

# Slave Narratives

By Jerry Long

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The following were named as having been slaves in various accounts. Each entry is followed by some additional notes that were identified about that individual. The notes are enclosed within brackets. Page number on which entry appears follows each name:

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See also sketches on the following slaves that are published in the “Black Kentucky Pioneers” section of the website West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy, by Jerry Long:

Thruston Cabell	Harry Green	Mary Munt Rowan
Abner Crump	Dr. Willis S. Green	Noah Salsbury
Giles Crump	Harrison Griffith	Levy Simmons
Peter Crump	Josiah Henson	Green B. Stewart
Thomas Crump	Rev. Kirby Joe Hocker	Mary Stowers
Dan Daly	John Brown Jackson	John Basil Taylor
William Henry Edwards	Jim Johnson	Elijah Tinsley
Washington French	Lum Martin	



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 5 May 1893, p.2:**

**A Leading Colored Citizen of Breckenridge County Dead.**

On Friday evening, April 28, Allen Allen, of color, departed this life. He was 64 years of age. He left 8 children living. He had been married twice. His last wife having died a short time ago. He was a consistent and substantial member of the colored M. E. Church at this place.

As a slave he belonged first to a man named Auslem Watson, by whom he was sold to

Isaiah Heston, who, in turn, sold him to Jo. Allen, in whose family he remained until he became a freeman. He served as a soldier during the Civil War in the army of the United States, and was a pensioner at the time of his death. After the close of the war he bought a farm near Hardinsburg, upon which the owner had been unable to make living. By industry and economy he quickly paid for his place, and has been since recognized as one of the best farmers in this community. Politically he was a staunch Republican, having been chosen delegate by his party on several occasions to the various State Conventions.

What influence he had was always exerted in behalf of morality and progress. He was not only considered a leader among his own race, but every one esteemed him as good citizen and an honest man. The community will feel his loss.

Robin Hood.

**Breckinridge News, Cloverport, KY, Wednesday, 3 May 1893, p.6:**

Hardinsburg: Allen Allen, one of the oldest and most respected colored men in this vicinity, died at his home near here last Friday. Allen was one of the sober, industrious and well-to-do men among his class of people. During the war he belonged to old man Joe Allen, whose name is so well associated with the history of the country. When Allen was given his freedom he went to work, paid for a good farm, reared a large family and leaves considerable property at his death. His career has been such for many years that others of the colored race in this vicinity might justly emulate. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Sneed of the M. E. Church.

[Allen Allen served in the Union army during the Civil War (118<sup>th</sup> Colored Infantry). Allen Allen, born about 1829 KY, is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Breckinridge County, KY. He was reported to be a farmer. He married twice. He married Eliza Peyton, 2 December 1868 Breckinridge County, KY; Eliza died during 1868-1870; their children were – William, Henry, Peter, Charles, Eliza (Robards) and Alfred. He married second Matilda Moreland, 27 December 1873 Breckinridge County, KY; Matilda died near Hardinsburg, KY on 21 January 1893. Children by his second wife were – Mary, David Joe and Matilda. In his final will in addition to his children he named a half-brother, Richard Moreland.

The first owner of Allen Allen was Anselm Watkins, who in the 1840 census of Breckinridge County, KY was reported to be the owner of 69 slaves. In the 1860 Breckinridge County, KY census slave schedule both Isaiah Heston (1807-1864) and Joseph Allen (1774-1862) were reported to be the owner of 7 slaves. Joseph Allen served as county & circuit court clerk of Breckinridge County, KY for 58 years.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 23 August 1899, p.3:**

The wife of Thornton Allen, a former slave of J. W. Willis, died at Hawesville on the 14th inst.

[Thornton Allen is listed in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses of Hancock County, KY. His wife was Mary Haynes, who was born c1834 KY. In the 1900 census it was reported that he was – born in October 1833 in KY, a farmer, widowed, resident of Hawesville, and owned his own farm. Thornton Allen apparently died in 1900. In Hancock County, KY will book 5 (pages 55-56) the will of Thornton Allen was recorded; it was written on 12 May 1899 and was recorded on 27

August 1900. His children included – Ben, George Ann, Henry, Virginia, Sallie B., Thornton, Eliza J., Edward S., Lewis J., Eda, John W. and Blanche. The death certificate of Thornton & Mary's daughter, Sallie Williams (c1864-1950) gives her parents' names as Thornton Allen & Mary Haynes.

James W. Willis (1812-1873) is reported to have been the owner of 5 slaves in the 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule; he married Edy Haynes in Ohio County, KY in 1834.]



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 24 November 1899, p.3:**

**CRAZY NEGRO YOUTH**

**Chops His Aged Father To Death With a Hatchet at Owensboro, Ky.**

Owensboro. Ky., Nov. 21. – John Barnett, a well respected old colored man of this city, was brutally murdered this morning by his son, Cicero Barnett. The deed was committed with a hatchet, and the old man's head was literally chopped to pieces. The murdered man was seventy years old and the murderer is twenty. Cicero Barnett has served a term of three years in the Kentucky penitentiary for shooting another negro named Pete Sowder, and has not been long out of prison. The physicians have examined Barnett and they pronounce him crazy. He will be tried to-morrow morning on a writ of lunacy.

This old gentleman belonged to Mr. Morris H. Barnett, during the days of slavery. Many people near Hartford knew him and will learn of his death with expressions of regret.

[John Barnett was not found in the 1870 or 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. Cicero Barnett was committed to the Hopkinsville, KY insane asylum on 22 November 1899 and died there on 8 November 1929.

Morris Harper Barnett (1830-1873) was a resident of Ohio County, KY.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 23 September 1885, p.3:**

Uncle Len Barrett, a faithful and honest old colored man died last Sunday. He was a faithful slave, an honest and industrious man since free.

[In the US Civil War Draft Registrations it is recorded that three slaves of W. S. Barrett were enrolled in March 1864 – Lenard Barrett, age 42, born KY; William Barrett, age 35, born KY; and Benjamin Barrett, age 22, born KY. In the 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule William S. Barrett (1804-1884) was shown as being the owner of 27 slaves.

Leonard Barrett, born 1821-1827 KY, is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Ohio County, KY. In 1870 Leonard Barrett, 45, Robert Barrett, 21, Calvin Barrett, 18 and Luke Barrett, 11 were living in the home of Benjamin Sullenger. Living with Leonard in 1880 were two sisters, Amy Barrett, 40, and Adaline Barrett, 35; all were reported to be single. The will of Leonard Barrett was recorded in Ohio County, KY will book D (page 217) in October 1885; by it he left his property to his sister, Amy Barrett, and her children.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 9 May 1915, p.3:**

“Aunt Martha” Barrett  
The Oldest Inhabitant of Owensboro

"Aunt Martha" Barrett, an aged negress fortune teller, who lives in a hut in Dublin's lane, is the oldest inhabitant of Owensboro. Aunt Martha passed the 101 mark last week, and she is still hale and hardy.

During war limes "Aunt Martha" was a slave to A. F. Barrett in Virginia. She was sold on the block with others of her color and many years ago came to Owensboro, where she has since lived. Except for failing eyes, Aunt Martha has no physical defects, and when seen yesterday she was busy hoeing her garden in the rear of her house.

Hundreds of Owensboro people, particularly boys and girls, know Aunt Martha, for the simple reason that she is a fortune teller and has successfully solved many little troubles for couples who have been at "outs" for several days or weeks as the occasion might be.

"Aunt Martha" does not know in what year she was horn, but she has in her possession an old Bible left by her mother, in which the date of her arrival into this world is inscribed. She produces this Bible and allows the dubious ones to find out for themselves her age. Aunt Martha says she was well kept by the white folks, and accounts for her longevity by the fact that she took good care of herself. She says she expects to live, at least ten years longer. Aunt Martha has not been in bed on account of sickness of any description for more than fifty years. In the Dublin, lane neighborhood she is not a curiosity, and people pay her little mind, but to outsiders she is extremely interesting, and her physical activities despite her advanced age, are marvelous.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 6 April 1920, p.6:**

Uncle Ned Irwin's Closest Rival,  
Aunt Martha Barrett, Dies

"Aunt" Martha Barrett, old negro fortune teller, aged 107 years, claimant to be the oldest woman in the world, and Uncle Ned Irwin's closest rival for local age honors, died at her home where she has lived in Dublin lane, for the past fifty years. Aunt Martha was born in Virginia in 1813. When she was given her freedom following the Civil war, she walked through to Kentucky. Her husband died some years ago.

Aunt Martha was famed throughout the county as a fortune teller. Frequently on Sunday as many as fifteen or twenty people would visit her home to have their fortunes told. Those who have known her for a good many years say that her recipe for longevity was to do as little as possible. She also attributed her long life to the fact that she did not smoke or chew and for a number of years she did nothing much harder than tell fortunes.

Since Uncle John Shell, Kentucky mountaineer, reputed to be 131 years old, has been proven to be much younger than that, it seems that Owensboro can lay claim to having the oldest man in the world in Uncle Ned Irvin, colored, who is said to be 116. Uncle Ned is still able to be about and can be seen on the street every day. He is planning to attend the funeral of Aunt Martha today at the Fourth Street Colored Baptist church.

[Martha Barrett was born about 1850 in Virginia. She was found in the 1870 (age 35), 1880 (31), 1900 (50), 1910 (69) and 1920 (65) Daviess County, KY censuses. She married Jackson B. Barrett about 1869. She died in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY and was buried in Owensboro's Greenwood Cemetery. Her death certificate recorded that she was about 90, born in Virginia, was widowed and resided on Dublin Lane. Census records suggest she was actually about 70 at her death not 107. Lack of knowledge of exact age and wide variation in perceived age was typical for many blacks since little to no public records were kept for them during slavery. The 1920 Owensboro census reported she was age 65, born Virginia, widowed, was a fortune teller, and lived by herself at 17 Dublin Lane. The 1880 Daviess County, KY reports her family as – Jackson Barrett (40, born VA, married works in tobacco factory), Martha Barrett (31, born VA, wife) and Felix Barrett (6, born KY). Jackson served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Jackson & Martha divorced during 1880-1885. He died 12 February 1916 in Owensboro, where he has a tombstone in section B at Elmwood Cemetery. His death certificate reported he was born on 1 March 1839 in Virginia. He married Lizzie Clark in 1885 and Priscilla Spencer in 1892.

The 1900 and 1910 censuses reported that Martha Barrett was the mother of 10 children, only one, Felix was then living. Her son, Felix Barrett's death certificate gives his parents as Jackson Barrett & Martha Brown. Felix was born in Owensboro 4 March c1874, died at 17 Dublin Lane (his mother's residence) in Owensboro on 5 May 1918; he was single and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 7 January 1887, p.4:**

**POOR OLD WOMAN.**

**Maria Berry Buys a Ticket to the Wrong Station and  
Meets With an Accident. Resulting in Her Death.**

The body of the colored woman found under the railroad trestle at Livermore Sunday morning, the 21 inst., proves to have been that of Maria Berry, formerly a slave in the Berry family of this county. She was between seventy and eighty years of age, and was well known in this city, having worked for Judge L. P. Little, Mrs. M. E. Buckler and others. She left by the 2:30 P. M. train Saturday for Sutherland's station, but by mistake purchased a thicket for Livermore. She attempted to get off at Sutherland's, but was detained by the conductor telling her that her ticket was for Livermore. But she got off at Livia unobserved, and mistaking her route walked the track towards Livermore. During Saturday night she applied for admission to a house near where she was found, which was denied her – so it is rumored. She doubtless fell where she was found and was so stunned that she succumbed to the freezing cold before regaining consciousness. She was a devout Catholic.

