, now listed in 1900 as age 18, lives independently and is employed as a servant in the hotel/boarding house owned by the widow Connie Smith. His job is pot washer, and he is literate- able to read and write. Interestingly, he works in an establishment with boarders who possess a wide variety of occupational skills: a capitalist, railroad clerk, teacher, drummer, bartender, minister, postal clerk, poultryman, traveling salesman, railroad auditor, marble dealer and photographer.

At one time, I thought I'd found Aunt Nellie on the 1900 census. She would have been about 15 years of age at that time. I thought she'd be in the home of the Abernathys, Brassfields, possibly Rodneys, but I can't find her on the census in this year. What my mother told me was that as a young girl, Aunt Nellie went to work as a servant for the Matthews family either in Cape Girardeau or St. Louis. There was somehow a tie between that family and the Browns or Allens. (We now know that Grandma Celie was at one time a slave for a member of the Matthews family.) We will learn more about this remarkable little woman, Nellie Allen Stanton, in a subsequent section, Chapter 11.

We return to the now deceased parents, John and Catherine. Within the past week upon reviewing the newly received CD disc provided to us by *Mr. Terrell Weaver, Cemetery Sextant for the Cape Girardeau City Cemeteries*, I finally found the final resting place of John Allen. He is buried in Old Lorimier Cemetery along with his parents, Charles and Elisabeth (Rodney) Allen and his brother, Granville Allen. John died October of 1894.

He would have been 34-35 years of age. I hope to discover soon the cause of his untimely and early passing. But we can now say: **John Allen, 1860 to 1894.**

One thing a family genealogist learns early is to read lists; to carefully search every line on a potential document. That is what it took after 10 years to finally determine when Catherine Brown Allen completed her journey on this earth. Buried in Old Lorimier Cemetery is Catherine Allen Abernathy, date of birth 1866 – date of death February 23, 1900. Next to her name is a notation: “black, northside, catholic.” But even more interesting is the next line on the cemetery index. John N. Abernathy, born September 1835, died October 1899, and next to his name is the notation: “spouse of Catherine.” There it is! Her burial record and proof that she had remarried sometime after John’s death in 1894. She died only 6 years later still carrying his last name as proof of one part of her life, but using the last name of her husband at the time of her death. Catherine was only 34 years old when she passed. We want to remember that the Browns and Allens were close friends, and in some ways, possibly through marriage, kin to the Abernathys so it is certainly reasonable that Catherine would have known an eligible and interested Abernathy male. Keep in mind that marriage was one of only a few options for a woman, white or black, back during that time. Jobs for women were scarce and limited in scope for any woman, but particularly for a black woman. On the census documents you see them, if employed, as washerwoman/laundress, maid, and servant – jobs scarcely paying enough for a woman to survive on especially if she had children. Many women entered into less than pleasant marriages simply to find a way to survive. Catherine, an admittedly beautiful woman, was widowed at about age 28. I suspect that she had more than one eligible suitor who would marry her and support her 3 youngest children. Did she marry Mr. Abernathy for love or convenience? We will never know.

After discovering her place of burial and her re-marriage, I spoke to Mr. Ron Beasley via phone, who went to the Cape County Archives and, in fact, found the application for marriage and the license for Catherine and Mr. Abernathy. In carefully reviewing the marriage documents this morning, I was shocked to see that John N. Abernathy, who married Catherine on October 8, 1899, died that same month!!!!

The Application for License to Marry, Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Oct. 5, 1899

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO MARRY.

STATE OF MISSOURI,
County of Cape Girardeau.

AFFIDAVIT OF MALE.

I, John Abernathy of Cape Girardeau and
State of Missouri desiring to procure a license to marry Catherine Allen
of Cape Girardeau and State of Missouri, do solemnly swear that I am of the age of
42 years, and that the said Catherine Allen is of the age of 34 years,
and that we are both single and unmarried, and may lawfully contract and be joined in marriage, and are of no blood relation.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5 day of October 1899.

William H. Dillen
J.P.

AFFIDAVIT OF FEMALE.

STATE OF MISSOURI,
County of Cape Girardeau.

I, Catherine Allen, do hereby solemnly swear
that I am the person named in the above application for a marriage license, and that I am of the age of 34 years, and that I am
single and unmarried, and may lawfully contract and be joined in marriage.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5 day of October 1899.

Catherine Allen
William H. Dillen
J.P.

CONSENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO MARRIAGE OF MINOR.

STATE OF MISSOURI,
County of Cape Girardeau.

I, _____ do hereby solemnly swear that I am
the _____ of _____, the person named in the foregoing application
for marriage license, and do hereby give my consent to _____ marriage.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 1899.

IT OF FEMALE.

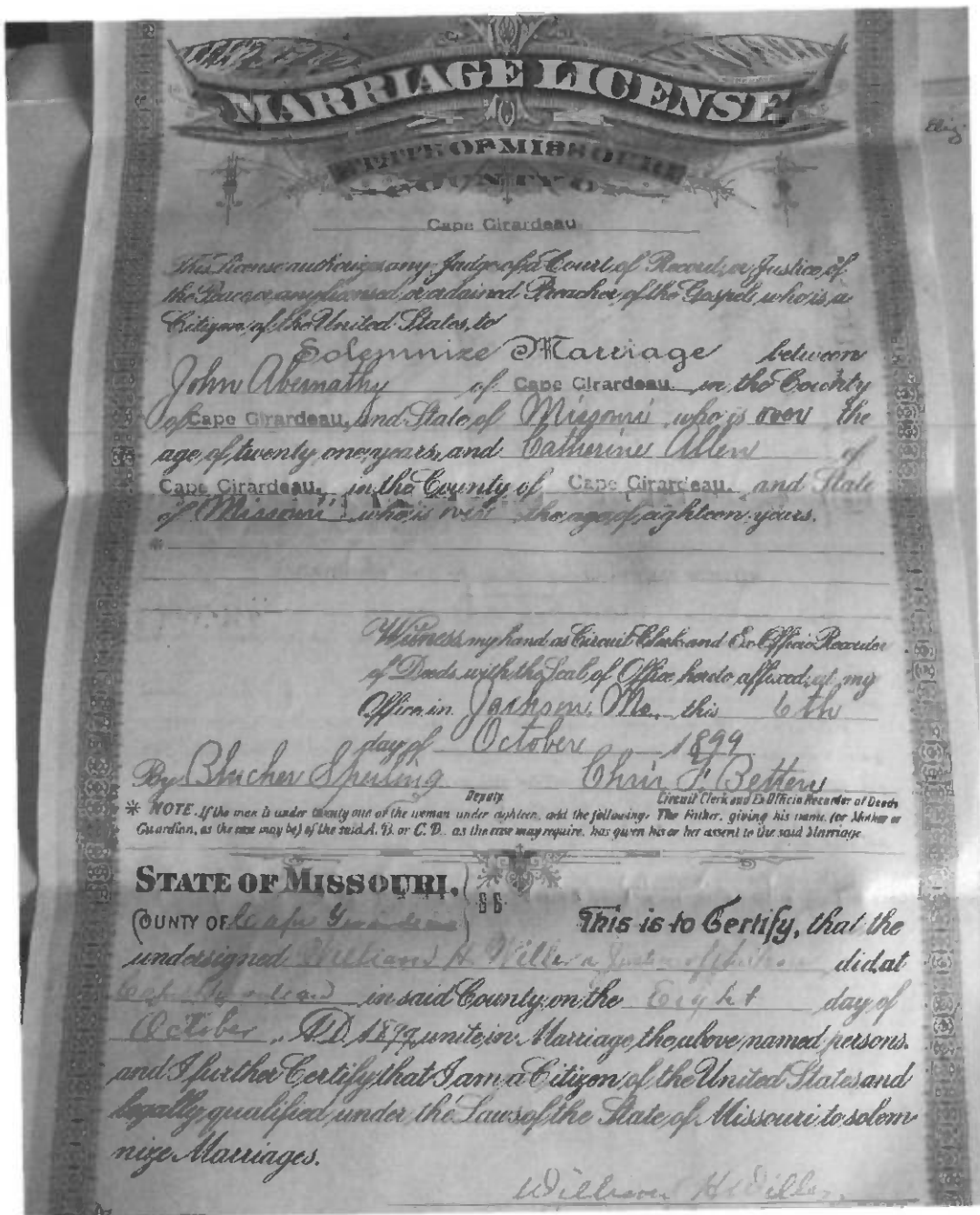
Catherine Allen....., do hereby solemnly swear
I license, and that I am of the age of... *34*...years, and that I am
marriage.

Catherine Allen
October 1899
William H. Dille

ADDITION TO MARRIAGE OF FEMALE

This signature by Catherine has great value to me. For the first time, I am able to actually see her written signature and penmanship. On so many documents, her name was spelled "Catharine" with an 'a' – but she spells it with an 'e'. Note that she began to write her maiden name of Brown on the application, but someone, probably the court clerk, advised her to use her legal widowed name which was Allen.

MARRIAGE LICENSE – CATHERINE ALLEN TO JOHN N. ABERNATHY



Justice of the Peace William H. Willer united Catherine Allen and John N. Abernathy in marriage on October 8, 1899.

We speak the names of John R. Allen, Catherine Brown Allen Abernathy, and John N. Abernathy. We honor their lives.

Chapter 9



MEMORIES OF AUNT PHENE

Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice Davis

October 15, 1870 -January 2, 1956

A Life-long Cape Girardeau Citizen of Color

By

Celeste Beatrice Stanton

Austin, Texas

April, 2011

Now in my late 60's, I often think back over my life and dwell on the special, unusual or happy times, and there were many. Recently, while working on a genealogical project on another family member I began recalling my summers spent in Cape Girardeau at Aunt Phene's house. Though she was generally known as Ms. Rice, the family called her "Aunt Phene."

Josephine, born October 15, 1870, is the 2nd oldest daughter of John and Amanda Williams Brown.

My grand-aunt, Nellie Allen Stanton, took me to Cape at least three times during summer breaks from school, the last time when I was ten. It was such a different place from St. Louis where I was born. A small town with whites and blacks living on the same street, Aunt Phene's house was located in the 300 block of South Fountain – (census records list 323 as the exact address.) We could walk "to town" meaning to the downtown shopping area from there and I recall that it was only a few blocks from the Mississippi River. The most unusual element about that location is that the houses on both sides of that street sat on the edge of a very deep train gully through which a black, noisy locomotive traveled several times a week belching out thick, black, choking, sooty smoke. When Aunt Phene heard the train whistle blow in the near distance, she'd shoosh me into the house and everyone would hurriedly slam down the open windows and shut all of the doors to prevent the acrid, black soot billowing out of the train's stack from permeating the insides of the home. Once the train passed and the soot settled, the doors and windows would be re-opened and Aunt Phene would see to it that the soot was wiped from items on the porch, and the porch and steps were swept clean. When I visited Cape Girardeau in the Fall of 1991 I could not find the train gully which ran in front of Fountain Street. Looking at the city on a Google map today, it is not there. It is hard to believe that something so deep could be filled in, but it is certain that it has been.

Situated just a couple of yards from the precipice of the gully, Aunt Phene's house was a small, white, one story farm-type house with a screened-in porch and a shallow, but well

kept front yard enclosed in a white picket fence. The room into which one entered the house served as both the “front room” or living room, and Aunt Phene’s bedroom. To the left of that was a second bedroom and behind that a deep long pantry which opened into the kitchen. The kitchen was narrow but accommodated this wonderful big, black cast-iron, wood-burning stove from which Aunt Phene daily produced the lightest, biggest, most delicious home-made biscuits I’ve ever eaten. To the right of the kitchen was a small room which later became an inside bathroom. And on the back of the house was a small screened-in area with a door leading to the long, narrow back yard where stood a weathered smoke house, the out-house, of which this city girl was deathly afraid, and a lush vegetable garden.

The clearest memories: Priming the green hand pump at the kitchen sink to get the water to pour from the troth-like spout – so much fun for this city girl;

Watching Aunt Phene stick that curved iron instrument into the hole, lift the plate atop the stove and shove pieces of wood down into the black cast-iron stove in order to cook our meals;

Eating the main meal of the day at 11:00 in the morning. Lunch, or as it was called then, dinner, was an early meal often of fresh picked string beans, tomatoes, and watermelon from her garden – fresh ham from the smoke house, and soft yellow corn bread. Aunt Phene would go out into the smoke house and bring in a ham that had hung from the ceiling after she knocked the “skippers” off of it. Skippers, as I realized to my horror, were some sort of worms!! Fresh ham tastes very different from the store-bought, honey smoked ham we are accustomed to today. Supper was the smaller meal of the day enhanced by the biscuits left from breakfast and was always followed by some sort of cobbler. I liked the fresh peach cobbler best.

Another memory was cleaning the kerosene lanterns with newspaper. Without indoor electricity at the time, lighting after dark was by the glow of kerosene lanterns. I remember Aunt Nellie calling them “coal oil lamps.” Whatever the fuel, it left the glass chimneys of the lanterns sooty, so every few days we cleaned the insides of the glass. It seems that newspaper did the best job and it was disposable. Walking around the house at night with a lantern for light was spooky and when it was the only light in an outhouse that could conceivably be populated with black widow spiders and the errant copperhead snake, the dim, golden light was no consolation. I envisioned “things” waiting down in that smelly hole to bite me in my most vulnerable position as I sat on the wooden board with the hole in it. I remember my fear as I reached down for the roll of toilet tissue. Whenever I could, I remember holding myself until the light of dawn illuminated the back yard before I went to relieve myself. Baths were taken in a large, corrugated #2-tin tub filled with buckets of hot water heated on the big cast iron stove. I was always so glad to get back to St. Louis with our brightly lighted, second floor bathroom, contoured toilet seat and deep porcelain bathtub.



Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice Davis
At about age 30 – 1910?

Aunt Phene was a tall, buxsome, handsome, light-brown skinned (mulatto) woman of imposing stature as you can tell from her photograph. Unlike Aunt Nellie, her niece who was only 4 feet 10 inches tall, Aunt Phene was almost six feet in height. I sense that she was a pretty young woman and seemed to have some Native-American looking features but there is no evidence of a Native-American ancestor in the family. She was kind to me but from a child's point of view she appeared somewhat stern. I think it was her size, and the quiet dignity with which she carried herself; maybe it was just the mistaken impression of a precocious, talkative little city girl. A peculiarity that I will always

remember is her fastidiousness of dress. No matter what she donned for the day, she insisted on being laced into her corset! I remember pulling on those strong cords to tighten the cotton garment with the vertical boning until she admitted that it was tight enough, then she'd wrap the cord around to the front and tie it neatly at her waist. Then, as now, it seemed an archaic way to dress, but it was a reflection of her pride. It helped to make her straight and tall with a discernable waistline. Though I have no recollection of attending church with her, I know she was a Christian woman.

I don't know how far she went in school, however, the 1880 census shows her, at age 10, in school. Interestingly, her older sister, Catherine, (my maternal great-grandmother), age 15 at that time, was no longer in school so it is possible that formal schooling ended in the family during or after an elementary school education.

What I have learned since is that she was married three times and was a homemaker all of her adult life. There is no record of her having employment outside of the home. At age 19 she married David Piercefield in May 1887 with the written permission of her parents John and Amanda Brown.

(Marriage license-Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002).

#1112

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, DES MOINES, IOWA

Marriage License.

ISSUED TO *David Piercefield*
and *Josephine Brown*
on the *17th*
day of *May* 1887

Filed for Record on the *26*
day of *May* 1887
at *—* o'clock *—* minutes *N.* and
recorded in Marriage Record *8.*
at Page *74*

Henry P. English
Circuit Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder

City *—* Deputy *—*

Fee, \$2.00.

*Permission to Marry Document – Missouri Marriage Records-1805-2002
John Brown and Amanda Brown for their daughter Josephine Brown, age 19.*

*John Brown
Amanda Brown
Josephine Brown age 19 years.*

*We the undersigned John Brown
Amanda Brown parents of Josephine
Brown do hereby consent that a
License may come authorizing the
marriage between our said daughter
and David Piercfield.*

*Given under our hands & seal this
16th day of May 1887.*

Witnesses:

<i>James Coates.</i>	<i>John Brown is willing</i>
<i>Henry Cochran.</i>	<i>Amanda Brown is willing</i>

It was during that thirty year marriage that the couple acquired the residence at 323 South Fountain and produced two children – Myrtle and Duard. According to his death certificate, David died of tuberculosis on March 31, 1917. He was 61 at the time of his death and had earned his living as a dairyman. Josephine later married John Rice in Cape Girardeau on June 9, 1919 (*Marriage License - Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002*) but was widowed for the second time on February 3, 1930 when John, a chef by profession, died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

870

Marriage License

ISSUED TO

John Rice

AND

Josephine Piercefield

on the 9 day of June 1919

FILED FOR RECORD

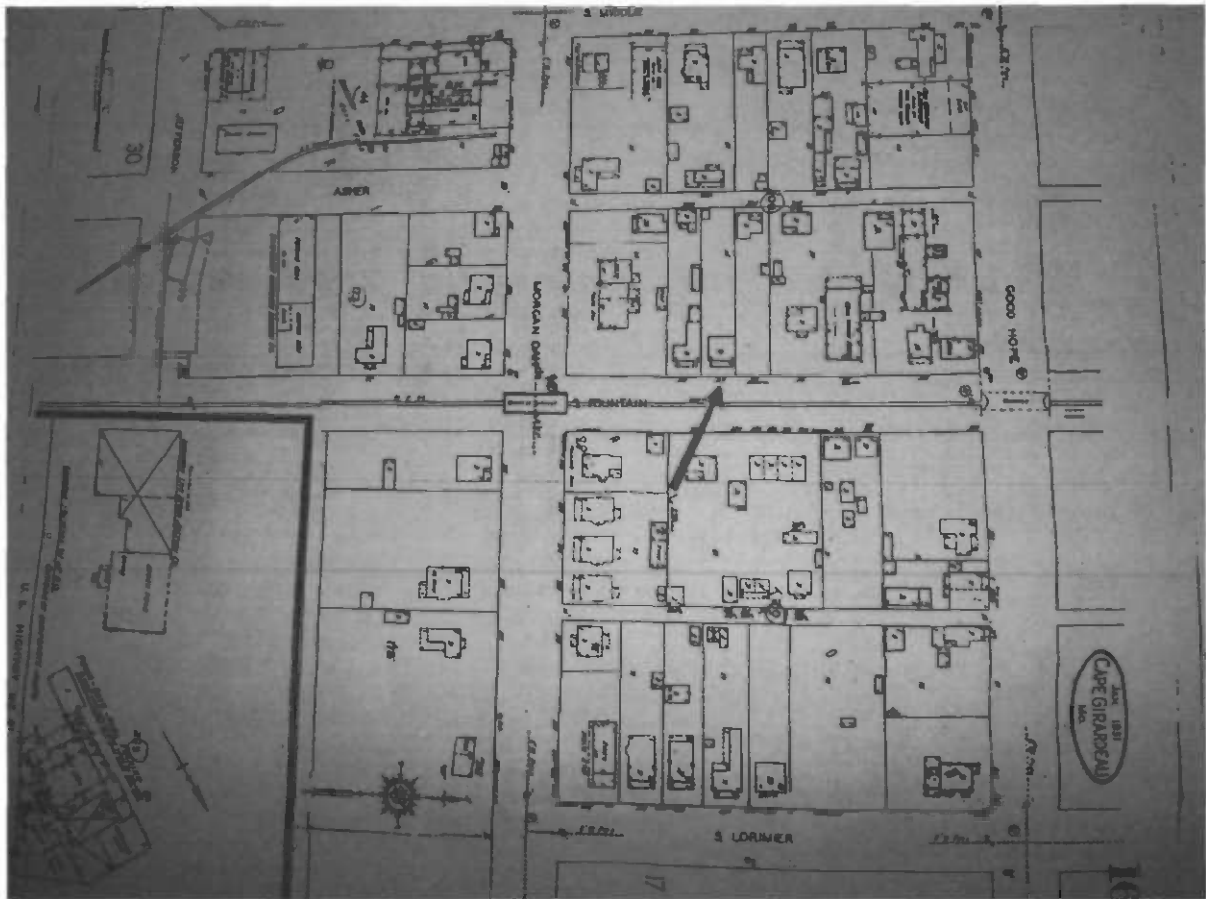
on the 11th day of June 1919

RECORDED

in Marriage Record No at page 461

J. P. H. ...
Recorder of Deeds.

Continuing to live in her house on South Fountain (US Federal Census Records 1920), Josephine married Samuel Davis on October 16, 1935, (Ibid, Mo. Rec).



Plat from Cape Girardeau County Recorder's Office for January 1931. The arrow points to Aunt Phene's small house with the front porch at 323 South Fountain. Her block was bordered by Morgan Oak on the west and Good Hope Street on the east. Also note the train tunnel crossing Good Hope Street through which the train ran as it passed in front of South Fountain Street. The train tracks (down in what I recall as the "gully") are apparent as they traverse east to west. Though hard to read, the "box" crossing Morgan Oak and the train track was, as I remember, a broad concrete bridge.

I did not actually realize her biological connection to my Aunt Nellie until I became interested in genealogy. Aunt Phene was, in fact, my grand-aunt Nellie Allen Stanton's biological aunt. The daughter of John and Amanda Brown, Josephine was their second oldest daughter. Catharine, the eldest daughter, was Aunt Nellie's mother. So, Aunt Phene really was her aunt. And Aunt Nellie was the elder sister of my grandmother, Helen Allen Stanton.

Apparently, Aunt Phene went to Chicago to spend the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays with her son and other family members. On, or just after Christmas day, she suffered a stroke (non-traumatic cerebral hemorrhage) and was placed at Peyton Convalescent Home in that city where she remained for one week until her death. As with many of our family members, her body was brought back to Cape Girardeau where she was born and the place she loved for all the years of her life. Her death notice on January 4, 1956 in the SouthEast Missourian Newspaper reads:

Mrs. Josephine Rice

Mrs. Josephine Rice, 84 years of age, a life long resident of Cape died Monday at the home of a son, Duard Piercefield at Chicago. Infirmities of age was given as the cause of death.

She had been at Chicago about a month. The body was to arrive today at the Sparks Funeral Home. Funeral arrangements have not been made. Mrs. Rice leaves a daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Daniels of Madison Wis. And two grandchildren. She was born in Cape and resided on South Fountain street.

The last notice of her home-going reads:

Funeral for Mrs. Rice

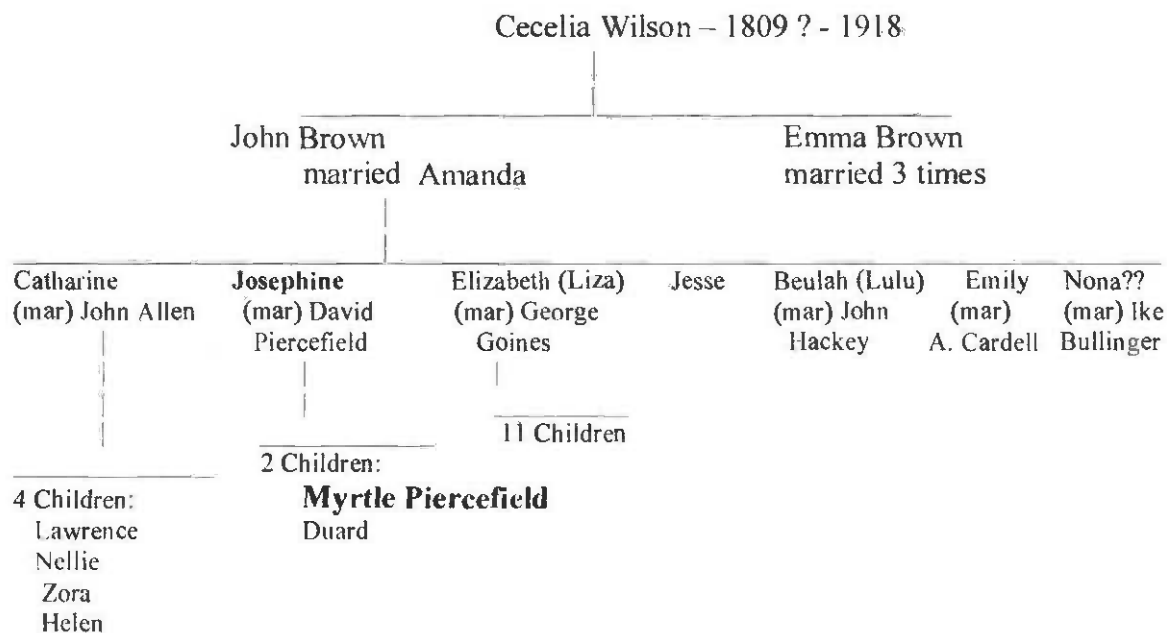
Funeral services for Mrs. Josephine Rice, 84 years old and a life long resident of Cape who died Monday in Chicago, Ill. will be held Saturday at 2 o'clock at St. James A.M.E. Church. The pastor, Rev. D.O. Meadows, will be in charge, and the body will remain at Sparks Funeral Home until time for the services.



Aunt Phene is buried in Fairmount Cemetery. Lot #383, grave #3.

We speak the name of Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice Davis; we honor her life.

A PORTION OF THE FAMILY TREE SO WE CAN KNOW WHERE WE ARE



Cousin Myrtle, Josephine's Daughter

One summer before I graduated from elementary school, Aunt Nellie took me to Chicago, Illinois to visit Cousin Myrtle Piercefield Frazier, Aunt Phene's only daughter. Somehow the number 9686 Michigan Avenue sticks in my head. Cousin Myrtle was a slim, dignified lady of extremely light skin color. In fact, in certain settings, it is possible that she would not be identified as an African-American. She lived in a tiny, single story red brick house with a full basement. I remember that basement because it was there that she kept an old-fashioned gramophone. I was fascinated with the big horn-type apparatus which looked like a giant brass flower from which came the sound of the scratchy recording. And the heavy needle with a complicated looking attachment had to be set down onto the record lightly and just right so as not to scratch the vinyl. I do not remember Cousin Myrtle's husband though I believe he was there.

Aunt Phene's daughter, Myrtle, married Edgar Frazier. Later she married a Mr. Daniels. Like many of our family members, she was brought back to Cape Girardeau to rest for the final time. Myrtle Piercefield Frazier Daniels, born, June 4, 1895 died November 17, 1960.



MYRTLE I. PIERCEFIELD FRAZIER DANIELS
Born June 4, 1895 – Died November 17, 1960
Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

We speak the name of Myrtle Piercefield Frazier Daniels; we honor her life.

