

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA AND HIS PROBABLE FAMILY (c1765–2005)

by
Alvy Ray Smith, FASG

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This is a paper in my Edwardian Riggs series.

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PICTURE CREDITS

Figure 1. Composed by me, using Microsoft Visio.

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

DRAFT V3.11

THE DNA EVIDENCE

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

lxnknplllmmCsijkkkyosCooqqkjswooqrKLLl:kiophjjhkjlupjllohlwtmllkmkkl.^[1]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A (Otis David⁶) Riggs (₁₃₅William David⁵, Emmett⁴, David R.³, John², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCrijkkyosCoo**o**qkjswoo**q**sKMll

B (John Clifton⁶) Riggs (₁₄₆Hubert Clifton⁵, Henry H.⁴, David C.³, David², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCsijkyosCoo**q**qkjswoo**q**rKMll

C (Jeffrey L.⁶) Riggs (₁₅₀Lee Grant⁵, William Grant⁴, Joseph S.³, James², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCsijkyosCoo**q**qkjswoo**r**rKMll

D (Robert Asbury⁶) Riggs (₁₂₆John L.⁵, George W.⁴, Richard A.³, John², William¹):

IxnknplllmmCsijkyosCoo**q**qkjswoo**q**r**KNI**ll

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

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

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

IxnknplllmmC(rs)jkkkyosCoo(oq)qkjswooq(rs)K(MN)ll

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

IxnknplllmmCsijkkkyosCooqqkjswooqrKMll

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

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

IxnknplllmmCsijkkkyosCooqqkjswooqrKMll.

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

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

First Generation

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

Rita Kennedy Sutton, in "The Riggs Family," *Appalachian Quarterly*, June 2002, argues that William Riggs married Sarah Richmond, and that they were indeed the progenitors of the entire Riggs family (presumably the one of this paper), a role only tentatively suggested here.^[6] This argument will be discussed below.

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

Hunter's Valley is located in Scott Co. north of and tributary to the Clinch River. The current town of Dungannon, Scott Co., was formerly called Hunter's Ford and marked the beginning of Hunter's Valley.^[7] An early minute book of Scott Co. (formed in 1814) mentions, on 12 Mar.

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

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

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1817, a William Riggs as overseer of the road from the fork of Hunter's Valley to his home.^[8] Sutton argues that William was first recorded in Hunter's Valley in Oct. 1802 as a road surveyor.^[9]

The Stoney Creek Baptist Church is the oldest Primitive Baptist Church. It was organized in the late 1700s on Stoney Creek, north of [Fort] Blackmore, and minutes exist for it since 1801.^[10] Fort Blackmore is on the Clinch River in Scott Co., Va. The minutes show a William Riggs as a member during the period 1809–1813.^[11]

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

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

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

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

10. Addington, Stoney Creek Primitive Baptist Association.

11. Minutes of the Stoney Creek Baptist Church, as cited in Sutton, "The Riggs Family," 4, mentions William on 24 Jan. 1807, 26 Feb. 1809, 24 June 1809, 25 Nov. 1809, Mar. 1811, 28 July 1811, and 24 July 1813.

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been one more Riggs listed, that the tape was blurred. Time to revisit the tax lists.)”]

On 25 Aug. 1819 William Riggs entered 100 acres on the north side of Stock Creek, Hunter’s Valley.^[12] It was 67 acres of this plot that William and Sarah sold on 17 Dec. 1833, to Joshua Bird.^[13] (Emphasis added.)

In 1820 William Riggs, over 45 [born before 1775], resided in Scott Co., Va., with a woman over 45, and with four boys and two girls under 10, one boy 10-16, one boy 16-18, hence the one boy 16-26, and one female 16-26. Four persons were engaged in agriculture.^[14] The census, in alphabetical order, also listed John Riggs, 18-26. David born 1797 would have been 18-26, so there was no male corresponding to him there.

On 14 July 1825 William Riggs entered 33 acres on Big Stock Creek, Hunter’s Valley.^[15]

In 1830 William Riggs, 60-70 [born 1760-1770], resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 50-60, and with one girl 5-10, one boy 10-15, one male 15-20, and one male 20-30. The census, in alphabetical order, also listed David Riggs, 30-40, John Riggs, 30-40, and Hannah Riggs, 30-40.^[16]

William Riggs was listed in the Scott Co. tax records every year 1845-1853.^[17]

In 1850 William Riggs, 85, born in Virginia, lived in the household of Andrew Shepherd, 44, born in Virginia, presumably his son-in-law, who resided in Lee Co., Va. (the westernmost county of Virginia,

12. Jonathan Book, 25.

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

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

15. Jonathan Book, 66.

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

17. Courtesy Colleen Wilder Garman, who reports “at least one” William Riggs each of these years.

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bounded by the Cumberland Gap on the west and Wise Co. and Scott Co. on the east), with Sarah, 43, born in Virginia.^[18]

On 10 Feb. 1853 William Riggs sold to John Riggs Sr. 80 acres in Hunter's Valley for \$200.^[19] I take this as evidence that John² Riggs was son of William¹ Riggs.

On 16 Feb. 1855 William Riggs sold to George Stanley 50 acres near said Riggs's house in Hunter's Valley.^[20] Sutton states, for both these last deeds, that they "must refer to a later William Riggs," but this is not necessarily so since we know William¹ was alive in 1850.

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

Mrs. J. A. Brannen, of Amarillo, Texas, wrote that her Grandmother's notes stated that Sarah Richmond, daughter of Jonathan Richmond, Sr. and sister of Jonathan Richmond, Jr., married William Riggs. Mrs. Brannen's Grandmother was a daughter of Stephen Osborne's youngest daughter, Esther, who married Isaac Richmond, from Scott Co.^[21]

Sutton mentions a John Richmond and a John Osborne in her second paragraph.^[22] The early Scott Co. censuses listed several Richmonds, including a John and an Isaac, but no Jonathan. There were also several "Osbourns," including a John and a Stephen. **I have been unable so far to deduce the logic of this argument, so leave Sarah's surname in question.**

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

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

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

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

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

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I have conducted a Y-chromosome DNA study of several branches of the Riggs family descending from Edward Riggs, immigrant to Roxbury, Mass., from England in 1633.^[23] Living male descendants of John² and David² Riggs match the “Edwardian” Y-DNA signature, so are related. Furthermore, they share a single mutation indicating that they both got it from a common ancestor. Since John² was likely a son of William¹, then David² was highly probably his son also.

The Y-DNA study does not establish a descent of William¹ from Edward¹ of Roxbury,^[24] but it does suggest strongly that there might have been one. An interesting descent in this regard is Timothy⁵ Riggs (?*Samuel*⁴, ?*Edward*³, *Edward*², *Edward*¹). This descent is claimed, but not established, from Edward¹ of Roxbury to Timothy⁵ of Morris Co., N.J. Timothy is thought to have then removed to North Carolina: Timothy⁵ disappeared after 1764 from the New Jersey records before a Timothy appeared in 1768 in the North Carolina records. So a possibility is that William¹ of this paper, reputed to have been born in New Jersey, was exactly William⁶ Riggs (*Timothy*⁵, ?*Samuel*⁴, ?*Edward*³, *Edward*², *Edward*¹). **This has not been sufficiently established to satisfy me however.** For example, the descent might have passed through Samuel⁵, Timothy’s brother, instead. Samuel was in North Carolina in 1768, and all his children **are thought** to have been born in New Jersey.

Children:

- + 2 i JOHN² RIGGS, born about 1792, Tennessee, married **DRUCHANIA ELENOR STANLEY**, and had at least six children.
- 3 ii ?**HANNAH**² RIGGS, born say 1795, married 1815, Scott Co., Va.,^[25] **JEREMIAH STANLEY**, and had children. **[Why is she Hannah “Riggs” in 1830 census?]**

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

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

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

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

Second Generation

2. **JOHN² RIGGS** (*₁William¹*) was born about 1792, Tennessee, married **DRUCHANIA ELENOR STANLEY**, daughter of Richard Stanley, a Revolutionary War soldier.^[26]

In 1820 John Riggs, 18-26, resided in Scott Co., Va., with a woman 16-26, and with two boys and one girl under 10. One person was engaged in agriculture.^[27] The census, in alphabetical order, also lists William Riggs, over 45. Note that this John would have been born 1794-1802.

In 1830 John Riggs, 30-40, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 30-40, and with one boy and two girls under 5, two girls 5-10, two boys and two girls 10-15, and one female 15-20. The census, in alphabetical order, also lists David Riggs, 30-40, William Riggs, 60-70, and Hannah Riggs, 30-40.^[28]

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

26. For her name and father, see the statement of Joseph S. Riggs in his sketch.

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

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

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10, one boy and one girl [Elizabeth] 10-15, three females 15-20, two males and two females [Peggy] 20-30. Listed a few names distant is David Riggs, 40-50.^[29]

In 1850 John Riggs, 58, born in Tennessee, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Peggy, 36, born in Virginia, and with Eleanor, 21, Jane, 20, Elizabeth, 19, John, 18, Miriam, 16, and David, 14, all six born in Virginia.^[30]

As previously mentioned, William Riggs sold John Riggs Sr. 80 acres of land in Hunter's Valley, Scott Co., Va., for \$200.^[31]

In 1860 John Riggs, 64, a "Meth Prot" [Methodist preacher?] born in Virginia, resided in Gladesville [now Wise], Wise Co., Va., in the household of Gabriel K. Ritchie, 24, a farmer born in Virginia with \$300 and \$340 worth of real and personal property, respectively, and with Jane Ritchie, 25, born in Virginia, James M. L. Ritchie, 2/12, born in Virginia.^[32] Jane appears to have understated her age by five years. Wise Co. was formed from Scott Co. in 1851 so perhaps John did not move far between censuses, if at all.