[Mariah Berry is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The two censuses place her birth between 1804-1810. In 1870 she was reported to be 65 and was living in the home of Simon Berry (age 40, born KY) & Harriet Berry (38). In 1880 her age was given as 70, and she and her parents were reported to have been born in Maryland and she was widowed. In 1880 she was residing in the Yelvington District in the home of John C. & Mary Hathaway,

who were white. She was enumerated two households from Simon Berry (age 52) & wife, Harriet (49).

In the Daviess County, KY 1860 census slave schedule there were listed three Berrys that were slave owners – Edward C. Berry (7), William L. Berry (3) and Jeremiah L. Berry (1); none of them were shown with a female as old as Mariah Bell.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 24 October 1918, p.4:**

"Uncle" John Black, a well-known colored man who was known to practically every inhabitant of Hawesville, died yesterday afternoon of a complication of diseases. In slave times he belonged to the father of Mrs. Nat Alsop.

[James Nathaniel Alsop married Miss Jennie May Black (1888-1967) at Hawesville, Hancock County, KY on 10 September 1908. Jennie was the daughter of Garland D. Black (1847-1912), a native of Ohio County, KY, who was a son of Jesse L. Black (1810-1878) & Lucinda Craig. Jesse L. Black in the 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule is reported as being the owner of three slaves (female age 24, male age 5 and female age 40. Could not locate John Black in the Kentucky death certificates or census records.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 5 April 1900, p.5:**

**Faithful Old Slave Dead.**

Harrison Bowling, an old negro who lived on Mr. R. H. Taylor's farm, died of pneumonia Thursday. He was owned in slave time by Mr. Taylor's father, and never ceased to reside with the Taylor family. He was a well respected negro.

**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 4 July 1899, p.1:**

**VARIOLOID**

**A Negro With a Mild Case of Smallpox Discovered In Murray's Woods**

Dr. F. A. Miller was called Sunday afternoon to the residence of Harrison Bowling, colored, in a lane near Murray's woods, south-east corner of Gilmour's addition, to see George Bowling, seventeen years old. He found him suffering with varioloid, and at once ordered the house to be quarantined. There are five members of the family.

The boy worked on Mr. R. H. Taylor's place, and caught the disease from the child that had smallpox there. Varioloid is a mild form of smallpox where one has been vaccinated, but it is contagious, and those who catch it have smallpox.

[Richard Hawes Taylor (1835-1900) was the son of Jonathan Gibson Taylor (1811-1885), who in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule was reported as being the owner of 50 slaves. "Harrison Bowlds", age 15 (born KY, apprentice), was listed at the residence of

Jonathan Gibson Taylor (1811-1885), his former owner, in the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY. In Daviess County “Harrison Bolden” married Mary Shauntee on 2 March 1879. “Harrison Bolden” is listed in the 1880 census of Daviess County, KY. He was reported to be a farmhand, age 26, born KY and was residing in the Yelvington neighborhood. His wife was Mary 20 and they had a daughter, Annie, who was born in September 1879. Harrison’s widow, Mary Bolden, in the 1900 Daviess County, KY census was reported to have been born in 1859 and was the mother of 6 children, 3 of them were then living – Harrison, Jr. (1882), George (1884) and Guy Bolden (1888). In Daviess County Julius Shauntee was appointed administrator of the estate of Mary Boldren, deceased in June 1901. George Bolden, son of Harrison Bolden & Mary Shauntee died on 15 June 1918 in Louisville, KY, where he was buried in the Seventh Street Cemetery.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 4 December 1910, p.1B:**

**WEALTHY PADUCAH NEGRO DIES WORTH \$15,000**

Paducah, Ky., Dec. 3. – Henry Boyd, aged seventy years, the wealthiest negro in Western Kentucky, died today. By investing the saving' he had earned from driving a dray and express wagon, Boyd was reputed to be worth about \$15,000, much of which was in real estate. He was formerly the slave of Linn Boyd, a prominent lawyer of Paducah.

**Paducah Evening Sun, Paducah, KY, 2 December 1910, p.8:**

**HENRY BOYD**

**FORMER SLAVE WHO ROSE TO AFFLUENCE**

**Probably Wealthiest Colored Man in Western Kentucky Is Dead.**

Henry Boyd, 70 years old, probably the wealthiest negro in West Kentucky died at 5:40 o'clock this morning at his home 1005 North Ninth street of abcess of the jaw. It is estimated that his estate consisting of several acres of property on the north side of the city, is worth over \$10,000. He left a bank account of about \$3,000.

Boyd was an old-fashioned darky and had the reputation of being honest and thrifty He was born at Cadiz and was held as a slave by Linn Boyd, who later brought him to Paducah. He was taken to Galveston Tex., in 1860 and returned in 1872 after he had been made free by the Civil war. For years he drove a dray express for C. H. Rieke & Sons and L. B. Ogilvie and will be remembered by the older residents here for his coal black skin He was proud and accumulated a large amount of property.

He loaves a wife Ersley Boyd and his five children: are Ben Boyd, Paducah; Annie Carter, Carbondale; Cornelia Futrell, Cairo; Nettle Fitzpatrick, Chicago; Janie Whittemore, Krebs and Kizzie Boyd, Paducah. Dick Boyd and Alice Ratcliffe of Mayfield are brother and sister.

He was a member of the Washington Street (colored) Baptist church. The funeral will be held there Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 6 June 1901, p.1:**



First Baptist Church..... "Uncle" George Bradshaw's pension was Increased from \$5 to \$10 per month. He served the church as janitor for many years, and when he became unable to work he was retired on \$3 a month. The raise will be a great thing for the old man. He sorrows every day about his inability to continue his work, as he is convinced that no one can take care of the church as he did.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 3 May 1903, p3:**

SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

"Uncle" George Bradshaw, Worthy Negro Citizen of Owensboro.

One of the worthiest colored men in Owensboro is George Bradshaw, who lives on Lewis street, near Third, with his aged wife. He recently passed his seventy-seventh year, and on Saturday he was out in the exhilarating air and beautiful sunshine celebrating the twenty-second anniversary of his coming from Hopkinsville. He was born and reared in slavery in Christian county. Soon after coming here he was engaged as janitor of the First Baptist church and he continued to discharge the duties of this place faithfully for sixteen years. Ill-health and the ever-increasing infirmities of age came on and he had to resign in March, 1902. Since that time, however, he has assisted the present janitor whenever his services were needed.

"Uncle George has very little to say, but what he does communicate is to the point and modestly expressed. He has heard many great preachers and he has a good store of wisdom and philosophy of life which makes him contented with his lot, patient in his infirmities and disease sufferings and well-satisfied to remain on earth a while longer "only waiting."

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 27 April 1911, p.5:**

"UNCLE GEORGE" BRADSHAW A GOOD NEGRO DIES

"Uncle George" Bradshaw, for years the janitor at the first Baptist church and one of the best known negroes of the city, died at his home on Lewis street, Wednesday afternoon. Uncle George was a slave before the war and lived a Hopkinsville, but he had resided in Owensboro for a long number of years. The funeral will be from the home this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

[In the 1860 Christian County KY census slave schedule six Bradshaws were listed as being slave owners; of these only James Bradshaw owned a male slave of the approximate age of George A. Bradshaw. George A. Bradshaw married Lou Bradshaw on 9 December 1880 at Hopkinsville in Christian County, KY. George & Louisa are listed in the 1900 & 1910 censuses of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. In 1900 it was reported that he was born in February 1826 in Virginia; and it was the second marriage for both he & Louisa. The 1910 census of Owensboro had that he and Louisa had been married 29 years. George Bradshaw died on 26 April 1911 at his residence, 315 Lewis Street, in Owensboro. His death certificate reported he was 84, born Christian County, he was a janitor and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 21 September 1915, p.4:**

"AUNT LOU" BRADSHAW DIES AT RIPE OLD AGE

“Aunt Lou” Bradshaw, one of Owensboro’s oldest colored women, died at her home at noon Monday of infirmities incident to old age. Aunt Lou was one of the few remaining people of her race, who perpetuated the better things of the old slave days. She was held in high esteem and enjoyed the complete confidence of the hundreds of whites who knew her.

Aunt Lou had lived in Owensboro for a great number of years, and while her exact age was not known, it was thought that she must have been well past ninety years of age. Better known, perhaps than Aunt Lou was her husband, Uncle George, who for many years was janitor at the First Baptist church, and who died several years ago.

Aunt Lou was the old black mammy to many children who are now the young men and young women of the city, and by them and by their parents, she will always be held in loving remembrance.

[Louisa about 1851 married John Bradshaw (born c1810 VA). They are listed in the 1870 census of Christian County, KY. By 1880 Louisa was widowed. She married second George A. Bradshaw (c1826-1911), 9 December 1880 in Christian County, KY. George & Louisa are listed in the 1900 & 1910 censuses of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. The 1900 census recorded that Louisa had been married twice and she was the mother of 9 children, only two were then living. Louisa and her first husband, John Bradshaw, had a daughter, Rosa Bradshaw, born 1856-1861, who married John Merriweather on 16 July 1878 in Christian County, KY. John & Rosa were listed in the 1880 census of Christian County, KY and 1900 & 1910 censuses of Owensboro, KY. Rosa’s gravestone records she was born 20 May 1861 and died 29 December 1919. She died in Owensboro, where she and John Merriweather (1858-1913), were buried in Elmwood Cemetery (section B). Rosa had a son, Eugene Merriweather (1878-1939). Rosa Bradshaw Merriweather was the informant for the death certificates of George & Louisa Bradshaw. Louisa Bradshaw died on 20 September 1915 in Owensboro, where she was buried at Elmwood Cemetery.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 2 September 1908, p.7:**

**Colored Woman, 108, Dies Here**

Owensboro's oldest citizen "Aunt Camilla" Brandsford, colored, who was said to be 108 years of age, died at her home 725 Hall street, on Friday night of complication of diseases.

She was born in Farmville, Va., in 1820 and is survived by two sons. She was formerly a slave of the late T. S. Venerable. Funeral arrangements have not been made pending the arrival of a grandson from Philadelphia.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 2 September 1908, p.9:**

**Aged Negro Woman Dies; Slave of T. S. Venable**

Camilla Brandsford, whose age has been authentically established as past the century mark, died at her home, 725 Hall street, late Friday night of infirmities and complications. She was a slave of thy family of the late T. S. Venable, who died many years ago. She is survived by two children. The funeral arrangements had not been completed last night.

[Census records suggest Camilla was born during 1830-1845. Camilla married Jackson Jackson about 1864; he was born c1840 KY and died 1870-1880. She is listed as Camilla Jackson in the 1870, 1880 1900 and 1920 Daviess County, KY censuses. She appears as Camilla Bransford in the 1910 Daviess County census and on her death certificate. The 1900 census recorded that Camilla was the mother of 7 children, 2 of whom were then living. Her children included – Robert, Sidney, Melvin and Ora Jackson. Camilla and her children, Sidney Jackson (c1867-1929) and Ora Jackson Johnson (c1870-1943), were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY.

Samuel Thomas Venable (1805-1875) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule was reported to be the owner of 3 slaves.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 4 February 1908, p.2:**

**Aged Negress Dies.**

“Aunt Nancy” Butler, one of the oldest negro women in this county, died at 8 o’clock Monday morning at her home on Alexander avenue. She was eighty-five years old. She was a slave before the war and could tell much of the conditions during that period. She had lived in Owensboro for many years. The funeral will take place today.