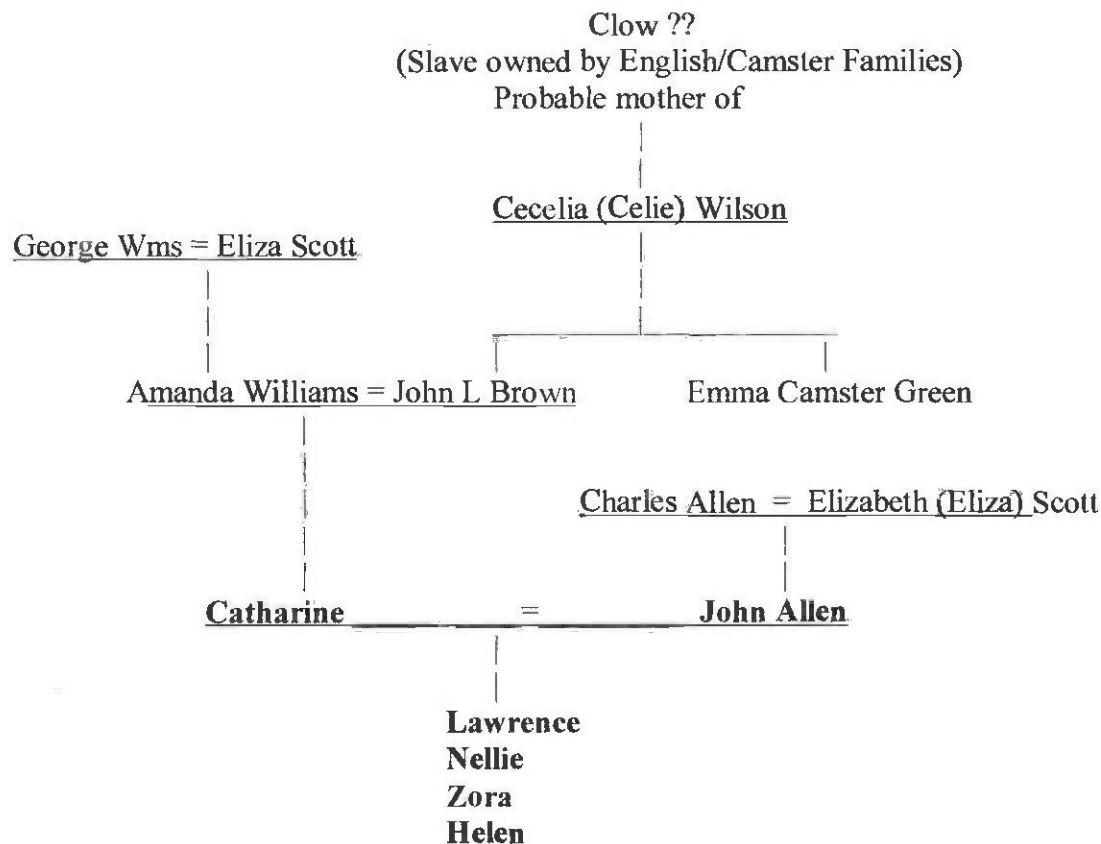
Aunt Phene and her first husband David Piercefield , had one son – Duard, Myrtle’s brother. And Myrtle had one son, Rupert Frazier, about whom we will learn more later. (See Chapter entitled “Cousins By The Dozens.”)

Chapter 10



THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND CATHERINE BROWN ALLEN

Because we are being introduced to so many new family members in succeeding generations, it is wise to keep a family flow-chart available for clarity.



On page 54 we saw a photograph of John and Catherine's family unit; an obviously proud couple surrounded by their beautiful children. But in that photo, I see sadness, and struggle against abject poverty. I wonder if that was Catherine's only, or *good, go-to-meetin'dress*. Maybe that had been her wedding dress. It is a strikingly lovely gown, maybe of dark brown, blue or black. In those days people of modest means did not have a great variety of clothes. John is wearing a suit jacket, but we cannot tell if that is a full suit or a jacket worn with his only good pair of pants. But it is his shoes that tell a story

of struggle – worn and run over. I am certain that the children are dressed in their finest but I look at Aunt Nellie’s obviously handmade garment, possibly of cotton but maybe of a finer fabric. It brings to mind a dress salvaged from a woman’s old dress, embellished on the shoulders and the sleeves with a dark lace, uncharacteristic of a child’s wear. The collar is made of some sort of floral ring to render it more feminine, but one sees the use of whatever was available to construct a wearable garment for this poor growing child. I want to think that it was the best that she had and she thought of herself beautiful in it.

Zora and Helen are dressed in lovely white dresses, possibly given to them by their aunts whose daughters had outgrown them. It was a common practice for clothes to be handed down to relatives, especially christening gowns. And it may be the same with the boy, Lawrence’s dapper jacket and big bow tie. The Browns and Allens were a large and growing family, all living within blocks of one another.

Little did anyone know, or even suspect, that within 2-3 years of this photograph, this family unit would be destroyed by death. John died in 1894, Catherine in 1900, and the children were placed among relatives there in Cape Girardeau.

LAWRENCE ALLEN

(This entry Excerpted from: Volume 30 Number 4 Collage of Cape County -59- March 2011 Issue)

Article Submitted to *Collage of Cape County* for publication- June 2011

FAIRMONT CEMETERY PAUPERS’ BURIALS–Part IV

Submitted by Terrell Weaver

SB = stillborn baby

DECEASED DATE OF BIRTH DATE OF DEATH AREA COL/ GRAVE COLOR

HAWN, Crystal L. 1912 Feb 24, 1917 B

NICKLE, Tiney 1904 Mar 20, 1917 W

ALLEN, Lawrence Mar 26, 1917 ?

SEABAUGH, male Apr 8, 1917 Apr 8, 1917 W

SMITH, Albert 1871 May 4, 1917 W

I have systematically tried to research my Cape Girardeau ancestors from the oldest to the most current generation, pulling together a chronology of who “begat” whom, who married whom and what their lives might have been like. But I have an opportunity here to skip some generations and clarify who is the **Lawrence Allen** found in the listing of *Paupers’ Burials – Part IV of the Collage of Cape County* and establish his ethnicity.

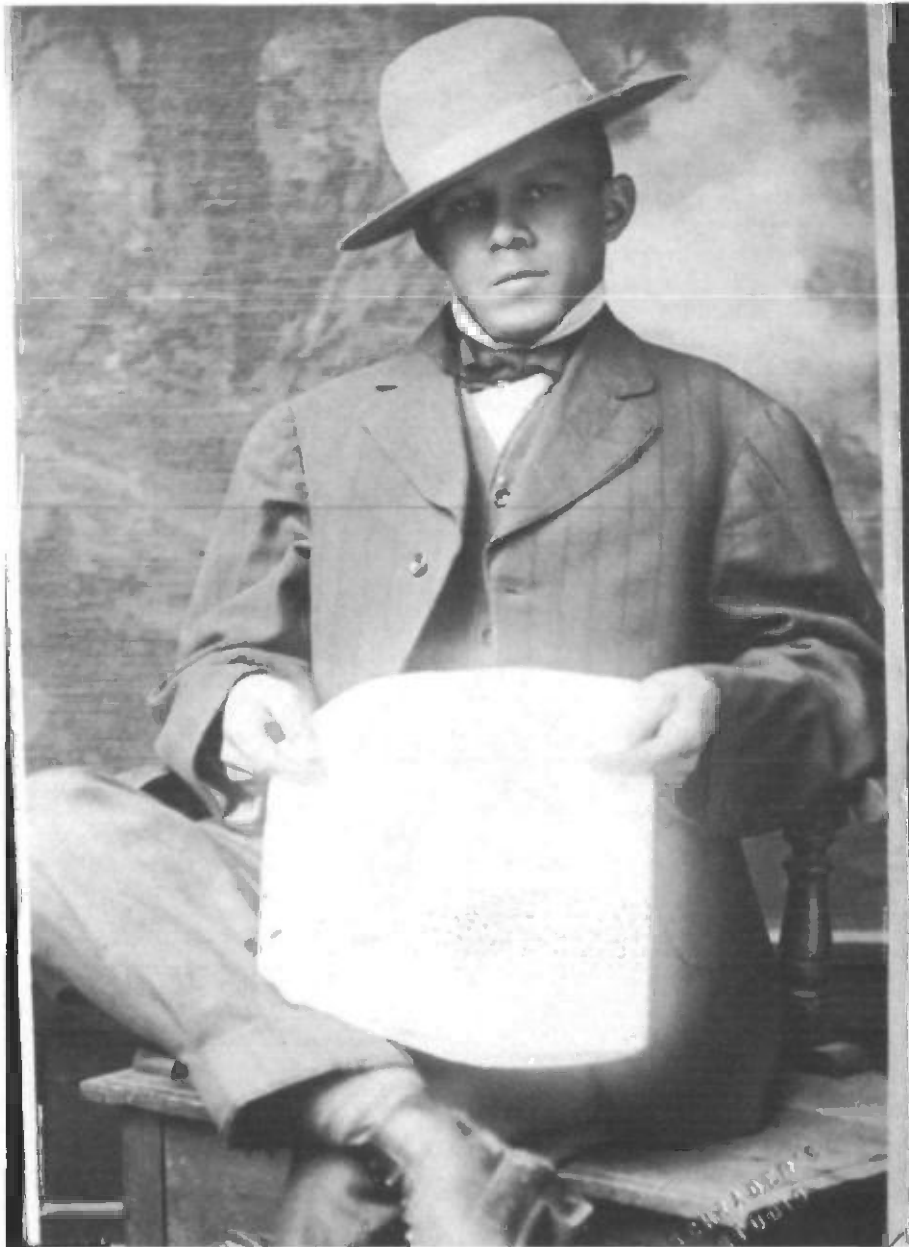
Lawrence Allen is the older and only brother of my grandmother, Helen Allen Stanton Forcen. He is one of four children born to John and Catharine (Brown) Allen of Cape Girardeau. The other siblings are: Nellie Allen (Stanton), and Zora Allen. I am blessed to have a photograph, left to me by Aunt Nellie, of the entire family unit. It is one of my prized possessions. Because of their mixed-race heritage on both sides of their

individual families, John and Catharine and all of their children were very fair-skinned, and at least two of the children could have passed for white, had they chosen to do so. That may be why Lawrence's race was listed with a question mark on the cemetery records but it is reflected correctly on his official death certificate.

Official Death Certificate of Lawrence Allen

INK. WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A 1. ...
 CAUSE OF DEATH should be carefully completed. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. ...
 OCCUPATION to every individual.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
1 PLACE OF DEATH County _____ Township _____ Village _____ City <u>St Louis</u>		MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
2 FULL NAME <u>Lawrence Allen</u>		Registration District No. <u>701</u>	File No. <u>12002</u>
3 SEX <u>Male</u>		Primary Registration District No. <u>1008</u>	Registered No. <u>3556</u>
4 COLOR OR HAIR <u>Black</u>		16 DATE OF DEATH <u>March 26 1917</u>	
5 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Not known 1897</u>		17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from <u>Jan 25 1917</u> to <u>March 26 1917</u>	
6 AGE <u>35</u>		18 that I had seen <u>alive</u> on <u>March 23 1917</u>	
7 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Cook</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____		19 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>28</u>	
8 BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country) <u>Mo</u>		The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Pneumonia Pulmonalis</u> <u>23A</u> <u>28</u>	
9 PARENTS 10 NAME OF FATHER <u>John Allen</u> 11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Mo</u> 12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Catharine Brown</u> 13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Mo</u>		20 CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) _____ (Duration) _____ (Site) <u>St Louis</u> (Address) <u>2845 Market</u>	
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>H. C. Stanton</u> (Address) <u>2634 Market St</u>		21 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents) At place of death _____ In the State _____ 22 Where was disease contracted (if not at place of death)? _____ Former or usual residence _____	
15 <u>Mar 28 1917</u>		18 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Cap. Girardin</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>3-29 1917</u> 19 UNDERTAKER <u>W. H. Huppert</u> ADDRESS <u>3114 Pacific</u>	



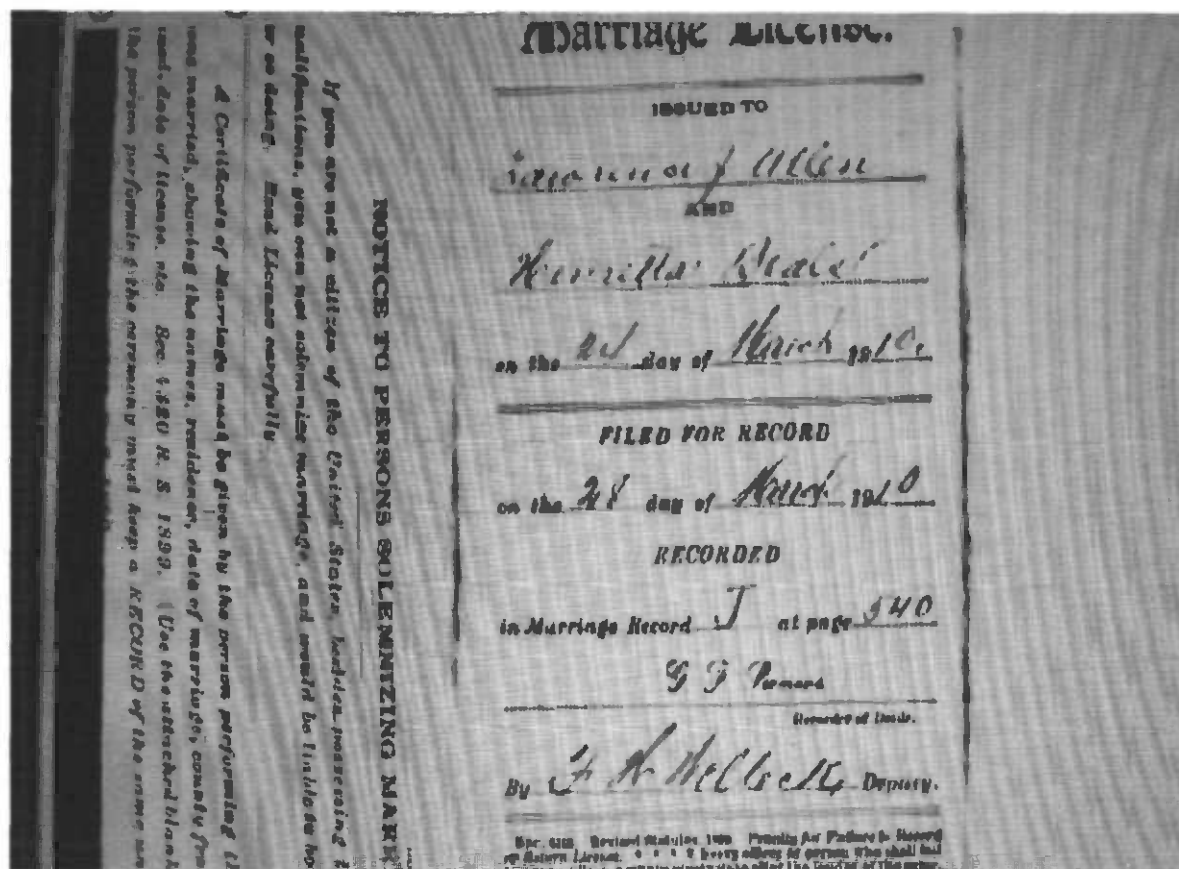
October 1881 (83?) - March 1917

Photograph of Lawrence Allen taken June 1915 in St. Louis, Missouri

This photo of Lawrence was taken at Schrader's Studio in St. Louis, Missouri in June of, 1915 according to the handwritten delivery note on the back, and it was purchased by Lawrence's sister, Nellie Stanton, who at the time was living at 2634 Market Place, in St. Louis. The oral family history is that the document Lawrence holds is his discharge paper from military service. However, at this writing, I am unable to verify that he served in any military organization. Whatever it is, he is certainly proud of it.

Lawrence was born about October between 1881-83 according to census records, which means that he was born after the 1880 federal census. We would have seen him in the family home if the 1890 census was still available. In 1900 he was listed as age 18, single, a servant and pot washer in the home of Ms. Connie Smith, a boarding house/hotel owner in Cape Girardeau whose patrons were all white males. All black/mulattos as shown, are servants with various occupations necessary to the operation of a boarding house or hotel establishment.

In April of 1904, attesting to the fact that he was of the age of 21, he married Mattie Hill from Farmington, St. Francois County, Missouri. (Though the marriage license can be read with difficulty, it is too faint to print out.) On March 25 of 1910 he married a second time to a Miss Henrietta Beals and they lived with her mother, Luella Beals. This is Henrietta's first marriage. He, at 27 and Henrietta at 25, have no children of this recent marriage according to the census data. Lawrence is employed as a wagon driver for an ice company. These facts show how careful the family researcher must strive to be when operating from word-of-mouth information, and how interesting an ancestor's life might really have been. Cousin Ray Goines, a great source of otherwise accurate family information, told me back in the 1970s that Lawrence never married! As a fact, from documented Missouri marriage records, Lawrence said "I do" twice!



At the time of Lawrence's death, he was working as a cook in St. Louis and living with his sister, Nellie and her husband, Hezekiah Stanton at the 2634 Market Place residence. It is possible that Henrietta was there also, as his death certificate indicates that he is married, but I can find no record to verify that.

Lawrence was only 35 years of age when he died of what appears to be a form of pneumonia but is actually tuberculosis. Hez (Hezekiah) Stanton is the informant on his death certificate. His remains were brought back to Cape Girardeau where he was buried in a pauper's grave on March 29, 1917. Knowing Aunt Nellie as I did, I feel sure that she and a few family members, all working poor, unable to purchase a grave site and headstone, attended his interment with heart-breaking sorrow, quiet dignity and respect. We speak the name of Lawrence Allen; we honor his life.

ZORA ALLEN



January 17, 1885 – January 10, 1917

We know very little about Zora. She was the third child of John and Catherine, and as we can observe, she was a lovely young woman. We know nothing of her personality and I do not remember any conversations about her. Aunt Nellie simply said that Zora had died very young, and there would be a pained expression on her face as she looked away.

What we do know is that after her father, and then her mother died, she was placed in the home of her aunt Eliza Brown Goines, wife of George Goines. We see her in the Goines home on the *1900 Cape Girardeau City Census* listed as a niece to the head of household. She is age 14, born in January 1886, is in school, and has been in school for 8 months of the past year. Zora was quite a bit older than her first cousins, who ranged in age from 1 to 6, and probably helped her aunt Eliza to care for them. We note from that census that the Goines lived right next door to Eliza's other sister, Josephine Brown Piercefield in whose home Zora's sister, Helen, had been placed.

On the *1910 US Federal Census*, Zora has left Cape Girardeau and moved to St. Louis. She is a lodger in a boarding house run by a Ms. Carrie Levert. She is listed as a mulatto, single, age 24, and has been employed all year as a laundress in a private home. Interestingly, two lines down on the census we find her aunt, Nona Brown, daughter of John and Amanda Brown, living in the same boarding house, and Nona is employed in a private home as a maid. Did Zora move to St. Louis because her aunt was employed there and she helped her find work? Possibly. It was often best for a young woman to have a referral or contact when moving away from home to work.

The reason Zora could not be found on the 1920 census is because by then she had passed away. Zora died January 10, 1917 in St. Louis of *Phthisis pulmonalis*, which I have come to understand back then was the name for tuberculosis. (*Phthisis – Greek for consumption: pulmonalis –involving the lungs. [Internet Nursing Resource.](#)*) She was 31 years, 11 months and 22 days old at the time of her death and had suffered from this illness for 2 ½ years.

MISSOURI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

3476

County _____ Registration District No. 791 File No. _____
 or _____ Primary Registration District No. 1008 Registered No. 503
 of St. Louis, Mo. (City or town, State or foreign country) (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME (number of street and number.)

1 FULL NAME Zora Allen

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>Col.</u>	5 SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (Write the word)	18 DATE OF DEATH	
		<u>Single</u>	<u>Jan 10 1917</u>	
6 DATE OF BIRTH			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from	
<u>Jan 17 1886</u>			<u>June 8 1914</u> to <u>Jan 10 1917</u>	
7 AGE		8 LESS than 1 day or more?	that I see her have alive on	
<u>31</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Jan 2 1917</u>	
9 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work			and the death occurred, on the date stated above, of	
<u>Housework</u>			<u>438</u>	
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (for employer)			The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows	
			<u>infl. Phthisis pulmonalis</u>	
10 BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country)			<u>49</u> (Direction) 2 yds. 6 in.	
<u>Mo.</u>			CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary)	
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>John Allen</u>			(Signature) <u>C. M. Barr</u>	
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Mo.</u>			<u>Jan 10 1917</u> (Address) <u>2634 Market</u>	
12 MARRIED NAME OF MOTHER <u>Catherine Brown</u>			(State the Disease Causing Death, or in such case Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.)	
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Mo.</u>			13 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)	
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Nellie Stanton</u>			At place of death yrs. ____ mo. ____ da. In the State ____ yrs. ____ mo. ____ da.	
(Address) <u>2634 Market Place</u>			Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?	
15 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Cape Girardeau Mo.</u>			Former or usual residence <u>2634 Market Pl.</u>	
<u>Jan 10 1917</u>			DATE OF BURIAL <u>1-12-1917</u>	
<u>Mrs. M. Starkloff</u>			ADDRESS <u>3119 Laclede</u>	

* If cause of death is unknown, it should be so reported. * If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME (number of street and number). * If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME (number of street and number). * If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME (number of street and number).

Aunt Nellie, Zora's older sister, is the informant on the death certificate. Her body was handled by C.C. Griffin Undertaker at 3119 Laclede Avenue in St. Louis and she was taken back to Cape Girardeau for burial. I found her name on the *Collage of Cape County - Fairmount Cemetery Paupers' Burials - Part III, December 2010 Edition*, buried on January 10, 1917.

We speak the name of Zora Allen; we honor her life.

Helen Allen (Stanton Forcen)

Helen, the youngest child of John and Catherine Allen, is my maternal grandmother. She never had the chance to see her only granddaughter born as she died, October 23, 1940, one year before I was conceived.



As with the other women in the family, Helen was a beautiful woman, and I am told, a woman of great grace and dignity. We do not know how far she went in school, but we do know that she had at least an elementary education. On the *1900 Federal census of Cape Girardeau City*, she is living in the home of her aunt, Josephine (Brown) Piercefield and is listed as the adopted daughter of the parents in the household. Josephine is the younger sister of Helen's mother. At age 9 in that year Helen was in school and had been for the full school year. We have no way of tracing her education after that unless we can locate school records in Cape, because by the next census in 1910, she was married. Thanks to Aunt Nellie, we do have photographs of her as a young woman.



Helen Allen (right) as a young teen – exact age unknown. We cannot determine if the other young lady is Zora, her sister, but it is possible as Zora was older than Helen. I have one of Helen's braids which was saved when she began wearing her hair short, in the style of the day. Both girls have long braids and it is possible that they are sisters.



Helen (left) as a teen, possibly with school pals. Cape Girardeau. Year unknown.



Helen Allen as a young woman, probably of courting age. This may have been taken at or near the time she married. Exact date unknown.

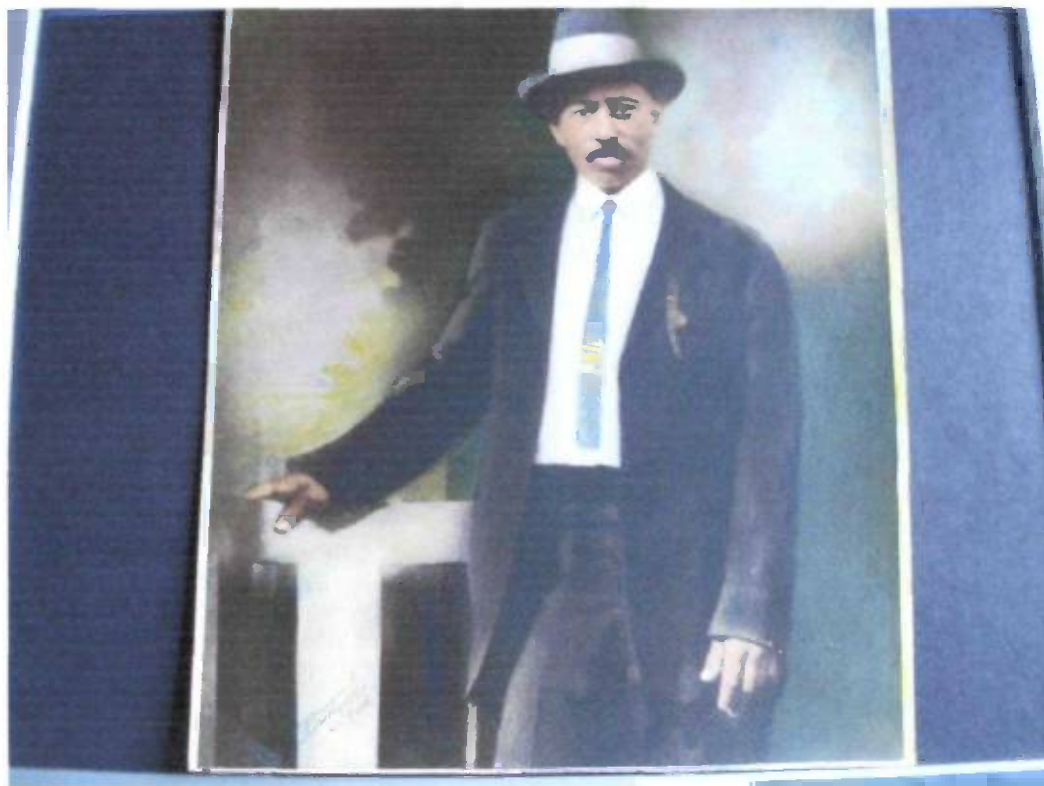
Helen Allen married Isaac Stanton in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on January 17, 1909 and their marriage is recorded in *Marriage Record Book J, page 349*. Because she was only 17 at that time, permission had to be given by her foster father, David Piercefield. In Missouri, the age for personal consent was 18. A beautiful young woman married a handsome young man. Interestingly, and we will read more later, two sisters, Nellie and Helen Allen, married two brothers, Hezekiah and Isaac Stanton.

(See both brothers in the household of their mother on the 1900 Federal Census below.)

Order Options Share NEW Report

Image: 35 of 46

NAME	RELATION	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE
Jacobs, Cecilia	Daughter	B F	Febr 1894	6
Stanton, Sophia	Head	B F	Aug 1866	33
Stanton, Annie	Daughter	B F	Mar 1878	22
Stanton, Herbert	Son	B M	Apr. 1882	18
Stanton, Olivia	Daughter	B F	May 1885	15
Stanton, Mack	Son	B M	July 1889	10
Gill, Bernard	Head	W M	Febr 1870	30
Gill, Anna	Wife	W F	Aug 1872	27



Isaac Stanton – Husband of Helen Allen

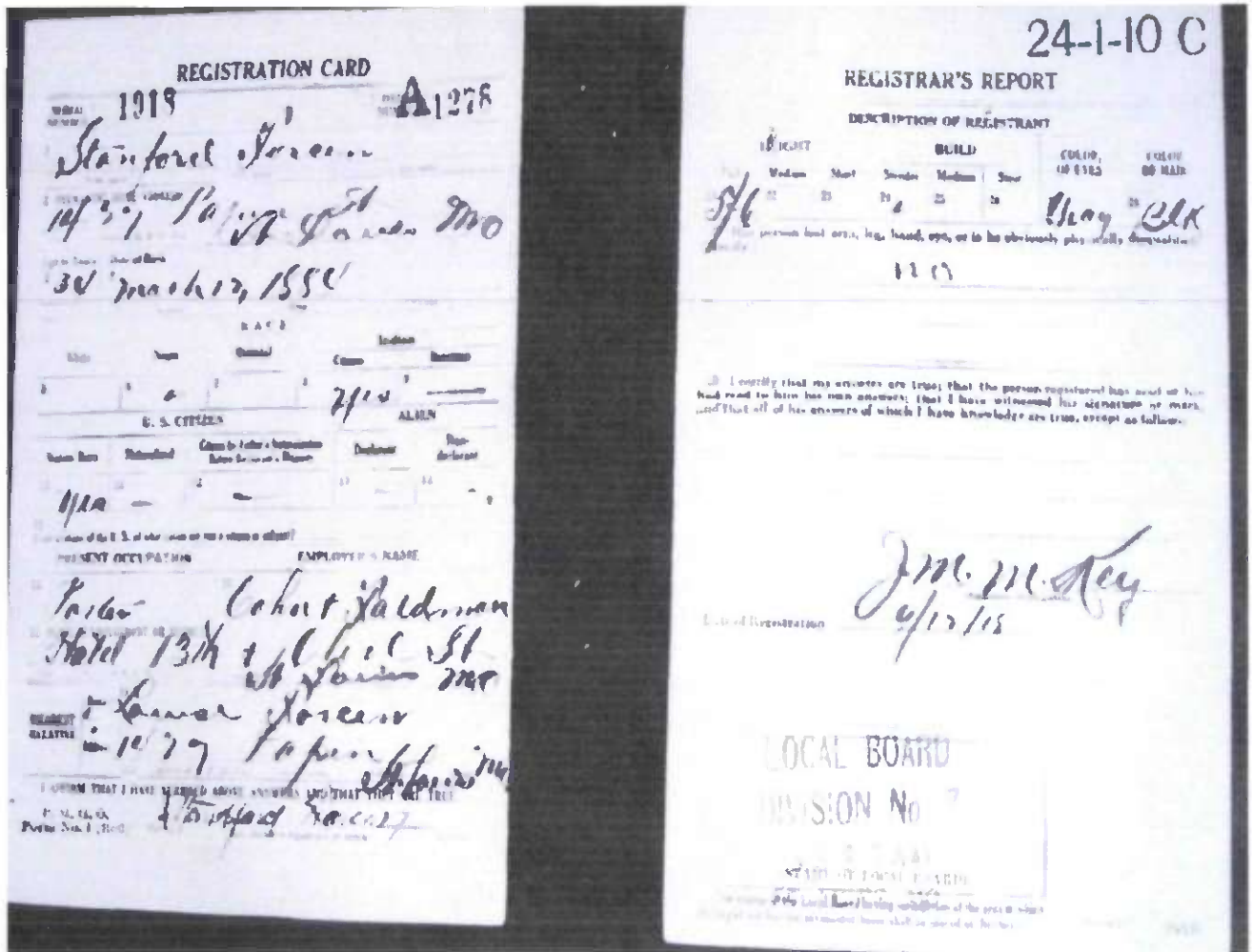
Isaac and Helen had only one son, Alvoyd Isaac Stanton, my father, who we will learn more about later. The couple remained in Cape for a time. By 1920, however, Helen and Isaac were separated, and Isaac (Ike) was living with his mother and her husband in Cape Girardeau.

