

John Cole Graves (1800-1880)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1987

John Cole Graves was born 14 July (?September) 1800 in Woodford County, Ky. His parents were born in Virginia. He was the son of Benjamin Graves & Sallie Cole.

Benjamin Graves was born before 1765 Va. Benjamin Graves was listed in the 1790 & 1800 Woodford County, KY tax lists & in the 1810 Woodford County, KY Census. Ben & Sallie are probably the older couple enumerated in the household of their son, Nelson Graves, at the time of the 1820 & 1830 censuses of Woodford County, KY. According to the Graves Family Newsletter (1981) Benjamin Graves is a 4th great-grandson of Capt. Thomas Graves, who came from England and settled at Jamestown, VA in 1608; his line of descent being: Capt. Thomas - Thomas, born c1617 - Thomas, born c1639 - John, born 1670 - Thomas (1691-1768) - Rice (c1729-1814) - Benjamin (c1765-1846). Bettie Cummings Cook, C.G. of Evansville, IN, a descendant of Benjamin Graves & Sallie Cole, writes that Benjamin died at Midway, Woodford County, KY in 1846 & his wife, Sallie, about 1835 in Woodford County, KY.

Sallie Cole, wife of Benjamin Graves, was the daughter of Richard Cole (c1729-1814) & Ann Hubbard (c1730-1795). The famous outlaws, Jesse & Frank James, were great-great-grandsons of Richard & Ann Cole. Their children of Benjamin Graves & Sallie Cole included:

1. Horatio "Nelson", born c1783. His will was recorded in Woodford County, KY in 1853.
2. Richard C., born 7 December 1785 Woodford County, KY, married Nancy Ann Martin, 16 March 1818 Woodford County, KY; died 11 May 1860 Cass County, IL.
3. William W., born 1784-1794.
4. Betsey, born 1784-1800, married __ Finlay (? Finnie).
5. Nancy, born 1784-1800, married __ Johnson.
6. Thomas G., born 1790-1794, died Cincinnati, Ohio.
7. John Cole, born 14 July 1800 (?14 September)

In Woodford County, Ky. on 19 August 1821 John C. Graves married Susannah McCoy, daughter of William McCoy of Woodford County. She was born between 1790 and 1800. William McCoy died in August 1842 in Spencer County, Ind.

After reaching legal age John C. Graves appeared for the first time in the tax records of Woodford County, Ky. in 1822. During the later part of 1822 or early 1823 he left Woodford County and moved to Daviess County, Ky. In Daviess County he was first listed in the tax lists

in 1823. He made his home about five miles southeast of Owensboro in the Philpot neighborhood (formerly called Philpot's Station), where he lived the remainder of his life.

John C. Graves acquired a farm of 250 acres in Daviess County about 1831, which was the first year he was shown as paying taxes on any land. Here he reared his family and resided almost 50 years. The farm was located about two miles northeast of Philpot a little north of the Jack Hinton Road. On that road opposite the present site of the Hopewell Baptist Church a lane (McPherson Road) led back to the Graves Home. In the 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, Ky. (Leo McDonough & Co., p26, labeled J. C. Graves) the farm was shown on a plat map of the Knottsville Precinct.

A deed granting the 250 acre farm to John C. Graves was not recorded until 1842. Prior to that there had been some question as to the title. The tract was originally part of a Virginia Grant of 5100 acres on Panther Creek to John Bannister and Kennon Jones, surveyed 4 June 1784. The Graves farm was part of 460 acres of this survey sold by trustees of the May, Bannister & Co. on 10 November 1821 to John-Churchill. In July 1839 James W. and Mary Hays and Matilda Churchill, the heirs of John Churchill, deceased, were granted a title to the same tract (Daviess County deed book I, page 140). John C. Graves brought suit against the Churchill heirs contesting the land title. The case was heard in the circuit court of Hardin County, Ky. The court decided that John C. Graves was the rightful owner. As a result of the court's decree a deed was recorded in Daviess County on 21 June 1842 whereby James W. Hays, his wife Mary E. and Matilda Churchill granted full title in the 250 acre tract to John C. Graves (Daviess County deed book H, page 135).

John C. Graves was listed in the 1830, 1840, 1860 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, Ky. in the 1850 and 1870 censuses of Daviess County he is not listed, despite the fact other records suggest he was residing there at the time. As is the case even today residents are sometimes missed by the census takers. The listing for the censuses in which he was located are as follows.

1830 Daviess County, Ky. census, p.188:

John Graves	2 males 0-5	1 female 0-5
	1 male 30-40	1 female 5-10
		1 female 30-40

1840 Daviess County, Ky. census, p.4:

John C. Graves	2 males 10-15	1 female 0-5
	1 male 15-20	1 female 5-10
	1 male 30-40	1 female 10-15
		1 female 15-20
		1 female 40-50

1860 Daviess County, Ky. census, p.766, #842:

Graves, J. C.	60 m	farmer	Ky.
		real estate \$2500personal property/\$4000	
Thomas	30 m		Ky.