[The 1900 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY records that Nancy Butler was born in January 1835 in Kentucky, was widowed and was the mother of two children, one of whom was then deceased. She was then living in the home of Daniel (born 1844 KY) & Jennie Jackson (born 1855 KY) on Alexander Alley; she was reported to be Daniel’s mother-in-law. Daniel Jackson had married Jennie Smith on 10 October 1887 in Daviess County, KY. Jennie Jackson’s death certificate reports that she was born 22 Jun 1862 to Jack Smith & Nancy Butler, and died 18 November 1942 in Owensboro, where she was buried at Greenwood Cemetery.]



**Owensboro Daily Tribune, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 11 March 1896, p.1:**

**115 Years Old.**

"Old Aunt Winnie" Camiel [sic: should be Campbell], colored, died last Sunday at her old home three miles east of Knottsville. On the best authority she is reckoned at least 115 years of age. The writer remembers her son, now dead, as an old man twenty years ago. "Aunt Winnie" was born a slave in Virginia, where she had two children. Her daughter was taken South and sold and she never again heard of her.

A Mr. Lafoe brought her to Kentucky about sixty years ago and she belonged to the Lafoe family until the emancipation. Her master died while yet a young man, leaving Mrs. Lafoe (who still lives past 80 years of age with her son, Mr. James Lafoe, on Blackford creek) with two little boys. Aunt Winnie would not allow Mrs. Lafoe to hire a man, bur told her to attend to the house and see would manage the farm. She did all the work of a farmer for many years and made a good living for the family until the boys grew up. After coming free she lived with her son, grand

children and great grand children. She was truly a diamond in the rough. Aunt Winnie was a christian and a good woman. She was most particular who her grand daughters married, and many a "black scoundrel" she chased off her farm with a hatchet. She was a good talker and, of course, possessed a store of interesting reminiscences.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 23 August 1903, p.8:**

WIDE DIFFERENCE IN DATES  
That Will Appear On Slab at Grave of Winnie Campbell.

The firm of Mischel & Barkhaus has completed a small marble slab for the grave of Winnie Campbell, on which are inscribed the dates that show she was 115 years old when she died, March 8, 1896. The stone is to be erected over her grave, which is in the LaFoe graveyard, a few miles above Knottsville. The slab is being put up by her grandson, who is now an old man. It is authentic that the good old mammy nursed and reared three generations of the LaFoes. Many good things are still said of her by those who know her even in her declining days. None of her children are left, but some of her great-grandchildren still own a farm near her grave. She was brought here a slave from Virginia in the early part of the last century. Her Maj. Campbell, died so long ago no living person remembers husband him.

[The 1870 & 1880 censuses suggest Winnie Campbell was born about 1800, which indicates she was about 96 at her death. In the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY Winnie Campbell (age 70) is listed. She was living near Knottsville. She was listed two households after the residence of Mrs. Sarah Lafoe (age 52, born VA). Living with Winnie were her son, Colson Franklin ("Frank") Campbell (33), his wife, Sarah (21) and their children, Winnie (4) & Eliza J. (1). Winnie Campbell (83, born VA) is in the 1880 census of Daviess County, KY (Knottsville Precinct). In her home in 1880 were the orphan children of her son, Frank Campbell – Winnie (14), Elizabeth J. (11), John (10), Sarah (7) and Franklin (5).

Winnie's son, Frank Campbell, died on 22 November 1875 (age 43) and his wife, Jane Sarah, died on 26 November 1875 (age 29); they were buried in the Higdon Farm Cemetery on the Indian Hill Road, about four miles east of Knottsville, Daviess County, KY. The gravestone of Winnie A. Campbell in the Higdon Farm Cemetery has that she was the wife of Major Campbell and she died on 8 March 1896, at the age of 115 years. This cemetery was copied by Daisy Elliott in 1977 (see Daviess County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume I, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, McDowell Publications, Hartford, KY, 1977, pp.80-81). Also see Gordon Family Tree on Ancestry.com and "Grave of John Campbell (1872-1908)" on website, "West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy", by Jerry Long.

James Lafoe (c1800-1852) married Sarah Evans (1818-1900) on 7 October 1839 in Caroline County, VA. During 1840-1850 they moved to Kentucky, where they were enumerated in the 1850 census of Barren County. In the 1850 census slave schedule of Barren County James Lafoe was reported to be the owner of 2 slaves – a female age 40 and male age 21. James' widow, Sarah, is listed in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census. An obituary of James & Sarah's daughter, Lucy Lafoe Temple (1842-1916) said she came to Kentucky with her parents when she was three and moved to Daviess County in 1854 (Owensboro Messenger, 25 January 1916, p.2).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 10 June 1900, p.4:**

“AUNT MERIKY.”

Well Known Colored Character Probably Fatally Burned.

America Carrico the well known old negro character, was seriously burned Saturday afternoon about 3 o'clock. She lives in a little "shanty" on the alley in the rear of the Odd Fellows building. She was out in the alley, having made up a chip fire, and was ironing some clothes. Her clothing caught fire and instantly she was in flames. Mr. J. W. Porter heard her screams and ran to her. Some water was dashed on her and the blaze but out, but she was horribly burned on her neck, arms and body, much of the skin peeling off.

Dr. Lambert was summoned and dressed her wounds. He says the burns are not deep, but covering so much surface he fears they will prove fatal.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 14 June 1900, p.5:**

"AUNT MERIKY"

SUCCUMBS TO ACCIDENTAL BURNING.

Her Only Daughter Arrives Just Before Her Death – Well Known Colored Character.

America Carico died last night at 6:50 o'clock. "Aunt Meriky" was a well known local negro character. She was fifty-four years of age. As a slave she was owned by O'Daniel, of the Vanover vicinity. After her freedom she came to Owensboro to reside and made her home with a family named Carico, and she then took the name of Carrico. Everybody in Owensboro knew "Aunt Meriky." She was an inoffensive and harmless old negro. She possessed a tender heart, and a number of stories of her many acts of kindness are related. She has many a time spent the last cent she had to buy some delicacy for a poor person who was ill, and her acts of charity were not confined to the colored people, but she often bestowed her charity upon some poor and neglected white person. She was industrious, always managed to earn her living, and was never a pauper upon the city's bounty. She earned her living chiefly by attending to the offices of lawyers and doctors, and she was said to be the best window cleaner in the city.

On last Saturday she was engaged in ironing some clothes in front of her home, in the rear of the Odd Fellows building, when her clothing caught fire, and before assistance reached her and the flames were extinguished she was horribly burned about the neck, arms and body. She gradually grew worse until she died. Her only daughter, Lucy Russell, and husband, D. J. Russell, of Wagner, I.T. arrived in the city just before her death. They were coming to Owensboro to visit "Aunt Meriky," and knew nothing about her having been burned until they arrived here. "Aunt Meriky" was a Catholic in religious belief, and her funeral will occur from St. Paul's Catholic church at 3 p. m. today. She carried a small life insurance policy, and it is sufficient to give her a decent burial.

[America Carrico was born about 1846. In the 1889 Owensboro, KY City Directory (p.38) America Carrico, widow, and Lucy Carrico, cook, are listed as living on the north side of Third Street between Walnut & Elm Streets.

Josiah O'Daniel (1826-1908) is listed in the 1860 census of Washington County, KY, 1870 census of Marion County, KY and 1880 census of Daviess County, KY (Curdsville Precinct). He married Josephine Mulligan in Nelson County, KY on 25 October 1854. In the 1860 Washington

County, KY census slave schedule he is reported as being the owner of 5 slaves. He was buried in the Catholic (Mater Dolorosa) Cemetery in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 9 July 1905, p.1B:**

**GOOD OLD NEGRO.**

**Uncle Henry Chandler Is Sent to the Poor House.**

John Henry Chandler, the pioneer carpenter of Daviess county, was yesterday sent to the county poor house. The old negro is seventy-five years old and is no longer able to work. He went into Judge Triplett's office yesterday and asked that he be allowed to go to the poor house and rest. An order was Immediately prepared for his admission to the institution.

John Henry Chandler was well-known a number of years ago to practically everybody in Owensboro. He was a fine workman and constructed a number of houses in Owensboro. Quite a while ago he moved to the country, in the Grissom's landing neighborhood. He built the first house in what is now the town of Stanley, and worked on a large percent of the houses now standing there.

[John Chandler is listed in the Sorgho District in the 1900 census of Daviess County, KY. It was reported that he was – born May 1835 KY, widowed, house carpenter, boarder in home of James H. Cofer. In the 1870 and 1880 Daviess County censuses no Chandlers were found. Stanley was established as a post office in 1889.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 8 November 1897, p.2:**

**Uncle Tom Clark Dead**

Tom Clark, an old colored man, who has been employed at Smith's livery stable for the past twelve years, died there Sunday. The funeral took place this afternoon. "Uncle Tom" was known to every patron of the stable and to many other people besides. He was a faithful and honest old negro.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 9 November 1897, p.8:**

"Uncle Dave" Clark, a highly respected old colored man, who has been employed at Smith's livery stable ever since Mr. Smith engaged in the business, died Sunday and was buried Monday afternoon. "Uncle Dave" was well known and during his years of slavery, he belonged to Mrs. Bibb, of this city.

[The 1889 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY City Directory (p.42) lists Thomas Clark, hostler, 221 Frederica, same residence. Thomas Clark was not found in the 1870 or 1880 Daviess County, KY censuses.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 2 February 1900, p.6:**

**NEGRO WOMAN BURNED**

**Wife of Nelson Coleman at Hartford Meets With a Fatal Accident**

Nelson Coleman's house burned at Hartford Wednesday, and his wife was burned to death in the flames. It is not known how the accident occurred, as the woman was alone at the time. Coleman is more than 70 years old, and his wife was about the same age. Before the war they were slaves and belonged to Elisha Coleman, the father of Rev. J. S. Coleman, of Beaver Dam. They were a highly respected old couple.

The coroner held an inquest this morning over the body of the woman, and the jury returned a verdict that she came to her death by accidental burning, caused by prostration of the heart.

**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 16 October 1908, p.5:**

Uncle Nelse Coleman a very respectable old colored man of Beaver Dam died last Monday night of diseases incident to old age. He was well known and had the respect of all. He was one of the oldest men in the county and had lived a life of usefulness.

**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 6 September 1911, p.8:**

Beaver Dam, Sep 4: Old "Aunt Carry," widow of Nelse Coleman, of color, died last night at the home of Burley Baltzell, of color, of troubles incident-to old age. She was 90 years old and was in her early days a slave.

[In the 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule Elisha H. Coleman (1805-1893) was reported to be the owner of six slaves and his son, Rev. James Smith Coleman (1827-1904), owned one slave. Both were born on the same farm near Beaver Dam in Ohio County.

Records suggest Nelson Coleman was born during 1825-1832 in Kentucky. He is listed under the name of J. S. Coleman on the 1863-1865 Civil War draft registration records. On 20 June 1864 he enlisted for service in the Union Army (109<sup>th</sup> Reg. US Colored Infantry). He is on the 1870, 1880 and 1900 census records of Ohio County, KY.