In 1870 John Riggs, 78, a farm laborer born in Tennessee, resided in Grayson, Carter Co., Ky., in the household of John Corom, 59, a farmer born in Virginia, Meloina Corom, 42, born in Virginia, Richey Jane, 36, a female born in Virginia, and Meloina Jane, 8, a girl born in Kentucky.^[33] Surely Richey Jane was Jane Ritchie, John's daughter. Again her age appears to be understated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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wife, Matilda, 37, born in Kentucky, and seven children. See David's sketch for details.^[34]

Known children of 12 or 13:

- 9 i PEGGY³ RIGGS, born about 1813, Scott [formerly Russell] Co., Va., died of dropsy 6 Sept. 1849, Wise Co., Va.^[35]
- 10 ii WILLIAM³ RIGGS, born about 1814, Russell Co., Va., died 16 Jan. 1885, Russell Co., Va., aged 71.^[36] N.B. Scott Co. formed from Russell, Lee, and Washington Counties in 1814.
- + 11 iii RICHARD ASBURY³ RIGGS, born about 1820, Virginia, married (1) NANCY MCNEW, and had eight children, married (2) MARGARET CASTEEL, and had three children.
- + 12 iv MIRIAM³ RIGGS, born about 1827, Virginia, married JOHN WELLS, and had 10 children.
- 13 v ELEANOR³ RIGGS, born about 1829, Virginia, married JOSEPH LONG.
- 14 vi JOHN³ RIGGS, born about 1827, Scott Co., Va., married 14 Aug. 1853, Carter Co., Ky.,^[37] RACHEL MCFARLANE, born about 1835, Lee Co., Va.
- 15 vii JANE³ RIGGS, born about 1834, Scott Co., Va., married (1) 18 Mar. 1858, Wise Co., Va.,^[38] GABRIEL K. RITCHIE, born about 1836,

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

35. Va. *Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912*, Peggy Riggs, 46 died 6 Sept. 1859, Wise Co., Va., born 1813, Scott Co. Va., father John Riggs, mother “Elvira” Riggs, was unmarried [FHL 2048588, Death registers, 1853–1906 (Virginia)]; *Wise Co. Deaths 1856–1859*, “Riggs, Peggy 9/6/1859 46yrs dropsy John & Elvira Riggs reported by father,” courtesy of Colleen Wilder Garman.

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

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

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

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Russell Co., Va., son of James and Basheba (–) Ritchie, **married (2) GREEN C. STALLARD.**

- 16 viii **ELIZABETH³ RIGGS**, born about 1834, Scott Co., Va., married 4 Aug. 1857, Wise Co., Va.,^[39] **WILLIAM A. STALLARD**, born about 1838, Scott Co., Va., son of Dunkin/Dentin and Alisabeth (–) Stallard, **and had at least one child: Cora⁴ Stallard.**
- + 17 ix **DAVID R.³ RIGGS**, born about 1836, Virginia, married **MATILDA TACKET**, and had ten children.

Known child of a second marriage:

- 18 x **HIRAM³ RIGGS.**

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

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

In 1840 David Riggs, 40–50, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with a woman, 30–40, and with four girls [Martha, Eleanor, and Rebecca?] under 5, one boy [William] and two girls [Sally] 5–10, and one boy 10–15. Listed seven names away is John Riggs, 40–50.^[41]

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

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

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

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

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

Eleanor, 12, Rebecca, 10, Elizabeth, 8, Henry H., 6, Eliza, 4, David, 3, and Frances, 2, female, all 10 born in Virginia.^[42]

In 1860 David Riggs, 68, a cooper born in Virginia, resided in Estillville [now Gate City], Scott Co. Virginia, with spinster, Frances Riggs, 52, born in Virginia, and with Eleanor, 22, spinster, Elizabeth, 20, spinster, Henry H., 18, farm hand, Eliza, 14, David C., 12, Frances, 10, and Manerva M., 8, all seven born in Virginia.^[43]

Children:

- + 19 i **WILLIAM³ RIGGS**, born about 1832, Virginia, **and had at least three children.**
- 20 ii **SALLY³ RIGGS**, born about 1834, Virginia.
- 21 iii **MARTHA³ RIGGS**, born about 1836, Virginia.
- 22 iv **ELEANOR³ RIGGS**, born about 1838, Virginia.
- 23 v **REBECCA³ RIGGS**, born about 1840, Scott Co., Va., married 6 Dec. 1858, Wise Co., Va.,^[44] **ALEX HALL**, born about 1818, Russell Co., Va., son of Isham/Isam and June/Jane (–) Hall.
- 24 vi **ELIZABETH³ RIGGS**, born about 1842, Virginia.
- 25 vii **HENRY H.³ RIGGS**, born about 1844, Virginia.
- 26 viii **ELIZA³ RIGGS**, born about 1846, Virginia, married 2 Dec. 1884, Wise Co., Va.,^[45] **AARON ELKINS**, son of Thomas and Mary Jane (–) Elkins.
- + 27 ix **DAVID C.³ RIGGS**, born about 1847, Virginia, who married **LURANA [LOURANIA] VANCE**, born about 1852, Virginia, and had five children.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. POLLY² RIGGS (1¹?William¹)^[46] was born about 1802, Va., and died before 31 Dec. 1881, the date on her estate packet in Yamhill Co., Ore.^[47] She married 12 June 1828, Scott Co., Va.,^[48] BARTLETT WHITLOW, who was born about 1806, N.C., and died before 31 Dec. 1879, the date on his estate packet in Yamhill Co.^[49]

In 1850 Bartlett “Whitlow,” 44, a farmer born in North Carolina, illiterate, resided in Fabius Twp., Davis Co., Iowa, with Polly, 48, born in Virginia, and with “Elliott,” 21, a carpenter born in Virginia, Sally, 18, Miles R., 14, and Tabitha, 12, all three born in Kentucky, Virginia D., 10, Missouri E., 8, Lucinda S., 5, and Reuben T., 2, all four born in Iowa.^[50]

In 1860 “Bartlet” Whitlow, 54, a farmer born in North Carolina, resided in Luckamute Pct., Polk Co., Ore., with “Barbara,” 58, born in Virginia, and with M. R., 24, a male born in Kentucky, V. D., 20, female, Lucinda, 15, and R. T., 12, male, all three born in Iowa. Also in the household was L. W. Harger, 36, a carpenter born in Mass.^[51]

In 1870 “Bartlet” Whitlow, 64, a farmer born in North Carolina, resided in Lafayette District, Yamhill Co., Ore., with Polly, 68, born in Virginia, and with Miles, 34, born in Kentucky, and Reuben, 22, born in Iowa. Also in the household were Thomas Lovelady, 38, a physician born in Tennessee and Elizabeth Lovelady, 28, born in Iowa.^[52] Elizabeth might have been daughter Missouri E. Whitlow, who would have been about 28 in 1870, born in Iowa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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In 1880 Polly Whitlow, 78, a widow and head of family, born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Lafayette District, Yamhill Co., Ore. with her sons, Elliot D., 51, widower cabinet-maker born in Virginia, Miles R., 44, a single day laborer born in Kentucky, and "Ruben," 32, a single gardner born in Iowa, and her granddaughters, Alice, 20, and Ethel, 12, both born in Oregon of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Indiana. The three sons were of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia.^[53] The granddaughters were probably daughters of Elliot.

Children:

- 30 i **ELLIOT D.³ WHITLOW**, born about 1829, Virginia, and had at least two children: (1) Alice⁴ Whitlow, born about 1860, Oregon; and (2) Ethel⁴ Whitlow, born about 1868, Oregon.
- 31 ii **SALLY³ WHITLOW**, born about 1832, Kentucky.
- 32 iii **MILES R.³ WHITLOW**, born about 1836, Kentucky.
- 33 iv **TABITHA/BERTHA³ WHITLOW**, born Mar. 1838 (1900 census), Kentucky, married^[54] **STEPHEN SNYDER WHITCOMB**, born about 1824, New York, and had two children: (1) Frank⁴ Whitcomb, born July 1862, Oregon; and his twin (2) Belle⁴ Whitcomb, born July 1862, Oregon.

In 1870 Stephen Whitcomb, 46, a farmer born in New York with \$660 personal estate, resided in Dayton, Yamhill Co., Ore., with Tabitha, 32, born in Iowa [sic], and with Frank, 8, and Belle, 8, both born in Oregon.^[55]

In 1890 and 1891 Bertha Whitcomb, widow of Stephen S., resided in Portland, Ore.^[56]

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

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

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

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

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In 1900 Bertha Whitcomb, 62, a widow born Mar. 1838 in Kentucky of a father born in South Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Portland, Multnomah Co., Ore., with her daughter, Belle, 37, born July 1862 in Oregon of a father born in New York. Bertha had had two children, both surviving.^[57]

- 34 v VIRGINIA D.³ WHITLOW, born about 1840, Iowa.
35 vi MISSOURI E.³ WHITLOW, born about 1842, Iowa. She might have been Elizabeth Lovelady in the 1870 census in the Whitlow household. [Married 3 June 1860, Polk Co., Ore. Thomas Bounds Lovelady to “Maria” Elizabeth Whitlow.]
36 vii LUCINDA S.³ WHITLOW, born about 1845, Iowa
37 viii REUBEN T.³ WHITLOW, born about 1848, Iowa.

6. JAMES² RIGGS (₁William¹) was born about 1805, Virginia. He married 5 Aug. or 25 Dec. 1825, Scott Co., Va.,^[58] MARY/POLLY STEWART, who was born about 1808, Virginia.