During her marriage to Isaac, and with an infant son, most probably she did not work outside the home for awhile. But on the 1920 census she was apparently separated from Isaac, had moved to St. Louis, was living with cousins, one of the Goines family, and was employed in a private home doing housework.

This is a **photograph of Helen and her son, Alvoyd, taken in St. Louis** sometime in the 1930's. We gauge this date by the fact that Alvoyd was somewhere in his 20's at the time. What is significant about this photo is that it allows us to determine how tall Helen was. Alvoyd was approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, according to his military records and Helen is about the same height. It also speaks to how she reared her son; to be proud of his appearance and well-dressed as he faced the public.



Helen, divorced from Isaac Stanton, subsequently married Stanford Forcen with whom she lived until his sudden death on October 4, 1936 in St. Louis, Missouri. At the time of his death they resided at 4251 W. North Market. Mr. Forcen was a veteran of the US Army in World War I.



World War I Draft Registration Card, 1917-1918– Stanford Forcen
(from Ancestry.com)

At the time of his entry into the military service, Stanford lived at 1437 Papen St. in St. Louis, and his mother's name (Louisa Forcen) allowed me to trace his parent through census records, and verify their names – Robert Forcen and Louisa Riddle Forcen, both born in Kentucky. See his death certificate below.

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

NOV 4 1936 791
39150

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County: _____ Registration District No. 1008 File No. 10181
 Township: _____ Primary Registration District No. _____ Registered No. _____
 City: St. Louis On _____ en route, City Hosp #1, _____ St. _____ Ward _____

2. FULL NAME Stanford Forcen
4251 W. North Market St. _____ Ward _____
 (a) Residence, No. _____ (If nonresident, give city or town and State)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX Male	4. COLOR OR RACE Colored	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) Married		21. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) Oct. 4 1936	
6. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OF (OR WIFE OF) Helen Forcen				22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ to _____ to _____ to _____ I last saw him _____ alive on _____ 19____. Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at _____ 1:50 P. The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows: Chronic Myocarditis; Chronic Interstitial Nephritis; Arterio-sclerosis.	
7. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) March 12th 1885				Date of onset _____	
8. AGE YEARS 51	MONTHS 6	DAYS 22	If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. _____ min.		
9. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as plumber, mason, bookkeeper, etc. Bell Hop				Other contributory causes of importance: 131	
10. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. Hotel				Name of operation _____ Date of _____	
11. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month, day, and year) 20/7/35 and _____ 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation 25				What last confirmed diagnosis _____ Was there an autopsy? YES	
12. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Columbia Ind.				23. If death was due to external cause (violence), fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____ Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.	
13. NAME Robert Forcen				Manner of injury _____	
14. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Kentucky				Nature of injury _____	
15. MAIDEN NAME Louisa Riddle				24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? If so, specify _____	
16. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Kentucky				(Signed) Harold J. Gredeck M.D. (Address) _____	
17. INFORMANT Helen Forcen (ADDRESS) 4251 W. North Market St.				25. FILED OCT 3 1936	
18. BURIAL CREMATION OR REMOVAL PLACE St. Peter's Cemetery DATE Oct 9 1936				Register.	
19. UNDERTAKER (ADDRESS) Cas J. Gatis, 4107 Finney Ave.					

Every item of information should be carefully supplied. A blank should be stated EXPLICITLY. PRESENTATION OF THIS CAUSE OF DEATH IN plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Death Certificate of Stanford Forcen, listing his place of birth – Columbia, Indiana, names of his parents, and interment in St. Peter’s Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

After the death of her second husband, Helen remained in St. Louis. Her death certificate shows that she lived in the St. Louis community for approximately 30 years, which might give credence to the fact that she did not live long in the marriage to Isaac Stanton and, with her son Alvoyd, moved to St. Louis when he was a small child.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
1003

State File No. 34070
Registrar's No. 8767

No. 2
11-10-39
11-1-49
1-20-1960

791

Primary Registration District No. _____

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

(a) County _____
(b) City or town St. Louis
(c) Name of hospital or institution 4581 Cote Brillante Ave.
(d) Length of stay: About 30 years
in this community (specify month or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

(a) State Missouri (b) County _____
(c) City or town St. Louis
(d) Street No. 4581 Cote Brillante Ave.

3. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

20. DATE OF DEATH: Month October day 23rd
year 1940 hour 4:15 minute _____ A. M. _____ P. M.

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from October 13th to October 23rd at 40 that I first saw her at alive on October 22nd at 19:40 and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

(Immediate cause of death)

Mitral Insufficiency 8 mos.

Due to _____

Pthisis Pulmonary 8 mos.

Due to _____

(Other conditions (include primary within 3 months of death))

Major findings:
Of operation _____
Of autopsy _____

22. If death was due to external cause, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? (Give up town) _____ (County) _____ (State) _____
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____

While at work? _____ (Specify type of place) _____ (Specify means of injury)

23. Signature [Signature] (M. D. or other) _____
Address 1005 N. Leffingwell Date 10-24-40

(Licensee Registrar's Statement on Reverse Side)

WHITE PLAINLY—USE UNFADING BLACK INK—MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD

MOTHER'S PATENT

4. DECEASED:

(a) PRINT FULL NAME Helen Forcen
(b) If veteran, name war _____ No. _____
(c) Social Security No. _____
(d) Sex Female (e) Color or race Negro
(f) Single, widowed, married, divorced Widow
(g) Name of husband or wife Stanford Forcen (h) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years (i) Birth date of deceased September 18th 1892 (j) Birth date of husband or wife _____ (k) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years
(l) Birth date of deceased

AGE:	Years	Months	Days	If less than one day
	<u>48</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	hr. _____ min. _____

(m) Birthplace St. Louis Missouri (n) Date of foreign country _____
(o) Usual occupation Housewife
(p) Industry or business _____
(q) Name John Allen
(r) Occupation Cape Girardeau Missouri
(s) Maiden name Catherine Brown
(t) Birthplace Cape Girardeau Missouri
(u) Informant Nellie Hunter
(v) Address 4581 Cote Brillante Ave
(w) Removal (h) Date thereof 10-26-40
(i) Place: burial or cremation Cape Girardeau, Mo.
(x) Signature of funeral director [Signature]
(y) Date OCT 24 1940
(z) Signature of registrar [Signature]

Helen was 48 years one month and 5 days old at the time of her death on October 23, 1940, caused by mitral insufficiency due to Pthisis Pulmonary – tuberculosis – from which she had suffered for approximately 8 months. In looking at the deaths of her brother, Lawrence, and sister, Zora, we see that, though there were a great many years between their passing and hers, they all three died of tuberculosis! I do personally know that her older sister, Nellie, was also afflicted with that disease in her later years. Nellie was diagnosed with a form of tuberculosis in St. Louis, for which she was treated and subsequently went into remission. So, all four of the siblings, at one time or another, suffered from tuberculosis.

Helen's body was returned to the place where she was born, Cape Girardeau, for burial in Fairmount Cemetery on October 26, 1940. Though we do not find a headstone, we believe that she was buried in the eight-grave family plot purchased by Aunt Nellie. Why there is no headstone, I'm not sure. I suspect that the tiny dark depression just behind Aunt Nellie's grey tombstone may be Helen's grave, because it is right next to her son, Alvoyd's headstone.



I wish I'd known my grandmother Helen. With reverence, we speak the name of Helen Allen Stanton Forcen; we honor her life.



Nellie Allen

John and Catherine's eldest daughter, Nellie, is so special to me. I have reserved a full chapter for her memories, as she was so instrumental in helping to rear me.

Chapter 11



Memories of Aunt Nellie

Nellie Beatrice Allen Stanton

January 4, 1884(?) – November 7, 1976



This is the sweet, loving, wonderful lady who was so instrumental in helping to make me who I am. She was born Nellie Allen in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, the eldest daughter of Johnny and Catherine Allen. Aunt Nellie's exact date of birth has always been a source of confusion since she was born after the 1880 census and before the 1890 census, which was destroyed in a fire in Washington, DC. We can intuit that she was born in or after 1882, as her older brother, Lawrence, was born in 1881 and her next youngest sister,

Zora, was born in 1886. Generally speaking, we have come to acknowledge 1884 or 1885 as her year of birth.

Most of the time we addressed her as Aunt Nellie, but more familiarly we called her “Bea” as her middle name was Beatrice, after whom my middle name was given. Bea was a pretty, diminutive little lady of about four feet ten inches tall. Had it not been for the serious bowleggedness of her legs, she might have reached five feet tall. At some point in her formative years she must have been either seriously malnourished, suffered from some malady which deprived her bones of the necessary vitamins and minerals for normal growth, or contracted a disease that deformed her little legs. But, the shape of her legs was apparent and seemed painful to the observer.

I use the term “lady” to describe her in the truest form of that word. Aunt Nellie, with only a few years of formal education, had the grace and manners of an aristocrat – yet she was a humble woman. With only a third grade education, she carried herself in a proud, dignified way, able to discuss matters of politics and world events with ease. I remember her as a soft-spoken, wise woman, not given to hysteria or theatrics. She was down-to-earth, gentle and caring with a determined core borne of poverty, pain and hard work.

My earliest memories of her were when I was old enough to begin kindergarten at the age of four. She would visit our tiny apartment on weekends when she was not working and often take me out for an ice cream cone. My mother says that during World War I when my father was away in the military service, we lived with Aunt Nellie but I was too young to remember that. With no living child of her own, I will always believe that she loved me as if I was hers. I remember spending weekend nights at her tiny rented room in Mrs. Jackson’s house at 1705 Pendleton Avenue in St. Louis. She lived only about six or seven blocks from our apartment on North Garfield, and she would come to get me; hand-in-hand we’d walk to her place. I always felt so safe and loved in her presence. She was amused by my precociousness – a talkative child not shy about joining in adult conversations – within reason, but she’d say “hush up” always with a gentle smile when I got too rambunctious.

Once, and the only time I ran away from home, I ran across Pendleton Avenue in the black of night straight to her house. Angry, frightened and crying at the dysfunction in my parent’s life, I knew I would be safe and she would understand. Bea had almost nothing in material possessions but she was full of love and willing to share it.

When both of her parents died by 1900, Bea was parceled out among family members as were her other three siblings, but as of now, I cannot find her in any of the Cape Girardeau homes. She said, and my mother confirmed, that she went to work for the Matthews family as a maid at the age of 14, which would have been about the time that her mother, Catherine, died. It is curious, or maybe more than coincidence, that she became employed by the Matthews family, as there was a direct tie with the white, influential Matthews and her grandmother, Cecelia (Celie) Wilson. Cape Girardeau was still a small town at the time and it is possible that “everybody” knew who “everybody else” was.

I find Bea for the first time on the 1910 US Federal Census, Cape Girardeau and by this time, she is 24 and has been married to Hezekiah Stanton, age 27 for seven years. It is the first marriage for both. The couple lives in the home of Isaac and Helen Stanton, Bea's sister and brother-in-law. (Note: Isaac and Hezekiah are brothers. Two brothers married two sisters.) Aunt Nellie and Hezekiah have one daughter, Juanita, who is age 6. Everyone in the household is listed as mulatto. Hezekiah works as a laborer at odd jobs but is apparently unemployed at the time of the census. Aunt Nellie did not work outside of the home at that time.

MARRIAGE LICENSE OF HEZEKIAH STANTON AND NELLIE ALLEN

CERTIFIED COPY OF MARRIAGE LICENSE

STATE OF MISSOURI }
 County of Cape Girardeau } ss.

This license Authorizes any licensed or ordained Preacher of the Gospel, who is a Citizen of the United States or is a resident of this State and a Pastor of any Church in this State, or any Judge of a Court of Record, except Judges of the Probate Court, to solemnize Marriage between

Hezekiah Stanton

of Cape Girardeau in the County of Cape Girardeau
 State of Mo. who is of the age of twenty one years.

and

Nellie Allen

of Cape Girardeau in the County of Cape Girardeau
 State of Mo. who is of the age of eighteen years.

(SEAL) Witness my hand as Recorder of Deeds, with the seal of office hereto affixed, at my office in Jackson, Missouri, this 24 day of April, 1903

By A. C. Schumke Deputy. J. E. Schumke Recorder of Deeds.

STATE OF MISSOURI }
 County of Cape Girardeau } ss.

This is to Certify, that the undersigned A Justice of the Peace did

Cape Girardeau in said County, on the 26th day of Apr., 1903

solemnize the above named person, and I further Certify that I am legally qualified under laws of the State of Missouri to solemnize Marriages.

This is the original of their marriage license. Aunt Nellie had it among her personal possessions given to me. They were married on April 26, 1903 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

PHOTOGRAPH OF HEZEKIAH STANTON, HUSBAND OF NELLIE ALLEN



Born April 17, 1883 - Died September 29, 1935

Aunt Nellie often spoke of her devotion to Hezekiah and she never remarried after his death.

Together they only had one daughter, Juanita, whose young life ended tragically from dyptheria in 1911. She was only eight years old at the time of her death.

PHOTOGRAPH OF JUANITA STANTON, ONLY CHILD OF HEZEKIAH AND NELLIE



Born September 16, 1903 – Died April 28, 1911

Age at time of photograph about 5-7 years old. 1908 – 1910??

I can tell you for sure that she was a much loved child.
Juanita Stanton is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Lot #354, Grave 7, next to her parents.

By 1920, Nellie and Hezekiah had moved to St. Louis where they lived at 2634 Market Place. He was employed as a laborer for the Swift (Packing) Company and Aunt Nellie was working for a private family. Many of the other family members had left Cape Girardeau and resided in St. Louis where there were more opportunities for employment.

On the 1930 census for St. Louis City, Aunt Nellie and Hezekiah remained at their rental residence on Market Place. She is unemployed and he works at odd jobs for families. We note that this time he lists the place of his father's birth as "United States." Hezekiah is the son of Jesse Stanton by his second wife, Sophia Hunter. We know that Jesse was born a slave around 1814-1820 and on census data his place of birth is listed as South Carolina. Hezekiah may not have known exactly in what state his father was born.



Another photograph of Aunt Nellie taken at Burton's Studios in St. Louis, Missouri. Because she is wearing the same hair style and sweater, this photo and the one on

page 89, were probably taken on the same day, just different poses. The first one was inscribed to Nona, (Nona Brown) who was her maternal aunt. This one has no inscription.

Aunt Nellie often did not have a large selection of clothes, but what she bought were good “sturdy” clothes in a classic style that would not go out of fashion as the trends changed. She was practical and hard-working. Her money came hard and in her frugality, she made every penny count.

Aunt Nellie lost her beloved husband on September 29th 1935 in St. Louis, Missouri. Hezekiah was 52 years, 5 months and 12 days old when he died. Cause of death was cerebral apoplexy – (left Hemiplegia) – which means a stroke. He was employed as a laborer on the date that he died at 6:55 pm. The couple lived at 4586 Cote Brilliante. Funeral services in St. Louis were held at Gates Funeral home, from whence his body was taken back to Cape Girardeau for burial. Parents listed on the death certificate are Jesse Stanton and Sophia Wright

Hezekiah’s obituary in the *Southeast Missourian newspaper, Cape Girardeau, Mo.* reads as follows:

Former Cape Negro Succumbs in St. Louis

Relatives in Cape Girardeau received word today of the death of Hezekah Stanton, 54 years old, a Negro, who succumbed Sunday night at St. Louis. The body of Stanton, a former resident here, will be brought here Thursday morning and will remain at St. James A.M.E. Church until 2:30 o'clock that afternoon when funeral services will be conducted by Rev. J.C. Hicks, pastor. Burial will be in Fairmount cemetery. Stanton moved from Cape Girardeau about 20 years ago and has been engaged at various labor jobs since being there. Besides his widow he is survived by a sister, and a brother, the latter Ike Stanton of Cape Girardeau.

Widowed, childless but with supportive, loving family, Aunt Nellie had to support herself in the only way she knew how. For most of her working years she was employed as a domestic. At one time she worked for the Kline family on Maryland Avenue in St. Louis. I believe her longest tenure of employment was in the home of William and Margaret Witherspoon of Ladue in St. Louis. I do not know exactly when she began employment with the Witherspoons but a copy of a note from Mr. Witherspoon attests to her salary with her social security card attached and states:

“During 1954 I paid you \$835.90 in wages. No deductions were made from this figure for social security. But I paid the required 4% in full to the U.S. Treasury Dept. (signed) William Witherspoon – Jan 8, 1955.”

In a letter from Mrs. Witherspoon to me dated September 5, 1993, she wrote that:

“we paid Nellie for services here through February 28, 1964. After that we paid her \$25.00 a quarter through December 14, 1966 as gifts.”

I do know that as kind and responsible employers, they paid the government social security taxes for Aunt Nellie’s services and consequently, she was eligible to draw her social security, unlike many domestic workers of less honorable employers.

Aunt Nellie used to tell me about ironing for the family and doing general housework. When she got older and certain tasks became difficult, the Witherspoons reduced her responsibilities commensurate with her age and ability. She told me that during the really bad winter weather when traveling by city bus to work became extremely difficult, the Witherspoons would send their chauffeur to a certain bus terminal to pick her up and bring her to work. Many times she related how good and caring the family was to her.

Aunt Nellie loved the Witherspoon children – Jimmie, Jane and Bettie. She would share little stories about things they as children did at the house. She loved having children around her.

At least once, and possibly more, the Witherspoons sent her up to Charlevoix, Michigan, to help open their summer home for the season. That was a rare treat for her. After my mother and father were divorced in 1952 or 53, we moved to my grandmother’s house on Page Boulevard, and Bea moved into the apartment at 4307 Garfield with my dad. He was not steadily employed but Bea was, so I suggest that she was the bread winner in the home. I would go to visit him at least once monthly, but for the most part I spent the time enjoying Aunt Nellie’s company. She always had a light lunch prepared for me and we would laugh and giggle together like best friends. She was always happy to see me and I delighted in her company. She was the “grandmother” I’d never known.

Aunt Nellie, Bea, had lost so much in her life but she rarely spoke of her pain. Sometimes she looked so sad when she reminisced about family. Having lost her husband and her only child, she lost her sister, Zora, in January 1917, buried her brother, Lawrence, who died in March of 1917, and watched her other sister, Helen, my grandmother, buried in October 1940. And then in 1959, my father, Alvoyd, who was her favorite nephew, he, too, died. Once he was gone Bea moved to the 4800 block of Delmar where she resided in a rental room in the same side of the duplex where her first cousin, Ray Goines, also lived. Everything she had was in that one fair-sized sleeping room. She and Cousin Ray kept each other company and he looked after her as best he could. It was he who alerted us to her failing condition.

When Bea became ill and could no longer live by herself, we had to place her in Hillhaven Convalescent Center in south St. Louis. I visited her a few times a year when I was in St. Louis and took my daughters with me so they, too, could experience the love and laughter in the eyes of this remarkable woman. We often laughed about her finding a new boyfriend among the residents at the nursing facility! She had such a nice chuckle. For most of her stay there, however, I was overseas with my husband, who was a career Air Force military person. My mother, Dorothy, saw to Bea's needs, visiting her as often as she could and making sure that she was clean and well-cared for. We do not know the exact circumstances of her death, but she was found lying dead on the floor of her room, evidently having gotten up sometime during the night. There was a bruise on the side of her face, which the doctor said was just blood which had pooled where her face struck the ground and she lay before being found. She died November 7, 1976 of natural causes.

We took Bea's body back to Cape Girardeau where she'd purchased an eight-grave plot for the family. She is buried in the grave next to her husband, Hezekiah, marked by a beautiful granite double tombstone which she'd purchased and placed there for the both of them. All that was left for me to do was have the date of her death chiseled into the stone, which I did. *The Southeast Missouriian newspaper in Cape Girardeau on November 10, 1976*, listed this obituary for her:

Mrs. Nellie E. Allen Stanton

Mrs. Nellie B. Allen Stanton of St. Louis died at 7:50 Sunday night in St. Louis. She was 95 years old. Mrs. Stanton was Born Jan. 4, 1881, in Cape Girardeau. She lived most of her life in St. Louis. She was married to Hezekiah Stanton, who preceded her in death in Sept., 1935, in Cape Girardeau. Mrs. Stanton was the eldest of four children of the late Johnny and Katherine Allen. Surviving: a niece, Dorothy Stanton Malone, St. Louis; three grand nieces, and cousin Ray Goines, St. Louis. A daughter, Juanita, preceded her in death in 1911. Services will be held at 7:30 tonight at Cunningham and Moore Funeral Home in St. Louis. Burial will be at 11 Thursday morning in Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Being the practical person she was, she requested that she be buried in a soft, dusty rose colored garment and left instructions for her return to Cape Girardeau. This is the tombstone she purchased after the death of her husband. On it she had her own name placed. The date of her death I had added after her death.



STANTON

HEZEKIAH

NELLIE

1883 - 1935

1887 - 1976

Aunt Nellie Beatrice Allen Stanton is buried at Fairmount Cemetery, Lot #355, Grave 5. Her husband is buried next to her in Lot #354, Grave #8.

As you read this, please remember that there was always some question about Bea's exact year of birth and age at death. An excerpt from the eulogy at her funeral services on Wednesday, November 10, 1976 follows:

"...Aunt Nellie lived a long time. Her birth came only seventeen years after the Civil War ended. When she was small, a single railroad track crossed this nation and Plains Indians roamed the West, untethered by the yoke of progress - when days were

long and living was slow. In her early years she saw the first automobiles; rode the first street-cars. At the 1904 World's Fair she was already 23 years old. She was grown when World War I began. Aunt Nellie was 39 years old when women got the vote – she was 51 years old when Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and she was entering her golden years when World War II began. Bea watched the first television pictures through slowly weakening eyes - and she saw our boys go off to war again – this time in Korea. She rode the first buses on the streets of St. Louis and listened as our country went to war again for the fourth time in her life span – Vietnam. She was already 83 years old when our astronauts circled the earth.

When Bea died, there was nothing left of the world into which she was born. Buildings constructed after her birth are long since dust. The Indians have no land to roam and the railroad has come and just about gone.

And what did Bea do with her life? She worked hard and she gave all. She worked until her body made her quit and she gave of herself until there was nothing left to give. She was a determined little person – tenacious almost to a fault. Though she never had many worldly things, she shared all she had. She loved deeply. At times she was lonely and in the later years, she was tired – but never too tired to smile. She smiled a lot and her laugh was infectious. Bea could get tickled all over and giggle for hours. She was a loyal friend and a gentle companion. She could get angry but she never stopped loving. She could be hurt but she never stopped giving. She was human, vulnerable and so good. She was tiny in stature, but great in spirit.

Let us talk about her death. We sit here hurt and sad but Aunt Nellie was prepared for death. She was a practical lady. She chose what she wanted to be buried in and where she wanted to be laid to rest. All that is left for us is to carry out her wishes. We leave her in peace – and we know she is with the God she loved so truly and served so well.”

We speak the name of Hezekiah Stanton; we honor his life.

We speak the name of Nellie Beatrice Allen Stanton; we honor her life.

I love you Bea.

Chapter 12



Isaac Stanton

July 28, 1888 – August 27, 1939
Born: Cape Girardeau, Missouri

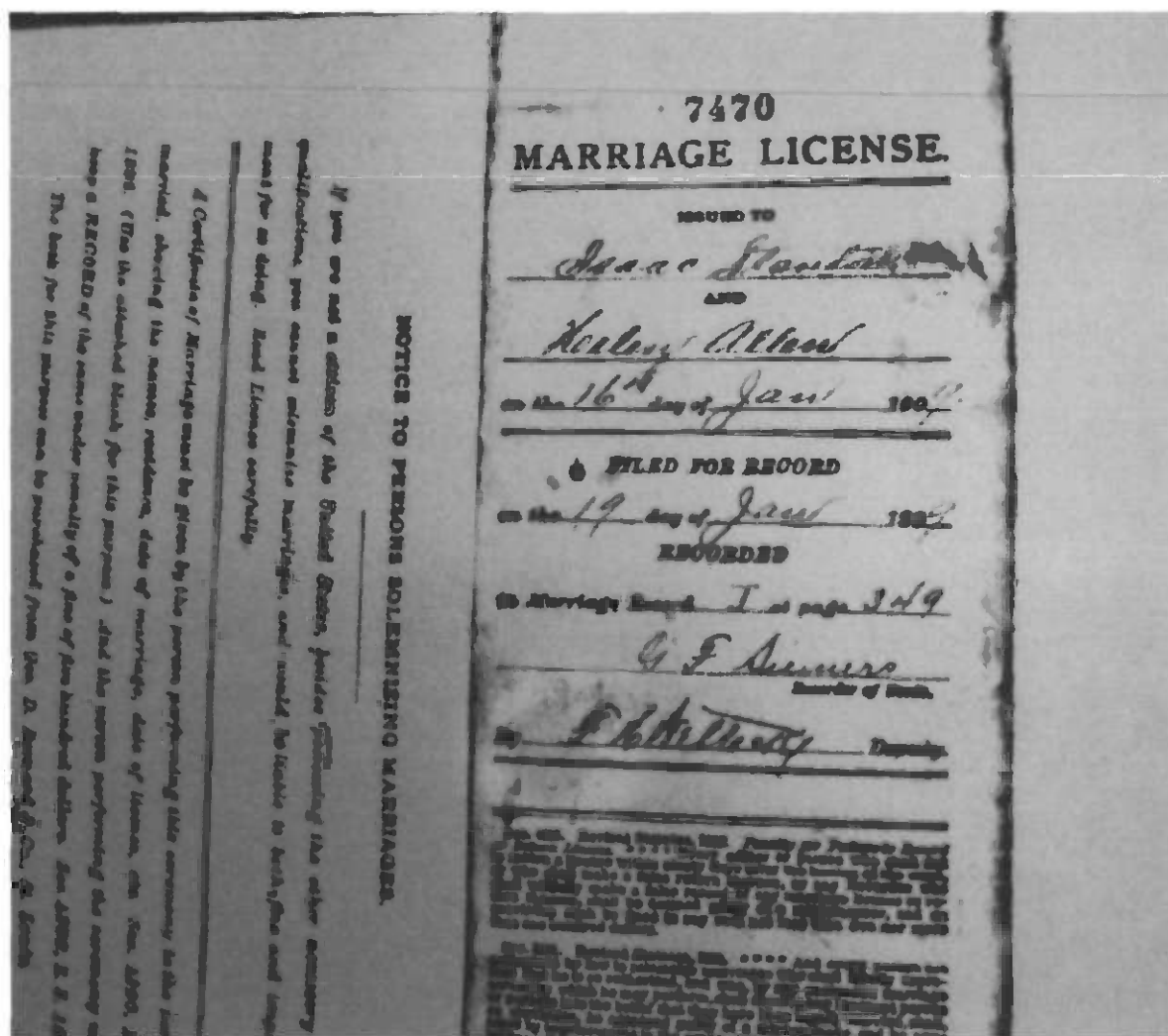
From the beginning of this research there has been confusion as to the exact date of Isaac's birth. His death certificate, completed by his sister, Anna (Stanton) Shannon, lists his birth date as June 28, 1887, however, the official *Cape Girardeau Birth Notice Book*, shows Isaac born July 28, 1888, the 7th child to parents Jessie Stanton and Sophia Wright.