Nelson Coleman married four times; all of his wives had been former slaves. He and Rachel Barrett married about 1855; she was born c1845 and died about 1873. He married Mrs. Gracy Barrett on 23 April 1874 in Ohio County, KY. Gracy was born c1826 KY and she appears to have died during 1880-1882 – between the 1880 census and Nelson's third marriage. Nelson married Susan Griffin on 11 February 1882 in Ohio County, KY; she died in a fire at their home in Ohio County on 31 January 1900. Nelson married Mrs. Carry Ann (Barnard) Thomas on 26 October 1901 in Ohio County, KY. On their marriage license it was recorded that he was 75 and it was his fourth marriage and Carry was 60 and it was her second marriage. Carry died 3 September 1911 Ohio County, KY and was buried in the Goshen Cemetery. Carry Ann had married Jerry Thomas about 1840 and after emancipation they registered their marriage on 1 September 1866 in Ohio County, KY.

Nelson Coleman died on 12 October 1908 in Ohio County, KY, where he was buried in the Goshen Cemetery. Nelson was the father of 8 known children – Harriet (c1856, married Daniel Cooper & \_ Smith); Lawrence (1858-1917); Jane (c1860); William A. (c1862); Benjamin (1864-1930); Charles M. (c1865); Robert (1869) and Susan Coleman (c1873).]



**Breckenridge News, Cloverport, KY, Wednesday, 19 August 1891, p.3:**

**An Old Landmark Gone.**

Garrett Crittenden, generally known as the "Governor," died after a ten days illness on last Monday morning. He was brought here in the year 1838 by the late Mrs. David R. Murray, and has lived here ever since. Ho was a servant of Mrs. Murray's first husband, Mr. Henry Crittenden, and was nurse to Governor T. T. Crittenden and the other Crittenden children. Ho was probably nearly eighty years old, though ho showed his great ago but little. The "Governor" was a well known and original character, and, kept a fruit and lemonade stand for years past at Fisher's corner. His familiar form and voice will be missed.

[David Rodman Murray (1790-1871 was one of the wealthiest citizens of Breckinridge County, KY. His second wife was Anna Maria (Allen) Crittenden (1802-1877), widow of Henry Crittenden (1792-1834). One of her sons, Thomas Theodore Crittenden (1832-1909) served in the US Congress and as governor of Missouri. David R. Murray in the 1850 census slave schedule for Breckinridge County, KY was reported to be the owner of 22 slaves.

Garrett Crittenden is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Cloverport, Breckinridge County, KY. They suggest his birth was during 1816-1829 in Kentucky. In the 1880 census it was recorded – Garrett Crittenden (51, mulatto, huckster, he & his father born KY and his mother born VA); Sarah Crittenden (wife, 53, black, born VA); Nannie Crittenden (daughter, 14, mulatto, born KY); Thomas Howard (grandson, 7, black, born KY); and Fannie Smith (mother, 90, black she & parents born VA). About 1855 Garrett Crittenden had jumped the broom with Sarah. As freedmen they had their marriage certified by having it recorded in Breckinridge County, KY on 13 September 1869. Sarah was born c1823 and died on 15 February 1890 in Cloverport, KY. Garrett Crittenden died on 17 August 1891 in Cloverport, KY.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 27 May 1888, p.8:**

The Hartford Progress says: "J. Sep Crow, an aged colored man, resides near Livermore, Ky. He was set free September 6 1832. At the date of his emancipation he was 45 years old His age is now 100 years, 8 months and 19 days, and is the only centenarian of our acquaintance."

**Hartford Republican, Hertford, KY, Friday, 21 April 1893, p3:**

Jo. Crow, of color, aged 107 years, died at Livermore last week. During slavery he was the property of Elijah Crow, and by working spare hours he saved enough money to buy himself. He



bought his wife and had made several payments when Lincoln set her free. He was and well respected.

[This is Joseph Crow, who is listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses of Ohio County, KY. He lived near Buford and the McLean County, KY county line. These census reports suggest his birth was during 1807-1811 in Virginia; this would indicate he was actually about 81 to 86 years old when he died in 1893. Due to the lack of education and record keeping it was typical for the ages of elderly blacks to be overestimated.

Joseph Crow married Caroline Rowan about 1843 and Elizabeth during 1860-1870. Caroline was born c1811 KY and died after 1860; Elizabeth was born c1825 & died after 1880. His wife, Caroline, and son, Warren, were not shown in the 1860 census because they had not yet been freed. Joseph Crow had sons – Warren (1844-1936), Henry C. (1850- ), Edward R. (c1856- ) and Steven R. (1859-1918).

Elijah Crow (1791-1834), white, is in the 1820 & 1830 censuses of Ohio County, KY; in these he was reported as owning 4 & 5 slaves respectively. Elijah represented Ohio County in the Kentucky Legislature. He is buried at the Crow Hill Cemetery in Livermore, McLean County, KY. On 28 December 1837 a division of the negro slaves among the heirs of Elijah Crow, deceased was recorded in Ohio County, KY will book B (page 338) – the slaves were named as – Jo, Betsey, Abraham, Recy, Delia & Manerva.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 21 February 191, p.6:**

Rockport, Ind., Feb. 20 – The death of Mrs. Jane Crow here this afternoon in the western part of the city, brought to an end the life of one of the interesting characters of this locality. Reared in slavery, she spent the early years of her life under a master. She was eighty years of age.

[Jane Crow is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900 & 1910 censuses of Spencer County, IN. Jane Crow died 19 February 1913 Rockport, Spencer County, IN, where she was buried in the Sunset Hill Cemetery. Her death certificate recorded she was born 30 January 1833 in Kentucky, was the widow of Abram Crow, and was the daughter of Jerry McFarland & Ann Marley. Abraham Crow born 1822 and died 11 November 1881 has a monument in the Sunset Hill Cemetery in Rockport; he served in the Union Army during the Civil War. In the 1900 & 1910 censuses it was reported that Jane's father was born in North Carolina & her mother in KY.

In the home of Abram & Jane Crow in the 1870 census were – John (19 born KY), Sarah A. (17 born KY), Prudence L. (14 born KY) and Napoleon (6 months, born IN). Abraham (59) & Jane Crow (47) are listed in the 1880 and in their home was a daughter, Ann Richardson (27). Ann Richardson married Giles Newton, a Union Civil War vet, on 12 September 1894 in Spencer County, IN.

Jane's daughter, Sarah Ann Newton, died on 8 February 1903 in Spencer County, IN, where she was buried in Rockport. Her death certificate reported she was born 23 January 1853 Daviess County, KY, was the wife of Giles Newton and daughter of Abraham Crow (born Ohio County, KY) and Jane McFarland (born Daviess County, KY.)



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 10 March 1904, p.3:**

Petrie, Ky., March 7 – Bob Curry, colored, an aged slave, said to be 78 years of age, is at the point of death, not thought to live many hours.

[Robert (Bob) Curry, farmer, born about 1828 in Kentucky appears in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses of Hancock County, KY. In 1870 his wife was Sophia Jackson, born c1834 KY; the ages of the children in their home suggest they may have been married about 1851. In 1880 and 1900 his wife was Patsy, born c1839 KY. He and Patsie Hardin were married on 22 August 1872 in Hancock County, KY. Bob Curry's children included – Mildred (married Scott Curry), Ben, Robert, Hannah, Polly (married James Jackson), Fannie, Isham, Julia (married Willie Jackson) and Elizabeth (married Tom Grimes & Bud Irwin).]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 21 June 1908, p.1:**

MILTON DAVIDSON DIES, AGED 85

He Was a Most Faithful Colored Man and Mill Have While Pall Bearers.

Milton Davidson, a well known colored man, aged 85, died after a short illness of stomach trouble at his home on Sweeney street at 1:30 p. m. Saturday. The funeral will take place at 3 p. m. Monday from the Fourth-street Baptist church, and the burial will be in the colored division of Elmwood. The pall bearers will be white men, the sons and sons-in-law of his former owner, the late Daniel Griffith, viz. Josh T., Dr. D. M. and Clint Griffith and Dr. S. S. and H. C. and Griffith Watkins.

The deceased was the slave of Jas. Davidson, but was bought by Daniel Griffith because of his reliability. He was a good carpenter. He had seen the evolution of harvesting machinery from the hand reaping hook to the present binder and often told entertainingly of the old methods of saving wheat.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 21 June 1908, p.5:**

RESPECTED NEGRO  
DIES AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS.

Was Playmate, Servant and Life Long Friend of the Late D. M. Griffith.

There died Saturday, at the age of eighty-five years, one of Owensboro's most highly respected negroes, Milton Davison [sic]. He died at the home of his son-in-law, the Rev. Sipio Locke. Eighty years ago, Milton and the late D. M. Griffith played together, and there grew up between them a very close friendship that continued until the death of Mr. Griffith. When they arrived at the age of manhood, Mr. Griffith bought Milton from his first master, James Davison.

To the end of his days, Milton remained a faithful servant to the Griffith family. After the emancipation proclamation Milton used his freedom with a degree of wisdom, but he never deserted his "white folks" or went into strange places searching for liberty. He accumulated considerable property and at the time of his death was the owner of several houses and lots about Owensboro. He was never known to be intoxicated in his life.

The funeral of the old negro will be conducted from the Fourth street Baptist church, colored, at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Out of respect to the friendship that existed between their father and Milton, Dr. D. M. Griffith, J. T. Griffith and Clint Griffith, sons, Dr. S. S. Watkins, H. C. Watkins, sons-in-law, and Griffith Watkins, a grandson of D. M. Griffith, will act as pallbearers.

**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 28 April 1905, p.4:**

**Octogenarian to Marry.**

Milton Davidson, a negro octogenarian, yesterday secured license to wed Mrs. Elizabeth Doss. Davidson is a well known character in Daviess county, and despite his great age and snow white hair, is a splendid specimen of physical strength. He was owned as a slave in the days of "be-to' de wa' " by Mr. Daniel M. Griffith, deceased, father of J. T. Griffith, the present county clerk.

[Daniel M. Griffith (1826-1893) in the Daviess County, KY 1860 census slave schedule is reported as being the owner of 7 slaves – the closest to the age of Milton Davidson was a male aged 34. In the Daviess County, KY 1850 census slave schedule the only Davidson was Dr. James W. Davidson (1822-1867), who owned 6 slaves. By 1860 Dr. Davidson had left Daviess County.

Milton Davidson was born during 1822-1827 in Kentucky. Freedmen's Bureau records record that Milton Davidson and his wife, Caroline, of Daviess County, KY, had a son George, who was 15 years old in 1865; Milton was the property of Daniel Griffith; and Caroline had been inherited by Mrs. Emeline (Griffith) Hunter from her father's estate.

Milton Davidson on 15 August 1863 enlisted in the Union Army (35<sup>th</sup> infantry) in Owensboro, KY. Milton married Caroline (born c1830 KY) about 1850; her name is listed as Caroline Simpson on the death certificate of her daughter, Louise. Milton and his family were enumerated in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 Daviess County censuses. He was a farmer. The 1900 census reports that Caroline was the mother of 13 children, 4 of whom were then deceased. Children of Milton & Caroline included – George H. (c1850), Martha Ellen (c1856), Louise (1857-1934, wife of Rev. Scipio Peter Locke), Iris Ann (1859, wife of Giles Richardson), Peter (born 1859), Mary E. (c1862), Jennie (1863), Matilda Ann; Daniel (c1867-1891), Amelia Ann (1870, wife of Harry B. Rowan) and Thomas D. (1872-1948).

In back of the family bible of Emeline (Griffith) Hunter (1811-1890), the following was written – Matilda Ann Bell was born 19th May 1848, she is the daughter of servant Caroline & Isaac; George H. Davidson, son of same, was born; Martha Ellen Davidson, daughter of same, was born; Louise Eslinger Davidson, daughter of same, was born; twins, Iris & Peter Davidson, of same, was born Sept. 29th, 1859; Mary Davidson was born at Owensboro; Jennie Davidson was born at Owensboro, 1863, & died.; Matilda Ann B. died ("Bible of Emeline Griffith Hunter (1811-1890)", Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 18, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1994, pp.76-78.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 21 February 1908, p.1:**

AUNT JULIA DAVIS DIES  
In Slave Days Was Owned By the Late Dan Griffith.

