

Bristow Family Cemetery

Daviess County, KY

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1988

Rev. Jasper Bristow, pioneer minister of Daviess and Ohio Counties, Ky., died on 7 July 1848 in Daviess County, Ky. No gravestone has been located for him. He was buried on his farm in what several of his descendants have referred to as the "Bristow Family Cemetery". The cemetery has been destroyed, It was located about 3/4 of a mile southeast of Habit, Daviess County, Ky.

In leaving Habit on the south the Millers Mill Road travels down a hill into a flat area. This hill was originally known as "Bristow Hill", in recent years it has also been called "Huggins Hill". At the foot of the hill turn left (east) into gravel lane. Drive past barn and an old abandoned house, about two city blocks back the lane ends at a house trailer. The cemetery, in a straight line from the back of the old house, stood on a small rise in a pasture about 50 feet southeast of the trailer. One hundred feet or so from the southeast corner of the old house was the site of the original Bristow home, built by Jasper Bristow. It was the first brick building erected in Daviess County (see History of Daviess County, Kentucky, 1883, p.668). Mrs. Zada Bristow Camp (1892-1984), who resided near the farm and who was a great-granddaughter of Rev. Jasper Bristow, pointed out the site of the old Bristow home to the present owner of the farm, William. B. Foster. Particles of the old bricks can still be found lying in the area.

Emma Dunn Mactin (1889-1973), a great-granddaughter of Jasper Bristow and a noted family historian, began her research in 1918, wrote the following: "Jasper Bristow... was buried in the family grave yard on his farm near Bethabra (Habit), Ky. The markers of both he and his wife are destroyed, only a few of them remained a few years ago, one of which was his son, Jasper, Jr. ... Owned at one time by Mr. Lewis Bowles... People who attended their funerals told me this [in her papers in another place she states one of these was Mrs. Bell Stone]. Several of their children are there. Jasper was pulled up the hill on a sled by a horse. Rachel was pulled up to the cemetery on the same sled by the same horse" [see book of Emma Dunn Mastin Papers at the Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, Ky.]

Mr. I. M. Onstott (1913-1989), a great-grandson of Jasper Bristow, who this writer interviewed on 15 July 1988, said that "an old Bristow family cemetery was located about one mile south of the store in Habit, off of the Millers Mill Road. A Hines used to live at the foot of Bristow Hill, a Huggins lived on top of the hill and the cemetery was on the left as you started down the hill. Some of his baby sisters were buried there." The old abandoned house was formerly the home of the Gilbert Hines family. On 20 July 1988 I talked to Catherine Howard, a

daughter of Gilbert Hines and who grew up on the farm. She said "when they moved to the farm all the monuments in the cemetery were down and her dad placed them against a tree in the cemetery. When they moved from there in 1942 five or six inscribed monuments were still there." She could not remember any of the names on them.

I visited the former cemetery site and interviewed the farm's present owner, William E. Foster, who lives atop the hill overlooking the farm. His family was the last to live in the old abandoned house. He said about eight years ago he bulldozed off the tree stump around which the monuments were stacked. He thought there were as many as 7 or 8 monuments there at one time. The 3 or 4 monuments remaining he placed in the edge of the woods at the north end of the field. He remembers seeing the name Bristow on at least one of them. I looked over the area where he said he had put the monuments, it is now thickly grown over. I found two monuments (their inscriptions are listed below). They had marked the graves of two of the children of William E. & Harriett (Hansford) Miller. William was a nephew of Jasper Bristow, his mother, Margaret Elliott Miller, was a sister of Jasper Bristow's first wife, Clarissa Elliott. A carpenter and undertaker William E. Miller resided on a farm in the Karns Grove section, not far from present day Habit. About 1859 he moved to the city of Whitesville [see History of Daviess County, Kentucky, 1883, p.545, Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, Ky., 1876, pp.23-24, and Miller family bible in Emma Dunn Mastin Papers, Daviess County Public Library].