Isaac Stanton
Year photograph taken unknown

We first see Isaac (Isaak) on the 1900 US Federal Census, (Cape Girardeau Township, Cape Girardeau City) at age 10, in the home of his mother Sophia Stanton, who is widowed. Also in the home are his sisters, Annie and Olivia, and brother Hezekiah. We will show later that his father, Jesse Stanton, died in May of 1891, when Isaac was about three years of age. We know nothing of his early childhood other than that his mother, Sophia, held her family intact against many odds until the children were old enough to be on their own.

By 1910, at age 22, Isaac was already married to Helen Allen and they had one infant son, Isaac, Jr. – later named Alvoyd Isaac. The marriage license was issued on January 16, and they were wed the next day on January 17, 1909.



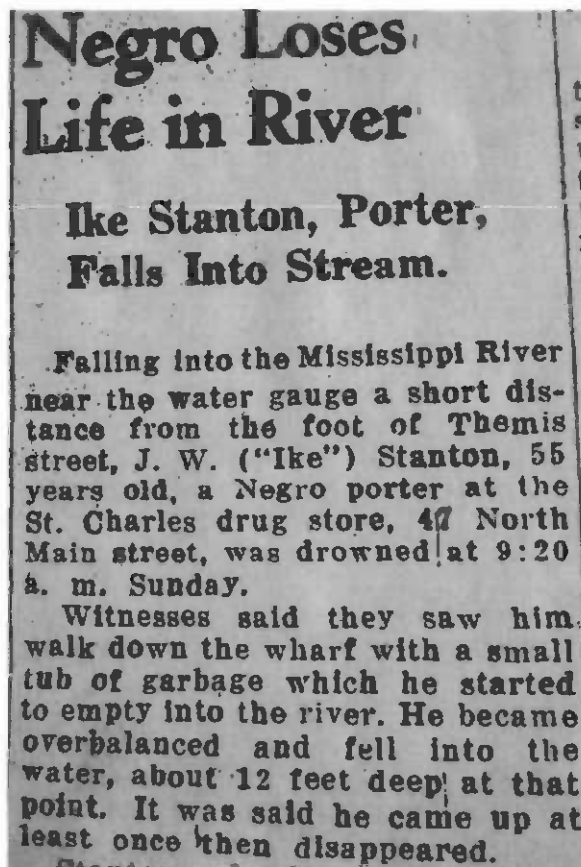
On that 1910 US Federal Census (Cape Girardeau City, Ward 4) he is listed as head of the household, married for one year and is employed as a laborer doing odd jobs. Also in the household are his brother, Hezekiah and his wife Nellie and their daughter, Juanita.

Everyone in the household is born in Missouri, as are their parents. We know from other documents that everyone is also born in Cape Girardeau.

On the 1920 US Federal Census (*Cape Girardeau City, Ward 3*) Isaac (Ike), now listed as age 30, is living in the home of his biological mother and his step-father, Alexander Williams at 537 Morgan Oak Street. He is employed as a porter in a barber shop. Apparently, he is separated from his wife Helen. We do not know if this is a temporary or permanent separation, but the Census for that same year shows Helen and their son, Alvoyd, living in St. Louis City with the Goines family cousins.

The 1930 US Federal Census (*Cape Girardeau City, Ward 8*) lists Isaac as a head of household with four male boarders. He is now age 42 but it lists him as "widowed?" Unless he has divorced Helen, then remarried and a second wife died, that designation would not be accurate, as Helen was still alive. At the time he is employed as a porter at a hat shop. It is curious that he, or someone, listed his parents' place of birth as Arizona all the while all other census records show he and his parents, rightfully so, born in Missouri. His residence is shown as 408 Frederick Street.

Isaac, though a young man, did not survive until the 1940 enumerations. At age 52 years, one month and 29 days he died a tragic death in Cape Girardeau, where he'd spent all his life. His death came from drowning in the Mississippi River. First part of the article:



Article published in the Southeast Missourian on August 28, 1939.

Stanton, who lived on the 400 block of Good Hope street, had been cleaning up at the pharmacy, where he had been employed a number of years.

Body Not Found.

Police were called shortly after the accident and an investigation made by Chief Edgar W. Hirsch and Patrolman Edward M. Barenkamp, who said witnesses included G. W. Harvell, 910 Giboney street, who was passing on Water street. Two other witnesses were two Negroes, the report said, Otis Bess, 220 North Spanish street, and Sylvester Perry, 37 Water street. By the time they ran approximately 30 yards down the levee the victim had gone under the surface.

Coroner E. R. Trickey was notified. He said a search for the body will be made down the river late today, as the body may rise by that time. Negroes dragged the river with weighted fishing tackle for hours Sunday without results.

Body of Negro Who Fell Into River Is Recovered

The body of J. W. ("Ike") Stanton, 55, Negro who for a number of years had been a porter at the St. Charles Pharmacy, was recovered from the river just south of the Frisco Railroad passenger station early today. Stanton fell into the river near Themis street early Sunday as he attempted to throw some garbage into the water.

W. M. Sheppard, a fisherman, and Henry Brewster found the body floating near the bank. It was believed it had been lodged against a stone ledge nearby since Sunday.

Coroner E. R. Trickey held an inquest before noon at the river bank and the verdict was "We, the jury, after hearing all the evidence hereby agree that Ike Stanton came to his death of accidental drowning."

1st part of August 29, 1939 article in Southeast Missourian Newspaper.

2nd part of August 29th article – Southeast Missourian Newspaper.

cidental drowning.”

Witnesses Called.

Called to testify were Sheppard and Otis White, the latter a Negro, who was one of those who saw Stanton fall into the river Sunday.

Julius Nebel was foreman of the jury and other members were Henry O'Neal, Monroe Jones, I. W. White, Lyman Penny and W. L. Howard.

The body is at the Frank Sparks funeral establishment awaiting arrival from St. Louis of relatives, including a son, and a sister, Ann Shannon .

Due to the circumstances of his death, a coroner's inquest was required.

FUNERAL RITES

Funeral services for Ike Stanton, a Negro, who was accidentally drowned in the river Sunday, were conducted this afternoon from Sparks funeral establishment by Rev. W. N. Fields. Burial was at Fairmount Cemetery. Stanton, a native of Cape Girardeau, for 10 years had been employed at the St. Charles Pharmacy and lived at 405 Good Hope street. His body was recovered from the river early Tuesday. He is survived by a son, Alvoyd Stanton; a sister, Ann Shannon; and two grandchildren.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

28784
Do not use this space.

BEF SEPT 20 1939

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 (a) County Cape Girardeau Registration District No. 124
 (b) Township _____ Primary Registration District No. 3009 Registered No. 247
 (c) City Cape Girardeau (d) Street No. In Mississippi River, foot of Themis Street
 (e) Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 52 yrs. 1 month 29 ds. (f) How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

2. PRINT FULL NAME Isaac Stanton
 (a) Residence No. 405 Good Hope (b) (If decedent, give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX Male	4. COLOR OR RACE Colored	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) Divorced		21. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) AUG 27, 1939	22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended decedent from _____ to _____, 19____.
24. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OR (OR) WIFE OF Unknown				I last saw _____ alive on _____, 19____. Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at _____.	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) June 29, 1887				The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows: <i>the jury after hering all the evidence hereby agree that Ike Stanton came to his death by Accidental Drowning</i>	
7. AGE YEARS 52 MONTHS 1 DAYS 29 IF LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.		8. TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK DONE, AS A WORKER, BOOKKEEPER, ETC. Porter		Other contributory causes of importance: 18 2 3	
9. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH WORK WAS DONE, AS DRIVER, SAIL, BREW, ETC.		10. DATE DECEASED LAST WORKED AT THIS OCCUPATION (month and year)		Name of occupation _____ Date of _____	
11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation		12. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Cape Girardeau, Mo.		What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? <u>no</u>	
13. NAME Jesse Stanton		14. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Unknown		23. If death was due to external cause (violence), list also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>Accident</u> Date of injury <u>Aug 27, 1939</u>	
15. MAIDEN NAME Sophia Wright		16. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) Unknown		Where did injury occur? <u>Mississippi River</u> (Specify city, or town, county, and State)	
17. INFORMANT (ADDRESS) Mrs. Anna Shannon (sister) St. Louis, Mo.		18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL PLACE Fairmont DATE AUG. 30, 1939		Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. <u>at the foot of the street Cape Girardeau</u>	
19. FUNERAL DIRECTOR (NAME) (ADDRESS) F. J. Sparks Cape Girardeau, Mo.		20. FILED <u>8-27-39</u> <u>J. M. [unclear]</u> Local Registrar.		Manner of injury <u>Accidental</u> Nature of injury <u>Accidental Drowning</u>	
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of decedent? _____ If so, specify _____		25. (Signed) <u>E. R. [unclear]</u> Registrar. (Address) <u>St. Louis, Mo.</u>		26. (Signed) <u>[unclear]</u> Local Registrar.	

Licensed Examiners' Signatures on Reverse Side

The official death certificate of Isaac Stanton states that "The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows: the jury after hering (sic) all the evidence hereby agree that Ike Stanton came to his death by Accidental Drowning(sic)."

The drowning came "at the foot of Themis Street Cape Girardeau by falling in the Mississippi River."

Family members have often said that Isaac was emptying trash or garbage into the river as a part of his duties at the pharmacy, and being under the influence of alcohol, lost his balance and fell into the river. No one knows if he hit his head in the fall or if the river was high and swiftly moving. It is also possible that Isaac could not swim. Historic documents show that he lived all of his life in the area close to the river. The Mississippi

River is exceptionally wide as it makes the curve and courses past the city of Cape Girardeau. Due to its shape and the volume of water that passes this point, I have doubts that there were any beaches from which people could wade into the water, at least on the city side of the river. There were no public swimming pools open to black citizens at the time, so it is within the realm of reason that Isaac might not have known how to swim.

Anna (Stanton) Shannon, Isaac's older sister made the necessary arrangements for his funeral services at Sparks Funeral Home.

RECORD OF FUNERAL

Total No. 53 Yearly No. 21 Date Aug. 30 1939

Name of Deceased Isaac Stanton (Print Name) Col. Chapman Girardeau, Jr. (Where Born)

Relative of Brother of Mrs. Anna Shannon

Charge to Wash. Penn. Co. Spanglers Casket 77.00

Address 512 S. 3rd St. Cape Girardeau, Mo. Metallic Lining 2.00

Order Given by Jack Stanton Outside Box 2.00

How Secured (State How)

Date of Funeral Aug. 30, 1939 Grave Vault (State Size)

Residence 405 N. 3rd St. Spanglers Suit or Dress, \$ Hose, \$ Slippers, \$ 20.00

Place of Death Spanglers, Mo. Embalming Body (with Fluid)

Funeral Services at Sparks Funeral Home Dressing Body, \$ Shaving, \$ 5.00

Time of Funeral Service 9:30 P.M. Holy Dressing

Chapman Coff. of Folding Chair 3.00

Hb. address " " Candelabra, \$ Candles, \$

Attending Physician Dear Badge, \$ Gloves, \$

Hb. Residence Shaves 19.00

Cause of Death Auto Limousine to Cemetery

Date of Death Aug. 27, 1939 Ambulance to R. R. Station

Occupation of the Deceased Other Vehicle Service

Single or Married Aeroplane Service

Date of Birth June 29, 1887 Death Notices in Newspapers

Age 52 Years 1 Month 29 Days (State of Newspapers)

Name of Father Flowers, \$ 6.00

Hb. Birthplace Rental of Piano

Name of Mother Outlay for Lot

Her Birthplace Opening Grave or Vault 7.00

Body to be Shipped to Lining Grave with Evergreen or Moun. 3.00

Size and Style of Casket Mating, \$ Tent Rental, \$ 5.00

Manufactured by Garper, City, Mo. Use of Lowering Device 5.00

Interment at Cemetery Rental of Vault

Lot No. Outlay for Shipping Charges

Grave No. Removal Charges 4.00

Section No. Lustration

By Amount Paid in Advance

Balance

Entered into Ledger, page or below

To Funeral Charges	Total \$	<u>165.85</u>	By Cash	<u>165.85</u>
Paid in full				

Note, that a full funeral in 1939 could be had for under \$200.00, but \$200.00 was a lot of money back then. Anna Shannon paid in full for the funeral on September 21, 1939.

Though Isaac's death certificate and the record of his funeral state that he was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, I do not find him listed on the CD disc provided by the cemetery sextant. It is possible that he is laid to rest in a pauper's grave. According to Mr. Terrell Weaver, there are numerous persons and/or graves that cannot be accounted for due to lost or misplaced records from many years past.

We speak the name of Isaac (Ike) Stanton; we honor his life.

Chapter 13



Alvoyd Isaac Stanton

Jan. 19, 1910 – August 29, 1959

My Father

Alvoyd Isaac Stanton was born January 19, 1910 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to the marriage of Isaac (Ike) Stanton and Helen Allen Stanton. He is the only child of that marriage – and my father. On the official *Cape Girardeau Birth Records*, he was named Isaac Stanton, Jr. However, by the 1920 census and for the rest of his life, he was known as Alvoyd Isaac.



Alvoyd Isaac Stanton at about 6 months of age

It was not until I began this genealogical search for my ancestors that I realized how little I know about my father's life. Much that I am aware of is from random conversations with him and family members – mostly my mother. Much of it is not verified by concrete evidence. However, it is clear from this photo and subsequent photos in this section that he was a beloved child and well cared for. Born into a poor family, with middle class values and aspirations, he and his mother left the small town of Cape Girardeau for the advantages of the major city of St. Louis early in his life.



Alvoyd at about 4 years old

We do not know exactly when they arrived in St. Louis, but by the time of the 1920 US Federal census (*City of St. Louis, Missouri*) when he was about 10-12, he and his mother, Helen, were living there on Market Street with cousins, Homer and Gertrude Goines and their children, renting as roomers. His father, Isaac, was for some unknown reason, not with the family in that census year.



Alvoyd at about 9-10 years of age

His mother, of necessity, had taken a job as a housekeeper in a private family home to support herself and her son. Curiously, whoever answered the census taker's questions about Helen's birth and that of her parents, was seriously in error. Her nativity and that of her parents was shown as Alabama, which we know for a certainty is incorrect. Helen and both her parents were born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri as was Alvoyd. Birth and death records are clear on this issue.

You will note that though most people do dress well for photographs, it does not appear that Alvoyd is especially attired for this photograph. Throughout his formative years, his

mother dressed him as well as others who were of more privileged means. And, into his adulthood, Alvoyd was exceedingly conscious of his personal appearance, especially in public. He learned to be proud at a very young age and was careful to be appropriately attired whenever he left the house. I must say, that despite the dysfunction in our family unit, I never saw my father dirty or disheveled.



Alvoyd walking with his mother, Helen, in St. Louis. Age about 30.

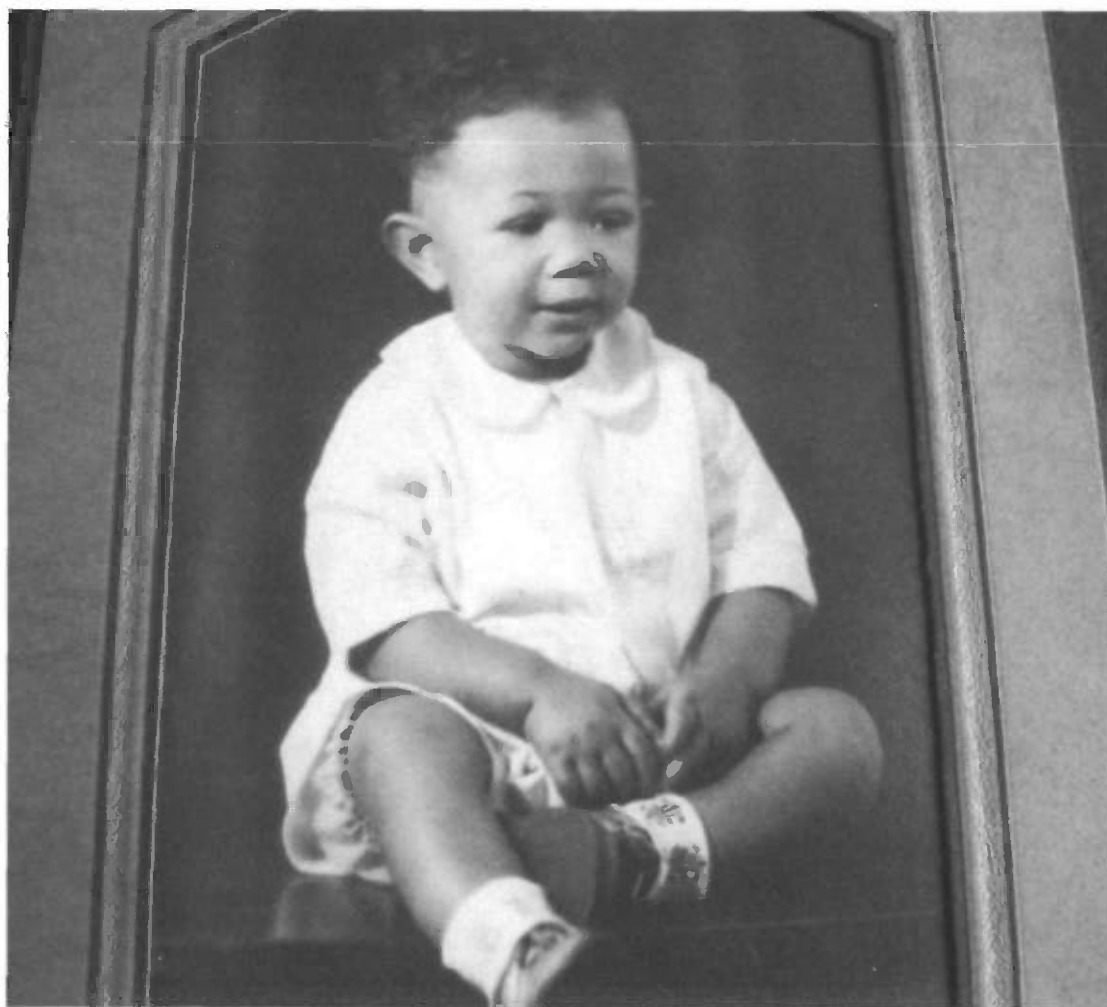
Note the rather aristocratic dress – a straw hat beneath his arm, bow tie and an umbrella. Clearly it is spring or summer due to Grandma Helen’s dress and his rolled-up sleeves.

(I also note the extremely slim appearance of Grandmother Helen in this photograph, taken, at what might have been, only a short time before her death in October 1940, so I tentatively date this photograph about 1938-1940.) Helen, I am told, was an elegant, dignified woman of calm, reserved bearing.

Here is where information becomes murky. Allegedly, according to my father, he attended the University of Wisconsin but I have no record of that. We can note that he is not identifiable on the 1930 census records. So just where was he?

He did marry Lucille Turner on June 22, 1931 in St. Louis, Missouri and to that marriage was born two sons:

Lincoln Charles Stanton (Sonny) – October 15, 1931, and
Alvold Paul Stanton (Brother) – April 15, 1933



Lincoln Charles Stanton
October 15, 1931 – August 2, 1964



Alvyd Paul Stanton
April 15, 1933 – July 28, 1986

After a divorce from Lucille (who was also known as Mother Lamb), my father married my mother, Dorothy Mae Stubbs in Warrenton, Missouri in the spring of 1942.

According to his military record, (*shown on Ancestry.com – U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946*), Alvoyd enlisted in World War II on September 21, 1942, as a married man, about three months after my birth. He enlisted as a private at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis at the age of 32. Here I must assume two things: one, that he felt a patriotic duty to serve his country in time of war, and two, that as a married man, service would provide him with a steady income for his family. My mother told me that she received a small monthly allotment check from his service while she and I lived with Aunt Nellie Stanton.



**Dorothy and Celeste Stanton
1942**

Photograph of my mother holding me near the time my father enlisted in the US Army – probably about September or October 1942.

Both my father and mother told me that he learned to fly during the war and was a friend of Captain Wendell O. Pruitt, one of the Tuskegee Airmen. His *DD214 Record of Service* does show that he was on duty at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama, on August 3, 1945. He served with Squadron C, 2143 AAF Bu (*Army Air Forces Base Unit*) there at Tuskegee. During his military service he received the following commendations:

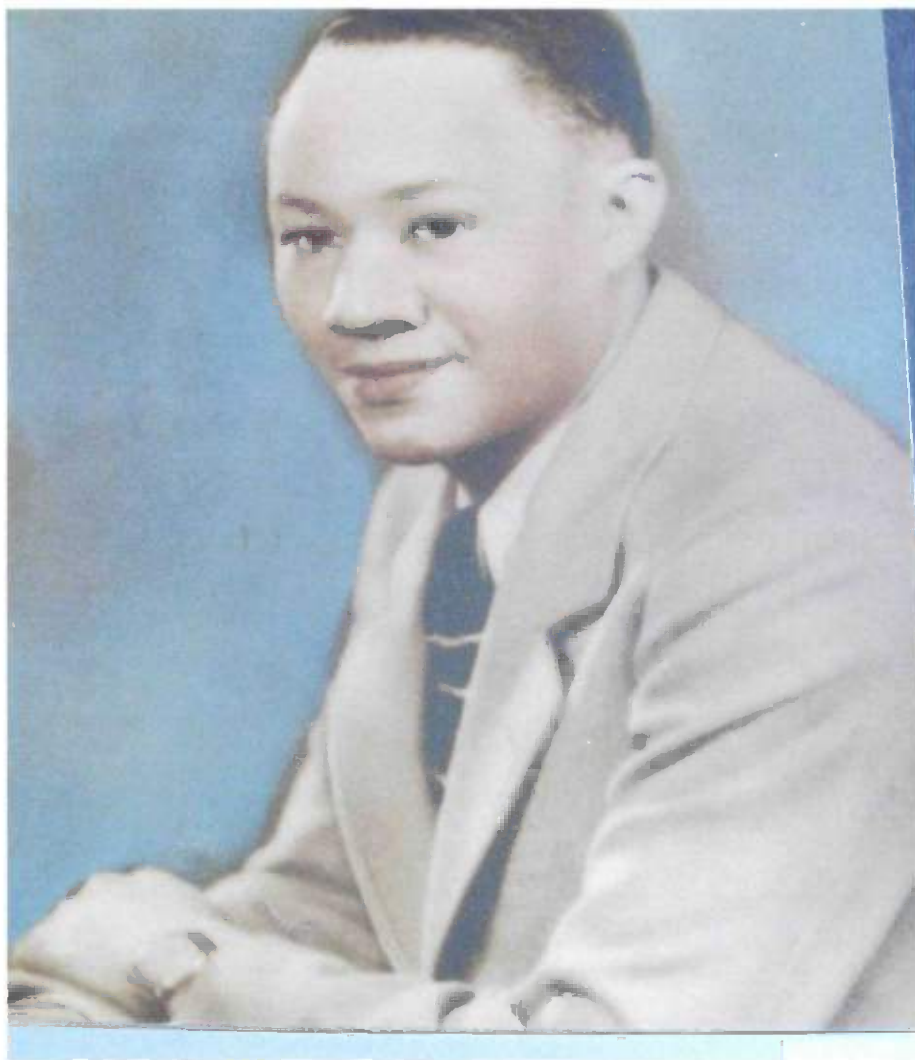
Certificate for Meritorious Service

Lapel Button

Good Conduct Ribbon

ASR 71 (*Army Service Ribbon*) – 2 September 1945

ERC (*Enlisted Reserve Corps*) – 15 days.



Alvyd in his late-20s or early 30s. Taken probably in St. Louis

To me my father seemed taller, but his military documents list him as 66 inches tall, (5 feet 6 inches) and 132 pounds upon enlistment.

Alvold graduated from Sumner High School in St. Louis in 1929 and his military record states that he completed 4 years of high school. Other military records show that he attended Hubbard Business College and a Voice Course at Vashon High School, night school from 1930-32, before entering the service. In the military he functioned as a company clerk and did not see military action overseas. When asked why, my mother related a story that:

“... your dad’s company was being processed for overseas duty at the Great Lakes Naval Station. I went up there to visit him, not knowing that I had scarlet fever. He contracted scarlet fever from me, became ill, and never left the continental United States for the duration of the war...”



Alvold, far right, with friends. Year taken unknown. Lady next to him may have been his first wife, Lucille Turner.

He was discharged from the US Army with the rank of corporal on October 10, 1945 at Scott Field, Illinois. Prior to, and after his military service, he held employment positions as a Wearever aluminum salesman, school teacher, chauffeur and hospital orderly.

My father was a brilliant man – erudite, accomplished and self-taught. He read copious amounts of literature, was skilled in mathematics and learned in history – but he was never able to put his talents and abilities to use because of his addiction to alcohol. I remember my mother telling me that he was so smart that he helped several of the medical interns and nurses-in-training at Homer G. Phillips Hospital study for their exams. And, because of his bearing, he was considered more than an attendant, which was his last position at that medical facility.

In 1952, my mother divorced my father and we moved to the home of my grandmother at 3834 Page Boulevard in St. Louis where we lived until I was in my late teens. I visited my father at his Garfield residence about once monthly, and it was I that was notified when he suffered a cerebral aneurism and was transported to Homer G. Phillips Hospital. He was 49 years, 7 months, 10 days old at the time of his death.

I look back at my limited experiences with my father and I wonder what made him take the course he took in his life. He was in so many ways gifted. Lesser men in history waged a battle for social and/or financial success, but the father I knew seemed somehow to have given up on life. Was it that he was taught to be proud but faced a society that continued to “keep him, a black man, in his place?” Or was it something else? We never had those conversations. I was just entering young womanhood, at age 17, when he died suddenly.