Aunt Julia Davis, eighty-three years of age. died at the home of her son, Jim Davis, on Water street, last night. Aunt Julia in slave days was owned by the late Dan Griffith. She had many friends among the white people.

[Daniel M. Griffith (1826-1893) in the Daviess County, KY 1850 and 1860 census slave schedules is reported as being the owner of 8 and 7 slaves respectively.

Julia Davis, black, born c1834 KY is listed in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. In 1880 she was reported to be widowed and living with her were sons, Ben Davis (29) & James Davis (21); granddaughter, Annie Bransford (2) and niece, Annie Hathaway (19).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 5 January 1906,p. 2:**

Old Negro Woman Dead.

Ann Dodson, one of the oldest negro women in Owensboro, is dead. The funeral was held from her home on Poplar street yesterday afternoon. She was an ex-slave.

[Ann Dotson is listed in the 1880 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. She was reported to be black, age 56, born Mississippi and widowed. Living with her was an adopted daughter, Drusilla, age 15, born KY.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 26 May 1905, p.7:**

EX-SLAVES  
Go to Court to Secure a Division of an Estate.

A suit has been filed in circuit court that goes back to war days for a starting point in the record, and ex-slaves are seeking to secure the division of an estate. The petition is filed by Charles Dugan, Henry Dugan and William Dugan against Rose McCreary, husband, John Weber and W. T. Hazel. The land involved is 110 acres on Pup creek. The petition sets up that to Benedict and Cassa Ann Roberts were born Ann, Mary, Columbus, daughters, and Charles Dugan, Henry Dugan, and Frank Dugan, alias, Roberts. All were slaves and the property of Wesley Roberts, deceased. Of these, three, the boys, were sold and assumed the name of Dugan, that of their new owner. Mary and Columbus Roberts died without issue. Frank Roberts died leaving one child, the plaintiff, William. Ann Roberts died, leaving one child, the defendant, Rose McCreary. Certain of the defendants mortgaged the property, it is alleged, to W. T. Hazel, and others of the defendants sold 25 acres of the land to John Weber, who cut, it is alleged, about \$350 worth of timber

therefrom. Tie petitioners ask for a division of the land, and that the mortgage lien held by Hazel be enforced against the interests of those only who executed same, and that the 25 acres sold to Weber be charged against the interests of those who executed the alleged deed thereto, which is not of record. It is believed by the attorneys that this suit will prove one of the most interesting legal battles in many years.

[Wesley Robert's (c1790-1862) will is recorded in Daviess County, KY. He appointed Asa Smeathers executor of his estate and wrote in his will – "1st I direct and empower him to emancipate & set free all of my slaves owned by me on my death, in compliance with the Constitution & laws of the State of Kentucky, subject to the conditions hereinafter named... He is requested to make an equal division of the work proceeds of my entire estate amongst all of my negroes share and share alike paying over the shares to each at such times as they are respectively twenty-one years old." In the 1860 Daviess County census slave schedule Wesley Roberts is listed as being the owner of 8 slaves, Henry Dugan (c1797-1871), 30 slaves and John Dugan (c1800-1863), 3 slaves.

In the 1880 Daviess County, KY census, Yelvington district, is household of 'Blacks', all born KY - Ben Dugan, 60, farmer; Casy An Dugan, 52, wife; Henry Dugan, 30, son; Charles Dugan, 36, son; Ann Dugan, 20, daughter; Mary Rosa Dugan, 6, granddaughter; Grandville Dugan, 12, grandson; William Dugan, 12, grandson; Henry Dugan, 5, grandson; Margaret Dugan, 4, granddaughter.

Frank Dugan married Martha Craddock on 13 July 1867 Daviess County, KY. Frank is listed in the 1870 & 1880 Daviess County, KY censuses. In the 1870 Daviess County, KY census are listed – Frank Dugan, age 23; Martha, 20, Casann, 3 and William 9 months. In the 1880 census appears Frank Dugan, age 30, born KY; in his home was his son, Willie, age 10.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 20 July 1881, p.3:**

**Ben B. Burton, of Buford, Killed.**

Some time last spring Ben H. Burton, white, and Richmond Field, a former slave of Wm. Field, of this county, now deceased, arranged to crop together on the farm at the forks of the Owensboro and Hartford and Harmon's Ferry roads. They did not get along in peace and harmony, but quite to the contrary. After numerous feuds and quarrels they agreed to arbitrate and the award was for Burton to pay Field thirty dollars for the work he had done and Field to quit. This separated them, but did not settle the feud and cool their hot blood. It is rumored that Field circulated some scandalous reports about Burton and that Burton threatened to kill him, and it has been told us that they were going armed to kill each other on sight. The negro moved to bind Burton to keep the peace, but failed to do so.

Last Friday morning a number of hands were threshing wheat on Ben Graves' place, just this side of Buford – Richmond Field among the number. Burton came over to see when the thresher would come to his place. The negro slipped down to the house where a negro family named Chapman lives, where he had his gun hid. Burton had to return by the house and as he did, so the negro ran out and shot him in the back of the neck and head. Burton fell off his horse, when the negro shot again, his gun being a double-barrelled shot gun. His second shot missed Burton. The negro ran back into the house to reload and Burton got up to follow him and reached the yard

before the negro finished reloading. He ran out with his gun and struck Burton, knocking him down, beating his brains partly out. The old negro woman gave the alarm, and the hands at the thresher came down and took the negro into custody. Medical aid was summoned, Dr. A. B. Baird, of this place, went down Friday evening, and again Saturday, accompanied by Dr. J. E. Pendleton. Judge Newton and County Attorney J. P. Sanderfur, went down Friday evening and postponed an examination to see if Burton died or recovered. The negro was brought up and lodged in jail Friday night. We learn that Burton formerly lived in Logan county, Kentucky, and had killed a man or so before this, and was rather hard to get along with.

Later – Burton died yesterday morning at 6 o'clock.

[In the US Civil War Draft Registrations it is recorded that Richmond Fields, colored, age 20, born, KY, owner – Benjamin Fields, was enrolled in Ohio County, KY in 1863. The Ohio County, KY census slave schedule reports that William Field (1797-1876) was the owner of 23 slaves.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 20 February 1929, p.1:**

**Former Slave, Resident of Owensboro, Age 105, Dies**

Marion, Ind., Feb. 19. (AP) – Martha Floyd, 105, a former slave, who said she had cooked for Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, died here today. The woman was born in Lexington, Ky., but lived at Owensboro, Ky for many years.

[Martha Floyd died 17 February 1929 at Marion, Grant County, IN, where she was buried in the Estates of Serenity (IOOF) Cemetery. Her death certificate recorded that she was widowed. Her second husband was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. Martha Floyd, age 70, born KY, widowed is listed in the 1920 census of Marion, Grant County, IN. Martha Floyd was not located in the Daviess County, KY census reports.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 9 March 1933, p.5:**

**Henderson County's Oldest Resident, Is Former Slave  
Mary Jane Holder Claims to Be 115 Years Old, Lives On Milk, Cereals**

Henderson, Ky., March 8. (AP) – Henderson county's oldest resident, Mary Jane Folden, negro, who claims to 115 years old, lives on a diet largely of milk and cereals; take very little medicine and sleeps about 16 hours out of the 24. She weighs less than 80 pounds.

Fifteen miles north of Henderson, in the rich and fertile plot of ground that lies in the angle formed by the confluence of the Ohio and Green rivers, Lazarus Powell, father of Lazarus W. Powell. once governor of Kentucky, owned and lived in the mansion house of a great plantation and, in the negro quarters of that plantation, the little slave girl, Mary Jane Powell, was born, in 1818.

For forty-five years she was a slave, a record for the term of bondage of former slaves who are living now. There are many living now, who, in their early youth, were slaves for ten or fifteen years and then were freed by President Lincoln's proclamation in 1863.

When the slaves of Gov. Lazarus W. Powell, along with all the others, were freed in 1863, it made no change in the life and occupation of Mary Jane for many years. Lazarus W. Powell lived and died as her "old master."

Far back in the time of one hundred years ago, there lived on a plantation adjoining the Powells a wealthy and aristocratic family named Folden. Sam Folden was their slave and in 1836 he and the neighbor girl, Mary Jane Powell, were married. Fourteen children were born to them; some are dead, the others scattered in other parts of the nation, but Sam, the youngest son, the one born out of slavery, is custodian of Henderson's Central Park and with him the mother makes her home here.

In an interview, she was emphatic in having it known that she belonged to the Powells. She said, "When my master, Lazarus W. Powell, yas 'lected governor of Kentucky, I wuz with the family and we went to the Palace in '51. He ran against Mr. Dixon and he was 'lected. Everybody knowed he would be and when we all heerd the news old Aunt Jane jump up and holler, "De hocks got the chicken, and gone."

The old governor's mansion at Frankfort fronted by the penitentiary, flanked on one side by a livery stable and on the other side by a coal yard, was, in the eyes of Mary Jane, a palace.

**Hopkinsville Kentuckian, Hopkinsville, KY, Friday, 18 August 1910, p.5:**

SAM FOLDEN

Was Oldest Man in Henderson County.

Undoubtedly the oldest man in the county passed away in the person of Samuel Folden, colored, who has just succumbed to a complication of diseases brought on age.

He was 106 years. And this was not imagination as is oftentimes the case with old people but is a matter of family record. – Henderson Journal

[According to census reports Mary Jane Folden was born about 1829 in KY. She is listed in the 1870, 1880 and 1920 censuses of Henderson County, KY. In 1870 it was recorded that Samuel Folden was age 50 (born KY, farmer) and Mary, age 40 (born KY). In the 1880 census her age was given as 50.



Mary Jane Powell Folden

Samuel Folden died in Henderson County in August 1910; he was about 90 years old. Their children included – Barnett, Malinda, Ambrose, Henry, Betsy, James, George, Samuel, Jr., Sherman, Susan, Matilda and Sophia. Mary Jane (Powell) Folden died on 8 August 1933 in Henderson, KY; she was about 103 years old.

Lazarus Whitehead Powell (1812-1867) served as governor of Kentucky during 1851-1855. In the 1850 Henderson County, KY census slave schedule Lazarus W. Powell and John Folden (1798-1859) were listed as being slave owners.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 16 October 1907, p.8:**

AN AGED NEGRO  
Collapsed On Main Street Yesterday Afternoon.

An old negro man by the name of Ford collapsed on Main street near Head's drug store yesterday afternoon and it was thought for a few moments that he was dying. The police were notified and the patrol wagon and stretchers were brought to the scene, but when they arrived the old man had recovered sufficiently to get in the patrol wagon with the assistance of the police. He was taken to the police headquarters where he was allowed to rest and was then taken to the Union station and put on the train and sent home. He is over 90 years old and has been living with the Ford family ever since he was a small boy. The family bought him as a slave when he was only four years old. He now makes his home with Will and Sam Ford, who live just above Philpot on the Illinois Central railroad.

[The Will & Sam Ford named in the article may be William Samuel Ford (1834-1907), who had a son, Samuel Tilden Ford (1876-1922); they resided in the Philpot neighborhood. In the census listings for their family in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses no blacks were listed in their home.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 14 August 1901, p.4:**

An Old Negress.

