

Gravestone of Charles M. Ragsdale (1840-1875)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2004

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 21 January 2004, p1B:
“Names & Notes: Feldpausch catering to own nuptial needs”
By Suzi Bartholomy (sBartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com)

.....Tombstone found in Whitesville : If anyone knows where C.M. Ragsdale is buried, let Pat Burch, Whitesville city clerk, know. She has his tombstone. "It looks like it might be from the Civil War because it's so narrow," she said. "It's not 10 inches in width. "You can still read the name, but I don't know if there were ever any years on it." The stone was found more than a month ago near a lightpole in the parking lot between the Whitesville Post Office and the old senior citizens building. "Whoever put it there went to a lot of work," Burch said. "It took two men to get it to the city garage." Burch ran a lost-and-found classified ad in the Messenger-Inquirer in early December, but no one has come forward, she said. In the meantime, the tombstone will be kept in the city garage.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 28 January 2004, p2B:
“Names & Notes: Former Owensboro resident romance novelist”
By Suzi Bartholomy (sBartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com)

.....Tombstone belongs at Panther Creek : Jerry Long, a historical genealogical researcher who has worked 15 years at the Daviess County Public Library, has found where C.M. Ragsdale's tombstone belongs. Last week I wrote that Pat Burch, Whitesville's city clerk, was storing Ragsdale's marker at the city garage. The Civil War veteran's stone was found about two months ago in a parking lot in Whitesville. Long said he thinks the stone was taken from its resting place years ago. In his search he found that Ragsdale died Aug. 5, 1875 and was buried at Panther Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. In the mid-1970s an inventory of gravesites was taken by the West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association and that Ragsdale's wife's, who died two years before him was listed, but there is no mention of Ragsdale in the report. Long and Burch surmise that someone had the marker all these years or found it somewhere and left it at the parking lot. It probably took at least two people to carry it, Burch said last week. Thanks to Long, Ragsdale's marker may end up where it belongs. "Anyone who wants to come and take the stone (back to the cemetery) is more than welcome," Burch said.

.....

Phone call by Jerry Long : To Pat Burch, City Clerk, Whitesville City Hall, Whitesville, KY (233-5666), 21 January 2004:

In today's issue of the Messenger-Inquirer in the column of Suzi Bartholomy there was a query about the where gravestone of C. M. Ragsdale belonged. It was recently abandoned in the parking lot of the Whitesville Post Office. After seeing

the article I researched for two hours before discovering that Charles M. Ragsdale (2 Aug 1840 – 5 Aug 1875) had been buried in the Panther Creek Baptist Church Cemetery in Ohio County, just a few miles from Whitesville. In a list of applications for military headstones published by WCK:FRA it was recorded that he was buried there and his wife was listed in a 1974 listing of the monuments at the cemetery his wife was listed. After the discovery I called Pat Burch and she suggested I call Ms. Bartholomy, who expressed interest in doing a follow up article if anything more was learned about the gravestone.

e-mail : To Susie Bartholomy (sBartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com), 21 January 2004, from Jerry Long:

My name is Jerry Long. I left a message on your phone recorder earlier today about the gravestone of C. M. Ragsdale. This morning I spoke to Pat Burch, Whitesville city clerk, about what I had found. She said you had asked about any info that was found and she suggested I call you. I have attached what data I was able to fine on Mr. Ragsdale. Jerry Long , Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, phone 684-0211 extension 5, jlong@dcpl.lib.ky.us

e-mail : From Susie Bartholomy (sBartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com), 21 January 2004, to Jerry Long:

Jerry: Thanks so much for this information. I'll do an update for the Jan. 28 column. This was so thoughtful of you. I'll call you before I write the piece. I got your message and was going to call you this afternoon. I'm running a bit behind today. Looking forward to talking to you. I'll call you on or before Tuesday. Thanks again. Suzi

Phone call : From Susie Bartholomy (sBartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com), 27 Jan 2004, to Jerry Long :

She is doing a follow up article about the gravestone of Charles M. Ragsdale for her newspaper column in the Messenger-Inquirer. She asked how I had discovered where he had been buried. Said she would call Whitesville's City Hall to check on their plans for the marker.

.....

Additional notes by Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.:

Charles McCreary Ragsdale was born in Ohio County, KY on 2 August 1840. He was the son of Tucker W. Ragsdale (1799-1889) & Morning Eidson (1804-1887), who were married in Ohio County in 1823. His father was born in Jessamine County, KY and moved to Ohio County about 1820. Tucker Ragsdale died near Hartford and was buried in the Black family cemetery. An uncle of Charles, Robert Ragsdale (1794-1888) also moved to this area settling near Whitesville, in Daviess County, in 1832. Robert, a soldier in the War of 1812, is buried in the Neel Cemetery near Whitesville. Charles' grandfather, Godfrey Ragsdale (1764-1836) was a Captain in the Revolutionary War and moved from Culpeper County, VA to Fayette County, KY about 1784. Charles' fifth great-grandfather, Godfrey Ragsdale (c1620-1644) was born in Nottinghamshire,

England and immigrated to America and died at Old Town, Henrico County, Virginia. [See : Pedigree Resource File contributed by George D. Edison, P.O. Box 85, Shepherd, MT 59079-0085, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Internet, Familysearch.org; History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-state Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, pp548-9; Daily Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 6 Dec 1888, obituary of Robert Ragsdale; History of Kentucky: The Blue Grass State, Vol. III, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago-Louisville, 1928, pp1024; Kentucky Family Records, Vol.17, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY, 1993, p39; Ragsdale family vertical file, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY.]