1880 Daviess County, Ky. census, Knottsville Precinct:

#45	Graves, Thomas	51		Ky.-Ky.-Ky,
	Aanny	28	wife	Mo.-Mo.-Ky.
#46	Graves, John	79		Ky-Va.-Tn..
	Amandy	54	wife	Ky.-Va.-Tn.

John C. Graves' wife, Susannah McCoy Graves, died on 4 January 1855 Daviess County, Ky. On 4 March 1866 John C. Graves married a second time. In Daviess County he was married to Amanda M. Hawkins. On their marriage bond the following was recorded: Grown – John C. Graves, age 65, farmer, second marriage, born Woodford County, Ky., parents born Virginia. Bride - Amanda Hawkins, age 42, first marriage, born Daviess County, Ky., parents born Tenn. (Daviess County marriage book H, page 93).

In 1875 John C. Graves added to his farm, when he bought 80, acres from William Bryant, his son-in-law, and in 1880 he bought another 26 adjoining acres from James Brown. His farm at the time of his death totaled 376 acres.

At the age of 80 John C. Graves died on 6 October 1880. He was buried on his farm. On 17 January 1870 he had written his will, it was probated on 18 October 1880 and was recorded in Daviess County will book D, page 18. . By his will he gave the home place of 75 acres to his wife, Amanda, during her life. Following her death it and the remainder of his estate was to be divided among his children. P. W. Taylor on 13 December 1880 was appointed the administrator of his estate. In John C. Graves will his children were not named, but in a Daviess County circuit court suit involving his heirs his children were named. Elizabeth Bryant, his daughter, desiring to procure her interest in his estate filed the suit against his other heirs. On 9 October 1883 she was granted 14 acres, as her 1/7 interest in her father's estate. The other heirs named in the suit were William Graves, B. N. Graves, Thomas Graves, Lucinda Kirk (formerly Graves), Margaret Walker (formerly Graves) & her husband Cornelius Walker, Alonzo, James Hines, William Hines, Laurie Hines, Thomas Hines, A. E. Hines and Gilbert A. Hines (Daviess County Commissioners deed book C, page 18).

John Cole Graves and Susannah McCoy had eight children born to their marriage, they were; Lucinda, Benjamin N., Margaret A., William, Thomas, Elizabeth, Harriet and one other son died young. John C. Graves and his second wife, Amanda Hawkins, did not have any children. Amanda Hawkins Graves died in October 1890.

Lucinda Graves, daughter of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born about 1822 Ky. In Daviess County on 1 December 1840 she married William E. Kirk. Before 1850 they moved to Ohio County, Ky., where they resided near Megan Station and Fordsville. Her

husband, a Methodist minister, was born 17 November 1817 and died in Ohio County on 16 September 1877. Their children were - Susan A., John W., William Thomas, George N., Hiram, Guy and Robert P. Kirk. Lucinda Graves Kirk died in 1885 in Ohio County, where on 7 December 1885 Charles M. Ralph was appointed administrator of her estate. Her heirs sold their interest in her father's estate to Wat Graves, who on 1 January 1893 sold it to William Bristow (Daviess County deed book 57, page 416). Wat Graves, a black man, was a son of a slave formerly owned by John C. Graves. He owned a farm bordering the Graves farm on the north. In the 1880 census he was enumerated immediately after the household of John C. Graves, He and members of his family were buried at the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery near Philpot in Daviess County, Ky. Wat Graves was born 22 January 1838 and died 13 December 1893.

Benjamin N. Graves, son of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born 26 August 1823 Daviess County, Ky. He married Rebecca Hines 3 July 1851 in Ohio County, Ky. She was born 23 February 1828 in Tenn. and was the daughter of Zachariah Hines & Sarah Brastly. Ben and Rebecca Graves resided in Ohio County on a farm about one mile east of Pleasant Ridge. On 31 January 1893 Benjamin N. Graves sold his interest in his father's estate to Sue Jones for \$200, it included "the home place on the Graves farm" (Daviess' County deed book 58, page 369) .To their union were born - John R. (died at age of 10), Sarah Alice (married Palestine Chapman and died at the age of 24)), Mary E. (married Lapsly H. Mahan), Leslie V. (a promising young lawyer died of consumption at the age of 27), Benjamin N., Dennie Zachariah Graves (married Maude Westerfield and died at the age of 22) and one other child died in infancy. Benjamin N. Graves died on Christmas Day in 1893 and was buried on his farm in the "Graves Cemetery". Rebecca Graves, wife of Ben N., died 28 December 1915 Ohio County, KY and was buried in the Graves Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. The following notice of his death was published in the Owensboro, Ky. newspaper:

Owensboro Daily Messenger, Wednesday, 27 December 1893:

Mr. Ben Graves, of Ohio County, died Monday night of consumption at the age of 72 years. The funeral occurred at the family residence yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment in the family burying ground.