Maria Gatewood, colored, who lives at 525 Maple street, is probably the oldest person in the city. Her friends say that she is 115 years old, basing the statement on what the old woman has said, but no one knows how old she is. It is probable that she has added about twenty years to her list, though she is certainly very old. Until recently her memory has been good, but of late her mind has been failing, and it is thought that she cannot live long.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 24 September 1901, p.3:**

109 YEARS OLD.  
DEATH OF AUNT MARIAH GATEWOOD, COLORED.  
Said to Have Been Born in Virginia in 1792 – Had Been Very Feeble for Years.



"Aunt Mariah" Gatewood, said to have 109 of age. died about 6 o'clock Monday morning at her home, 527 Maple, street in this city. She was born in 1792, it is claimed, in and probably the oldest woman in Kentucky.

"Aunt Mariah" belonged to the Hardin family of Henderson county, having located there. with them long before the war, and when freed she was said to have been seventy-two years old. She had a number of children, only one of whom still lives, Thomas Gatewood, whose whereabouts are unknown. She has two granddaughters and one grandson living in this city and five granddaughters in Louisville. She lived with the family of James Gatewood. her grandson, who for several years has been driver at Wilhoyte. Barret & Co.'s wholesale grocery. She had not been able to go about any for some time, and for several months has been confined to her bed.

The funeral will take place at 9 o'clock this morning at the residence and the interment will be at the city cemetery.

[Maria Gatewood, black (born November 1786 KY, widow, has one child living), is listed in the 1900 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. She was reported to be the grandmother of Jim Gatewood (born May 1861 KY, married 3 years to Annie (born October 1869).]



**Owensboro Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 15 December 1880, p.2:**

Chas. Gilbert, of color, who was living and had raised a fine crop on the farm of Jack Hill, met with a sudden death on Thursday morning, the 9th inst. He left the house early in the morning for the purpose of catching his horse in a field, and remaining longer than usual some of the family went in search of him, and found him lying on the ground, face down, bands in his pockets, bruised about the head and face, dead and stiff. The supposition is that the horse stumbled and threw him. Marks on the forelegs of the horse justify the belief. In anti-bellum times he was the family servant of W. H. Warfield.

[Charles Gilbert is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He resided in the Murray Precinct near Utica. The 1870 census and his marriage record suggest he was born during 1831-1835 in Kentucky. In 1870 he was listed immediately after the residence of his former owner, Henry M. Warfield (born c1825 Maryland). Henry Warfield is listed in the 1850, 1860 & 1870 Daviess County, KY censuses. He married Mary R. Gilbert in Daviess County, KY on 26 September 1861.

Charles Gilbert married Rachel Newton on 22 January 1870. A record of their marriage is recorded in Daviess County, KY Negro Marriage Book A (pp.313-314) it records – Groom age 38, third marriage, resident Daviess County, born KY; parents born VA, laborer; Bride age 24, first marriage, resident & born Daviess County, KY. Rachel Newton was born c1845 KY. Rachel, widow of Charles, married Sanford McNary on 11 January 1894 in Daviess County, KY; she is listed in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The 1910 Daviess County census reports that Rachel McNary was the mother of 4 children, 3 of whom were then living. Charles and Rachel Gilbert's children included – Rachel (c1866-1950, married Thomas Ayers) and George (c1867). Their daughter, Rachel Ayers, is buried at the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery, at Utica, in Daviess County, KY.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 26 January 1950, p.6:**

Negro Deaths  
Joe Goodwin

Rockport, Ind. – Joe Goodwin, former slave who would have been 100 years old on Aug. 7, died Wednesday morning in Welborn Baptist hospital annex at Evansville.

Goodwin, was born in slavery south of Calhoun, and remembered hiding stock from the Union forces for his master during the War Between the States.

He often told of how he was plowing corn when word was received that Lincoln had been assassinated.

He came to Rockport in 1918 and for the past 20 years had been caretaker at the home of Attorney L. M. Savage.

Surviving are three nieces, Nora, Mary and Onia Goodwin, of Owensboro, Ky. Funeral services will be held at 9 a. m. today in St. Bernard Catholic church.

[The surviving nieces named in Joe Goodwin's obituary were daughters of Jack Goodwin, who was born 12 August 1845 KY and died on 17 November 1916 at Calhoun, McLean County, KY, where he was buried in the Calhoun colored cemetery. Jack is listed in the 1870, 1900 & 1910 censuses of McLean County, KY and 1880 census of Daviess County, KY.

In the 1920 census of Daviess County, KY Joe Goodwin, age 65, single is listed as a cousin in the home of Clark & Anna Leachman. In the 1940 census of Rockport, Spencer County, IN Joseph Goodman (age 89, widowed, born KY, gardener) is listed in the home of L. M. Savage (lawyer). Joseph may be the Joseph Goodwin, born about 1857 KY, who is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. In 1870 he was in the home of Silas & Anna Thomas. In 1880 he appears with a wife, Sally (19) and two children, William & Arthur. This Joseph Goodwin married Sally Ayer in Daviess County, KY on 21 February 1876. ]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 11 March 1910, p.5:**

OWENSBORO NEGRO WOMAN AT 110, PASSES AWAY

Evansville, Ind., March 8. – Harriett Grey, a negro woman, who claims she was 110 years old, and for 60 years a slave, died at the poor infirmary here Sunday after a short illness. She was a native of Daviess county and lived in Owensboro for many years.

**Evansville Journal, Evansville, IN, Sunday, 6 March 1910, p.1:**

AGED NEGRESS PASSES AWAY  
Lived to Age of 110 Years and Had Borne Fifteen Children.

Harriet Grey aged 110 years a colored slave for sixty years, died last Week at the county infirmary of old age.

She was the mother of fifteen children all of whom are dead.

“Grandma,” as she was known far and wide was probably the oldest resident in Southern Indiana. She was bun In Daviess county, Ky. She moved here forty years ago and had since lived In Evansville. When her son died five years ago, “Grandma” was without friends. She was forced to go to the poor farm.

Her husband died at the age of 90 years about twenty years ago. Two grandchildren survive. They are Mrs. Parthenia Jackson, 822 St. Joseph avenue and Mrs. Laura Bluff, Smithland.

[Harriet Gray, mulatto, age 70, born South Carolina, is listed in the 1880 census of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, IN. She was then living in the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Nelson & Maheli Taylor (age 24, born KY).]



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 6 January 1935, p.5A:**

**Vincent Hall, Once A Slave, Is 103 Years Old**

Vincent Hall, colored, will celebrate his 103rd birthday today, and is probably the oldest person in Daviess county. He and his wife, who is 85 years old, have resided on their farm on the Boonville road for the last 50 years. They have had eight children, five of whom are living. Vincent Hall was at one time owned as a slave by Thomas Carico, father of the late Wilfred Carico, attorney.

[The death certificate of Vincent Hall has that he was born on 6 January 1832 in Marion County, KY to Henry Hall and died at Stanley in Daviess County, KY on 28 August 1937. Vincent is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He married Jennie Winstead on 9 February 1875. Jennie was born 16 February 1849 KY and died 22 June 1936 Daviess County, KY. Her mother, Rachel Winstead, was born c1825 and died 6 June 1924 Daviess County, KY. The 1900 census recorded that Jennie was the mother of 11 children, 4 of whom were then deceased. Vincent & Jennie’s children included – Lias, Josie, Loggie, Georgie, John T., Rena, Sylvester and Rachel.

Thomas Ignatius Carrico (1796-1885) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule was reported to be the owner of 4 slaves.]



**Owensboro Weekly Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 1 May 1890, p.3:**

**Elijah Hathaway Dead.**

Elijah Hathaway, the colored barber who ran the Planters House barber shop for years, died very suddenly Sunday of hemorrhage. He was apparently in very fair health Sunday morning and was taken ill about 2 o'clock and died in a very few minutes. He was a man of good character and had the good will of all who knew him. He was about 65 years old. He raised several boys, all of

whom show the effect of the old man's good example. He was in early life a slave and come to this county many years ago with the family to which he belonged.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 7 November 1909, p.2:**

LAST OF FAMILY OF NEGRO BARBERS  
Charlie Hathaway's Father Opened Shop Before War  
TAUGHT THREE OF HIS BOYS THE TRADE

With the recent death of Charles Hathaway there, passed from the scenes of Owensboro tonsorial life the last of a family of colored barbers extending back to the days before the war. The father of Charles was Elijah Hathaway, who opened a shop here before the war and, which was for many years the principal barber shop of the town and the only one for several years. He taught three of his boys the trade and they continued the business after his death, which took place several years ago and their business is still in existence and, probably, exceeds in age any one establishment in the city. Elijah, Jr., was killed a few years ago in a railroad accident and the other son, Sam, died a few years later.

The old man was economical but did not invest profitably but did possess of some real estate, the chief property being the old Hathaway house on the north side of Second street between St. Elizabeth and Locust and which was inherited by Charley and in which he died.

[Elijah Hathaway was born about 1821 in Kentucky. In the 1850 Daviess County, KY Census Slave Schedule John Hathaway is recorded as being the owner of 13 slaves. John Hathaway (1796-1865) married Martha Riley in Daviess County, KY in 1825. About 1861 Elijah Hathaway married Virginia. Elijah Hathaway is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Owensboro. He was a barber and for many years conducted a barber shop in the Planters House hotel on Frederica Street in Owensboro.

Elijah Hathaway died on 27 April 1890 in Owensboro. In section A at Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery there are monuments for Elijah Hathaway (1821-1890) and Virginia Hathaway (1831-1905). Virginia Hathaway died on 2 December 1905 in Owensboro. They had seven children – Dangerfield (murdered in 1878), Mary Ellen, Charles S. (died in 1909), Samuel W., Phillip, Elinor and Louis Elijah Hathaway (died in 1898).

The 20 June 1909 issue of the Owensboro Messenger (p.2A) reported the widow and children of Elijah Hathaway live in the oldest home in Owensboro, on south side of Main Street about half way between St. Elizabeth & Locust; it was built by Willett Holmes, who moved to Texas during the 1830's, Elijah Comstock lived there for a great number of years, and Elijah Hathaway purchased it from him.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 15 December 1953, p.1:**

Man Born In Slavery Dies Here At Age Of 113

Stephen Hawes, 113, who was born in slavery, died in the home of his daughter, Eddie Lowery, 1103 W. 5th at 1:50 p. m. Saturday.

Lowery [sic] was born on February 29, 1840, in Georgia, according to his daughter. He and his wife, who preceded him in death several years ago, came to Kentucky near the turn of the

Century and resided Hawesville. They later moved to Yelvington where he lived until he moved to Owensboro to reside with his daughter.

He was a member of the Green's Chapel Church. Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. today in the Haynes Funeral Home, 1018 W. 7th St., conducted by the Rev. Steven Anderson pastor of Green's Chapel Baptist Church. Burial will be in the! Yelvington Cemetery.

[The preceding article contained several errors – his age is highly over estimated and the place of birth was not Georgia. Numerous sources show his place of birth as Kentucky. Also, in the 1910 and 1930 censuses of Daviess County, KY his age was given as 48 & 65 which suggests that he was born during 1861-1865. If this estimate is more accurate his age would have been around 88 to 92 when he died. On his death certificate it was reported by his daughter, Eddie Lowery, that he was born 29 February 1840 Hawesville, KY and died 12 December 1953 in Owensboro, KY; and his parents were Ben & Hanna Hawes. He was buried at the Yelvington Cemetery, also called the Greene's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery or Yelvington Colored Cemetery.]