In 1820 or 1821 Jasper Bristow moved to Daviess County from Shelby County, KY. In 1821 he was first listed in the annual Daviess County tax lists. The Bristow farm, originally consisting of 375 acres, was deeded to him by agents of the May, Bannister Land Company on 10 January 1829 (Daviess County deed book C, p.70). He had been residing on the same land several years previous to this however. The tax records show him first paying taxes on the land in 1824. The following is an outline of later transfers of the section of the original Jasper Bristow farm on which the cemetery was located. On left is the Daviess County deed book and page in which the transfer was recorded:

U - p389. 18 Oct 1867. Plat map and division of the lands (298 acres) of Jasper Bristow, dec'd. The farm was divided into 6 lots, which were devised to heirs and others who had purchased shares. Lot #4, 60 acres, was deeded to the heirs of Jasper Bristow, Jr.; his widow, Nancy J., & their children, Mary E. & Dozier B. Bristow. This lot extended along Millers Mill Road, from the hill down to what is now Old State Road (formerly Hinton Road). On a map of the Masonville Precinct in the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, Ky. (p.31) this lot is labeled "N. J. Bristow, 50 acres". Also see deed book U-p411.

33 - p165 18 Dec 1878. Nancy J., Mary E. & D. B. Bristow sold 60 acres to Riley Stewart.

37 - p447 13 Nov 1881. W. Riley Stewart & wife, Nancy, sold 60 acres to J. F. Camp.

39 - p336 15 Mar 1883. J. F. Camp & wife, Mary, sold 60 acres to J. L. Birkhead.

- 40 - p475 5 Jan 1884. J. L. Birkhead & wife, Victoria, sold 60 acres to T. F. Birkhead.
- 44 - p54 2 Mar 1886. T. F. Birkhead & wife, Nora, sold 27 acres to George F. Camp.
- 45 - p163 4 Dec 1886. George F. Camp & wife, Matilda, sold 40 3/10 acres to Elizah L Harrison.
- 62 -p 608 24 Jan 1895. E. L. Harrison & wife, Nancy, and Charley Harrison & wife, Lizzy, sold 44 acres to John S. Coats.
- 75 - p202 27 Feb 1900. John S. Coats & wife, Fannie, sold 44 acres to Louis Bowlds.
- 96 - p139 21 Sep 1915. Louis A. Bowlds & wife, Harriett A., sold 44 acres to Paul E. Phillips.
- 96 - p171 15 Jan 1916. Paul E. Phillips & wife, Mary, sold 414 acres to Gilbert A. Hines.
- 153 - p316 10 Dec 1942. Gilbert A. Hines, widower, sold 114 acres to Lula Jane Gordon, wife of M. A. Gordon.
- 163 - p389 24 Sep 1945. Lula Jane Gordon & husband, M. A. Gordon sold 44 acres to W. S. Jones.
- 178 - p13 21 May 1947. W. S. Jones sold 44 acres to P. C. Martin.
- 179 - p344 22 Aug 1947. P. C. Martin & wife, Lizzie, sold 44 acres to C. L. & M. A. Foster.
- 365 - p132 1 Nov 1967. M. A. Foster sold his 1/2 interest in 40 acres to C. L. Foster.
- 492 - p284 9 Oct 1979. Clarence L. Foster sold 40 acres to his nephew, William Earl Foster.

The following were known to have been buried in the Bristow Family Cemetery:

Elizabeth Miller (d/o Wm. E. & Margaret)	29 Sep 1849	1 Apr 1864
James T. Miller (s/o Wm. E. & Margaret)	12 Jul 1862	11 Nov 18_
[rest of death date is broken off the monument, according to Miller family bible in the book, <u>Emma Dunn Mastin Papers</u> , at Daviess County Public Library, he died on 11 Nov 1873. The preceding two monuments were found on the farm of William E. Foster, 24 July 1988, by Jerry Long]		
Jasper Bristow	ca .1784	7 Jul 1848
Rachel W. Barnhill Bristow (2nd w/o Jasper)	15 Oct 1804	1870-1871
Jasper Bristow, Jr.	12 Apr 1832	23 Mar 1858

[see book, Emma Dunn Mastin Papers, Daviess County Public Library]

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History of Kentucky: The Blue Grass State, Vol.III, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago-Louisville, 1928, pp.66-68:

MRS. EMMA DUNN MASTIN

Mrs. Emma Dunn Mastin, a capable business woman, is in the employ of the United States government at Owensboro and represents old families of Kentucky, tracing her ancestry to the colonial period in American history. She was born October 18, 1889, her parents being John William and Aminia (Bristow) Dunn. Her brother, James Robert Dunn, entered the service of his country in 1918 and was stationed for a time at Fort McPherson but was transferred to Camp Jessup and went overseas in September, 1918, as a second lieutenant. After the close of the World war he returned to the United States and was honorably discharged with that rank. His sister, Ollie Jane, was graduated from the Owensboro high school and became a successful business woman. She married Ernest F. Dinsen, a civil engineer, formerly of Clinton, Illinois, and now a resident of West Allis, Wisconsin.