JURI DIVISION OF HEALTH - STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
FILED VS. SEP 16 1959 Primary Registration District No. **2 8113** STATE FILE NUMBER **59-034354**

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 a. COUNTY **Missouri**
 b. CITY OR TOWN **St. Louis**
 c. STREET ADDRESS **4307 Garfield (Rear)**

2. DECEASED (Where deceased lived if institution, institution, or other place)
 a. CITY OR TOWN **St. Louis**
 b. STREET ADDRESS **4307 Garfield (Rear)**

3. NAME OF DECEASED
 First **ALVOYD** Middle **STANTON** Last **STANTON**
 a. SEX **Male** b. COLOR OF RACE **Negro**
 c. DATE OF BIRTH **2/13/10** d. AGE **49**
 e. DATE OF DEATH **August 29, 1959**

4. OCCUPATION (If not stated, give industry)
 a. OCCUPATION **Attendant** b. INDUSTRY **Phillips Hosp.** c. CITY AND STATE **Cape Girardeau, Mo.**
 d. CITIZENSHIP **U. S. A.**

5. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. **489-07-8817** 6. HOME ADDRESS **Celeste Stanton 3834 Page Ave.**

7. DEATH CAUSE
 a. DUE TO **Cerebral Hemorrhage**
 b. ICD CODE **371x**

8. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR **Paul J. Oates** 9. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE **Charles J. Oates**

10. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS **Charles J. Oates** 11. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR **Paul J. Oates**

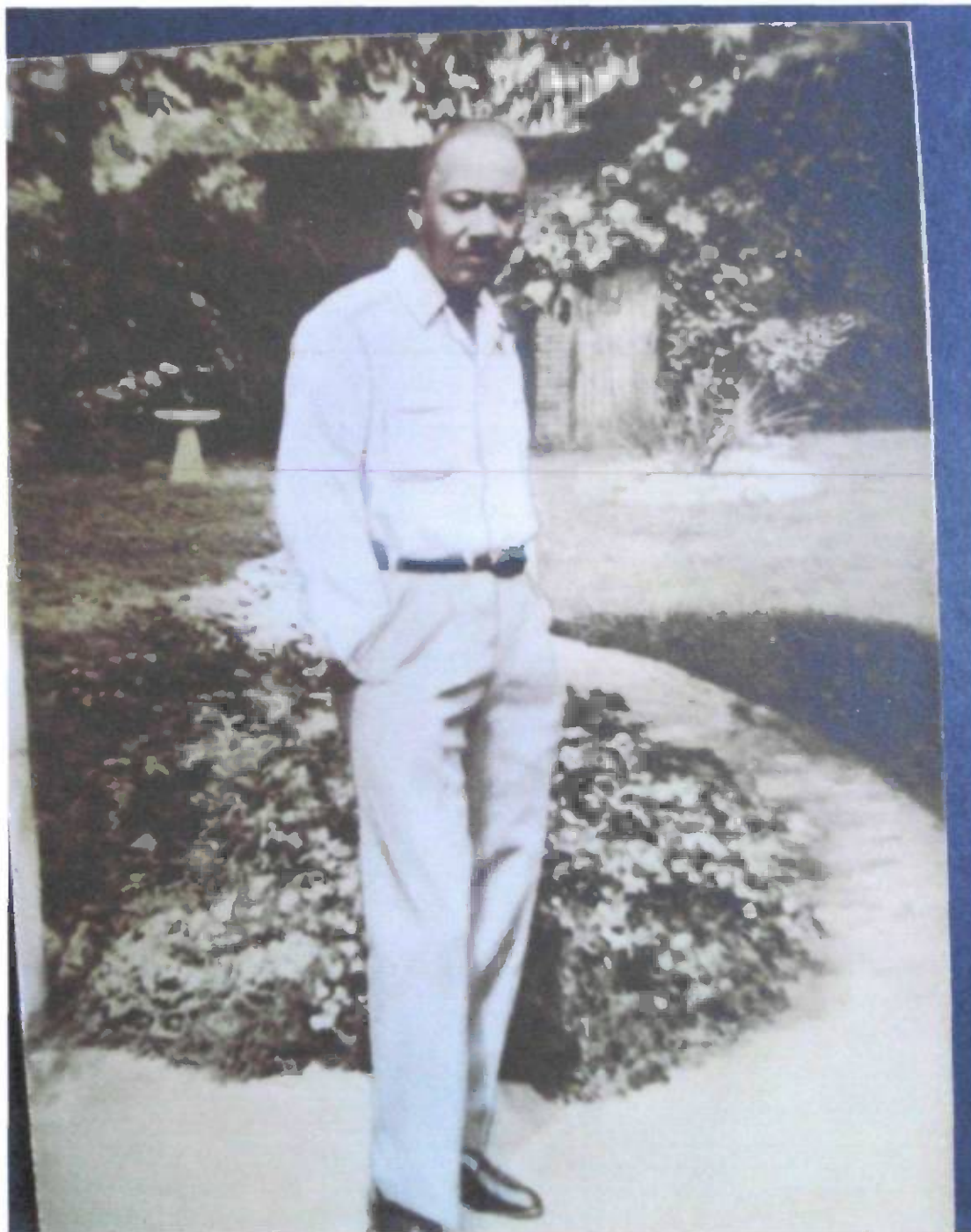
12. DATE OF DEATH **SEP 1 1959**

13. PLACE OF DEATH **4107 Finney** 14. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION **Cape Girardeau, Mo.**

15. COUNTY **Missouri** 16. STATE **Mo.**

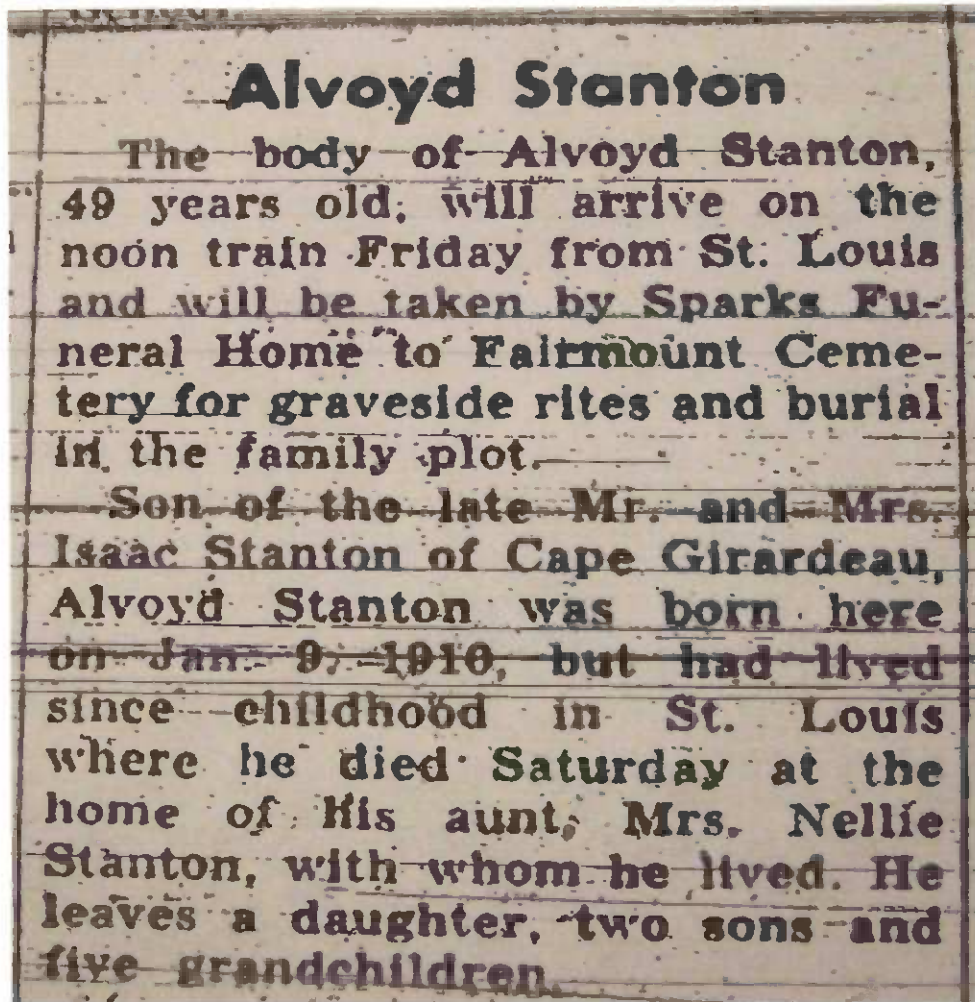
17. BY REGISTRAR **Charles J. Oates** 18. BY DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE **Charles J. Oates**

19. BY WITNESS **Charles J. Oates** 20. BY REGISTRAR **Paul J. Oates**



**Last known photograph taken outside of our apartment at 4307 N. Garfield,
St. Louis about 1950-52**

His obituary, published in the Southeast Missourian Newspaper on September 3, 1959 read as follows:



From the funeral services at Gates Funeral Home in St. Louis, Aunt Nellie and I took my father back to the city of his birth – Cape Girardeau, Missouri for burial. He is laid to rest at Fairmount Cemetery there and is buried in the 8-person family plot which Aunt Nellie purchased many years before his death. His burial is in Lot #355, grave 4 just behind Aunt Nellie and her husband Hezekiah's double tombstone.

There was no money for a headstone at the time of his burial but I wanted my father's place of rest appropriately marked. In November of 1993, I contracted with Lorberg Memorial Funeral Chapel to create and place a tombstone on his grave. His short life will not go unnoticed.



We speak the name of my father, Alvoyd Isaac Stanton. We honor his life.

Chapter 14



Jesse Stanton Ex-slave

The Man Who Gave Us Our Name

Sometime between 1810 and 1820, a very light-skinned baby boy was born in South Carolina to a presently unnamed slave mother. Because of his color, it is quite possible that he was the son or grandson of a slave-holder or other white man. We do not know if he was born in western South Carolina or in the “Low-Country” of that state – an area known for some of the most horrific slave conditions in the country. We do not even know what original last name he was given, if any, or if the name he carried was by his own choice. We only know that his name of record is Jesse Stanton.

Jesse’s year of birth is uncertain. When we first find him on the US Federal Census records (*Commerce, Scott County Missouri 1870*) he has already lived approximately 50 years of his life! At that time, he was head of the household with a young wife of 22, America, and an infant son of 6 months of age, Richard. Jesse is listed as mulatto, a carpenter by trade, and owns \$1000 in real estate property. We do not know how Jesse came to Missouri or why he settled in Commerce, a tiny village on the Mississippi River.

How did Jesse get from South Carolina to Missouri? There are many possibilities. He may have been sold to one, or several, slave-holders over the years. Historically, there was a great westward movement among white settlers from the east seeking farmland. A look at census records shows that many of Missouri’s settlers came from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. And, many brought their slaves with them. Probably most came by land, but others took ships to ports like New Orleans in Louisiana. With the Mississippi River as a major avenue for travel and commerce, the river provided access to sparsely populated areas where land was abundant. *(We must never forget that all the land that was settled was taken from the original inhabitants, our first occupants, the Native Americans!)* The Ohio River, which flows from as far east as Pennsylvania, passes through six states and joins the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois. Along those two major waterways came thousands of would-be settlers, and it is possible that somehow Jesse arrived in Missouri from a river source.

However he arrived, by 1867 Jesse was resident in Scott County, Missouri. We know this now because of court records where he began purchasing land. On January 10, 1867 -only 2 years after the end of the Civil War - he purchased the west half of Lot #73 in Commerce, Missouri, from David J. and Elizabeth Allen for \$150.00.

Book 16
Page 277

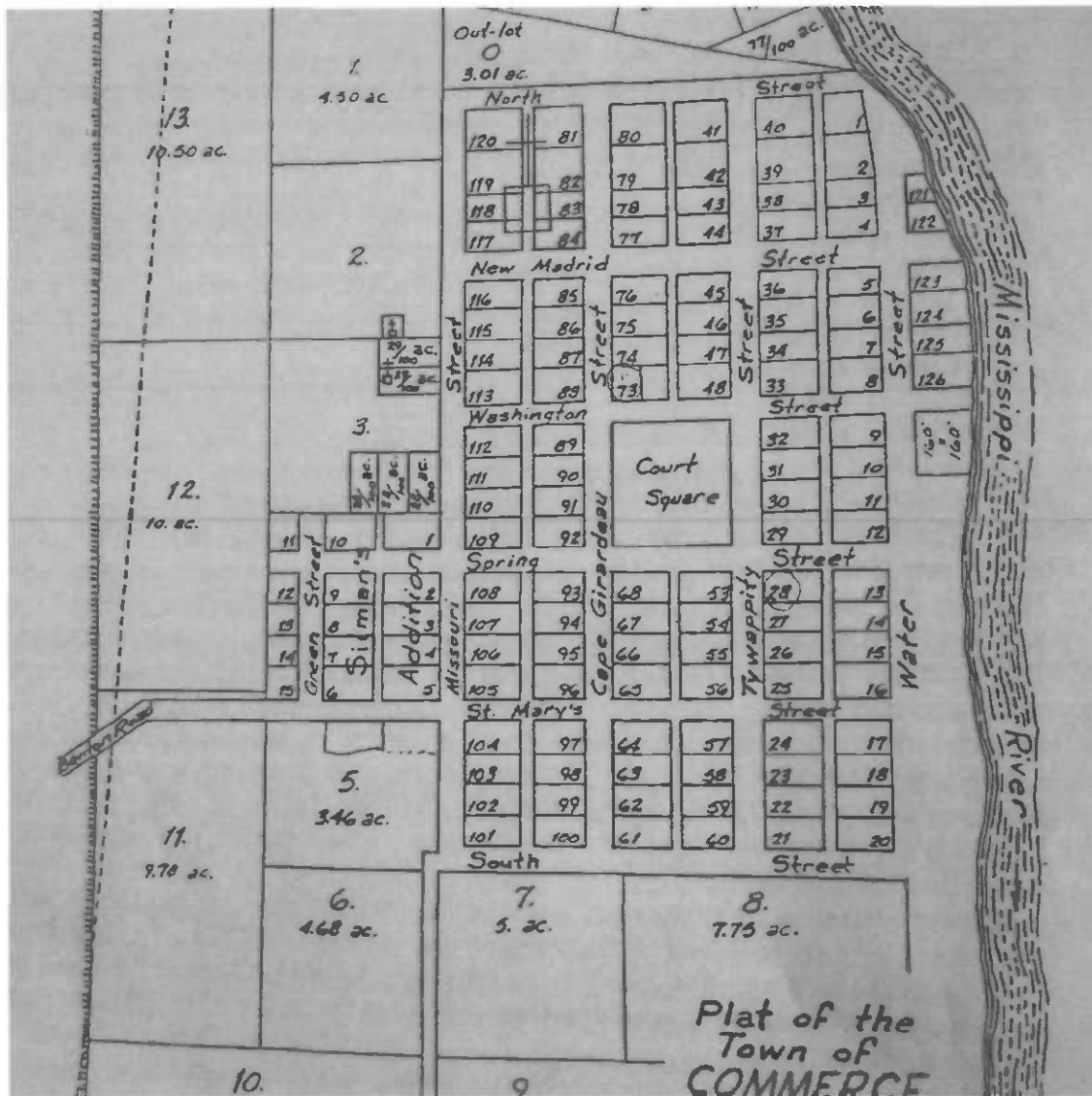
Yeh
Know all men by these presents that we David
Allen and Elizabeth Allen wife of the said David Allen
in the Town of Commerce and the County of Scott and
State of Missouri have this day for and in consideration
of the sum of one hundred and fifty Dollars to the said
David Allen in hand paid by Jesse Stanton of the
aforesaid Town and County and State of Missouri
has bargined and sold and by these presents do grant
bargain and sell unto the said Jesse Stanton the fol-
lowing described Tract or parcel of Land situate in
the aforesaid Town of Commerce and County of Scott
and State of Missouri that is to say the west half of
lot number seventy three in the Town of Commerce
and County and State aforesaid to have and to hold
the premises unto the said Jesse Stanton his heirs
and assigns forever

In witness whereof we have hereto
subscribed our name and affixed our seal this the
Tenth day of January in the Year of our lords one
Thousand Eight hundred and sixty seven

David J. Allen Seal
Elizabeth Allen Seal

If the plat of the town of Commerce has not significantly changed since then, the map below shows lot #73 on the corner of Washington Street and Cape Girardeau Street in Commerce which Jesse bought from the Allens.

It is from the Scott County courthouse records that we can show that the information on the 1870 census was correct. This ex-slave did own approximately \$1000 in property.



Lot #73 – Corner of Cape Girardeau and Washington Streets.

*(Plat of the Town of Commerce with 1857 Silman's Addition.
Prepared by J.B. Hirtz – 12/83)*

Astute as a budding businessman at the time, Jesse turned around and sold that \$150 lot to George W. Fricke on May 28, 1867 for \$675.00 – showing a profit of \$525.00. (*Scott County Deed Book 17, Page 6*). If the map is correct, lot #73 sits on the square in Commerce, and it was common back then to have clusters of businesses situated around a courthouse square. This may be why Jesse was able to realize such a profit for one-half of a lot.

In June of 1867, Jesse purchased another parcel of land for \$125.00 from George Fricke and Thomas Rhoades. This was a portion of an “Out” lot in section eleven (11) there in

Commerce. (*Scott County Deed Book 17, Page 90*). Then in October 1867, Jesse sold a portion of Out Lot Eleven to Charles Billings for the sum of \$50.00. (*Scott County Deed Book #17, Page 91*).

During 1868, Jesse continued to acquire more property in Commerce. Charles Billings *Quit Claimed* to Jesse a 150 foot portion of Out Lot 11 for \$80 on January 31, 1868. (*Scott County Deed Book #17, Pages 240 & 241*). Then on June 30, of that same year, Jesse with his wife, America Stanton, sold a portion of Out Lot 11 to Joseph N. Moore for \$25.00. (*Scott County Deed Book #18, Page 52*).

We must make the assumption here that it was about this time that Jesse married America. If she was 22 years of age on the 1870 census, then we must guess that his new wife was approximately 20 in 1868. After reading numerous deeds and legal documents, it is apparent that the wife of a man selling property had to be included on the instrument if for no other reason than to protect her dower rights. Of Joseph N. Moore's wife, Levisa, who was a party to the sale to Jesse and America, the sale document states:

"...And the said Levisa being by me made acquainted with the contents of said deed and examined separate and apart from her said husband acknowledged that she executed the same and relinquished her dower in the real estate therein mentioned and described voluntarily, freely, and without compulsion or undue influence of her said husband."

In December 1873, Jesse purchased Lot #28 in Commerce from Carroll Moyer, his wife Pauline and Patrick Kelley for the sum of \$200.00. Lot #28 appears to be at the corner of Tywappity Street and Spring Street, again a lot facing onto the courthouse square.

For the next few years Jesse went about his life working more at his profession as an engineer and carpenter, than at his real estate pursuits. And, by 1876, he is now married to Sophia Hunter. I do not know what happened to America or his son, Richard. If she moved away, she may have taken another man's name. With a high child mortality rate back then, Richard may not have survived until adulthood. Whatever happened, they seem to have disappeared from time.

In the Missouri State Census of 1876 (*Tw'p, Cape Girardeau County Missouri*) Jesse is shown as a "colored" male in the category of "age 45 and upward." Sophia Stanton, "colored" female is listed in the category of "21 and under 45 years" right below him. The *Missouri Marriage Records- 1805-2002* show that he and Sophia Hunter were married on October 4, 1874 by a Justice of the Peace in Commerce, Missouri.

H. P. Chamberlin & Co., Printers and Binders, St. Louis

Certificate of Marriage.

(GIVEN UNDER SEAL.)

Mr *Jesse Stanton*

to
Miss *Sophia Hux*

DATE OF MARRIAGE.

Oct 4 1871 A. D. 1871

State of *Missouri*,
County of *Scott* } ss. Recorder's Office,

Filed for record on this

day of *October* A. D. 1871

and recorded in Marriage Record

at Page *41*

George H. H. H. Recorder.

By *Jos. H. H. Deputy.*

We see Jesse and his new family next on the 1880 US Federal Census-Scott County Missouri. Jesse is listed as 63 years of age; Sophia is 24 and there are two children in the household – William, age 3, mulatto, son – and Annie, age 1, daughter, mulatto; and a Mary Sides, age 28, mulatto and she is a servant. We do not know if she was a servant in Jesse's home or elsewhere. Here again we mention the issue of Jesse's age. On the 1870 Census he was allegedly 50 years old. Ten years later he is 13 years older!

Jesse is listed as an “engincer in mill” in Commerce on the 1880 census. A search of mills and factories at that time and in that city leads us to the Wathen Flour Mill. A historical source of information from the *Scott County Missouri Genealogy Trails* taken from the *History of Southeast Missouri by Robert Sidney Douglas, c1912, Lewis Publishing Company, NY*, discusses the creation of Commerce, Missouri as a town and the influential merchants who built businesses there. As a place, it was laid out in 1823 and incorporated in 1834.

“...In 1844 Benjamin B. Gaither began the operation of a tan yard. In 1856 a large mill was built by Ignatius R. Wathen,, who was at that time a resident of Cape Girardeau.” The article goes on to say about Commerce: ***“It has several business establishments, the principal one being a flouring mill and a plant for the manufacture of tile.”***

This is the flour mill at which Jesse worked as an engineer. I have often wondered how he learned the intricacies of complicated machinery and his other craft as a carpenter. Somewhere back in South Carolina, was he apprenticed out to a plantation owner? Was he given special training because of his biological parent? Did he work on a river boat keeping the engines running? Did he just have an ability to learn his trades by observation and practice? How did Jesse develop these critical and valuable skills?

Further evidence of his skill comes from one of those “*if walls could talk*” incidents. The following article was provided to me by Mr. Charles Bain of Scott County in the winter of 2010. He acquired it from a lady who attended a meeting of the Scott County Historical Society and read from a “diary” she had found prior to the meeting. Knowing of my ancestral search, Mr. Bain asked the lady to let him have a copy of the article for me. According to Mr. Bain, this lady recently purchased an old home in Commerce, Missouri and found a diary of a former owner in it, and within that diary was this story about my great-grandfather, Jess Stanton. I have asked Mr. Bain to contact the lady who has the article so I can obtain written permission to use this article in my research and publishing. So far, I have no name nor a way to contact her, and I have lost contact with Mr. Bain despite many attempts. I have no date when this was written nor the name of the author.

Jesse Stanton

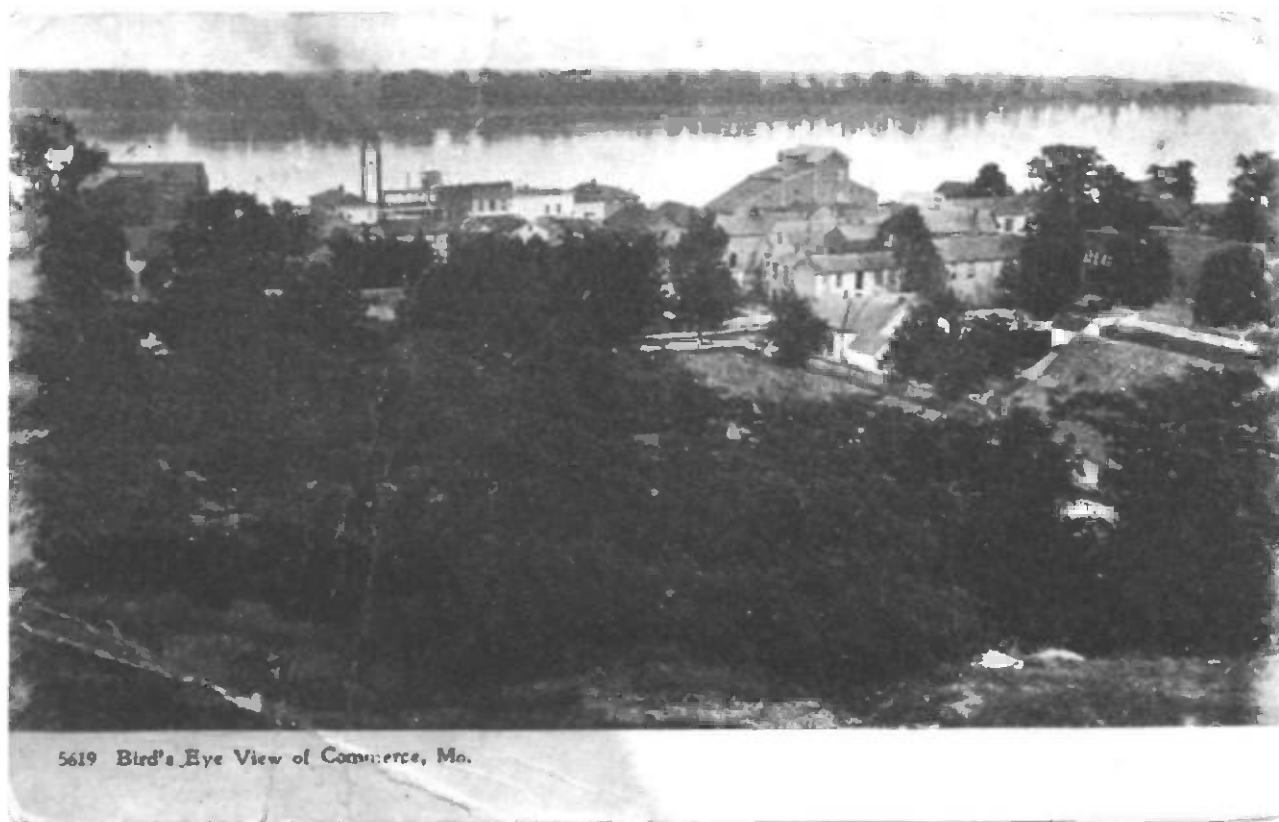
“Jess Stanton (a free slave) was the engineer. He was a tall yellow or red Negro, and was looked upon by those of his own race as a conjurer. He believed he could put the curse upon the people of his own race.

This was before the days of local banks, though there was much talk of them. So, Jess decided to open a bank for the local people of his own race, accept deposits etc. Much in the manner of a regular bank. He carried the money of course, in his pocket, keeping close account of the transactions in his head. As the story goes, things got tight, and Jess got his money mixed with his depositors and they made a

demand on Jess for their money. Jess was supposed to have met them with this excuse, "White folks bank bust, well nigger's bank bust too. Get on away from here. I have no money." And that was the end of that bank.

This old mill was kept in tact for grinding of meal, hops, etc. for many years after the War. It had 150,000 storage capacity and was used for this purpose in later years in conjunction with the new mill. More about the new mill later.

Jess Stanton moved his family to Cape Girardeau in 1890. He never returned to Commerce. When I was a boy, after dark came, you could not get a boy inside the old mill, for Jess Stanton had it haunted. I continued to feel that way about it as long as it stood. I was born just across the street from the old mill, so naturally I was either in or around it every day of the early part of my life. That is why every detail is so plain in my mind. It had a slate floor that was a wonderful foundation. It stood for over a half century without repair. When the mill was torn down, Hy Sanders put the slate on a house he was building." *Author Unknown.*



5619 Bird's Eye View of Commerce, Mo.

View of Commerce, Missouri possibly around the mid-1880s according to the *Scott County Historical Society's web page*. It is possible that the multi-story building near the Mississippi River is the Wathen Flour Mill where Jesse worked as an engineer.

Five years after Jesse purchased Lot #28, he was again attempting to purchase land. In a *Quit Claim Deed* from Simeon Jones and his wife, Jesse paid \$1.00 for "part of Lot #5"

situated near the intersection of St. Mary's and Missouri Streets. (*Quit Claim Deed Book #1, Scott County, Missouri*). We do not know if he had an intention to build on that lot, if it already had a structure on it, or if the purchase was for speculation.