Charles M. Ragsdale is listed in the home of his parents in the 1850 and 1860 censuses of Ohio County. He served as a wagoner and private in the Union Army during the Civil War. He enlisted in the 17th Kentucky Infantry on 2 Nov 1861 and was discharged on 23 Jan 1865. [See: Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, Vol. I, The Kentucky Yeoman Office, Frankfort, KY, 1866, p964.] Charles was single and was residing at the Crow Hotel in Hartford, KY at the time of the 1870 census. He was then working as a barkeeper. In Daviess County, KY on 7 March 1872 he married Sarah A. Bartlett [See: Daviess County, KY Marriage Book L, p281]. They were married at her home near Whitesville. Their marriage license reported he was 32 years old and it was his first marriage. Bondsman on his marriage was Ellis Ragsdale, a grandson of Charles' uncle, Robert Ragsdale. One year later his wife died and was buried at the Panther Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, in Ohio County, about five miles from Whitesville. Her monument in the cemetery has the inscription Sarah Amandaville Ragsdale, wife of Charles M., was born 23 Sep 1851 and died 26 March 1873. [See: Ohio County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Vol. I, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY, 1975, p9.]

On 28 Sep 1882 Morning Ragsdale was granted a pension for the Civil War service of her son, Charles. [See : Civil War Pension Index, Internet, Ancestry.com, image #1787 – Charles M. Ragsdale.] The fact that she was the recipient suggests that Charles had no descendants and she was his nearest surviving relative. The death date and place of burial of Charles M. Ragsdale is recorded at the National Archives in their file of Ohio County, KY veterans who applied for military gravestones [see: Kentucky Family Records, Vol.17, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY, 1993, p101]. This source recorded that Charles M. Ragsdale, private, Co. F, 17th KY Vol. Inf., died on 5 August 1875 and was buried at the Panther Creek Cemetery near the line for Daviess County, KY.

.....

History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883, pp.548-549):

ROBERT RAGSDALE is an early settler in the county, and is the oldest man living in this precinct. He was born in Jessamine County, Jan. 10, 1794. His father, Godfrey Ragsdale, was born in Virginia, in Culpeper County, and was an old

Revolutionary soldier, having a captain's commission. He drew a pension from the Government for services rendered in the war, till the time of his death, in 1844 or '5. He was married in Virginia to Elizabeth Mitchell. He came to Kentucky a short time after, and in 1784 settled in Jessamine County. There were ten children who lived to be married, nine sons and one daughter. Of these children four sons and the daughter are now living. Godfrey Ragsdale was a highly educated man, and during a large portion of his life he taught school, mostly in Shelby and Henry counties. He was well read in law and did some practice, but being a man of an excitable temper, did not carry on his legal profession to any great extent. Robert Ragsdale is the fourth son of his father's family. He was reared in Shelby County, his father moving there when he was quite small. When he was eighteen years of age he enlisted in the service of the United States in the war of 1812, in the Eighth Kentucky Regiment, raised in Shelby County, commanded by Colonel Geo. Wilcox. He went out with the first troops in 1812, enlisting for six months, but not serving quite this time. He went to the relief of the regular troops under command of General Taylor at Fort Harrison when it was attacked by Indians. After his time was out he returned home. In 1815 he went to Kanawha Salt Works on the Kanawha River, in Virginia, and remained there eight months. He then returned to Shelby County and worked at the saddler's trade a number of years. In 1817 he was married in Henry County, Ky., to Nancy Haywood, who was born in Virginia, a daughter of Wm. Haywood, who was an early settler in Kentucky. After his marriage he followed his trade in Henry County a short time, and in 1817 moved to Nelson County, where he remained till 1832. His wife died in 1822, at her father's house, Henry County, while there on a visit. She was the mother of one son – W.G. Ragsdale, who is residing near Whitesville. Mr. Ragsdale was married again to Nancy Money, in 1829. She was born in Virginia, a daughter of Samuel Money, who moved from that State to Nelson County, Ky. In 1832 Mr. Ragsdale came to Daviess County and located at Knottsville and commenced farming, which vocation he followed up to 1860, when he became too feeble to do manual labor. His wife died Dec. 1, 1869, at the age of sixty-six years. She was the mother of one daughter – Mary Ann, wife of D.T. Hays, with whom Mr. Ragsdale makes his home. Politically Mr. Ragsdale was a member of the old Whig party. During the late war he was a strong Union man, and since then has been a member of the Democratic party. He has always been a highly respected citizen of the county, and even in his old age retains his intellectual faculties to a remarkable degree.