In 1850 James Riggs, 45, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in the Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Polly, 42, born in Virginia, and with Joseph S., 18, Marion S., 16, male, “Verdil” F., 14, male, Presley B., 12, Hiram F., 10, and Sarilda, 8, all six born in Virginia.^[59]

In 1860 James Riggs, 50, a farmer born in Virginia with \$30 personal estate, resided in Piney, Perry Twp., Johnson Co., Ark., with his wife Mary, 45, born in Virginia, and with Joseph, 25, Sarah, 24, Jane, 4, James, 3, all five born in Virginia, Wesley, 2, born in Missouri, Virgil, 22, Presley, 21, and Hiram, 18, all three born in Virginia.^[60] Lots of problems with this.

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

58. Va. Marriages, 1740–1850, James Riggs to Polly Stewart. However, descendant Richard Rodgers claims it was 5 Aug. 1825, Scott Co., Va., citing Scott Co., Va., Marriages, 1:21, Virginia State Archives, Richmond, James Riggs to Mary Stewart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Presley B. Riggs married Elizabeth Bridges and 1865 in Sebastian County, Arkansas. He and his family moved about quite a bit over the following ten years, living at various times in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Indian Territory. He eventually settled in Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he resided until his death.

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

JoNell Hayes, a great granddaughter of John Walker Riggs, related that there is a family tradition that James Riggs was kept hidden during the Civil War to keep him from being drafted into the military. The family felt that he was too old to fight. JoNell is also the person who provided us with the photo of John Walker Riggs and the tin-type of Joseph S. Riggs.^[61]

Children:

- 38 i **JOHN WALKER² RIGGS**, born 6 Sept. 1829, Scott Co., Va., died 25 Feb. 1900, Arkansas.^[62]
- In 1850 John W. Riggs, 21, a laborer born in Virginia, shared a dwelling with Joseph Duff, 46, a farmer born in Virginia with \$2,500 worth of real estate, who resided in Lee Co., Va., with Mary Duff, 46, born in Tennessee, and seven Duff children, all born in Virginia, ranging in ages from 1 through 19.^[63]
- + 39 ii **JOSEPH S.³ RIGGS**, born Nov. 1833 or 2 Mar. 1832, Scott Co., Va, married (1) **SARAH ESTEP**, and had at least six children, married (2) **MARTHA (BOLENGER) FERGUSON**, and had at least one child.
- 40 iii **MARION S.³ RIGGS**, born about 1834, Virginia.
- 41 iv **VIRGIL F.³ RIGGS**, born about 1836, Virginia.
- 42 v **PRESLEY B.³ RIGGS**, born about 1838, Virginia.
- 43 vi **HIRAM F.³ RIGGS**, born about 1840, Virginia.
- 44 vii **SARILDA³ RIGGS**, born about 1842, Virginia.

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

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

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

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7. SARAH [SALLY]² RIGGS (₁William¹) was born about 1807, Virginia. She married 8 May 1828, Scott Co., Va.,^[64] ANDREW SHEPHERD [SHEPPERD], who was born about 1806, Virginia, son of Christena (–) Shepherd. [He was perhaps son of Joseph Shepherd, neighbor of William Riggs, but he lived near Sampson Shepherd, 70–80, with a woman 60–70, who matches Christena, in the 1840 census of Lee Co., Va.^[65]]

In 1850 Andrew Shepherd, 44, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, resided in Lee Co., Va., with Sarah, 43, born in Virginia, illiterate, and with Christena, 18, Sarah, 16, James, 14, Nancy, 12, Clarinda, 10, Andrew, 8, John P. B., 2, all seven born in Virginia, and with William Riggs, 85, and Christena Shepherd, 77, both born in Virginia, and both illiterate.^[66] The older Christena is assumed to have been Andrew's mother.

Children:

- 45 i CHRISTENA³ SHEPHERD, born about 1832, Virginia.
- 46 ii SARAH³ SHEPHERD, born about 1834, Virginia.
- 47 iii JAMES³ SHEPHERD, born about 1836, Virginia.
- 48 iv NANCY³ SHEPHERD, born about 1838, Virginia.
- 49 v CLARINDA³ SHEPHERD, born about 1840, Virginia.
- 50 vi ANDREW³ SHEPHERD, born about 1842, Virginia.
- 51 vii JOHN P. B.³ SHEPHERD, born about 1848, Virginia.

8. HIRAM² RIGGS (₁William¹) was born about 1814, Scott Co., Va., and died 29 June 1882, Wise Co., Va., age 68.^[67] He married^[68] LAVINA –, born about 1816, Virginia.

64. *Va. Marriages, 1740–1850*, Andrew “Shepperd” to Sally Riggs.

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

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

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

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In 1840 Hiram Riggs, 20–30, resided in Lee Co., Va., with a woman 20–30, and one boy and one girl under 5.^[69]

In 1850 Hiram Riggs, 30, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Lee Co., Va., with Lavina, 30, born in Virginia, illiterate, and with Fayette, 12, Minerva, 8, and Nancy, 4, all three born in Virginia.^[70]

In 1860 Hiram Riggs, 45, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Wise Co., Va., with, “Louisa,” 44, born in Virginia, and with Minerva, 20, Nancy, 14, Franklin, 8, and Florence, 11/12, all four born in Virginia.^[71] Louisa must be a corruption of Lavina.

In 1870 Hiram Riggs, 55, a physician born in Virginia with real and personal estates valued at \$1,500 and \$374, respectively, resided in Big Stone Gap, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with Lavina, 54, illiterate, born in Virginia, and with Franklin, 19, and “Florance” J., 11, both born in Virginia. Next door was Minerva C. Elkins, 30, born in Virginia.^[72]

In 1880 Hiram Riggs, 65, a retired and disabled physician born in Virginia with a father born in New Jersey and a mother in North Carolina, resided in Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., with his wife, Lavina, 65, born in Virginia of North Carolina natives, and with his granddaughter, Loretta Elkins, 11, born in Virginia of Virginia natives. Next door was John W. Stewart, 21, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, with his wife, Florence J., 20, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughter, Hannah M., 1, and son, Hiram S., 9/12, born in Aug., both born in Virginia.^[73]

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

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

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

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

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

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

42. Florence resided in dw. 41.

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

Children:

- + 52 i LAFAYETTE [FAYETTE] M.³ RIGGS, born about 1838, Virginia, married (1) PHEBE J. (—), and had at least four children, married (2) SARAH J. DEAN.
- + 53 ii MINERVA CAROLINE³ RIGGS, born about 1842, Virginia married WILLIAM ELKINS, and had at least four children.
- 54 iii NANCY M.³ RIGGS, born about 1846, Virginia, married 29 Nov. 1864, Wise Co., Va.,^[74] JESSE GILLY, son of George W. and Nancy (—) Gilly.
- 55 iv FRANKLIN³ RIGGS, born about 1852, Virginia.
- 56 v FLORENCE J.³ RIGGS, born about 1859, Virginia married 18 Sept. 1877, Wise Co., Va.,^[75] JOHN W. STEWART, son of James W. and Polly (—) Stewart. They had at least two children.

Third Generation

11. RICHARD ASBURY³ RIGGS (*John*², *William*¹) was born about 1820, Virginia. He married (1) 16 Sept. 1840, Scott Co., Va.,^[76] NANCY MCNEW, who was born about 1817, Virginia, daughter of **William I.** and **Elizabeth** (Caywood) McNew, and who died after the 1860 census.

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

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

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

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Richard married (2) before the 1880 census **MARGARET CASTEEL**, who was born about 1832, Kentucky.

In 1850 Richard Riggs, 30, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Western District, Scott Co., Va., with Nancy, 33, born in Virginia, and with Joseph S., 8, John F., 6, William H., 4, Moses A., 4, and Sarah E., 1, all five born in Virginia.^[77]

In 1860 Richard Riggs, 42, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, with \$700 and \$300 worth of real and personal property, respectively, resided in McHee, My Division, Jackson Co., Ky., with Nancy, 44, born in Virginia, and with Joseph S., 18, John, 16, William H., 14, Moses A., 14, Elizabeth, 11, James E. 10, and Mary, 8, all seven born in Virginia.^[78]

In 1870 Richard Riggs, 52, a farmer born in Virginia, illiterate, with \$700 and \$1,000 worth of real and personal estate, respectively, resided in Gray Hawk, Sturgeon Pct., Jackson Co., Ky., with John, 26, born in Virginia, and John's wife as of Nov., Margaret, 25, born in Kentucky, and with Sarah E., 21, and James E., 19, both born in Virginia, and Mary, 12, born in Kentucky.^[79]

In 1880 Richard Riggs, 62, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Kempers District, Laurel Co., Ky., with his wife, Margaret, 48, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, George W., 7, daughter, Ellen J., 5, and son, Hiram C., 2, all three born in Kentucky.^[80]

A posting 8 May 1998 by Marilyn Phillips Woodall:

I am looking for information on my great-grand father family from Scott County, Virginia. His name is James Elbert Riggs born Feb. 2, 1851 in Scott County to the parents of Richard Asbury Riggs born in 1820 and

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

78. U.S. census, 1860, McHee PO, My Division, Jackson Co., Ky., r. 374, "Page No. 11," dw. 74, fam. 74.

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

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

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Nancy McNew born in 1822. Richard's children are: Joseph Stephen born Aug. 20, 1841, John F. born Nov. 24, 1843, Moses Asbury and William Harry born Feb. 10, 1846, Sarah E. born Oct. 22, 1853, James Elbert, Robert born Oct. 4, 1853, and Polly born June 26, 1857. Richard's parents are John Riggs and Druchania Stanley. Nancy's parents were William I. McNew and Elizabeth Betty Cawood. John Riggs' parents are William Miles-Riggs, and Sarah. We think that William was from North Carolina, but am not for sure.^[81]

Children of the first marriage, to Nancy:^[82]

- + 57 i **JOSEPH STEPHEN⁴ RIGGS**, born 20 Aug. 1841, Scott Co., Va., and had at least one child.
- 58 ii **JOHN F.⁴ RIGGS**, born 24 Nov. 1843, Scott Co., Va., married Nov. 1869, **MARGARET** —, born about 1845, Kentucky.
- 59 iii **WILLIAM HARRY⁴ RIGGS** [twin], born 10 Feb. 1846, Scott Co., Va., married **NANCY M.** —, born 19 Dec. 1843, and had four children.
- 60 iv **MOSES ASBURY⁴ RIGGS** [twin], born 10 Feb. 1846, Scott Co., Va., died 11 Feb. 1926, Clintwood, Virginia, married 12 Aug. 1875 **POLLIE CARTER**, died 3 Apr. 1881, and had two children, including **Maude⁵ Riggs, born 1886.**
- 61 v **SARAH ELIZABETH⁴ RIGGS**, born 23 Oct. 1848, Scott Co., Va.
- + 62 vi **JAMES ELBERT⁴ RIGGS**, born 2 Feb. 1851, Scott Co., Va., married **NANCY H. PUTT**, and had eight children.
- 63 vii **ROBERT L.⁴ RIGGS**, born 4 Oct. 1853, Scott Co., Va. He is not listed in any census.
- 64 viii **MARY [POLLY] B.⁴ RIGGS**, born 26 June 1857, Owsley Co., Ky.