Though it is said that Jesse had plenty of employment over the years, maybe his age, health or other situation created a need for him to liquidate his land holdings. In December of 1882 Jesse and Sophia sold Benjamin Gaither of Scott County, Part of Out Lot #5 on St. Mary's and Missouri Streets for \$300.00. (*Scott County Deed Book 26, Page 562*). It is from here that we see Jesse losing his fortune. One year after that sale, Jesse sold another part of Out Lot #5 also to Benjamin Gaither for the small sum of \$150.00. (*Scott County Deed Book #29, Page 190-notarized on December 7, 1883*). At the time of this second sale, Jesse and his family had moved permanently to Cape Girardeau.

I do not have any other documents that would indicate what happened to Jesse's other pieces of property.

With the loss of the 1890 US Federal Census, we have nothing to go on as to where Jesse's family lived in Cape Girardeau. But he continued to father children with his wife, Sophia. To their marriage was born the following children: William, Annie, Hezekiah, Olivia (Arlevia), Isaak and Walter. We will meet the children in the next chapter. Interestingly, Walter was born when Jesse was age 80 – one year before he died according to the *Cape Girardeau County Birth Records*.

Here again, we have a discrepancy with his alleged age. On the official cemetery record, it shows that he died on May 16, 1891 at the **age of 77**. But the birth record of Walter, clearly the son of Jesse and Sophia, lists Jesse as age 80 in 1890!

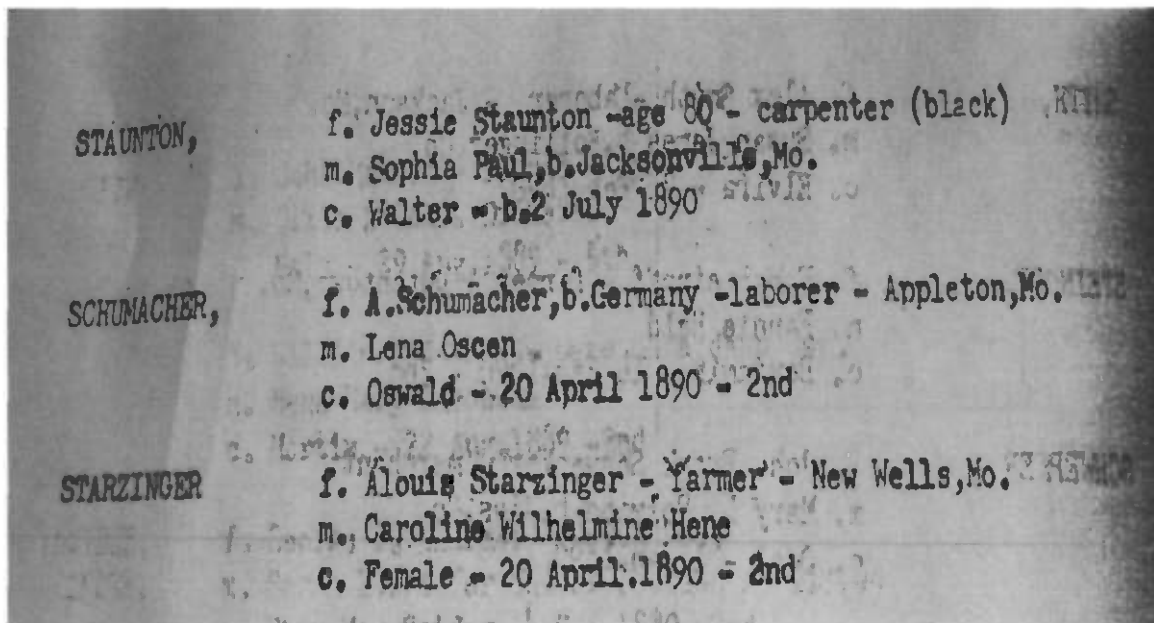
The image shows a handwritten death record for Jesse Stanton. The entry is as follows:

4	Jesse Stanton	May 16	May 17	77
---	---------------	--------	--------	----

Other entries in the record include:

- 1. Child of Paul Reimhardt, Mar 8, Mar 5, 21
- 2. Miss Louie Wilson, May 2, May 3, 21
- 3. Annie Johnson, , 22, , 23, 20
- 4. Roy Earl Kucera, , 22, , 23, 8
- 5. Chester R. Masten, May 1891, May 1891, H
- 6. Saturn Murdoch, June 3 1891, June 6 1891, 15, 3, 12
- 7. Frank Keane, June 12 1891, June 14 1891, 43
- 8. Child of E. Buehl, 1891, June 20 1891, June 21, 21

Official Written Death Record showing Jesse Stanton's date of death and age.



Cape Girardeau County Birth Record showing Jesse, father of Walter, at age 80

The end of this big, strong man's remarkable life came by accident – he fell off a roof while working on a building in 1891 somewhere in Cape Girardeau. What is particularly sad is that no building in Cape Girardeau bears his name. No architect included his name on the historical documents which we find on certain Cape Girardeau City building plans. Yet, most assuredly, he helped create many of the structures in this city, some of which probably still stand today. Was he just a simple workman – or a skilled and trained craftsman? It is clear from his obituary that he was the latter. What many people fail to understand is that with the back-breaking labor of blacks we find the underpinnings of a developing society. But, though the product of that labor is evident, blacks continued to be “invisible,” - given no recognition for so much work.

In trying to piece together Jesse's complicated life, we have no answers to who were his parents, exactly where in South Carolina he was born, and how he managed to wind up in southeast Missouri. Who freed him? How much did he pay for his freedom? I guess the better question is *how much was his life worth to another human being?* And why, after acquiring choice pieces of property in Commerce did he lose or have to sell his land? Was his limited financial knowledge taken advantage of by whites? Did he get cocky and over-extend himself making it impossible for him to pay his bills? Was he a gambler? Why did this man, who was clearly a hard worker, lose everything?

In May of 2011, Mario Stanton and I drove from Cape Girardeau toward Commerce. We wanted to visit the places that Jesse had owned; to see where the old mill had been located and get a sense of what he saw in Commerce. At that time, the Mississippi River was raging from excessive rains and spring snow melt up north. The river was so high at Commerce that the road was completely blocked off by barriers about a mile outside the town. We were not able to get to Commerce. Maybe next time.

Obituary of Jesse Stanton Published in the Cape Girardeau Democrat Newspaper 23 May 1891.

Fell and Killed Himself

Jesse Stanton, the old colored man who has been a resident of this city for more than fifty years, and who claimed to be one hundred and one years old, fell from the roof of a building last Saturday evening and received injuries from which he died in about two hours after the fall.

Jesse Stanton was a splendid mechanic and we have many houses in this city that were built by him. He was born a slave, but he saved money that he earned by working over time and ten years before the breaking out the civil war he purchased his own freedom.

At the close of the war Stanton located in Commerce, Missouri, and he remained in that town working at his trade, that of a carpenter, till a few years ago, when he returned to this city. He was an industrious, hard working man, but after purchasing his freedom he never accumulated any wealth. He always had work at fair wages, but money would not stay with him when a free man as it did when the bondage of slavery made him the property of another man.

We could not find a grave marker for Jesse in Fairmount Cemetery. He has none. Jesse - the man who labored to "buy" himself, the ex-slave, who had so much property at one time- is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave somewhere in that cemetery. That burial is verified by the June 2010 edition of the *Collage of Cape County, page 7*. Under the heading of FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY PAUPERS' BURIALS submitted by Mr. Terrell Weaver (the sextant), Jesse is listed with a birth date of 1814 and date of death, May 16, 1891.

We will continue to search for Jesse's roots. We want to know who freed him, how, and if it happened in South Carolina where he was born, or elsewhere somewhere between that state and Missouri. Maybe it was in Missouri? We would like to see a photograph of this man who gave us our name.

As it pertains to Jesse's freedom, a search of records in the *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* – *"African-American Genealogical Research,"* by Paul R. Begley and Steven D. Tuttle, provides some insight into the topic of **Manumission in South Carolina.**

"Before 1800, slaves usually achieved emancipation in South Carolina either by being freed by the slaveowner or by purchasing their freedom themselves. In 1800, the South Carolina General Assembly began to regulate manumissions by passing a law that said manumissions, to be legal, had to be endorsed by a court of magistrates and freeholders. In 1820, the Assembly passed a more restrictive law that said slaves could be emancipated only by an act of the General Assembly. Slaveowners, however, circumvented this law either by freeing their slaves and paying for their emigration from the state or by selling them to a trustee through a deed of trust. The terms of the deed allowed a slave who was under the supervision of a trustee to live as an essentially free person. In 1841, the General Assembly passed *"An Act to Prevent Emancipation of Slaves,"* which curtailed manumissions by deed of trust. Slaveowners, however continued to petition the General Assembly for manumissions after the law passed. For two excellent studies of free African Americans in South Carolina, Consult: *"A World in Shadow: The Free Black in Antebellum South Carolina"* by Marina Wikramanayake, and *"Black Slaveowners: Free Black Slave Masters in South Carolina,"* 1790-1860 by Larry Koger."

Though I suspect Jesse was freed somewhere other than South Carolina, that fact is yet to be determined. In the meantime,

We speak the name of Jesse Stanton; we honor his life.

Chapter 15



Jesse's Wife Sophia Hunter Stanton

We know very little about Jesse's second wife, Sophia, who is my great-grandmother, and like Jesse, her actual date of birth creates questions.

There is an S. Hunter in the home of an A. and S. Hunter on the 1870 census of Booneville, Cooper County, Missouri. The family is black and the 12 year old female S. Hunter could possibly be Sophia. All available records say that she was born in Missouri. The parents in this home were born in Kentucky but all of their children show Missouri as their birth place. Though the Sophia Stanton that we see on the 1880 Scott County Census, married to Jesse, is age 24, the age discrepancy is of little interest as we know how inaccurate the ages were listed.

If this is our Sophia, we will have to struggle with her age as listed on various census documents. When we know who she is for sure, she is married to Jesse on the 1880 (*Commerce, Scott County, Missouri*) census and they have two children at that time – William and Annie. Allegedly Sophia is 24 years old in 1880. However, on the 1900 census (*Cape Girardeau County, Dist. 26*), her age is listed as only 33 even though 20 years has passed between these two censuses. Yet, there is no doubt that this is the same woman, as her children are in the home with her. She is widowed, has given birth to 8 children, and only 4 are living at the time of the 1900 census. (*We will discuss all of the children in Chapter 16 – “The Children of Jesse Stanton.”*)

Sophia was widowed by Jesse's death in 1891. She remained in Cape Girardeau and at one time was employed as a cook in a private family. I can only imagine what her struggle must have been like. In a severely racially divided climate, she was black with limited education, widowed, head of a household of growing children and working for, what was probably, a minimal amount of salary for the times.

In 1904, Sophia subsequently married a Mr. Alexander Williams in Cape Girardeau. (*Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002*).

Marriage License of Alexander Williams and Sophia Stanton (from Ancestry.com)

#6078

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

ISSUED TO

Alexander Williams

AND

Sophia Stanton

on the *19th* day of *June* 19*04*

FILED FOR RECORD

on the *29* day of *June* 19*04*

RECORDED

in Marriage Record *1* at page *225*

J. E. Schumaker
County Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder of Deeds

Deputy.

FEE, - - \$1.00.

Sec. 114. District No. 10. County of Putnam, N. Y. Every officer or person who shall fail to return a license within thirty days after the issuing of the same, or who shall make a false report thereof, or any Recorder who shall willfully make a false report of any marriage license or of any ceremony, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be liable to fine not less than five

NOTICE TO PERSONS SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGES:
 If you are not a citizen of the United States, besides possessing the other qualifications, you cannot solemnize marriages, and would be liable to both fine and imprisonment for so doing. Read License carefully.
 A Certificate of Marriage must be given by the person performing this ceremony, showing the names, residences, date of marriage, county from which the parties were married, and the names of the witnesses.

I am not sure where Sophia got all of her last names which occur on various documents. Clearly she was Hunter when she married Jesse. When Isaac was born in 1888 she and Jesse were still together and the birth notice names him, and her as Sophia Wright?? On another birth record, her name is listed as Sophia Paul married to Jesse Stanton?? In each instance, the married couple is the same. I do not understand her last names.

Official Death Certificate of Sophia (Hunter)(Stanton) Williams.

MISSOURI BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DEC 26 1928

36285

1. PLACE OF DEATH
Cape Girardeau, Missouri
County Registration District No. 3009

2. FULL NAME
Ms. Sophia Williams

3. SEX
Female

4. COLOR OR RACE
Black

5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED
Married

6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR)
Aug. 9 - 1860

7. AGE
Years 68 Months 3 Days 4

8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
Housewife

9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN; STATE OR COUNTRY)
Kirkwood, Missouri

10. NAME OF FATHER
Not known

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN; STATE OR COUNTRY)
Not known

12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER
Not known

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN; STATE OR COUNTRY)
Not known

14. Informant
Ms. Arlevia Parker
Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Date 11-14-28

15. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL
Fairmount Cemetery
Date of Burial Nov 16 1928

16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR)
Nov. 12 1928

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended deceased from Nov 12 1928 to Nov 12 1928 and that I had seen deceased alive on Nov 12 1928 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, of the cause of death as follows:
Cerebral Hemorrhage

18. WHETHER DISEASE CONTRACTED
8 Did an operation precede death
Was there an autopsy

19. PLACE OF DEATH
Cape Girardeau, Mo.
11/14 1928

20. UNDERTAKER
W. B. Bunker
536 Borden

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

2. Every item of information should be carefully verified. LOS should be stated EXACTLY. PARTICULARS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly adjudged. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Her birth place is listed as Kirkwood, which is a suburb of St. Louis. Also, her date of birth is shown as 1860, yet it is possible that her birth date was earlier than that by about 2-3 years.

Note that Jesse and Sophia's daughter, Arlevia (Arlevia), is the informant on the death certificate. Sophia's place of burial is also Fairmount Cemetery. She is listed on the cemetery records as burial #7411.

CAPE NEGRO WOMAN DIES

Mrs. Sophia Stanton Williams, 69 years old, a negro woman, died at 7:15 o'clock Monday evening at her home, 537 Morgan Oak street, of heart trouble with which she had been suffering for several years. Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at the negro Baptist church in this city, and interment will be in Fairmount cemetery. The Rev. W. M. Rieves of Arkansas will conduct the services.

Mrs. Williams is survived by her second husband, Alec Williams, and four children by her former marriage: Mrs. Anna Shannon of St. Louis. Mrs. Arlevia Snider of this city, Evie Stanton of St. Louis and Isaac Stanton of Cape Girardeau.

Obituary for Sophia (Hunter) (Stanton) Williams – 13 November 1928
Southeast Missourian Newspaper



Copper-colored granite tombstone to the right is Sophia Williams'. She is buried next to her son, Hczekiah Stanton, and his wife, Nellie in the 8-grave burial plot which Aunt Nellie purchased.

**Inscription reads: MOTHER
 Sophia
 Williams
 1861 – 1928**

Standing behind the double tombstone is Mario Stanton, great-great-great grandson of Sophia and Jesse Stanton. Photo taken May, 2011.

Official Death Certificate of Sophia's Second Husband, Alexander Williams.

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

33188

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Cape Girardeau Mo. District No. 125
 Precinct Cape Girardeau Mo. District No. 307
 City Cape Girardeau Mo.

2. FULL NAME: Alexander Williams
 (a) Surname. No. Williams (b) Given names at birth. Alexander
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da. Has long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE Black 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED Widow
 6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) Oct. 1849
 7. AGE YEARS 80 MONTHS - DAYS - BY LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
 (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Laborer
 (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
 (c) Name of employer

9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Alabama
 (STATE OR COUNTRY) Alabama

10. NAME OF FATHER Holland

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) Alabama
 (STATE OR COUNTRY)

12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Mary Ann Thomas

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) Alabama
 (STATE OR COUNTRY)

14. Mr. Geo. Williams
 (Address) Cape Girardeau, Mo.

15. FILED 1/29/29 W.C. Kumpfer REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) Oct. 28 1929

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from Oct. 27 1929, to Oct. 28 1929, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 7:30 P.M.
 THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS AS FOLLOWS:
Cerebral Hemorrhage
82A

CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) HT

18. WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED
 IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH

DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? DATE OF _____
 WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY?
 WHAT TEXT COVERED SAME? Dr. Paul R. Williams
 (Address) Cape Girardeau, Mo.

*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or if death from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND MANNER OF INJURY, and (2) Whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Lorimier Cem. DATE OF BURIAL Oct. 30 1929

20. UNDERTAKER W. H. Kintner ADDRESS 536 B. Ave.

H. 2.—Every item of information should be correctly supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICAL CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION in very brief terms.

Sophia died in 1928 and Alexander Williams, her second husband, ten years her senior, died one year later in 1929, also in Cape Girardeau. His burial in Lorimier Cemetery is listed as person #6549, Section 3, Lot 179, Grave 6.

We speak the name of Sophia Hunter Stanton Williams; we honor her life.

We speak the name of Alexander Williams; we honor his life.

Chapter 16



The Known Children of Jesse Stanton

We will probably never know how many children Jesse Stanton sired in his lifetime. Born a slave in South Carolina, he was approximately in his mid-thirties when he purchased his freedom, from wherever, and whomever, and wound up in Scott County, Missouri. 1870 is the first time we are able to see Jesse on any document. By then, he is approximately 50 years of age. It is logical and reasonable to believe that a big, strong, strapping, healthy male, no matter what his status, had fathered one or more children prior to the age of 50. Were his children sold away from him as was common during slavery times? Did he love the woman or women by whom he had other children? Did he leave them all on a quest for his freedom? Did he even have a choice as to where he would go or live? We only know from historical documents, or their own words, written or recorded for posterity, what happened to the lives of men in bondage. If, as a slave, he did father other children, only he might know their names. The names of those children and where they were born, will forever be lost to history.

The following are the known children of Jesse Stanton:

Richard Stanton

We see Jesse first on the 1870 US Federal Census (*Commerce, Scott County, Missouri, June 6, 1870*) with a young wife, America, and one child, Richard, a mulatto infant of six months old at the taking of the census. Did Richard survive? We do not know. I have found no other record of him, or his mother after that census year.

By the 1880 Federal Census, (*also Commerce, Scott County, Missouri*), Jesse is legally married to Sophia Hunter (also known as Sophia Wright), and they have listed as their children, William and Annie. We speak the name of Richard Stanton; we honor his life.

William (Willie) Stanton

William was approximately three years old at the time of the 1880 Federal Census (*Scott County, June 3, 1880, Sheet 8, Dist. 142*), the older of the two children in the home of Jesse and Sophia. His death record shown in the *Cape Girardeau Fairmount Cemetery Paupers Burials List prepared by Terrell Weaver, Sextant*, shows that he was born January 26, 1876. The actual written Cape Girardeau burial record shows that he died of rheumatic fever on January 30th and was buried on January 31st, 1887. If the actual death

records are accurate, William (Willie) only lived to be eleven years old. We speak the name of William (Willie) Stanton; we honor his life.

Annie Stanton

Annie is the second living child born to Jesse and Sophia Stanton. At the time of the 1880 Federal US Census (*Commerce, Scott County, Missouri, June 3, 1880*) she was one year of age. As we all know by now, there is no 1890 Federal Census due to the fire in Washington, DC – so we see Annie next on the 1900 US Federal Census (*Cape Girardeau City, Missouri, Dist. 26*). Her father, Jesse, is deceased and Sophia is listed as head of the household. There are now four children in the household, all born before Jesse's death. Annie is 22 years of age, single but no employment is shown for her.

On the 1910 US Federal Census (*St. Louis City, St. Louis, Missouri, Ward 22*) Annie (Anna) is now married and living in that city with her husband of 4 years, William Shannon. Anna is employed as a dressmaker for a family and William works as a building janitor. William and his parents are all from Tennessee. This is a first marriage for Anna and William, and so far, there are no children of the marriage.



Photograph of Anna Stanton Shannon

On the back of the frame is written: "Eyes grey, hair black, color light, lace white."

Apparently, the photograph was to be delivered to “Mr. H. Stanton, (her brother Hezekiah) in the alley back of 229 S. Fountain Street Postal 298” in Cape Girardeau. However, the photograph was taken at Lewis Studios, on Franklin Avenue, in St. Louis. There is no date anywhere on the photograph but it is clear that this is a young Anna.



Photograph of William “Sandy” and Anna Stanton Shannon
Date of photograph unknown, but taken in St. Louis, Missouri

Apparently the couple was prospering in the limited society of the St. Louis area. The 1930 St. Louis census shows that they own their home on Goode Avenue, valued at \$3,000 and they had a radio! William is 54, employed as a janitor for an apartment complex, and Anna is 50, employed as a laundress in a private family. There are no children listed. Both are literate, able to read and write.

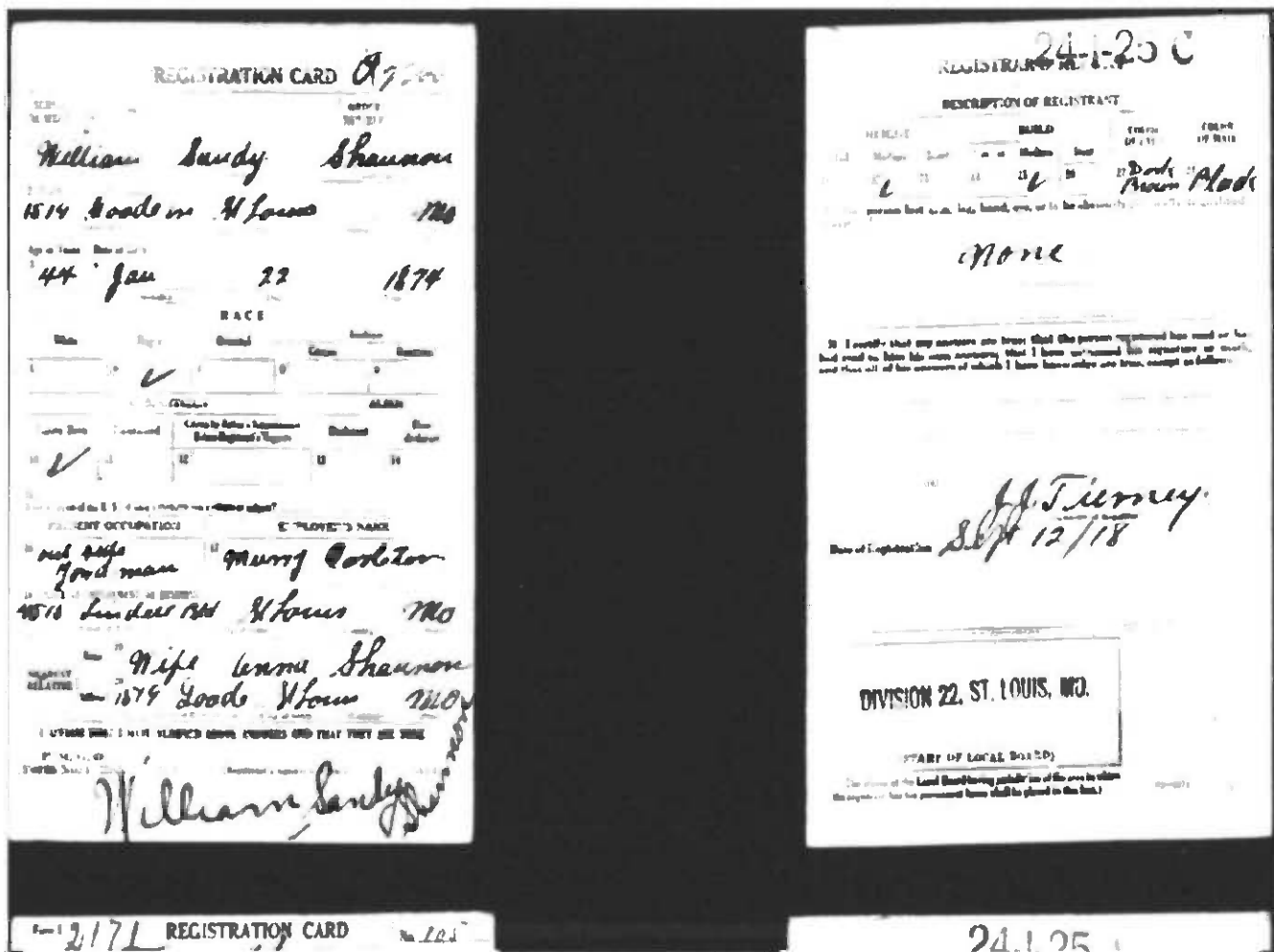


Photograph of Anna Stanton Shannon

I cannot tell exactly when this photograph was taken, but we can approximate the date due to the inscription at the bottom which reads "From Aunt Anna to Juanitta." Juanita was the daughter of Hezekiah and Nellie Stanton. Hezekiah was Anna's younger brother. Juanita was born in 1903 and died of dyptheria in 1911, so we can say that the photograph was taken within that eight-year period.

Apparently Anna and her husband, nicknamed "Sandy", were financially able to help other family members in need. When her brother, Isaac, drowned in Cape Girardeau, it was Anna who paid for his funeral and burial.

According to Ancestry.com – World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 for William Sandy Shannon, he registered for military service on September 12, 1918.



It is hoped that Anna and “Sandy” lived a good life together. Though by personal choice or by a fluke of nature, they did not have children together. Anna preceded her husband in death on January 7, 1946, dying as a result of a cerebral hemorrhage. She was 65 years, 10 months and 4 days of age at her death. At the time of her death, she and her husband lived at 1519 Goode Avenue, the home they had owned for many years. Apparently she suffered the stroke at home and was taken to Homer G. Phillips Hospital, often called “the colored” hospital, where she passed this life shortly after admission.

From the O.T. Nash Funeral Home, Anna’s body was buried in Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis. (One note about Washington Park Cemetery: Highway 70 was cut right through parts of this cemetery causing hundreds of graves to be relocated. Unfortunately, many of those graves were also either destroyed or lost.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Form No. 921
Register's No. 296

FILED JAN 31 1946
Primary Registration District No. 1003

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County: St. Louis, Mo.
(b) City or town: St. Louis
(c) Name of hospital or institution: Homer G. Phillips Hoop
(d) Length of stay: Less than 1 day
Is this community: About 40 years (Specify whether large, small or rural)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State: Missouri (b) County: 026
(c) City or town: St. Louis (If outside city or town health, write "RURAL")
(d) Street No.: 2519 Goode Ave. (If rural, describe location)
(e) Citizens of foreign country: None (Yes or No)
If not, state country: None

3. (a) PRINT FULL NAME: Anna Shannon
2. (b) Sex: Female 3. (c) Social Security No.: None
4. (a) Color or race: Colored 5. (b) Status: Married
6. (c) Name of husband or wife: William Sandy Shannon 7. (d) Age of husband or wife if alive: 68 years
8. (e) Birth date of deceased: Mar. 3, 1880 (Month) (Day) (Year)

9. AGE: Years: 65 Months: 10 Days: 4 If less than one day

10. Birthplace: Cape Girardeau, Mo. (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
11. Usual occupation: Seamstress
12. Industry of business: None
13. Name: Jesse Stanton
14. Birthplace: Unknown (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
15. Marriage name: Sophia
16. Birthplace: Unknown (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
17. (a) Informant: William S. Shannon
(b) Address: 1519 Goode Ave.
18. (a) Burial: Washington Park, Calm. (b) Date thereof: Jan. 17, 1946
(c) Place buried or cremated:
19. (a) Signature of funeral director: O. J. Nash
(b) Address: 8847 Papageorge
20. (a) JAN 10 1946 (b) (Specify type of place)

21. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. DATE OF DEATH: Month: JAN day: 7th year: 1946 hour: 7:00 minute: A.M.
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____ 19____ to _____ 19____ and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.
Immediate cause of death: Cerebral Hemorrhage
Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death): 8.8
Major findings: Of operations: _____ Of autopsy: _____
Underline the cause to which death appears to be directly attributable.