John William Dunn was born January 23, 1863, and passed away October 8, 1895, on his farm near Whitesville, Kentucky. He was an adherent of the democratic party and from October, 1877, until his death was an earnest, helpful member of the Whitesville Baptist church. His brother, James Wesley Dunn, married Miss Dollie Christian and they reside on their farm near Whitesville, it being a portion of the property purchased by his father in 1862. John William Dunn was a son of William N. and Eliza (Stinnett) Dunn. His father was a democrat and from 1877 until his demise was a faithful member of the Baptist church at Whitesville. He was born June 6, 1837, and died February 28, 1884, on his farm in Daviess county, Kentucky. His parents were William H. and Susan Ann (Dunnekee) Dunn. His father was a son of Newbald Dunn and was born in King and Queen county, Virginia, in 1801. He spent his boyhood on the homestead, which was situated near the Rappahannock river, and in 1828 came to Kentucky, settling in Montgomery county. He afterward moved to Daviess county and subsequently located in Ohio county. He was a large landowner and had many slaves. The latter part of his life was spent in Hancock county, Kentucky, and his demise occurred in 1858. His wife passed away May 7, 1867, and was laid to rest in the Hawesville cemetery beside the body of her husband.

Aminia (Bristow) Dunn was born February 5, 1870, near Philpot, Kentucky, and was married when a little more than eighteen years of age. When a young woman of twenty-five she was left a widow with three children to provide for, the youngest being but five months old at the time of her husband's death. Possessing intelligence, ambition and energy, she was equal to the task and reared her family without assistance. She saved the little money that was left to her and

through economy and good management accumulated more. She owns a comfortable home in Owensboro and is successfully conducting a rooming and boarding house. Her children have become useful members of society and a credit to her teaching. She is unselfish, sympathetic and kind-hearted, and these qualities have won her the respect and admiration of a wide circle of friends as well as the deep affection of her children.

Mrs. Dunn's father, William Bristow, was born August 11, 1842, in Daviess county, Kentucky, and died November 27, 1894, on his farm near Philpot. He was a Mason and served in the Home Guard during the Civil war. He was a faithful member of the Baptist church and his political support was given to the republican party. His first union was with Miss Almina Karn, by whom he had a son, Lovell Netter. His second wife, Victoria Frances (Ashby) Bristow, was born April 24, 1846, in Daviess county, and always resided within its borders, passing away February 18, 1910. She was the mother of four children: Robert Bristow, Mrs. Rachel Bell Bryant, Mrs. Drusilla Bristow, and Mrs. Aminia Dunn.

William Bristow was a son of the Rev. Jasper Bristow and his second wife, Rachel (Barnhill) (Cruse) Bristow. His father was a native of Virginia and passed away in Daviess county, Kentucky, in 1848. He was a pioneer Baptist preacher and missionary and one of the earliest ministers of the Bethabra church. His wife was born in Daviess county in 1808 and long survived him. She was called to her final rest in 1870, and the remains of **both were interred in the family burying ground near Bethabra.**

Mrs. Rachel Bristow was a daughter of James and Hannah (Boone) Barnhill, who were married in Shelby county, Kentucky, in 1804. Her father was born August 18, 1780, in North Carolina, and became one of the large landowners of Daviess county, Kentucky, where he passed away on the 8th of January, 1825. He was a son of John Barnhill, who fought for American independence in the Revolutionary war. According to the traditions of the Barnhill family the emigrant ancestor was banished from Ireland for publishing a rebel paper and sought a home in the new world. He settled in Baltimore, Maryland, and a few months later was joined by his family. His wife brought with her the printing press and spent the remainder of her life in Baltimore, attaining the remarkable age of one hundred and three years. They were the parents of five children, all sons, and according to tradition one went to North Carolina, and his sons migrated to Kentucky. The second went to Loudoun county, Virginia, and his sons settled in Ohio. One located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and it is said that he was one of the ancestors of Theodore Roosevelt. Another remained in Maryland and his grandson entered the employ of the government, filling a position in the patent office at Washington, D. C. Mrs. Mastin believes that the son who moved to North Carolina was John Barnhill, the Continental soldier, and that he was the progenitor of the Daviess county branch of the family. Hannah (Boone) Barnhill was a daughter of Josiah Boone, Jr., and his first wife. Mrs. Barnhill's father was a son of Josiah and Hannah Boone and a grandson of George Boone, of Pennsylvania.