Stephen Hawes married Mattie Norris, 1 March 1882, in Daviess County, KY. By this marriage he had a daughter, Jessie Eddie Hawes, who was born on 11 March 1885 at Yelvington, KY; she married Elijah Lowery, 11 November 1899 in Daviess County, KY; and died 21 September 1964 in Owensboro, KY, where she was buried at Greenwood Cemetery. Stephen Hawes married Kate (Howard) Corley, 5 May 1909 Daviess County, KY. Kate, daughter of Henry Howard & Mary Hawes, was born 6 October 1880 Yelvington, Daviess County, KY; married first Louis Corley, 22 November 1896 Daviess County, KY; she died 3 April 1953 Yelvington, Daviess County, KY, where she was buried in the Yelvington Colored Cemetery. Children of Stephen Hawes & Kate Howard, included – Margaret Mary (1914) and Thomas Woodrow Hawes (1916). Several of the children in his home in the 1910 census listed under the Hawes name were his Corley stepchildren. Stephen Hawes also had several children by Nannie (Lightfoot) Merriweather (1865-1926); including – William, Lyla (c1897), Muriel (c1900) and George Hawes (c1903-1940).

In the book Reflections of the Past, by the Maceo Historical Society (McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1983, pp.23-25) it is stated: “Mr. Steve Hawes resided in Yelvington many years. He was interviewed in the early 1950's by Harvey and Charles Jarvis, his neighbors. Mr. Hawes was believed to be about 110 at the time, and he said he was a grown boy when Abraham Lincoln was shot. He stated that when he was seven years old (about 1849) his master, Webb Hawes, of Hawesville, sold him, his father Ben Hawes, his mother, Hettie Hawes and his brothers and sisters to Gip Taylor in the Yelvington section... Mr. Hawes had been married twice and had fathered fourteen children.” Stephen Hawes could not be identified in the 1870, 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940 and 1950 censuses. They may have shed light on the great discrepancy over the age of Stephen Hawes.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 29 August 1913, p.2:**

"Aunt Matilda" Hawkins Dies.

"Aunt Matilda" Hawkins, one of the best known negroes in Owensboro, died at her home at 929 West Fourth street, early Thursday morning. "Aunt Matilda" was universally known and

beloved, especially by the older generation. She was a slave in the Manning family for many years and had been working for Eugene Manning for some time.

[Matilda was born during 1840-1864. The death certificate of Matilda Hawkins records that she died on 27 August 1913 in Owensboro, KY, where she was buried in the Catholic Cemetery; she was born in May 1840 KY, was married and her father's name was Daniel (no surname entered). Matilda and her husband, Gabriel Hawkins ('Gabe') are listed in the 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses of Owensboro. Gabe Hawkins, born c1830 KY and his first wife, Julia, are listed in the 1870 census of Owensboro. "Miss Matilda Johnson" married Gabe Hawkins, 29 November 1877 in Owensboro. Gabe & Matilda are in the 1880 census of Owensboro, with them are 2 daughters – Mary E., age 9, and Anny B., age 2. The 1910 census reported she was the mother of one child, but no children were then living. Gabe Hawkins died on 12 July 1914 in Owensboro and was buried there in the Catholic Cemetery.

Eugene Manning (1871-1921) is buried at the Catholic (Mater Dolorosa Cemetery) in Owensboro, Owensboro, KY. He came to Daviess County, KY from Meade County, KY between 1880-1891. He was the son of Samuel Joseph Manning (1838-1895) of Meade County, KY.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 27 April 1904, 5:**

**PARKER HAYNES DEAD.**

**An Old Colored Man Who Owned Considerable Property.**

Parker Haynes, one of the oldest negroes in Daviess county, died Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock of blood poisoning at his home near Pleasant Ridge.

He was well known among the old inhabitants of this vicinity. He was a slave in the Haynes family in his childhood and manhood and after the war purchased a farm near Pleasant Ridge, where he and his family have lived very comfortably. He lived to be eighty years of age and was in the best of health until a few weeks ago.

The funeral took place at Pleasant Ridge Baptist church at 12 o'clock to day.

[The gravestone of Parker Haynes at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church at Pleasant Ridge in Daviess County has that he was born 10 September 1833 and died 26 April 1904. He was born in Kentucky. On 5 January 1871 in Ohio County, KY he married Eliza Ann Cooper, she was born 15 October 1840 KY and died 10 July 1881. Eliza Ann was the daughter of Luke & Ann Cooper. Eliza and her parents were also buried at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church. Eliza on several records is also listed with the surname of French. Mrs. Ann Cooper was born about 1810 in Kentucky and died after 1880; the gravestone of her daughter, Miss Malinda Catherine Cooper, at the Pleasant Point Church, has recorded on it that she was a daughter of Luke and Ann Cooper.

Parker Haynes is listed as Park Haines in the 1870 census of Ohio County, KY (near Buford in the Bartlett's District). Living with him was his mother-in-law, Mrs. Ann Cooper, and her three daughters, Eliza, Judith A. and Malinda Catherine; also in his home was Washington Cooper-French (c1839- ).

Parker Haynes in 1874 was serving as a trustee of the Baptist African Church at Pleasant Ridge. The 1876 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY. (p.35) shows that Parker Haynes owned 172 acres near Crane Pond about three miles northeast of Pleasant Ridge, part of the tract

extended into Ohio County, KY. Parker Haynes was a farmer and appears in the 1880 and 1900 censuses of Daviess County, KY near Pleasant Ridge. He is listed as a veteran in the WPA's Registration of Veterans' Graves for Daviess County, KY. He served with the 118th US Colored Infantry and applied for a pension in 1890.

The children of Parker & Eliza Ann Haynes were: John William (1872-1939); Edward Parker Jr., (1873-1941); Elizabeth, born (1878-1970, wife of General Ernest Murray); and Bud (1881-1918).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 13 July 1935, p.2:**

**Mariah Higgs, Former Slave, Dies At Livia**

Mariah Higgs, 84 years old, of Livia, a former slave on the place of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sam Drake of Livia, died at 1 a. m. Friday. Funeral services will be held at Utica at 2 p. m. today.

[Census records consistently indicate Anna Mariah (Drake) Higgs was born in 1852 in Kentucky. The death certificate of Anna Mariah Higgs records that she was born on 1 August 1849 at Island Station in McLean County, KY. Mariah Higgs is listed in the 1870, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses of Daviess County, KY and 1880 & 1900 censuses of McLean County, KY. Maria A. Drake married James Higgs on 2 June 1870 at the residence of Luke Higgs in Daviess County, KY. James Higgs (age 23) & Maria Higgs (age 18), in the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY were listed in the home of Luke Higgs, Jr., age 28. Mariah's mother, Emily Drake (age 52, born KY) at the time of the 1880 census was living with her. James Higgs, born in July 1847. On 23 April 1906 James Higgs was shot and killed by his son, Harrison Higgs, at their home near Utica in Daviess County, KY (Owensboro Messenger, 24 April 1906, p2). The court ruled that it was justifiable homicide and Harrison Higgs was not indicted.

Anna Mariah Higgs died on 12 July 1935 at Livia in Daviess County, KY. A monument at the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery near Utica in Daviess County, KY has the inscription "Higgs, James, 1847-1906 and Annie Mariah, 1849-1935," The 1900 and 1910 censuses record that Mariah was the mother of 16 children; 10 were living in 1900 and 7 were then living in 1910. The children of James & Mariah Higgs included – Mary, Baxter, Cesar, Arthur, Jennie, George W., Harrison, Oscar, Edith A. and Walter M. Higgs.

In the 1860 McLean County, KY census slave schedule Samuel W. Drake was listed as being the owner of 4 slaves.]



**Owensboro Daily Tribune, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 26 September 1895, p.1:**

Abstract: Cynthia Hobbs, age 68, died at 702 Hathaway Street in Owensboro, where she was buried at Elmwood Cemetery. Before the Civil War she was a slave of Mrs. Roberts and afterward remained a member of the family. Owensboro Daily Tribune, 27 September 1895, p.1 – She was also known by the name of Cynthia Thomas.

[Cynthia Hobbs or Thomas was not located in the 1870 or 1880 Daviess County, KY censuses.]



**Messenger-Inquirer Owensboro, KY, Monday, 31 August 2020, p1A:**

**Livermore resident hopes to preserve Black history of city**

Abstract: Recently there have been restorations efforts in the Black Baptist Church Cemetery in Livermore. Holly Johnson, of Livermore, has been researching the two newly restored gravestones that are on the hillside cemetery of the former Black Missionary Baptist Church on Third Street. The two gravestones at the Black Missionary Baptist Church cemetery belong to Joshua Howard and Sarah Rowan. The original church was torn down in 1958, but the gravestones and the church cornerstone, which reads “Strather’s Chapel — 1895”; the larger gravestone belongs to Joshua Howard, who Johnson said was born in 1831 and died in 1892, he was a Civil War Union soldier who enlisted in Owensboro and was the first Black man and former slave to purchase and own property in Livermore. The other gravestone belonged to Sarah Rowan, who was born in 1840 and died in 1923, she was also a former slave who, after being freed, became a nanny for a prominent Livermore family. There were originally other gravestones in the cemetery, but many of them were removed in 1958 in an effort to better maintain the property; there are no records of the people buried there. See also Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 4 January 2021, p.1C (Joshua Howard is buried at Strather’s Chapel on land that he sold to the church) and 3 April 2021.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 12 November 1892, p1:**

**MURDER IN M’LEAN**

Josh. Howard Killed Near Livermore by a Rival Named Jim Bell.

News of the killing of Josh. Howard, colored, by another negro named Jim Bell, near Livermore, reached the city yesterday. The two men had been on bad terms for several months on account of a woman and when they met Thursday night got in a quarrel. Howard made a motion as if to pick up a stick and Bell shot him through the neck with a small rifle he had in his hands, killing him almost instantly. Bell made an effort to get away, but failed to do so. He was taken to Calhoon and put in jail.

Opinions differ as to the degree of Bell's crime. He makes a claim of self defense, but those who know most about the killing think it was thoroughly unjustifiable.

[Joshua Howard’s gravestone at the Strather’s Chapel Cemetery records his birth and death dates as 20 October 1831 – 10 November 1892. He is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Livermore, McLean County, KY. He was reported to be a native of Kentucky. In 1870 in his home were – Ann Howard (38 KY and Sarah Rowan (28 KY). The 1880 census reports that Joshua Howard, farmer, was widowed; living with him was Sarah Rowan (40, black, servant, single). Sarah Rowan died on 19 September 1923 at the Western Kentucky State Hospital at Hopkinsville, KY. Her death certificate reported that she was single. She was returned to Livermore, where she has a tombstone in the Strather’s Chapel Cemetery.]





**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 2 October 1908, p.4:**

NEGRO WAS NEARLY 105 YEARS OLD.

"Burhl" Hudson, colored, probably the oldest resident of Owensboro, is dead, at the age of almost 105 years. If he had lived twenty days he would have celebrated his 105th birthday. "Uncle Burhl," as he was known, was a slave before the civil war, and enlisted as a Union soldier during the war. He received a pension from the government.

**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 19 October 1908, p.3:**

EXTREME AGE DID NOT AFFECT MEMORY

Burr Hudson, Colored, Claiming to Be 105, Both Grateful and Resentful In Will.

The last will and testament of "Uncle Burr" Hudson, colored, for so long a familiar figure on the streets of Owensboro, was probated in county court. The document was witnessed by Jamie Weir, deputy sheriff, and Georgia Howard, colored.