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify): _____
(b) Date of occurrence: _____
(c) Where did injury occur: _____ (City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place?
White or pink? (Specify type of paper) (a) _____
23. (a) Signature of physician: Samuel E. Taylor, M.D. (b) Address: 1300 Clark (c) Date: 1-8-46

(Licensed Embalmer's Statement on Reverse Side)

3109
WRITE PLAINLY—USE UNFADING INK—MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD

Official death certificate of Anna (Stanton) Shannon.

On June 19-20, 1900 we saw the Stanton family on the US Federal Census (*Cape Girardeau City, Missouri, Dist. 26*). As stated before, Jesse Stanton is deceased. Sophia Stanton is head of the household with three more of their children in addition to Anna in the household: Hezekiah, Olivia and Isaak.

We speak the name of Anna Stanton Shannon; we honor her life.
We speak the name of William "Sandy" Shannon; we honor his life.

Hezekiah Stanton

See Chapters 10 and 11 for detailed information on Hezekiah and his family.

Isaac Stanton

See Chapters 10 and 12 for detailed information on Isaac and his family.

Olivia (Arlevia) Stanton

Olivia – later called **Arlevia**, is the youngest daughter of Jesse and Sophia Stanton, born about May of 1885. I remember Aunt Nellie mentioning “Arlevia’s” name but had no idea how she was related to our family. Now I know that she was Aunt Nellie’s sister-in-law. Born 3-4 years after her brother, Hezekiah Stanton, she is shown on the 1900 Federal Census (*Cape Girardeau City, Dist. 26*). Though living in Cape at that time, it is believed that she might have been born in Scott County just before her father and mother moved to Cape Girardeau.

At about age 19, Arlevia married George Williams on October 20, 1904 in Cape Girardeau – (*Marriage book I, page 276*). To that marriage was born three children: Rayborn Williams, George Wyman Williams and Hortense Williams. I remember Aunt Nellie mentioning Hortense’s name on several occasions, but like her mother, I did not know how she was connected to Aunt Nellie and our side of the family. Arlevia divorced Mr. Williams on November 28, 1925 (*Divorce case #6458, Book P, page 331, Cape Girardeau City*).

On November 29, 1926 she married Columbus Lee Snider in Cape Girardeau, (*Marriage book, page 509*), to whom she remained wed until her death in that city on August 12, 1935. Arlevia is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, but I do not find her grave listing on the CD disc from the cemetery. (I do find her husband, Columbus Snider, buried there January 10, 1969.)

SUCCUMBS AT 47
Alovia Stanton Snider, 47 years old, a Negro woman, died of heart disease at the family home, 405 Good Hope street, early today. She had been ill three months.
Surviving are the husband, Columbus Snider and three children. The children are Rayborn Williams 17, George Wyman Williams 19, and Hortense Williams 28. A sister, Anna S. Shannon, and a brother, Hez Stanton, live in St. Louis.
Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

For the budding genealogist, this is an excellent example of why an obituary is such a valuable tool in the search for family members and/or their connections to other persons. This obituary lists the fact that the deceased was married prior to her current marriage; there are children from the first marriage; she has living siblings and their names are given and the siblings are residents in another city. There is tremendous information in this small document.

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Cape Girardeau Registration District No. 121 File No. 219
 Township Cape Girardeau Primary Registration District No. 3009 Registered No. 219 Ward

2. FULL NAME Olivia Stanton
 (a) Residence, full (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Female 4. COLOR OR RACE White 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Married
 6. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OR (OR) WIFE Calvin Stanton
 7. AGE YEARS 47 MONTHS 3 DAYS 9 If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.
 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as operator on river, bookkeeper, etc. Housework
 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.
 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)
 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation
 12. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Cape Girardeau (STATE OR COUNTRY) Missouri
 13. NAME Jesse Stanton
 14. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Waldron (STATE OR COUNTRY)
 15. MOTHER NAME Hortense August
 16. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Waldron (STATE OR COUNTRY)
 17. INFORMANT Hortense August
 18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL PLACE Funeral Home DATE August 14, 1935
 19. UNDERTAKER Brinkopf-Howell
 20. FILE NO. 14-215-3009-219

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR) Aug 12, 1935
 22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 7:11 - 10:35 to 8:19 - 10:35
 I last saw deceased alive on 7:30 1935. Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 7:30 a.m.
 The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows:
Leaking of the Heart
 Other contributory causes of importance:
None
 Name of physician None Date of None
 What test confirmed diagnosis? None Was there an autopsy?
 23. If death was due to external cause (violence), fill in also the following:
 Accident, suicide, or homicide? None Date of injury None
 Where did injury occur? None Specify day or town, county, and State.
 Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.
 Manner of injury None
 Nature of injury None
 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased?
 If so, specify None
 (Signed) B. P. Dutton M. D.
 (Address) 125 Bassett Cape Girardeau

Death Certificate of Olivia (Arlevia) Stanton Williams Snider – August 12, 1935.

Her cause of death was “Leaking of the Heart”. She was 47 years, three months and 9 days old and living on Good Hope Street in Cape Girardeau at the time of her death. Arlevia’s parents are clearly shown with her daughter, Hortense, as the informant. Her body was handled by Brinkopf-Howell Undertaker.

We speak her name; we honor her life.

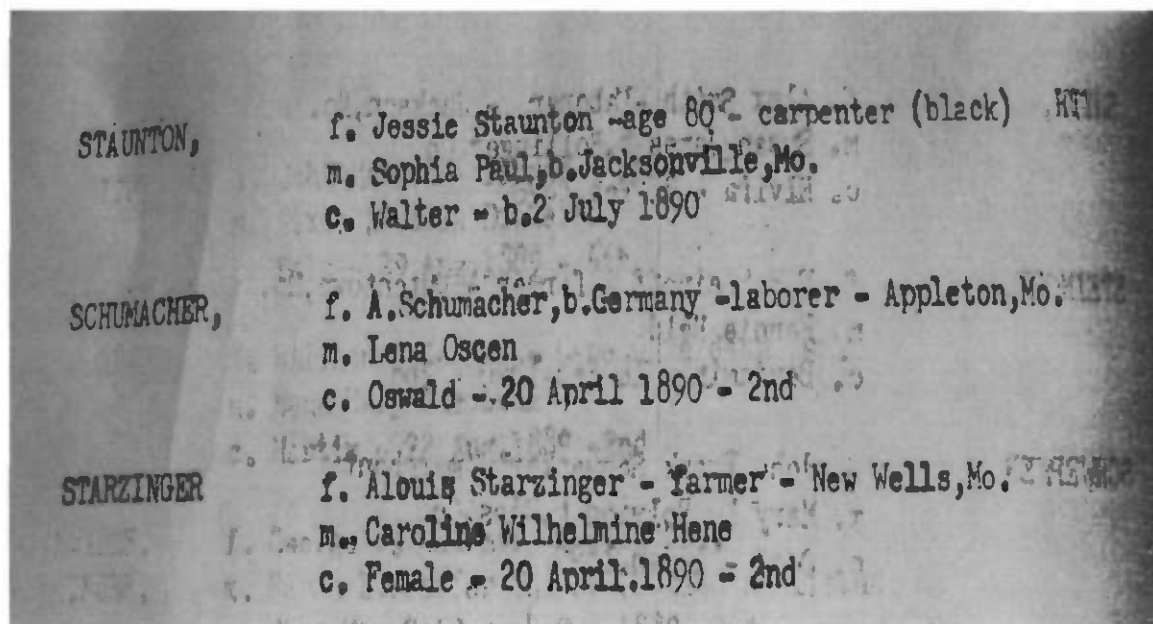
Walter Stanton

Back in the early 1990s when I began this genealogical process, I’d seen the name of Walter Stanton, but had no way at that time to tie him directly to Jesse. I believe it was my young grand-nephew, Mario Stanton, who searched through the birth record books at the Cape Girardeau County Archives when we visited in May 2011 and found the actual birth notice for Walter Stanton. Then in the September 2010 issue of the *Collage of Cape*

County, I saw Walter's name on the *Fairmont Cemetery Paupers' Burials* submitted by *Terrell Weaver*. It showed Walter born in 1890 and died December 11, 1891. With these dates, it is clear why we have never, until now, seen Walter in Jesse or Sophia Stanton's family listing. Again, the 1890 Federal Census is gone. Depending on what month the census might have been taken in Cape Girardeau, Walter might have shown up as a tiny infant that year. By the 1900 census, Walter was dead, having lived for only a little over a year. So, without the actual birth record, we may not have been able to prove that Walter was the son of Jesse and Sophia Stanton, and their last born child. Jesse died in May and Walter in December of the same year - 1891. What a truly tragic year it must have been for Sophia and their children.

What is of particular interest about Walter's birth record is that his father, Jesse, is listed as 80 years of age at the time of his birth. Though the family name is slightly misspelled, which is not uncommon in genealogical records, we see that Walter's father is "black" and a "carpenter," and we know that to be fact.

Copy of the Actual Record – Page 76 of the Birth Records Book-Cape Girardeau County Archives, Jackson, Missouri



We speak the name of Walter Stanton; we honor his life.

Thus ends the list of the only known children of Jesse Stanton and his two known wives, America and Sophia.

Chapter 17



Cousins by the Dozens

Edna Goines and Harold R. Abernathy

151

Marriage License

ISSUED TO

Harold R. Abernathy
AND
Edna P. Goins

on the **23** day of **June** 19**23**

FILED FOR RECORD

on the **29** day of **June** 19**23**

RECORDED

in Marriage Record. *[Signature]* at page **563**

[Signature]
Recorder of Deeds.

By _____ Deputy.

Sec. 1986. Secular Marriage, 1910. Penalty for failure to record or return license. Every solemnizer or person who shall fail to return a license within the time after the making of the same, or who shall make a false return thereon, or any Recorder who shall willfully make a false record of any marriage license or return thereon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars.

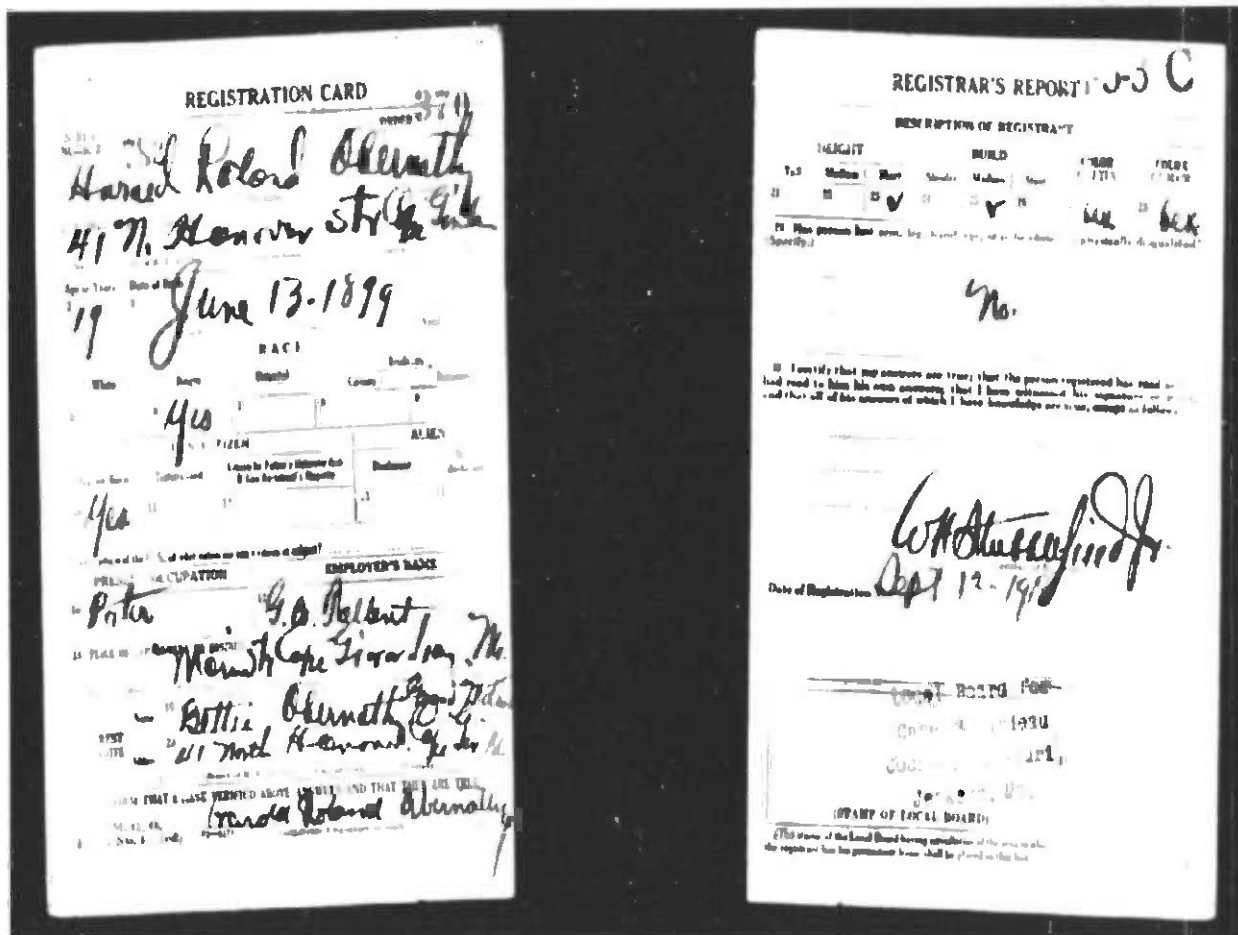
Section 1921. Page 176. Section 2514. Every person who shall solemnize any marriage having knowledge of any fact which renders such marriage unlawful or voidable in either of the parties under any law of this state, or having knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that either of the parties shall be under the age of legal majority, or is insane, mentally imbecile, totally blind or epileptic, or where in his knowledge any other legal impediment exists to such marriage, and every person not authorized by law to solemnize marriages who shall solemnize any such marriage, and every person who shall knowingly and unlawfully perform any such marriage, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine not less than five dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Approved March 23, 1921.

Sec. 2000. R. S. 1910 Marriages may be solemnized by any judge of a court of record or any justice of the peace, or any licensed or ordained minister of the gospel, who is a citizen of the United States or who is a resident of and a member of any church in this state.

NOTICE TO PERSONS SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGES

If you are not a citizen of the United States, or a resident of and pastor of some church in this state, unless possessing the other necessary legal qualifications you cannot solemnize marriage, and would be liable to both fine and imprisonment for so doing. Read license carefully.
A certificate of Marriage must be given by the person performing this ceremony to the persons married.

Harold R. Abernathy is the grandson of Elizabeth (Bettie) Abernathy. Edna P. Goins (Goines) is the daughter of George and Eliza Brown Goines. Eliza is the sister of Catherine Brown Allen, Josephine Brown Piercefield, Nona Brown, Jesse Brown, Lulu Brown and Emily Brown Cardwell. Edna is also the twin sister of Bud Goines. (Missouri Marriage Records).



World War I – Draft Registration Card for Harold Roland Abernathy who married Eliza and George Goines daughter, Edna. (Ancestry.com)

Social Security Death Record for Harold R. Abernathy – (From Ancestry.com)

SSN: 487-18-7786 - DOB: June 13, 1902 - Died: December 1976
 Last Residence: 63701 – Cape Girardeau, Missouri, United States of America

109122	Williams	George	M 58	
		Liza	F 58	wife
		Gyles	B M 34	son
		George	Will 20	son
		Julien	B F 22	daughter
109123	Brown	John	M M 34	
		Amanda	M F 32	Wife
		Catharine	M F 15	daughter
		Josephine	M F 10	daughter
		Liza	M F 8	daughter
		Jerse	M M 5	son
		Lulu	M F 1	daughter

		Julien	B F 22	daughter	1
109123	Brown	John	M M 34		1
		Amanda	M F 32	Wife	1
		Catharine	M F 15	daughter	1
		Josephine	M F 10	daughter	1
		Liza	M F 8	daughter	1
		Jerse	M M 5	son	1
		Lulu	M F 1	daughter	1
109124	Abernathy	James	M M 21		1
		Charlotti	B F 19	Wife	1
		Lora	M F 9	daughter	1
		Martha	M F 5	daughter	1
		Robert	M M 2	son	1

Note: 1880 US Federal Census page, Cape Girardeau City, Missouri, from Family Search.Org – At the top of the page we see George and Eliza Williams and their family at the time. Next door to the Williams is the John and Amanda Brown family. Amanda is the daughter of George and Eliza (Liza) Williams. Next door to the Browns is the Abernathy

family into whom some of the two other families married over time. Incidentally, Aunt Nellie Stanton used to mention Cora Abernathy as a close friend of hers. It appears that Cora was older than Aunt Nellie but about the same age as Aunt Phene (Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice). The families of Cape Girardeau apparently maintained their closeness after many of them moved to St. Louis.



Julia Williams Butler

For many years I believed this to be a photo of Cousin Carrie Bennett, but a name written on the back of this photograph in Aunt Nellie's handwriting says Julia Butler (Butter?), 209 So. Fountain (which is in Cape Girardeau). This address would be within the same physical block as many of the other family members. I suspect that this is Cousin Carrie's mother. If this is Julia (nee Williams) the daughter of George and Eliza Williams, then it is reasonable to believe that Carrie Bennett is a true cousin. From *Missouri Marriage Records* it appears that Julia was married more than one time, but without corroborating or identifying

evidence, I have no real proof. This is one of the marriage licenses for her marriage that we can authenticate.

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No. 12-217

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO MARRY.

AFFIDAVIT OF MALE

STATE OF MISSOURI. }
 County of Butler }
 I, John Butler of the County of Butler and State of Missouri desiring to procure a license to marry Julia Williams of the County of Butler and State of Missouri do solemnly swear that I am of the age of 48 years, and that the said Julia Williams is of the age of 42 years, and that we are both single and unmarried, and may lawfully contract and be joined in marriage.

LEGITIMATE MARRIAGES PROHIBITED—All marriages between persons and children, including grand-children and great-grandchildren of every degree between brothers and sisters of the half as well as of the whole blood and between uncles and aunts, uncles and nephews, and grand-uncles and grand-nephews, are prohibited and declared absolutely void; and this prohibition shall apply to marriages as well as legitimate unions and unions. (U. S. Chap. 1874.)

John Butler
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of December 1903

John Butler
 day of December 1903
Charles H. Hargrave

AFFIDAVIT OF FEMALE

STATE OF MISSOURI. }
 County of Butler }
 I, Julia Williams do hereby solemnly swear that I am the person

Marriage License for John Butler (Butter?) and Julia Williams, December 1903, Butler County, Missouri. Julia, resident of Cape Girardeau, is the daughter of George and Eliza Brown Williams. (Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002 - Butler County). Though difficult to read, John Butler was age 48 and Julia Williams was age 42 at the time this license was issued. It is estimated that Julia was born in 1861.



Carrie Bennett
1888 -1948

If memory serves me well, I remember Aunt Nellie Stanton taking me to visit Cousin Carrie in her apartment on Enright Avenue, in St. Louis when I was just a small school girl. It was a second floor apartment in a brick duplex with large rooms and a very formal and well-appointed living room – or parlor – as it was called. Aunt Nellie and I would walk to Cousin Carrie’s house and both women were always absolutely delighted to see one another. Being an only child and taught how to behave in a lady-like manner, I often accompanied my great-aunt Nellie to the homes of other elder family members, like those in Cape Girardeau. Photograph taken at Sexton Studios in St. Louis.

MISSOURI DIVISION OF HEALTH
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
National Office of Vital Statistics
FILED JUL 28 1948
Registration District No. **318**

State File No. **6430**
Registrar's No. **6430**

Primary Registration District No. **1003**

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

(a) County St. Louis
(b) City or town St. Louis
(c) Name of hospital or institution: Homer G Phillips Hospital
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution 2 days
In this community 64 Years

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

(a) State Missouri (b) County St. Louis
(c) City or town St. Louis
(d) Street No. 1504 N Whittier
(e) Citizen of foreign country? No

3. (a) PRINT FULL NAME Carrie Bennett
3. (b) If veteran, None **3. (c) Social Security No.** None

4. Sex Female **5. Color of race** Negro **6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced** Widow

6. (b) Name of husband or wife William Bennett **6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive** Unavailable

7. Birth date of deceased Unavailable 1888

8. AGE: Years Abt. 60 Months 0 Days 0 If less than one day hr. min.

9. Birthplace: Aberdeen, Mississippi

10. Usual occupation: Housewife

11. Industry or business: John Vassar

12. Name: Unknown **12. Birthplace:** Mississippi

14. Maiden name: Unavailable **15. Birthplace:** Unavailable

16. (a) Informant: Louis Bennett
(b) Address: 4211 E. Cozens

17. (a) Burial: Burial **(b) Date thereof:** 7/21/48
(c) Place: burial or cremation: Greenwood Cemetery
(d) Signature of funeral director: Charles J. Gates
(e) Address: 4107 Finney Ave.

19. (a) JUL 20 1948 **(b) Registrar's signature:** [Signature]

20. DATE OF DEATH: Month July day 16 year 1948 hour 8 minute 30 PM.

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from July 14 1948 **and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.** July 16 1948

Immediate cause of death: Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease with Decompensation

Other conditions: None

Major findings: None

Of autopsy: None

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:

(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? _____
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____

PHYSICIAN: [Signature]
Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.

21. Signature: Oscar L. Parks **(M. D. or other)** _____
Address: 2601 N Whittier **Date signed:** 7/19/48

(Licensed Embalmer's Statement on Reverse Side)

Death Certificate of Cousin Carrie Bennett

Eugene Reed
 Albert Murray
 Victor Reed 4064 Cook
 Lucille Williams 4129 Enright
 Mr James E Anderson 2508 St. Jefferson
 Mrs Emma J Mahoney 718 St. Sarah St
 Mrs Evelyn Baker 457 Oct
 LeRoy Petcher 4544 Gate Boulevard
 Mrs Carrie Bennett 4129 Enright
 Mrs Martha Davis 1143 N Leonard
 Mrs Ada Whitlow Cape Girardeau

This is a portion of a page from the Funeral Services Sign-In Register for the funeral of Aunt Nellie's husband, Hezekiah Stanton, October 3, 1935, 2:30 p.m., Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Cousin Carrie Bennett signed the register and it shows her address at the time of 4129 Enright, in St. Louis. Several names on the register were not only friends, but relatives who had traveled back to Cape Girardeau to honor the life of Hezekiah.

Signatures of Friends Who Called

Mrs Zona Nolan 1143 Leonard
 Mrs + Mr Chernath 1143A Leonard
 Mrs S Elliott 4393 Pottage ave
 Mrs + Mr Ralph Hoine 3756 Cook ave.
 Jophine Rice 423-S Fountain
 Ray Lories 3806 Frimley
 Mrs Goin 2910 Grantline

The preceding page also shows other relatives that we can clearly identify: The Abernathys, Ralph, Ray and Roy Goines, sons of George and Eliza Goines and nephews of Josephine (Piercefield) Rice (Aunt Phene); and Aunt Josephine Rice herself, daughter of John and Catherine Brown Allen. Catherine is Josephine's elder sister. Except for Josephine's address, all other addresses are in St. Louis.



Photograph of a young cousin Ray Goines.

If you have had the opportunity to read the early part of this book, you will recall his name. Cousin Ray is the one who first introduced me to the name of Grandma Cecelia Wilson. Ray is the son of Eliza and George Goines. Eliza is the daughter of John and Amanda Williams Brown, and John is the only son of Grandma Cecelia, who was sold to three slave-owners

before the end of the Civil War. Ray knew Grandma Cecelia and, as a neighbor, saw her often in Cape Girardeau.

We do not have a photograph of Ray's brother, Ralph Goines, son of George and Eliza Brown Goines, but we see that Ralph married Grace Beals on March 4, 1931 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ralph Goines

Application for License to Marry.

AFFIDAVIT OF MALE

STATE OF MISSOURI,
County of St. Louis,

I, *Ralph Goines*
of *St. Louis* and State of *Mo.*
desiring to procure a license to marry *Grace Beals*
of *St. Louis* and State of *Mo.* do solemnly swear
that I am of the age of *32* years, and that I am single and unmarried and may lawfully contract
and be joined in marriage.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this *4th* day of *Mar*, 1931
By *Frank H. Deady* *Ralph Goines*
Deputy *Arthur H. Colman*
Recorder.

AFFIDAVIT OF FEMALE

STATE OF MISSOURI
County of St. Louis,

I, *Grace Beals*
do hereby solemnly swear that I am the person named in the above application for a marriage license
and that I am of the age of *23* years, and that I am single and unmarried and may lawfully
contract and be joined in marriage.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this *4th* day of *Mar*, 1931
By *Frank H. Deady* *Grace Beals*
Deputy *Arthur H. Colman*
Recorder.

CONSENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO MARRIAGE OF A MINOR

STATE OF MISSOURI
County of St. Louis,

I,
residing at _____ do hereby
swear that I am the _____ of _____
the person named in the foregoing application for a marriage license, and do hereby consent to the same.

Ralph and Grace remained married until Ralph's death on January 2, 1953. His death record shows that he was only 53 years of age when he died.