Children of the second marriage, to Margaret:^[83]

81. Posting, Marilyn Phillips Woodall, 8 May 1998, <www.rootsweb.com/~vascott/queries/newer_queries.html> (accessed 2 Apr. 2005), "Note: Odys and Marilyn Woodall 1286 CR#2 Ira, Texas 79527, email: <odysmare@snydertext.com>."

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

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

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

- + 65 ix **GEORGE W.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1873, Kentucky, married
MARTHA A. JOHNSON, and had four children.
- 66 x **ELLEN J.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1875, Kentucky.
- 67 xi **HIRAM C.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1878, Kentucky.

12. **MIRIAM³ RIGGS** (₂*John², William¹*) was born about 1827, Virginia, married 22 Mar. 1841, Rye Cove, Scott Co., Va.,^[84] **JOHN WELLS**, who died 16 Sept. 1919, Big Stone Gap, Wise Co., Va.^[85] Miriam Riggs Wells was a Civil War widow.^[86] She filed a pension application on 21 Oct. 1919, age 92, from Big Stone Gap, Wise Co., Va., where she was residing with her daughter and son-in-law, John M. Dickenson. However, it appears to have been rejected.^[87]

Known children of 10:

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

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

84. Miriam Wells Riggs Pension Application, by "Rev. John Riggs, my father."

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

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

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

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17. DAVID R.³ RIGGS (*John*², *William*¹) was born about 1839, Virginia, and died after the 1910 census. He married about 1867 MATILDA TACKET [TACKETT], who was born about 1845, Virginia, and died 12 Apr. 1930, Lawrence Co., Ky., aged 85.^[88]

[There was a Matilda Tackett, 14, born Virginia, in the household of William Tackett, 53, born in Virginia, and Elizabeth, 38, born in Virginia, in the 1860 census for Kanawha Co., Va.,^[89] but there was a Matilda Tackett, 6, born in Kentucky, in the household of Robert Tackett, 35, born Kentucky, and Amy, 25, born Tennessee, in the 1850 census for Carter Co., Ky.^[90] And in 1860 Matilda Tacket [sic], 15, born Kentucky, resided in the household of Rob Tacket, 44, born Kentucky, and Emy, 34, born Tennessee.^[91] I would bet on Robert and Amy [Emy] Tacket being Matilda's parents.]

In 1870 David Riggs, 31, a farmer born in Virginia with \$100 of personal estate, resided in Carter Co., Ky., with Matilda, 25, born in Virginia, and with William, 2, born in Kentucky. David and Matilda could not write, and Matilda could not read.^[92]

In 1880 David Riggs, 43, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in Tennessee and a mother in Virginia, resided in Carter Co., Ky., with his wife, Matilda, 37, born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Kentucky, and with his son, "W^m" M., 12, daughters, M. Elizabeth, 10, Rachel E., 8, Sarah Ann, 8, Nancy J., 6, and Louvena, 3, and son, "Wilferd," 1, all six born in Kentucky. David, Matilda, William, and Elizabeth are listed as unable to read or write. David's father, John Riggs, 88, widower, also resided in the household.^[93]

88. Ky. *Death Index, 1911-2000*, Lawrence Co., Ky., vol. 20, certificate 9896.

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

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

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

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

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

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

In 1900 David R. Riggs, 63, a farmer born Mar. 1837 in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 33 years, Matilda, 55, born Sept. 1844 in Kentucky of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Tennessee. She had had 10 children, with 10 surviving. In the household were David's daughters, Sarah A., 28, born Mar. 1872, and Rosa, 14 [15 crossed out], born June 1885, and daughter [sic], "Emm[et?]," 12, born Sept. 1887, all three born in Kentucky. Wilford Riggs, 21, born Feb. 1879, resided next to them.^[94]

In 1910 David Riggs, 73, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a mother in Virginia, resided in Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 43 years, Matilda, 65, born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Tennessee. She had had 10 children, with six surviving. In the household was David's son, "Emmit," 22, born in Kentucky. Nearby was Wilford R. Riggs, 30, and his family.^[95]

In 1920 Matilda Riggs, 75, a widow born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Tennessee, resided alone in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky. Close by were "Emmet" Riggs, 32, and W. R. Riggs, 40.^[96]

Children:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children:

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

27. DAVID C.³ RIGGS (₄David², William¹) was born about 1847, Virginia. He married 31 Mar. 1869, Wise Co., Va.,^[97] LURANA [LOURANIA] VANCE, who was born about 1852, Virginia, daughter of Absalom and Nancy (–) Vance.

In 1870 David C. Riggs, 23, a farmer born in Virginia, resided in Gladeville Twp. [formerly Gladesville, now Wise], Wise Co., Va., with Lurana Riggs, 18, born in Virginia. Neither could read or write.^[98] Wise Co. was where John Riggs, father of David R., resided in 1860.

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

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

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

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ter, Margaret F., 5, all three born in Virginia. They shared a household with Louisa Riggs, 25, widowed or divorced, born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, and with her son, William H., 6, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia, and daughter, Mollie, 3, born in Virginia of a father born in Tennessee.^[99]

In 1920 the mother-in-law of Emmett Riggs, “– Riggs,” 70, born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a U.S.-native mother, resided in his household in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky.,^[100] This would have been Lurana Riggs.

Children:

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

52. JOSEPH S.³ RIGGS (₈*James², William¹*) was born Nov. 1833 (1900 census) or 2 Mar. 1832, Scott Co., Va.^[101] and died 14 July 1902.^[102] He married (1) 18 Jan. 1855, Scott Co., Va.,^[103] **SARAH ESTEP**, who was

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

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

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

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

103. I have this indirectly from descendant Richard W. Rodgers, who states, “The Scott Co, VA, marriage of Joseph Riggs to Sarah Estep, names Joseph’s parents as James and Mary Riggs.” But also,

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

born about 1836, Virginia. He married (2) 3 Nov. 1878^[104] **MARTHA (BOLENGER) FERGUSON**, who was born Apr. 1837 (1900 census), Arkansas.

In 1870 Joseph S. Riggs, 39, a farmer born in Virginia with \$250 personal estate, resided in Lebanon, Laclede Co., Mo., with Sarah, 35, born in Virginia, and with Sarilda J., 14, and James W., 13, both born in Virginia, Presley L., 11, born in Missouri, Mary E., 9, born in Arkansas, Thursey, 3, and Grant, 1, all born in Missouri.^[105]

In 1900 “Jo^s” S. Riggs, 67, a farmer born Nov. 1833 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Twp. 21, Cherokee Nation, Indian Terr., with his wife of 22 years, Martha, 63, born Apr. 1837 in Arkansas of a father born in Arkansas and a mother in Tennessee, and with his son, “Jas” W., 43, born Feb. 1857 in Virginia of a mother born in Virginia, and daughter, Annie, 19, born Oct. 1880 in Indian Terr. of a mother born in Virginia [check this - looks wrong]. There was also a “visitor” in the household. Martha had had 12 children, with five surviving. Next door resided “W^m” G. Riggs, 32, born in Missouri.^[106]

Children of the first marriage, to Sarah:^[107]

95 i [INFANT]⁴ RIGGS, a daughter of unknown birthdate.

96 ii SARILDA JANE⁴ RIGGS, born 6 Nov. 1855, Scott Co., Va.^[108]

Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 21, “In 1855, Joseph married Sarah Estep. Soon they left the green mountain country and followed the railroad to LaCledde County, Missouri, where he worked on the construction crew. Among their children were James W., born February, 1857; Mary, born April 27, 1861; and William Grant, born January 14, 1869. Sarah died on October 1, 1874.”

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

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

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

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

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

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

- 97 iii **JAMES WALKER**⁴ RIGGS, born 15 Feb. 1857, **Scott Co., Va.**
- 98 iv **PRESLEY LYNN**⁴ RIGGS, born about 1859, Missouri.
- 99 v **MARY ELIZABETH**⁴ RIGGS, born 27 Apr. 1861, Ft. Smith, Ark., died 22 Aug. 1938, Claremont, Ok.,^[109] married (1)^[110] **RAYMOND THOMPSON**, and had 12 children, divorced 1905,^[111] married (2)^[112] **JOHN BRICE**.
- 100 vi **THURSEY CLEMENTINE**⁴ RIGGS, born 28 Apr. 1868 about 1867, **Union Star, Dekalb Co., Mo.**
- + 101 vii **WILLIAM GRANT**⁴ RIGGS, born Jan. 1868 or 14 Jan. 1869, Missouri, married (1) **ROSE ELLA (BUSTER) GILLIS**, and had five children, married (2) **JULIETTE SCRIMSHER CHAMBERS**, and had three children, married (3) **MINNIE KIRKPATRICK**.