Margaret A. Graves, daughter of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born about 1825 Daviess County, Ky. She married twice, first to James B. Miller on 11 March 1842 and second to Cornelius Walker on 12 January 1852, both-marriages were in Daviess County. Her first husband, James B. Miller died in 1849 in Hancock County, Ky.; they had at least two children – Susan Elizabeth, born c1844 and Artila Miller, who was born 1 November 1847 Ky., married James M. Remington, 21 September 1865 Hancock County, Ky.; she died 9 December 1919 and was buried at the Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery in Hancock County, Ky. Margaret Graves Walker lived in Daviess County and died sometime following 1893. On 1 February 1893 Margaret Walker sold her interest in her father's estate to William Bristow for \$75 (Daviess County deed book 57, page 422). She probably was buried at the South Hampton

Baptist Church Cemetery between Thruston and Philpot, where her husband. Cornelius Walker (30 May 1815 - 3 July 1891) has a monument. Margaret and Cornelius Walker's children were - Wesley, John, Emeline, Margaret J. and Robert G. Walker.

William Graves, son of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born May 1828 Daviess County, Ky. He married Sarah E. Clark on 6 October 1859 in Daviess County. She was the daughter of Nathan Clark and Keziah Ellis and was born about 1835. She died 7 November 1861 in Daviess County, By their marriage they had one daughter, Ida E. Graves. William Graves married second Mary E. Miller on 31 December 1863 in Daviess County. She was born in 1840 in Jefferson County, Ky. At the time of the 1870 Daviess County census William Graves was running a dry goods store in Knottsville. William Graves' share in his father's estate was sold to Wat Craves, who sold it to William Bristow on 1 January 1893. He was living in Owensboro at the time of the 1900 Daviess County census; he was then widowed, working as a brick mason and was living alone. William Graves died 27 February 1908 Owensboro, Daviess County, Ky. and was buried Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro. William Graves was survived by four children – Rev. E. W. Graves of Irvington, Ky., Mrs. L. A. (Della Graves) Kirkendall of Portland, Ind., Mrs. E. B. (Jennie A. Graves) Kirkendall of Portland, Ind. And Mrs. Allender P. (Alma Graves) Burton of Owensboro, Ky.

Thomas Graves, son of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born 10 June 1829 Daviess County, Ky. In Daviess County on 2 June 1869 he married Ann E. Conyers. She was known by the name of Dolly. The daughter of Benjamin B. and Susan J. Conyers, she was born 9 July 1851 in Missouri. Thomas and Ann did not have any children. Thomas Graves was a farmer and continued to live on his share in the lands owned by his father. Thomas died 14 May 1917 Daviess County, Ky. When his wife, Ann died on 11 October 1937 she was still living on the old Graves farm. Thomas and Ann Graves were buried in the Providence United Methodist Church Cemetery on the Jack Hinton Road, about two miles east of their home, they do not have any monuments marking their graves.

Elizabeth Graves, daughter of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born 21 February 1831 Daviess County, Ky. On 5 October 1858 she married William H. Bryant in Daviess County. He was born about 1830 and was the son of Charles Bryant and Mary Ann Norris. William and Elizabeth Bryant owned a farm, of 80 acres adjoining her father's farm on the south. In 1883 she was granted 14 acres as her interest in her father's lands, this land continued. to be owned by members of the Bryant family well into the 1900's. William and Elizabeth Bryant were the parents of Elizabeth, Mary, John, Vitula and William Bryant. Elizabeth died 4 November 1902 and was buried in the Karns' Grove Baptist Church Cemetery near Philpot in Daviess County, Ky.

Harriet Graves, daughter of John C. Graves & Susannah McCoy, was born 15 March 1835 Daviess County, Ky. At her father's home in Daviess County she married John H. Hines on 8 June 1858. John H. Hines was born 29 May 1834 in Tenn. He was the son of Zachariah Hines

& Sarah Brastly and was a brother of Benjamin N. Hines husband Rebecca Graves. Following their marriage John & Harriet Hines lived in Ohio County, Ky. in the Bells Run community near her brother, Ben N. Graves. Harriet Graves Hines died 29 March 1876 and was buried in Ohio County in the Graves Cemetery on the farm of her brother, Ben N. Graves. John H. Hines died after 1893. On 24 October 1892 the heirs of Harriet Hines sold their interest in the estate of John C. Graves to William Bristow for \$75 (Daviness County deed book 57, page 423). The grantors listed in the deed were - James T. Hines & wife Virginia C., Alonzo Hines & wife Rhoda, William Hines, Alice E. Hines, Gilbert A. Hines and John Hines. John H. Hines and Harriet Graves had six children - James Temple, Alonzo Nelson, William Anderson, John Thomas, Alice Eudora and Gilbert Arthur Hines.