WHITE PLAINLY—USING UNFADING BLACK INK—MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD

No. 200 10-48		STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		State File No. 3141
FILED JAN 28 1953		REG. DIST. NO. 318	PRIMARY REG. DIST. NO. 1003	Registrar's No. 0103
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY 1		1. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution, institution before admission.) a. STATE Missouri b. COUNTY		
b. CITY (If suitable separate health units RURAL and give township) St. Louis		c. CITY (If suitable separate health units RURAL and give township) St. Louis 2119		
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Homer O Phillips Hospital		e. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 1602 Pendleton		
2. NAME OF DECEASED a. (First) Ralph b. (Middle) W. c. (Last) Ogden Goines		4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) Jan. 2 1953		
3. SEX & COLOR OR RACE a. SEX Male b. COLOR OR RACE Negro		7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify) married		5. DATE OF BIRTH 9/26/1899 6. AGE (In years, months, days) 53 5 8
9a. USUAL OCCUPATION (State kind of work describing usual or best work if retired) Houseman		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Private home		11. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or foreign country) Cape Girardeau, MO.
13a. FATHER'S NAME George Goines		13b. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Elizabeth Brown		14. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Grace Goines
12. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give year or date of service) No		18. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE OR NAME ADDRESS Ray Ogden Goines, 4451 Page Blvd.
13. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only conditions per line for (a), (b), and (c) *This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, aneurism, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) Carcinoma of Bladder with metastases to pelvic bones, lungs, liver. ANTECEDENT CAUSES Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) during the underlying acute last. DUE TO (a) Undetermined II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death. None		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH Undet.
19a. DATE OF OPERATION		19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION		20. AUTOPSY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21a. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (Specify)		21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)		21c. (CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE)
21d. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour)		21e. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>		21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR? 181X
18. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from 12-13 1952 to 1-2 1953 , that I last saw the deceased alive on 1-2 1953 , and that death occurred at 11:10 p.m. , from the causes and on the date stated above.				
22a. SIGNATURE Herbert H. Harris, M.D.		22b. ADDRESS 2601 N. Whittier St.		22c. DATE SIGNED 1-5-53
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify)		23b. DATE 1/7/53		23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Greenwood Cemetery
23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) St. Louis County, MO.		23e. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE ADDRESS Charles J. Gates, 4107 Finney Ave.		
DATE RECD BY LOCAL REGISTRAR JAN 5 1953		REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE [Signature]		

Duward Piercefield



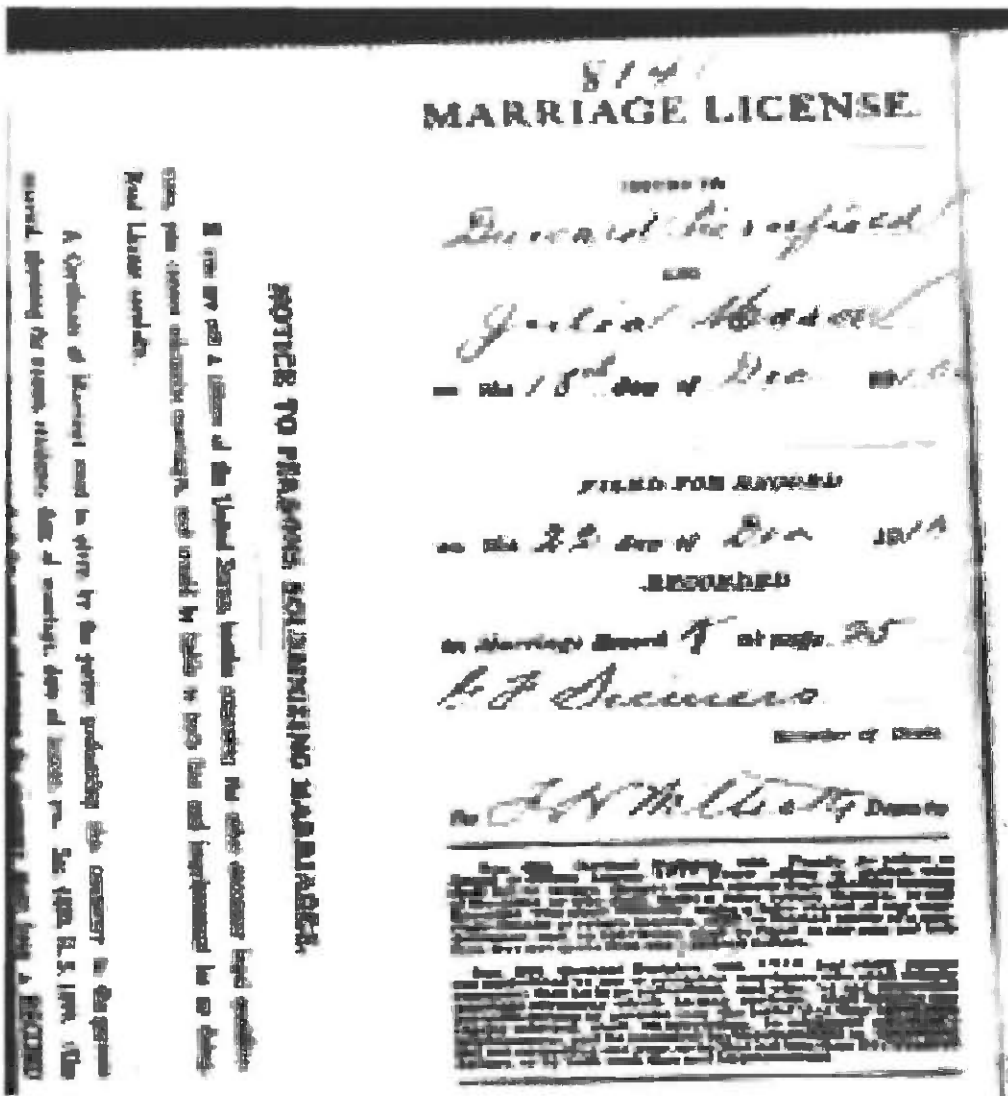
Photograph of Duward Piercefield, only son of David and Josephine Brown Piercefield – we know her as Aunt Phene. (See Chapters 7 and 9 for more information on Duward's parents.)

It was my original thinking that this was one of the Goines boys, but my mother recognized this young man immediately and identified him as Aunt Phene's son, Duward.

According to the 1900 Cape Girardeau Census, Duward was born in December 1891 and was 8 years old at the taking of that census. He is the second child of David and Josephine. Other siblings in the family unit are John, age 19, born September 1880. John must be David's son by a previous union as Josephine was only about eleven years old when John was born. Additionally, Duward's sister, Myrtle, age 5, born June 1894 is also in the home. Helen Allen, age 9, an "adopted" daughter, who we now know is the youngest daughter of Josephine's sister, Catherine, is living in the home.

On the 1910 Cape Girardeau, Missouri census, Duward is listed as age 18, single, still at home and employed as a porter in a local barber shop.

On December 10, 1910 at the alleged age of 22, (though it is the same year as the census), Duward married Julia Mason, his 19 year old bride, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri



We do not find Duward on the 1920 census but we find his Draft Registration Card. At the time, he was shown as age 26, married with one child and living in Chicago. However, he registered in Marion, Indiana. Curiously, his race is listed as "Ethiopian." A tall man of 5 feet 11 inches, of medium to light tan color, did he tell the draft board that he was Ethiopian or did they look at him and just guess? Amazingly, he looks very much like his mother, Josephine.

151 REGISTRATION CARD		306
1	Name in full <i>Duward Piercefield</i>	Age in years <i>26</i>
2	Address <i>2178 S. Chicago Ave. Chicago, Ill.</i>	
3	Date of birth <i>Dec 18, 1890</i>	
4	Is your (1) natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention to become a citizen? <i>Natural</i>	
5	Where born <i>Cape Verde</i>	<i>No</i>
6	Is not a citizen of what country are you a citizen of?	
7	What is your present occupation or profession? <i>porter</i>	
8	Where employed? <i>Star Switzer 1568 College Ave</i>	
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support? (specify which?) <i>Wife and Child</i>	
10	Married or single (which)? <i>Married</i>	Race (specify which)? <i>Ethiopian</i>
11	What military service have you had? (specify)	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft? (specify grounds)	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.		
<i>Duward Piercefield</i>		

13-3-14-A	
REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Height (specify inch) <i>5' 11"</i> Build, color, and eyes (specify) <i>Medium</i>
2	Color of eyes <i>Brown</i> Color of hair <i>Black</i> Hair <i>No</i>
3	Has glasses (specify by kind, lens or both) <i>No</i> or is the otherwise named, specify?
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have obtained his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
<i>Ward</i> <i>G. L. F. and G. Keating</i>	
President	<i>24</i>
City or County	<i>Chicago</i>
Date	<i>June 5, 1917</i>

World War I Draft Registration Cards 1917-1918 from Ancestry.com

In 1930, we find Duward (Derward) and his wife Julia living at 9252 Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. They have one daughter, Mildred, age about 15 and they own their own home valued at approximately \$5,000, and a radio set. Duward is employed as a porter in a barber shop.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1937)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
0 1942	Duward Oscar Piercefield	
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)		
9252 So. Michigan Ave - Chicago - Cook - Illinois		
<small>(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)</small>		
(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL.)		
3. MAILING ADDRESS		
Same		
<small>(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none leave's word none)</small>		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
Com. 2521	51	Cape Girardeau
<small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>	DATE OF BIRTH	<small>(Town or locality)</small>
	Dec. 18 1890	Missouri
	<small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>	<small>(State or country)</small>
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS		
Julia Piercefield - 9252 Michigan Ave.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS		
George Melehes		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS		
20 W. Van Buren - Chicago - Cook - Ill.		
<small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. FORM 1 <small>(Revised 4-1-52)</small>	<small>10-5080-0</small>	<i>Duward Oscar Piercefield</i> <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>

World War II Draft Registration Card – from Ancestry.com

We know that Duward remained in the Chicago area because it is with him and his family that his mother, Josephine, was visiting during the holidays in Chicago when she suffered a stroke and shortly thereafter died in January 1956.

Cook County, Illinois Genealogical Death Records show that Duward died in Chicago on December 8, 1963. He would have been approximately 73 years of age at that time.

I remember him just very vaguely as an older gentleman when he came to St. Louis to visit family. As best I can recall, I must have been less than 10 years of age at the time. My impression is that he was a big, imposing presence who seemed pleasant, well-bred and fairing well financially in Chicago.

Rupert Frazier



Only son of Myrtle Piercefield Frazier
Grandson of Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice

Rupert was 5 months old at the time of the *1910 Federal Census of Cape Girardeau, Missouri*. He is the son of Myrtle and Edgar Frazier. At the time of the census, Myrtle and her husband were living with her parents, Josephine and David Piercefield in the home at 323 So. Fountain in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Rupert's mother was age 16 and his father was 22 at the time of this census. (See Chapter 9, page 69 for more information on Myrtle Frazier Daniels).

Rupert, as were all the members of this household, was listed as mulatto. His father, Edgar had employment as a barber there in Cape Girardeau.

By age 10, in 1920, Rupert and his mother had moved to Madison, Wisconsin where they lived on Clymis Place. I do not know how they managed as Myrtle is shown as not employed at the time and there is no one else in the home for support.

In 1930, at age 20, Rupert remained with his mother, who had by that time remarried to a Charles K. Daniels. Evidentially Charles and Myrtle had 2 children of their marriage, Charlene, age 18 and Bernadine, age 17. There is also a lodger living in the home, Harry J. Lewis, a widower. Rupert is not employed at the time but his mother works as a cook and his step-father is employed as an engine cleaner for the railroad.

I do not recall much about Rupert except that the family was exceedingly proud of him. To my knowledge, he was the first African-American military member in the family to become an officer in the US Army during World War II. I don't remember ever meeting him, but I heard conversations about how he had achieved officer status. I also do not recall anyone discussing him being married, though he may have been. A check of records on Ancestry.com verifies his service.

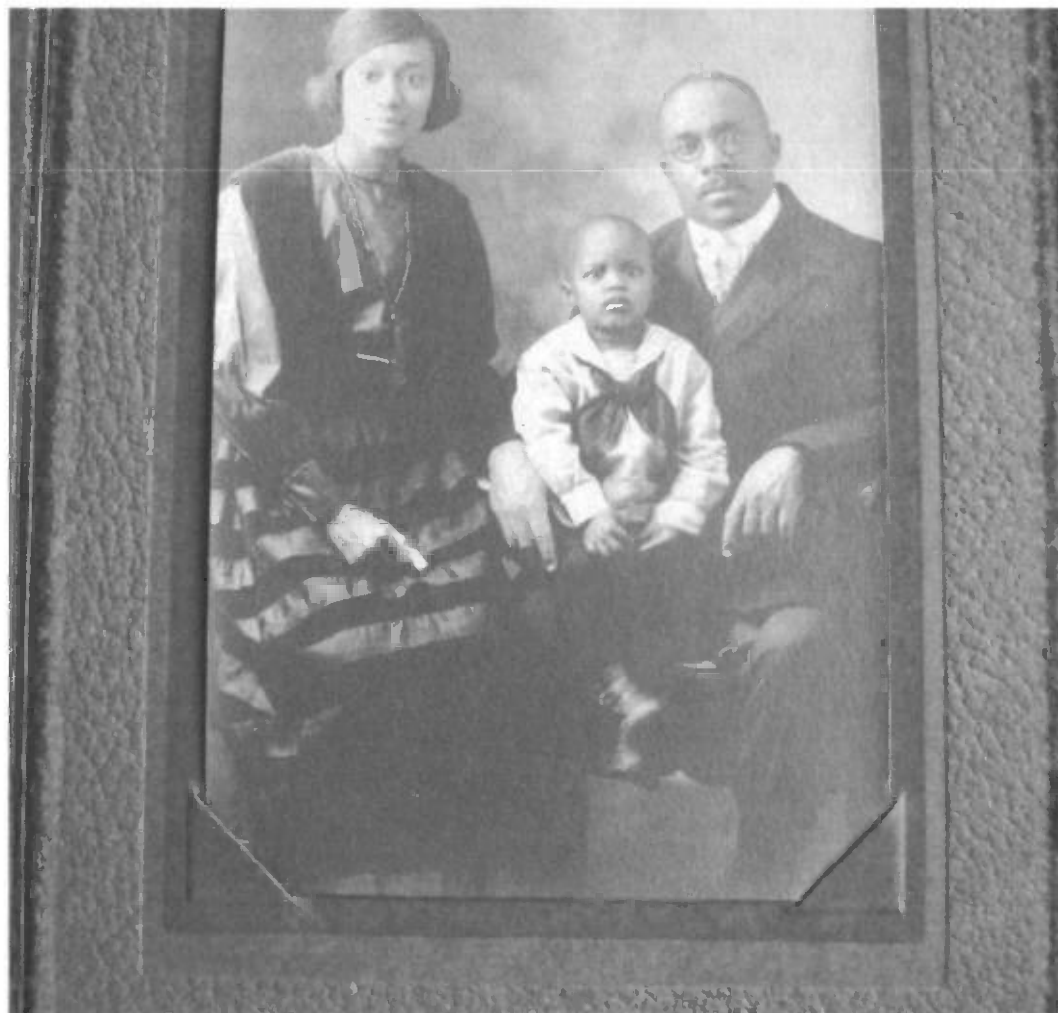
U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006 – Ancestry.com

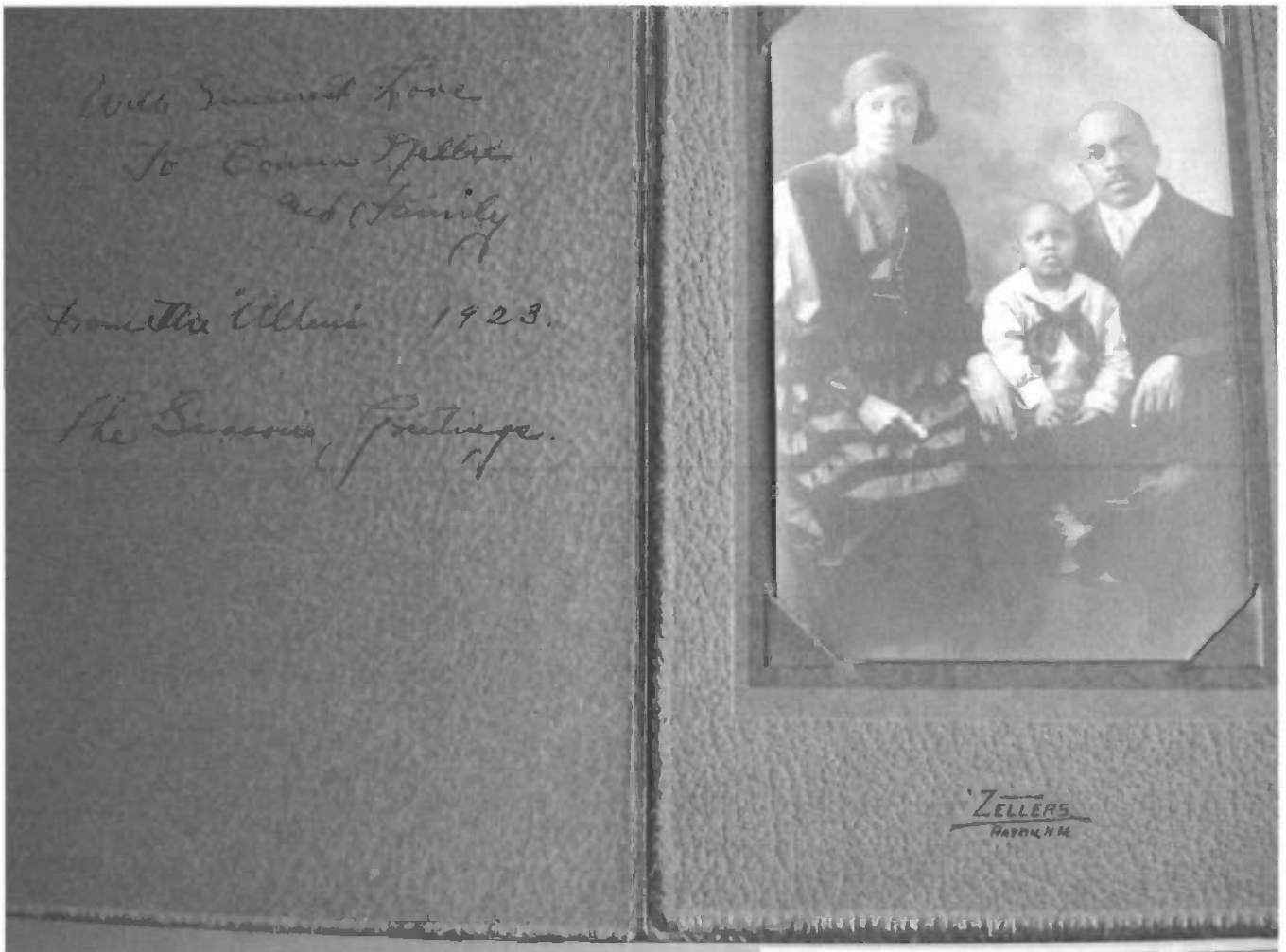
Name: **Rupert V. Frazier**
Service Info: CAPT US ARMY WORLD WAR II
Birth Date: 7 Nov 1909
Death Date: 3 Aug 1976
Service Start: 13 Nov 1941
Date:
Interment Date: 6 Aug 1976
Cemetery: Long Island National Cemetery
Cemetery
Address: 2040 Wellwood Avenue Farmingdale, NY 11735-1211
Buried At: Section 2w Site 2743a

Social Security Death Index – Ancestry.com

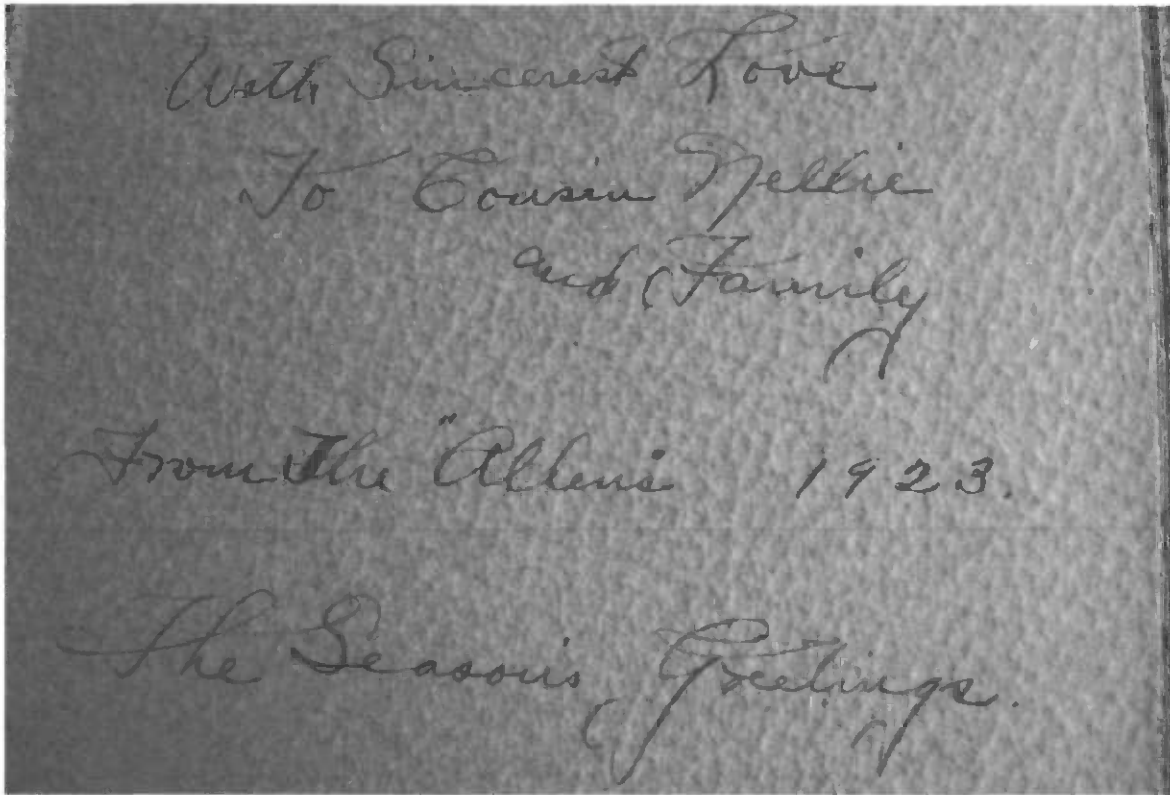
Name: **Rupert Frazier**
SSN: 066-01-1960
Last Residence: 11434 Jamaica, Queens, New York, United States of America
Born: 7 Nov 1909
Last Benefit: 11434 Jamaica, Queens, New York, United States of America
Died: Aug 1976
State (Year): New York (Before 1951)
SSN Issued:

I have known for years that our side of the family was closely related to the Allens of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Remember that John (Johnny), son of Charles Allen, married my great-grandmother, Catherine Brown. He had a brother, Granville Allen. When we buried Aunt Nellie Allen Stanton in 1971 at Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, Mr. Eric Allen mentioned, almost in passing that, *"you know that Nellie and I are cousins."* In addition to that statement, Father Phillip Allen, Eric Allen's son, officiated at the graveside services for Aunt Nellie. Peculiar as it was, I had grown up just around the corner from the Eric Allen, Jr. family who lived in the 1200 block of Prairie Avenue in St. Louis. For many years I believed Mr. Allen to be a white man because of his appearance. There was nothing about him to allow one to believe that he was other than white. I could tell that, though themselves very light skinned, his children were "colored." It was my mother who explained that he was of mixed-race but considered "colored" back in the day! I have not attempted to make all of the connections among and between the Stantons/Browns/Goines/Allens and Tobias Allen's side of the family, but there absolutely is a connection, and that will be another ongoing task for me or anyone else who wishes to "work through the branches" of this family tree. In the meantime, here is proof positive of the "cousin" connection. **I do not know the names of these persons shown in the photograph, but the inscription says it all.**





Photograph taken at Zellers Studio, Raton, New Mexico



This photograph was obviously given to my aunt Nellie Allen Stanton from the Allens.

And the work on the family tree continues!



Maps

Charts

HOW THE FAMILY SIDES CAME TOGETHER

Note that our “founding families” are of a contemporary age range. Their calculated dates of birth are listed just above each name. Keep in mind that there are discrepancies in some dates due to information on the Federal Census Records, but we are within a general 3-5 year birth age range on all of the ancestors.

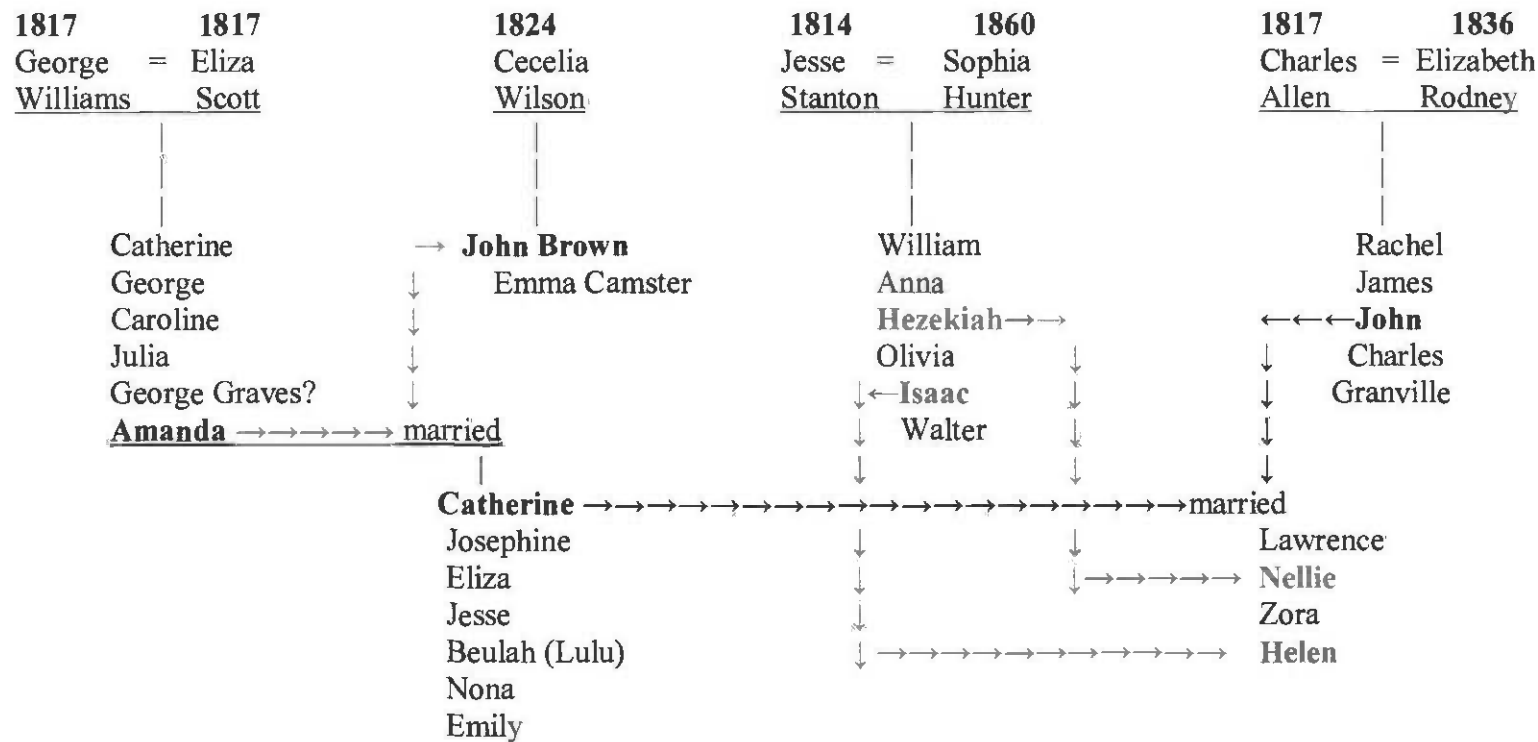


Chart: 11/2011

A Portion of Cape Girardeau City Map Showing Much of the Old, Central Part of the City. Location of some of our family's homes/events are indicated by the red circled numbers. Refer to the next page for specifics.



Refer to City Map on Previous Page

Corresponding Addresses With Family Names

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. | 242 No. Frederick St. | Cecelia Wilson and her daughter Emma Camster Green |
| 2. | 229 So. Fountain St. | John Brown and his second wife, Sarah |
| 3. | 238 No. Frederick St. | Eliza Brown and her husband, George Goines and their family |
| 4. | 323 So. Fountain St. | Aunt Phene – Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice Davis |
| 5. | 405 Good Hope St. | Isaac (Ike) Stanton |
| 6. | 537 Morgan Oak St. | Sophia Stanton Williams and husband, Alexander and Ike Stanton |
| 7. | 408 Frederick St. | Isaac (Ike) Stanton |
| 8. | 408 So. Williams St. | Sophia Stanton and Alexander Williams, her second husband |
| 9. | 419 Middle St. | Emily Brown Cardell and her husband, August Cardell |
| 10. | Themis Street and the River | Location where Isaac (Ike) Stanton fell into the Mississippi River and drowned |
| 11. | 516 North Street | Location of St. James A.M.E. Church from which some family was buried |



St. James A.M.E. Church, 516 North Street, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Photos taken by Mr. Ron Beasley, November, 2011



A Few of My Ancestors Buried From St. James A.M.E.

Grandma Cecelia Wilson – August 13, 1918

Elizabeth (Eliza) Brown Goines – March 14, 1938

Emily (Emma) Brown Cardell – August 25, 1944

Josephine Brown Piercefield Rice – January 1956



Photo of a work crew, probably in St. Louis, Missouri. The gentleman, standing, second from right, holding tongs in his hand is my grandfather, Isaac "Ike" Stanton. Photo taken in the 1930s. Street location in St. Louis unknown.

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