Known child of the second marriage, to Martha:

- 102 viii **HANNAH/ANNIE ADA**⁴ RIGGS, born Oct. 1880, Indian Terr.

52. **LAFAYETTE [FAYETTE] M.**³ **RIGGS** (sHiram², ?William¹) was born about 1838, Virginia. He married (1) **PHEBE J. (—)**, who was born about

Rodgers).

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

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

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

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

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1841, Kentucky. He then married (2) 8 Sept. 1879, Wise Co., Va.,^[113] **SARAH J. DEAN**, who was born about 1836, Virginia, daughter of James H. and Lucinda (–) Dean.

In 1870 Lafayette Riggs, 33, a farmer born in Virginia with real and personal estates valued at \$1,500 and \$177, respectively, resided in Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with Phebe, 29, illiterate, born in Kentucky, and with Amanda C., 10, Lavina C., 9, Nancy V., 7, and “Emmette” B., 7/12, born in Nov., all four born in Virginia.^[114]

In 1880 “Lafayatt” M. Riggs, 43, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Richmond District, Wise Co., Va., with his wife, Sarah “A.,” 44, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughters, Amanda C., 20, born in Virginia, Lavina C., 19, born in Kentucky, and Nancy V., 18, born in Virginia, son, Emmett B., 10, daughter Arminda B., 9, sons, Hiram F., 7, and Lafayatt M., 5, and daughter, Florence S., 3, all five born in Virginia, and his stepsons, Walter L. Dean, 15, born in Ohio, John W. Dean, 14, born in Tennessee, and Calvin J. Dean, 9, born in Kansas, all three of Virginia natives.^[115] The three Dean males were related to Sarah somehow, of course.

Known children of the first marriage, to Phebe:

- 103 i **AMANDA C.**⁴ **RIGGS**, born about 1860, Virginia, married 11 Mar. 1885, Wise Co., Va.,^[116] **JOHN J. SHIPLEY**, son of John C. and Nancy M. (–) Shipley.
- 104 ii **LAVINA [LAVINIA] C.**⁴ **RIGGS**, born about 1861, Virginia, married 31 Jan. 1881, Wise Co., Va.,^[117] **DOCTOR F. WILLIAMS**, son of

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

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

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

116. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Amanda C. Riggs to John J. Shipley, 11 Mar. 1885, Amanda’s parents: L. M. Riggs and “Phiby” Riggs, John’s parents: John C. Shipley and Nancy M. Shipley.

117. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Lavinia C. Riggs to Doctor F. Williams, 31 Jan. 1881, Lavinia’s parents: L. M. Riggs and “Pheba” J. Riggs, groom’s parents: Pleasant W. Williams and Patsey Williams.

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

Pleasant W. and Patsey (–) Williams. Doctor might be a title rather than a name.

- 105 iii **NANCY V.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1863, Virginia, married 29 Dec. 1880, Wise Co., Va.,^[118] **FRANKLIN CREECH**, son of Ira and Usla Ann (–) Creech.
- 106 iv **EMMETT B.⁴ RIGGS**, born Nov. 1869, Virginia.
- 107 v **ARMINDA B.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1871, Virginia.
- 108 vi **HIRAM F.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1873, Virginia.
- 109 vii **LAFAYETTE M.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1875, Virginia.
- 110 viii **FLORENCE S.⁴ RIGGS**, born about 1877, Virginia.

53. MINERVA CAROLINE³ RIGGS (_s*Hiram*², ?*William*¹) was born about 1842, Wise Co., Va., married 14 July 1860, Wise Co., Va.,^[119] **WILLIAM ELKINS**,^[120] born in Wise Co., Va., son of Larkin and Mary (–) Elkins.

In 1870 Minerva C. Elkins, 30, born in Virginia, resided in Big Stone Gap, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with William H., 9, Alpha C., 5, Lauretta, 3, and Nancy E., 1/12, born in May, all four born in Virginia. Next door was Hiram Riggs, her father.^[121]

In 1880 Minerva C. Elkins, 39, a widow washerwoman born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Big Stone Gap, Richmond Twp., Wise Co., Va., with her son, William H., 19, and daughters, Alpha C., 15, and Florence J., 5, all three born in Virginia.^[122]

Children:

- 111 i **WILLIAM H.⁴ ELKINS**, born about 1861, Virginia.

118. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Nancy Riggs to Franklin “Creech,” 29 Dec. 1880, Nancy’s parents: Lafayette M. Riggs and “Pheby” J. Riggs, Franklin’s parents: Ira Creech and Usla Ann Creech.

119. *Wise Co. Riggs Marriages*, Minerva Caroline Riggs to William Elkins, 14 July 1860, Minerva’s parents: “Hiran” Riggs and “Leovina” Riggs, Williams’s parents: Larkin Elkins and Mary Elkins.

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

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

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

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- 112 ii ALPHA CAROLIN⁴ ELKINS, born May 1866 (1900 census) or 27 May 1865 (death certificate), Big Stone Gap, Va., died 15 Jan. 1940, Benham, Harlan Co., Ky.,^[123] married about 1884 J. THOMAS JOHNSON, born Mar. 1861 (1900 census), and had at least seven children.

In 1900 Thomas "Johsen," 38, a "hewer of wood" born Mar. 1861 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Big Stone Gap, Wise Co., Va., with his wife of 16 years, Alpha, 34, born May 1866 in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughters, Myrtle, 15, born Jan. 1885, Minnie F., 12, born Mar. 1888, and Vena F., 10, born Aug. 1889, son, Henry Clay, 6, born Aug. 1889, and daughter, "Geargie" G., 11/12, born June 1899, all five born in Virginia. Alpha had had seven children, with five surviving.^[124]

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

Fourth Generation

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

I was born in Scott Co., Va., Aug. 20, 1841. My father was Richard Riggs. He was born in the same county. My grandfather, John Riggs, was born in the same county. My great grandfather was William Riggs, born

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

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

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in New Jersey. The stock is English. He came to Virginia soon after the Revolution. My grandmother Riggs was a Stanley, the daughter of Richard Stanley, a Revolutionary soldier. He was in the service 7 years. He was at Brandywine, Eutah Springs and other engagements. My mother was a **McNEW** and her mother was a **CAYWOOD** and her father **CAYWOOD**, was in the battle of New Orleans. My grandmother **McNEW**'s mother, Mrs. **CAYWOOD**'s maiden name was **ASBURY**, she was a relative of Bishop **ASBURY**, a cousin. I do not know whether 1st or 2nd or 3rd. She came over in a vessel with the Bishop. I suppose her parents came; I do not know. The **CAYWOOD**s of Harlan are her decedents. Old John **CAYWOOD**, the father of the Harlan family, was a brother of my grandmother **McNEW**, a son of Bishop **ASBURY**'s cousin. Mose Asbury **CAYWOOD** who was killed in Owsley County during the (Civil) War by order of Col. Anderson **CLARK**, was John **CAYWOOD**'s son. My father moved to Kentucky in 1856 and locate first in Owsley County but remained only one year when he moved to Jackson Co. near Tiner. He had 7 children then and 3 afterward by my step-mother. George, Hiram and Jane live in Laurel and Mrs. Polly **CASTEEL**, my full sister live in Rockcastle.^[125]

62. **JAMES ELBERT**⁴ **RIGGS** (₁₁*Richard A.*³, *John*², *William*¹) was born 2 Feb. 1851, Scott Co., Va. He married **NANCY H. PUTT**, who was born Apr. 1855 (1900 census), Kentucky.

In 1880 James E. Riggs, 29, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Rockcastle Co., Ky., with his wife, Nancy H., 24, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, Moses, 3/12, born Mar. 1880 in Kentucky. They resided in the household of his brother-in-law, Ira Putt, 28, a farmer born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives.^[126]

In 1900 James E. Riggs, 49, a farmer born Feb. 1851 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Palo Pinto Co., Tex., with his wife, Nancy H., 45, born Apr. 1855 in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son,

125. Excerpts from the John Jay Dickey Diaries.

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

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Charlie, 20, born Mar. 1880, Kentucky, daughter, Mary, 15, born June 1884, sons, James R., 14, born May 1886, William J., 12, born Feb. 1888, John O., 9, born Aug. 1890, and Thomas, 7, born Nov. 1892, and daughter, Josie B., 4, born Sept. 1895, all six born in Texas. Nancy had had eight children, with eight surviving. Next door was Ivory Putt, 49, born Apr. 1851 in Kentucky of Kentucky natives.^[127]

In 1920 James E. Riggs, 68, widower born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex., in the household of his son-in-law, Hudson L. Rucker, 26, a farmer born in Texas of Texas natives, Hudson's wife, Josie B., 24, born in Texas of a mother born in Kentucky, and son, Joseph D., 5, born in Texas. Next door was Ira Putt, 68, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives.^[128]

Children:

- 116 i CHARLES MOSES⁵ RIGGS, born Mar. 1880, Kentucky.
- 117 ii MARY⁵ RIGGS, born June 1884, Texas.
- 118 iii JAMES R.⁵ RIGGS, born May 1886, Texas.
- 119 iv WILLIAM JOSEPH⁵ RIGGS, born 22 Feb. 1888, Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex.^[129]
- 120 v JOHN OLIVER⁵ RIGGS, born 27 Aug. 1890, Palo Pinto Co., Texas.^[130]
- 121 vi THOMAS⁵ RIGGS, born 11 Nov. 1892, Brazos, Palo Pinto Co., Tex.^[131]

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

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

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

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

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

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- 122 vii **JOSIE B.⁵ RIGGS**, born Sept. 1895, Texas., married **HUDSON L. RUCKER**, born about 1894, Texas, and had at least one child: (1) Joseph D.⁶ Rucker, born about 1915, Texas.