Victoria Frances Ashby was a daughter of Sanford and Rebecca (Bell) Ashby. Her father, who was born in 1808 and died in 1878, was a son of Obediah and Mary (Figley) Ashby, of Shelby county, Kentucky. Mrs. Rebecca (Bell) Ashby, who was born in 1818 and passed away in 1889, was a daughter of Robert Thompson and Mary Ann (Monroe) Bell. Her father was born in 1792 and died in 1876. He enlisted in Ohio county, Kentucky, and fought in the War of 1812. His parents were Thomas Bell, Jr., and Judith (Thompson) Bell, the latter of whom was born in 1760 and died in 1823. Thomas Bell, Jr., who was born in 1754 and died in 1848, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and gallantly defended the interests of the colonists. He was a son of Thomas Bell, Sr., and Elizabeth (Weir or Ware) Bell, the latter of whom died in 1798. Her husband served in the Continental army and was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He was born in 1732 and died in 1792. The Bells emigrated from Ireland to England and thence to the United States, casting in their lot with the early settlers of Pennsylvania. They moved from that state to Virginia and subsequently lived in Woodford, Shelby and Ohio counties, Kentucky. Judith Thompson was a daughter of Anthony and Ann (Bibb) Thompson, the latter of whom died in 1798, and both passed away in Woodford county, Kentucky. While in Virginia, Anthony Thompson entered the service of his country and fought in the French and Indian war. He was born in 1732 and died in 1794. Mary Ann (Monroe) Bell was born in 1786 and died in 1810. Her father, John Monroe, served in the Revolutionary war, holding the rank of lieutenant in the Continental army. He was born in 1749 and died in 1837. His wife, Winifred (Berryman) Monroe, was born in 1767 and died in 1798. She was a daughter of William and Rebecca (Howells) Berryman, of Westmoreland county, Virginia, and her father also aided in winning American independence. He was born in 1713 and his demise occurred in 1784. His wife was born in 1720 and passed away in 1772.

In the acquirement of an education Miss Emma Dunn attended the public schools of Whitesville and Owensboro, and in 1906 she was graduated from the Owensboro Business College. She was a stenographer for the Payne Collecting Agency for a year and in 1907 entered the United States clerk's office at Owensboro in a similar capacity. Her ability soon won recognition, and in 1908 she was appointed deputy clerk. She has filled this responsible position for eighteen years and her long retention therein is conclusive proof of the quality of her service. During the World war she was a Red Cross worker, confining her activities to the clerical and knitting departments. She is affiliated with the Baptist church and exercises her right of franchise in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party. She belongs to the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of American Colonists and to General Evan Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is a charter member of the woman's auxiliary of the American Legion and is also identified with Acacia Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and the White Shrine of Jerusalem. Having a strong, self-reliant nature and a keen intellect, she has achieved success in the business world and possesses those qualities and accomplishments which grace her sex.

On February 21, 1925, at Owensboro, Kentucky, Miss Dunn was united in marriage to William Thomas Mastin, who was born January 4, 1891, in Hancock county, this state. He is a federal prohibition agent and has been in charge of this district for a period of four years. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity and in religious faith is a Methodist, while his political support is given to the republican party. On October 6, 1917, he enlisted in the United States army and went overseas soon afterward. He was sent to the front and participated in some of the most important battles of the World war. He was wounded in the line of duty and was sent to a hospital for treatment. He remained in the service until April 18, 1919, and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant. He is a son of William Frank Mastin, who was born in Hancock county, Kentucky, in 1847 and is one of the venerable citizens of Owensboro. For a considerable time he engaged in teaching school and then entered the internal revenue service in the capacity of storekeeper-gauger, devoting many years to this line of work. He is a member of the Methodist church and an adherent of the republican party. His wife was born November 11, 1852, in Hancock county and passed away in 1900. She was a descendant of Captain William Hardin, a Kentucky pioneer and a noted Indian fighter. He was the founder of Hardinsburg, Kentucky, and a veteran of the Revolutionary war. Another ancestor of Mrs. W. F. Mastin was Charles Hansford, a Virginian, who also participated in the struggle for American independence. To Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Mastin were born six children: Charles L., who served in the Spanish-American war; Fred F.; Walter, also a veteran of that war; Lydia Olive; William Thomas; and James.

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Bethabara Baptist Church, Habit, KY

MASONVILLE PRECINCT

No 10
Scale 2 inches to 1 Mile