65. GEORGE W.⁴ RIGGS (₁₁*Richard A.³, John², William¹*) was born about 1873, Kentucky. He married about 1891 **MARTHA A. JOHNSON**, born 15 June 1873, Laurel Co., Ky., daughter of John and Sarah (Proffitt) Johnson, and died 12 Sept. 1938, Fayette Co., Ky., buried 15 Sept. 1838 in Hillcrest Memorial Park.^[132]

In 1910 George Riggs, 36, a farmer born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, resided in London, Laurel Co., Ky., with his wife of 19 years, Martha, 36, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his son, Richard, 18, daughters, Ollie, 14, and Sarah, 11, and son, John L., 7, all four born in Kentucky. Martha had had four children, with four surviving.^[133]

In 1920 George W. Riggs, 46, an express company workman born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Paris, Bourbon Co., Ky., with his wife, Martha, 46, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, and with his daughter, Margaret, 21, and son, John, 18, an express company laborer, both born in Kentucky. Martha had had four children, with four surviving.^[134]

Children:

- 123 i **RICHARD⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1892, Kentucky.
124 ii **OLLIE⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1896, Kentucky.
125 iii **SARAH MARGARET⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1899, Kentucky.

132. Death certificate, Martha A. Riggs, Commonwealth of Ky., file no. 21706, registered no. 201, registration district no. 500, primary registration district no. 5164, resident of Stone Rd., death 12 Sept. 1938, [Vet. ?] Picadome, Fayette Co., female, married, spouse George W. Riggs, aged 65 years 2 months 27 days, born 15 June 1873, Laurel Co., Ky., father John Johnson, born Laurel Co., Ky., mother Sarah Proffitt, born Laurel Co., Ky., informant G. W. Riggs of Lexington, buried 14 Sept. 1938, Hillcrest Memorial Park, (probably) Lexington, Ky. (address of undertaker and of G. W.), signed by David C. Riggs DC, of Radio Bldg., Lexington.

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

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

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+ 126 iv **JOHN L.⁵ RIGGS**, born 25 Mar. 1904, Kentucky, married (1) **ULDEAN GIBSON**, and had one child, married (2) **LUELLA BELLE HARPER**, and had three children.

83. WILFORD R.⁴ RIGGS (₁₇*David R.³, John², William¹*) was born Feb. 1879 (1900 census), Kentucky, died 14 Dec. 1947, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 68.^[135] He married about 1900 **FANNY [FANNIE] E. TILSON**, who was born May 1878 (1900 census), Kentucky, daughter of Caroline (–) Tilson, and who died 1 Sept. 1962, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 84.^[136]

In 1900 Wilford Riggs, 21, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 0 years, Fanny, 22, born May 1878 in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in North Carolina. Next door was Wilford's father, David R. Riggs [q.v.].^[137]

In 1910 Wilford R. Riggs, 30, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife of 10 years, Fannie, 31, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives. She had had four children, with three surviving. In the household were Wilford's sons, Virgil, 8, and Clyde, 4, and daughter, Goldie, 2, all three born in Kentucky. Nearby was David Riggs, 73.^[138]

In 1920 W. R. Riggs, 40, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife, Fannie, 41, born in Kentucky of a father born in Kentucky and a mother in Tennessee, and with his sons, Virgil, 18, and Clyde, 14, daughter, Golda, 11, son, "Emmit," 9, and daughters, Gladys,

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

136. Ky. *Death Index, 1911–2000*, Fannie E. Riggs, vol. 39, certificate 19473, died 1 Sept. 1962, Boyd Co., aged 84, residence Boyd Co.

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

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

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7, and Esta, 5, all six born in Kentucky. Also in the household was Wilford's mother-in-law, Caroline Tilson, 75, born in Tennessee of a father born in Tennessee and a U.S.-native mother. Close by were Matilda Riggs, 75, and "Emmet" Riggs, 32.^[139]

Children:

- 127 i **VIRGIL⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1902, Kentucky. He was perhaps Virgil Riggs, born 7 Dec. 1901, died Jan. 1972, last residence Rosemead, Los Angeles Co., Calif.^[140]
- 128 ii **CLYDE⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1906, Kentucky.
- 129 iii **GOLDA [GOLDIE]⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1908, Kentucky.
- 130 iv **EMMETT⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1911, Kentucky.
- 131 v **GLADYS⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1913, Kentucky.
- 132 vi **ESTA⁵ RIGGS**, born about 1915, Kentucky.

86. **EMMETT⁴ RIGGS** (₁₇David R.³, John², William¹) was born Sept. 1887 (1900 census) or 9 Sept. 1888 (SSDI), Kentucky, died Aug. 1975, last residence Lawton, Carter Co., Ky.^[141] He married about 1912^[142] **BERTHA⁴ RIGGS** (₂₇David C.³, David², William¹), who was born about 1888, Kentucky.

In 1920 "Emmet" Riggs, 32, a farmer born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife, Bertha, 32, born in Kentucky of Virginia natives, and with his son, Otis, 7, daughter, Viola, 5, and sons, William, 3 [5?]/12, and Wilford, 6/12, all four born in Kentucky. Also in the house-

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

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

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

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

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hold was Emmet's mother-in-law, "– Riggs," 70, born in Virginia of a father born in North Carolina and a U.S.-born mother. Next door were Matilda Riggs, 75, and W. R. Riggs, 40.^[143]

In 1930 Emmett Riggs, 41, a farm laborer born in Kentucky of Virginia natives, resided in Harrison Twp., Scioto Co., Ohio, with his wife, Bertha, 40, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, and with his son, Otis, 17, daughter, Viola, 16, sons, William, 13, and Wilfred, 10, and daughter, Lillian, 7, all five born in Kentucky, and also his stepson, Frank Pennington, 22, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives. Emmett was first married at age 25, and Bertha at 24.^[144]

Children:

- 133 i OTIS⁵ RIGGS, born about 1913, Kentucky.
- 134 ii VIOLA⁵ RIGGS, born about 1915, Kentucky.
- + 135 iii WILLIAM DAVID⁵ RIGGS, born 14 Aug. 1916, Kentucky, and had at least two children.
- 136 iv WILFORD [WILFRED]⁵ RIGGS, born about 1920, Kentucky.
- 137 v LILLIAN⁵ RIGGS, born 22 Aug. 1922, Kentucky, died 7 June 1995, last residence Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio,^[145] married ED LEWIS.

91. HENRY H.⁴ RIGGS (₂₇David C.³, David², William¹) was born Aug. 1875 (1900 census), Virginia, and died 9 June 1930, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 55.^[146] He married about 1900, REBECCA⁴ RIGGS (₁₇David R.³, John², William¹), who was born 18 Oct. 1881, Kentucky, and died 25 Feb. 1924, Ashland, Boyd Co., Ky., aged 42.^[147]

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

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

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

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

147. Death certificate, transcribed by granddaughter Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, email 31 Mar.

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In 1880 David Riggs, 31, a farmer born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, resided in Meadows, Magoffin Co., Ky., with his wife, Lourania, 25, born in Virginia of Virginia natives, and with his daughter, Nannie, 10, son, Henry H., 8, and daughter Margaret F., 5, all three born in Virginia. They shared a household with Louisa Riggs, 25, widowed or divorced, born in Virginia of a father born in Virginia and a mother in North Carolina, and with her son, William H., 6, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia, and daughter Mollie, 3, born in Virginia of a father born in Tennessee.^[148] **Louisa's nati-
vities suggest she was David's sister-in-law.**

In 1900 Henry Riggs, 24, a farmer born Aug. 1875 in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Swetnam Pct., Lawrence Co., Ky., with his wife, Rebecca, 18, born Oct. 1881 in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, and with his sister, Iona, 17, born 1883 in Kentucky of Virginia natives.^[149]

In 1910 Henry H. Riggs, 34, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Little Fork, Elliott Co., Ky., with his wife of 10 years, Rebecca, 28, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, and with his son, Luther, 9, daughter, Lura, 7, sons, Walter, 4, and "Warna," 2, all four born in Kentucky. Rebecca had had four children, with four surviving.^[150]

In 1920 Henry H. Riggs, 44, a farmer born in Virginia of Virginia natives, resided in Maddox Pct., Carter Co., Ky., with his wife, Rebecca,

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

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

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

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

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38, born in Kentucky of a father born in Virginia and a mother in Kentucky, and with his son, Luther, 19, saw mill laborer, daughter, Lura, 16, sons, "Watler," 14, and Warren, 11, daughter, "Earia," 8, and sons, "Winford," 6, and Turner, 1 4/12, all eight born in Kentucky.^[151]

In 1930 Henry Riggs, 64 [sic], a widower first married at age 21, a brick salesman born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, resided in Grayson Pct., Carter Co., Ky., in the home of his son-in-law, Bert Blizzard, 30, and his daughter, Lura, 27 [q.v.]. Henry's children also resided in the household: daughter, "Erie" Anderson, 19, married at age 15, son, "Winfred" Riggs, 15, son, Ellis Riggs, 13, daughter [sic], "Myrtle" Riggs, 11, and son, Hubert Riggs, 9, all five born in Kentucky.^[152]

Children:^[153]

- 138 i LUTHER⁵ RIGGS, born about 1901, Kentucky, probably he who died 25 Mar. 1958, aged 57, Jefferson Co., Ky.,^[154] and probably he who enlisted 25 Mar. 1946 as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army for World War II, born 1900, Ky., resident of Breckinridge, Ky.^[155]
- + 139 ii LURIA [LURA]⁵ RIGGS, born 1903, Kentucky, married BERT BLIZZARD, and had two children.
- 140 iii WALTER⁵ RIGGS, born about 1906, Kentucky, married EMMA SMITH. Both were buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[156]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- 141 iv **WARREN⁵ RIGGS**, born 5 July 1908, Carter Co., Ky., died Aug. 1974, last residence Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio,^[157] and buried in Bowling Cem., Carter Co., Ky.^[158]
- 142 v **ERIA⁵ RIGGS**, born Feb. 1910, Carter Co., Ky., died Feb. 1972, Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio, and buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[159] She married about 1926, **JOHN ANDERSON**, who was also buried in Sunset Gardens Cem.^[160]
- 143 vi **WINIFRED⁵ RIGGS**, male, born 12 May 1913, Kentucky, died 18 Nov. 1992, last residence Roderfield, McDowell Co., W. Va.^[161]
- 144 vii **ELLIS⁵ RIGGS**, male, born 8 Nov. 1915, Kentucky, died 4 Jan. 1999, last residence Roderfield, McDowell Co., W. Va.^[162]
- 145 viii **TURNER MURRILL⁵ RIGGS**, born 2 Sept. 1918, Carter Co., Ky.,^[163] died 25 May 1972,^[164] Ross Co., Ohio, last residence Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio,^[165] and was buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[166] He

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

158. *Cem. Roll*, "Riggs, Warren 1908-1974 Bowling," verified by niece Jeanne⁶ (Riggs) Workman, who attended the funeral and burial, email 31 Mar. 2005.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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married^[167] **MYRTLE JENNINGS**. They divorced. Turner Murrill went by “Murrill” and is listed, coincidentally, as a female, “Myrtle,” in the 1930 census.

+ 146 ix **HUBERT CLIFTON⁵ RIGGS**, born 14 Jan. 1921, Carter Co., Ky., married **HAZEL MAE FAIN**, and had three children.

101. WILLIAM GRANT⁴ RIGGS (₃Joseph S.³, James², William¹) was born Jan. 1868 (1900 census) or 14 Jan. 1869,^[168] Missouri (probably in Lebanon, Laclede Co.), and died **6 Sept. 1951, Claremore, Rogers Co., Ok.** He married (1) 28 Oct. 1890^[169] **ROSE ELLA (BUSTER) GILLIS**,^[170] who was born 5 Oct. 1868 or Nov. 1870 (1900 census), Cooweescoowee District, Claremore area, Indian Terr. (Oklahoma),^[171] daughter of John and Mattie (–) Buster, and died Nov. 1901.^[172] He married (2) 22 June 1902^[173] **JULIETTE SCRIMSHER CHAMBERS**, who was born 28 Nov. 1873, Oklahoma. **He married (3) MINNIE KIRKPATRICK.**

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

168. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 21, “William Grant, born January 14, 1869.”

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

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

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

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

173. Braunlich, *Haunted by Home*, 22, “On June 22, 1902, six months after Rosie’s death, Bill Riggs

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In 1900 “W^m” G. Riggs, 32, a farmer born Jan. 1868 in Missouri of Virginia natives, resided in Twp. 21, Cherokee Nation, Indian Terr., with his wife of 10 years, Ella, 30, born Nov. 1870 in Indian Terr. of parents born in Indian Terr., and with his daughter, Mattie, 4, born June 1895, and his sons, Edgar, 2, born Nov. 1897, and Rolla, 8/12, born Sept. 1899, all three born in Indian Terr. Ella had had five children, with three surviving. Next door resided “Jo^s” S. Riggs, 67, born in Virginia.^[174]

In 1910 William G. Riggs, 42, a bank president of the Bank of Oklahoma born in Missouri of Virginia natives, resided in Twp. 4, Rogers Co., Okla., with his (second) wife of eight years (her first marriage), Juliette, 36, born in Oklahoma of Oklahoma natives, and with his daughter, Mattie, 14, and his sons, Edgar, 12, and Linn, 10, all three born in Oklahoma of a mother born in Oklahoma, and with his son, Lee Grant, 1, born in Oklahoma of a mother born in Oklahoma. Juliette had had one children, with it surviving. William had three surviving children.^[175]

In 1920 William G. Riggs, 50, a farmer born in Missouri of Virginia natives, resided in Verdigris, Rogers Co., Okla., with his wife, “Juliett” S., 49, born in Oklahoma of Oklahoma natives, and with his sons, Lee G., 11, and Joe V., 5, both born in Oklahoma of a mother born in Oklahoma.^[176]

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

- 147 i **MATTIE MARY⁵ RIGGS**, born June 1895, Indian Terr., married **LESTER BRYANT CUNDIFF**, and had two children (birth order not known): (1) Leo⁶ Cundiff; and (2) Bernice⁶ Cundiff, born 21 Sept.

married Juliette Scrimsher Chambers, twenty-eight, who was one-fourth Cherokee. Born near Claremore on November 28, 1873, Juliette had”

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

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

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

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1921, Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla., died 21 Apr. 2007, married
1940 Robert Lee Hodges, and had two children.^[177]

- 148 ii EDGAR⁵ RIGGS, born Nov. 1897, Indian Terr.
- + 149 iii ROLLA/ROLLIE LINN/LYNN⁵ RIGGS, born Sept. 1899 or 31 Aug.
1899, Indian Terr. Poet and playwright.

Known children of four of the second marriage, to Juliette:^[178]

- + 150 iv LEE GRANT⁵ RIGGS, born 1908, Oklahoma, married DOROTHY (—)
SMITH, and had at least two children. A DNA contributor descends
from this line.
- 151 v JOSEPH VANN⁵ RIGGS, born 1914, Oklahoma.

Fifth Generation

126. JOHN L.⁵ RIGGS (₆₅George W.⁴, Richard A.³, John², William¹) was born
25 Mar. 1904, Kentucky.^[179] He married (1) 1926, Hazard, Ky., ULDEAN
GIBSON, who was born in Paris Co., Ky., and died in Ky. He married (2)
10 Sept. 1936, Harrisonburg, Va., LUELLA BELLE HARPER, who was
born 21 Nov. 1915, Donora, Washington Co., Pa., daughter of Joseph C.
and Rose (Hay) Harper,^[180] and who died 2 June 1960, Concord, Contra
Costa Co., Calif.

177. The information in this paragraph is from an obit. for Bernice (Cundiff) Hodges, in the
Claremore Daily Progress, 25 Apr. 2007, "William Grant Riggs, a Claremore pioneer who helped
establish the first bank and hospital in town, was Bernice's grandfather, and she is the niece of poet-
playwright Lynn Riggs, who is most notable for 'Green Grow the Lilacs' written in 1931 from which
Rodgers and Hammerstein made the musical 'Oklahoma!' Bernice was active . . . supporting The
Lynn Riggs Museum in Claremore. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her
brother Leo Cundiff. She is survived by sons Robert Hodges, Jr. and James Lynn Hodges of Tulsa,
nephew Gary Cundiff and wife Katherine of Tulsa, niece Sally Hoffman & husband Kirby of
Claremore, along with many other relatives and friends."

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

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

180. U.S. census, 1930, Bullskin, Fayette Co., Pa., ED 4, r. 2038, p. xx, sh. 10B, dw. 198., fam.

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Child of the first marriage, to Uldean:^[181]

152 i **NETA MAE**⁶ **RIGGS**, born 1928.

Children of the second marriage, to Luella:^[182]

153 ii **JACULIN ANN**⁶ **RIGGS**, born 9 July 1937, George Town Pike, Fayette Co., Ky.

154 iii **PATRICIA LOU**⁶ **RIGGS**, born 4 June 1939, Bluefield, W. Va.

155 iv **ROBERT ASBURY**⁶ **RIGGS**, born 2 Mar. 1941, Blurfield, Mercer Co., W. Va., married 8 Oct. 1966, Concord, Calif., **SHERRY DAWN FEE**, born 22 Oct. 1942, Vancouver, Clark Co., Wash., daughter of Charles and Wilma (Ashby) Fee, and had two children. Robert is a contributor to my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.

135. WILLIAM DAVID⁵ **RIGGS** (₈₆*Emmett*⁴, *David R.*³, *John*², *William*¹) was born 14 Aug. 1916, Kentucky,^[183] died 7 Oct. 1991.^[184]

Known children:^[185]

156 i **OTIS DAVID**⁶ **RIGGS** [twin], born 30 June 1944, married **LINDA** —. John is a participant in my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.^[186]

157 ii **HAROLD LEE**⁶ **RIGGS** [twin], born 30 June 1944, died at birth.

139. LURIA [LURA]⁵ **RIGGS** (₉₁*Henry H.*⁴, *David C.*³, *David*², *William*¹) was born 1903, Kentucky, died 1992, and was buried in Sunset Gardens

199, lists Joseph C. Harper, 43, born Pa., wife Rose, 34, born Pa., and four children including Luella B., 14, born Pa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[187] She married about 1923 **BERT BLIZZARD**, who was born about 1900, Carter Co., Ky.^[188]

In 1930 Bert Blizzard, 30, a brick plant worker born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives, resided in Grayson Pct., Carter Co., Ky., with his wife, Lura, 27, born in Kentucky of Kentucky natives. Bert first married at 23, and Lura at 20. Bert's daughters were also in the household: Jeneva, 5, and Verneda, 3, both born in Kentucky. Lura's father, Henry Riggs, and several of her siblings also resided in the household.^[189]

Known children:

- 158 i **GENIVIEVE [JENEVA]⁶ BLIZZARD**, born 15 Feb. 1925, Carter Co., Ky.^[190]
- 159 ii **VERNEDA⁶ BLIZZARD**, born about 1927, Kentucky. She was buried in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[191]
- 160 iii **WYONIA⁶ BLIZZARD**, born 27 Oct. 1930, Carter Co., Ky.^[192]
- 161 iv **WILBERTA [BERTIE]⁶ BLIZZARD**, born 1932.^[193]

146. HUBERT CLIFTON⁵ RIGGS (₉₁Henry H.⁴, David C.³, David², William¹) was born 14 Jan. 1921, Carter Co., Ky.,^[194] died 30 Dec. 1998, Gallia Co., Ohio,^[195] last residence, Bidwell, Gallia Co.^[196] He was buried 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

195. *Ohio Deaths, 1958-200*, Hubert C. Riggs, death 30 Dec. 1998, aged 77, widowed, birth 14

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Jan. 1999 in Sunset Gardens [formerly Floral Hill] Cem., Wheelersburg, Scioto Co., Ohio.^[197] Hubert married^[198] **HAZEL MAE FAIN**, who was born 18 May 1925, died 4 Jan. 1980, and was buried in Sunset Gardens.^[199]

Children:^[200]

- 162 i **JEANNE SUE⁶ RIGGS**, born 3 Nov. 1945, Premier, McDowell Co., W. Va., married – **WORKMAN**. Jeanne is the author's correspondent on this family.
- 163 ii **LARRY ALAN⁶ RIGGS**, born 19 Aug. 1947, McDowell Co., W. Va.
- 164 iii **JOHN CLIFTON⁶ RIGGS**, born 14 Sept. 1964, Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio. John is a participant in my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.^[201]

149. ROLLA/ROLLIE LINN/LYNN⁵ RIGGS (₉¹*William Grant⁴, Joseph S.³, David², William¹*) was born 31 Aug. 1899, Indian Terr., near what is now Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla. He died 30 June 1954, New York City, N.Y.^[202] Author of the play which became the movie *Oklahoma!* Screen-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

202. *The Internet Movie Database*, Lynn Riggs, born 31 Aug. 1899, Claremore, Okla., died 30 June 1954, New York City, N.Y., of cancer, birth name Rollie Lynn Riggs, "Inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in 1965. Famous playwright and poet. Riggs is most famous for writing 'Oklahoma!' which became a monster musical hit on Broadway (and later hit film) which ran for a then-astounding 5+ year, 2212-performance run at The St. James Theatre from 1945-48. Ironically, the show was a reworked musical version of the flop 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs* . . . Has a section of Route 66 named after him. It runs

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writer of the Western movie, *The Plainsman*. The following is excerpted from *A Handbook of Oklahoma Writers*:



LYNN RIGGS

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

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

Returning to Oklahoma in 1919, Riggs worked in Tulsa as a reporter on the *Oil and Gas Journal*. The poetry and the romantic death of Alan

through his birthplace, Claremore, Oklahoma.”

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

Seeger gave him the desire to write and he took up the study of modern poetry. The stage was foremost in his mind, however, and he went to Los Angeles in the fall, where he worked as an extra with such favorites as Pauline Frederick, Jack Pickford, Wallace Reid, and Hobart Bosworth. Forced into other work, he read proof on the *Los Angeles Times*. This paper published his first poem, but any satisfaction in seeing it in print was destroyed by the editor who, in jest, named the poem *Spasm*.

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

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

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

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

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

His first play was *Cuckoo*, written during the Christmas holiday at the university in 1920. It was a farce with a college fraternity setting and was produced at the university in the spring of 1921, and again in the summer.

WILLIAM RIGGS OF VIRGINIA

Knives from Syria (1928), a one act play, was produced by the Santa Fe Players in 1925. It received a reading in Chicago through the influence of Altha Leah Bass, but was not produced. *Sump'n Like Wings* was scheduled for production in New York in 1926 by a theatre group backed by Otto Kahn, but the plans failed. When *Big Lake* (1927), Riggs's first Broadway production, opened at the American Laboratory Theatre, April 7, 1927, Burns Mantle predicted that something fine would come of the talent shown.

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

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

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

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

Russet Mantle (1936), which opened in New York City, January 16, 1936, Riggs's first attempt at a contemporary subject, was a success artistically and financially. It was a satirical comedy concerned with the difficul-

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ties with which modern youth is faced. Brooks Atkinson, drama critic of the *New York Times*, said in his review; "It was gorgeously acted last evening at the Masque Theatre, where it ought to hang its hat for a long time. For this is a fragment of the *comédie humaine*—wise, fresh and incorrigibly ridiculous, and by all odds the best thing Mr. Riggs has done . . . The spirit is gay and the thinking is sane . . . It is a temptation to say that *Russet Mantle* is a priceless comedy, but that phrase might be misconstrued and sound like patronizing comment. Let us say merely that it is modest, light, sensible and funny. Pure comedy, in fact."

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

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

When not in New York or Hollywood, he shares a Spanish house, at 770 Acequia Madre, Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a black German shepherd dog, Franz, the gift of Francis Lederer, and a Scottie, Baron, given to him by Joan Crawford.^[203]

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

150. LEE GRANT⁵ RIGGS (9₁William Grant⁴, Joseph S.³, David², William¹) was born 21 June 1908 (gravestone probably) about 1909, Claremore, Rogers Co., Okla., died 21 July 1989, and was buried in Rose Hill Memo-

203. Marable and Boylan, *Handbook of Okla. Writers*, 93-96.

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rial Park, Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla.^[204] He married about 1929 **DOROTHY/DOROTHEA** (→) **SMITH**, who was born 17 July 1910, Oklahoma, died 15 Sept. 2000, last residence Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla.,^[205] and had first married about 1926. A DNA contributor, a son, belongs to this family.

In 1930 Lee Riggs, 21, a bookbinder born in Oklahoma of a father born in the U.S. and a mother in Oklahoma, resided in Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla., with his wife, Dorothy, 19, born in Oklahoma of a father born in Kansas and a mother in Missouri, and with his daughter, Patricia, 1/12, born in Oklahoma, and his stepson, Val Jean Smith, 3, born in Oklahoma of a father born in California. Lee was first married at age 20, and Dorothy at 15.^[206]

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

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

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

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

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Royalties assignment documents of 17 Nov. 2005, for the copyright document to *Oklahoma!* which was executed 31 Dec. 1969, lists “as co-personal representatives of the Estate of Dorothea S. Riggs. Jeffrey Lee Riggs & Barbara Diane Nuckolls-Riggs.”^[207]

Children:

- 165 i **BILL VALJEAN**⁶ **SMITH [RIGGS]**, born **9 Mar.** about 1927, Oklahoma. He was Dorothy’s child by her first marriage, and may have been adopted into the Riggs family.
- 166 ii **PATRICIA ANN**⁶ **RIGGS**, born **1929** about 1930, Oklahoma.
- 167 iii **?GERALD LEE**⁶ **RIGGS**, born 30 June 1931, **Oklahoma**, died 3 Dec. 1997, last residence Chelsea, Rogers Co., Okla.,^[208] buried Rose Hill Memorial Park, Tulsa, Tulsa Co., Okla.,^[209] married **BARBARA DIANE NUCKOLLS**, and had **three** children.^[210] **One of them is perhaps the following:**
JEFFREY LEE⁷ **RIGGS**, born about **1956**, married **probably LYNDA JANE —**, born about **1956**. He is DNA contributor to my Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group.

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

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

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

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

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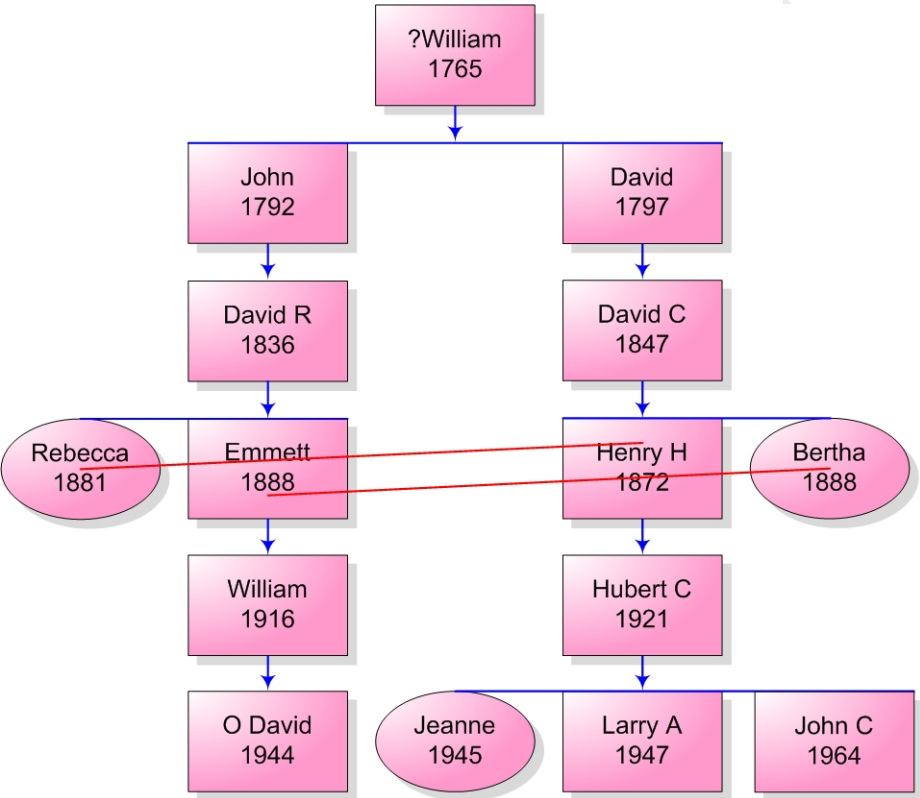


Figure 1. Partial genealogy