In the opening paragraph of the document "Uncle Burr" asks that his just debts be paid and then that his property be given to Mary Bryant, colored, "who was so kind as to look after me in my old age." His own children, Ary Williams and Larkin Fields, he charges with neglect and therefore asks that they be given \$1 each and no more.

While testifying in regard to the mental and physical condition of Hudson when he signed the will in her presence Georgia Howard swore that "Uncle Burr" was aged, "one hundred and four years, eleven months, and I forget the days." The court stated that he had also been thus informed.

[The 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses of Daviess County, KY indicate Burr Hudson was born about 1810 in Kentucky. The 1900 census recorded that he was born in October 1810 and was widowed. Burl Hudson is listed in the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY. He was reported to be age 60 and born KY; in his home were – Jane (62), Errie (28) and David (23). In the 1880 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY he appears as Burr Hudson, mulatto, age 69, born KY, farmer; wife, Jane (age 50); daughter, Caroline (15) and son, Marion (10). Due to infirmity Burr Hudson in 1885 was excused from paying the Daviess County tax.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 6 June 1900, p.7:**

FORMER SLAVES.

They Ask Divorce After. More Than Forty Years Together.

Joshua Hunter sues Easter Hunter for divorce. The parties to the suit are colored and were married in 1858, while both were slaves, and lived together till in February, 1899, when, he alleges, by her cruelty she drove him from home.

[Joshua Hunter appeared in the first tax list for Daviess County in 1866 in which freed blacks were enumerated. In the 1870 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY his residence was listed as – Hunter, Joshua, 35, born KY; Esther, 40, born KY; and Mode?, age 11, born KY. In the 1880 census of Owensboro two children were listed in his home, Mort & Ada. Joshua Hunter, plaintiff, was granted an absolute divorce in January 1902 from Esther Hunter (Owensboro Messenger, 30 January 1902, p4). He brought a second suit for the possession of a lot they owned in Owensboro on Sweeney Street in Johnson’s Addition; he sold his half interest in the lot in 1902. Joshua Hunter married Mrs. Mary Ann Hartwell, 16 October 1902 in Owensboro. Ester Hunter is listed in the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Owensboro. Esther Jane Hunter died on 3 April 1915 in in Owensboro, KY, where she was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. In the 1900 census Esther was reported to have been born in January 1828 KY, widowed, and residing on Sweeney Street. Joshua Hunter, born 1830 VA, appears in the 1900 census of Daviess County, KY. He was then living with a brother, William Hunter .]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 26 March 1901, p.4:**

Nearly a Century Old.

Serena Jackson, colored, who lives with her son-in-law, Lewis Davis, near Petri, is 99 years old and is hale and hearty. She was brought from Maryland here by old Uncle Bob Beauchamp, long since, dead, and was his property in slave time. – Hancock Clarion.

[Robert Costin Beauchamp (1800-1884) in 1827 moved from Daviess County, KY to what became Hancock County, KY in 1829. His home and family cemetery are about five miles west of Hawesville. He was one of the largest land and slave owners in Hancock County. In 1850 he owned 26 slaves.

Sarena Jackson is listed in the 1900 census of Hancock County, KY. She was listed in the home of her son-in-law & daughter, Louis & Georgia Davis. She was reported to have been born in May 1804 in KY, was widowed, mother of 7 children 2 of whom were living, her parents were born in Virginia. Her daughter, Georgia, was born in December 1849 KY. In the 1880 Hancock County census listed immediately after the home of Robert Costin Beauchamp were Tom Beauchamp (black, 75, born KY) and his wife, Serine (black, 72, born Maryland). Tom Beauchamp was also known as Tom Jackson. Georgia Ann Jackson Davis died in Hancock County on 16 June 1927; her death certificate reported that she was buried in the Beauchamp Cemetery.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 8 August 1894, p.4:**

A Faithful Old Darkey.

Uncle Willis Jackson, the old colored man who has driven a dray for the wharfboat company since 1868 continuously, died at his home on West Third street yesterday afternoon of

flux, after a week's illness. He was the slave of the Shipp family before the war and was esteemed for his faithfulness. He will be buried today.

[Willis Jackson married Katie Payne on 16 December 1873 in Daviess County, KY. Willis Jackson, drayman, age 28, born KY is listed in the 1880 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY; with him was his wife, Katy (24 KY). In the 1889 city directory of Owensboro Willis Jackson is listed as a teamster.

James W. Shipp (1838-1867) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule is listed as the owner of three slaves.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 18 July 1897, p.1:**

**Good Old Negro Gone.**

John Jefferson, an old colored man 69 years of age, died last Friday night at his home on Breckenridge street, after a few days illness with heart trouble. The old man formerly belonged to Mr. Jesse Jones, grandfather of Miss Emma Sharpe, and was well thought of by the entire family. He was an honest and industrious old darkey, and was well liked by the white people here. He was buried in a nice coffin, and the remains interred at Elmwood yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

[Jesse W. Jones (1796-1866) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule is reported to be the owner of 3 slaves. His widow, Letha, was living near Thruston at the time of the 1870 census of Daviess County. Living with her were four blacks – John Jefferson (30, farm hand, born KY), Susan (32), John, Jr. (5) & Edward (1). John & Susan Jefferson separated during 1870-1880. In the 1880 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY, Susan Jefferson (43) and two sons, John, Jr. (14) & William Edward Jefferson (11) were listed by themselves. Susan Jefferson married Tip Pegram, 11 July 1885 in Owensboro, KY. Susan Pegram appears as a widow in the 1900 & 1910 censuses of Owensboro; both censuses report that she was the mother of 3 children, 2 were then living; her son, Edward (1869- ) appears with the surname of Johnson.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 10 January 1936, p.4:**

**Aunt Florida Johnson, 103, Former Slave, Dies Here**

Aunt Florida Johnson, 103, negro, a former slave who came here with members of the Ewing and Hicks families, died at her home, 536 Vine street, Tuesday. Funeral services were conducted from the home Thursday at 1:30 p.m. with, the Rev. E. H. Smith, pastor of the Fourth Street Baptist church, in charge. Burial was in Greenwood cemetery. Despite her advanced age, Aunt Florida was not bedfast though in the past year she was unable to leave her home.

[Florida Johnson is listed in the 1880 census of Spencer County, IN, 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. The death certificate of her son, Patrick Johnson, Jr. lists his parents as Patrick Johnson & Florida Ewing. The 1900 census shows that she was born

in June 1842 in KY. About 1857 she married Patrick Johnson, who was born in August 1834 in North Carolina. Patrick Johnson died in Owensboro on 18 March 1913. Florida Ann died 7 January 1936. The 1900 census recorded that 7 children had been born to Florida, 3 of whom were then living. Their children included – Patrick, Ada, Chesterfield and Elwood. Patrick and Florida Ann and their children – Patrick, Jr. (died 16 November 1914) and Ada Johnson (died 6 March 1937) were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY.

In the 1850 and 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedules William Ewing appeared as a slave owner; in 1860 he owned 13 slaves.]



**Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Tuesday, 25 November 1913, p.4:**

**Old-Time Slave Dead.**

Hawesville, Ky., Nov. 24. (Special.) – Randall Lander, 75, one of the best-known colored men of the town, died here a few days ago. In youth he was a slave owned by the late John Lander and Mrs. Eliza Lander Webb, Louisville, and Capt. Frank Lander, of Hawesville. He and his brothers, Ned and Henry, who recently died, and Dan, who survives him, were for fifty years a notable quartet of colored men valued greatly for their strength, agility and good working qualities. They drove the ox carts that hauled the first coal to the river here for shipment to Southern points, and later hauled the coal with mules on a tramway for the same purpose.

**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 30 June 1898, p.1:**

**A Monument to Slaves**

When Mrs. Rebecca Lander, died some years ago at Hawesville she directed in her will that the sum of \$500 be expended for a monument to her old family servants, who had served her so long and well as slaves, and for whom she had a tender regard. Her children, Mrs. Eliza Webb and Capt. Frank Lander have carried out the provision of the will, and the result is the handsomest monument in the Hawesville cemetery is the one which stands over the grave of these old-time negroes.

[Rebecca P. Lander in the 1850 & 1860 Hancock County, KY census slave schedules is listed as the owner of 10 and 13 slaves respectively. Mrs. Rebecca Pugh (Sterett) Lander (1805-1886), widow of Charles V. Lander (1798-1835), died at Hawesville, Hancock County, KY and was buried at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, KY. She left an estate valued at \$45,000, several of her former slaves went to Louisville to attend her funeral; four of her slaves were presented with houses and lots about a year before her death. In 1835 Rebecca's husband had opened a coal mine on the hill overlooking Hawesville.

Randall Lander is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900 & 1910 censuses of Hancock County, KY. He married Ellen Johnson on 4 May 1867 in Hancock County, KY. The death certificate of Randall Lander reports that he was born 27 September 1838 and died 21 November 1913 at Hawesville, KY; his parents were entered as Edward Grimes & Malinda Colman. The death certificate of Henry Lander (c1841-1912 listed his parents as Ned Grimes & Malinda Colman; he was buried at Hawesville. Malinda Lander, born c1810 in Virginia, is listed in the 1870 & 1880 censuses of

Hancock County, KY. In 1870 she was living with her former owner, Mrs. Rebecca P. Lander, and in 1880 she was in the home of her son, Ned Lander (born c1840 KY).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 16 February 1897, p.4:**

Calhoun, Ky., Feb. 15. – Old "Uncle Jeff" Landrum, the most highly respected colored citizen of McLean county, died here Friday evening, at the age of eighty-two years. In the slave days "Uncle Jeff" was owned by "Uncle Tommie" Landrum, one of the leading citizens of the county in his day, and since his freedom has always resided with the Landrum family. He was a Democrat from the day he was granted the right to exercise the ballot, never failed to take an active interest in the elections, and always bore a prominent part in all of the Democratic rallies at Calhoun.

[In the 1863-1865 Civil War draft registrations Thomas Landrum was reported in July 1863 in McLean County, KY to be the owner of Jeff Landrum, 36, black, and William Landrum 24, black. In the 1866-1869 tax lists of McLean County, Green, Jefferson & William Landrum were listed. In the 1870 census of Calhoun, McLean County, KY Jeff Landrum (40, black, farm laborer) was reported to be residing with Thomas Landrum (1805-1877).]



**Owensboro Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 23 August 1888, p.3:**

A negro named Peter Letcher, a former slave of Mr. Geo. T. Hawes, was hauling a load of melons to Rockport, yesterday, when his team ran away with him, throwing him out breaking nearly all of his ribs. He is in a very precarious condition and will probably die.

[George Trotter Hawes (1836-1917) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule was reported as owning 7 slaves. Peter Letcher was not identified in the Daviess County census records.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 1 December 1915, p.5:**

"Aunt Ellen" Lewis, a faithful old darkey of ante-bellum days, died here a few days ago at the age of about seventy years. The greater part of her fifty years was spent in the faithful service of the Pendleton families, although when a slave she belonged to Miss Annie Lewis. She was a good Christian and an exemplary character.

[Ellen Lewis died 27 November 1915 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY, where she was buried in the Hayti Cemetery. Her death certificate reported she was about 66 and was single. Ellen Lewis, age 30, black, single, born KY, was servant in the family of Z. W. Griffin at the time of the 1880

census of Hartford, Ohio County, KY. The 1900 & 1910 censuses of Hartford show Ellen Lewis, born 1855, was a servant-cook in the home of Dr. Eugene B. Pendleton.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 8 May 1883, p.4:**

Charlotte May, colored, an old family slave of Mr. Barney May, died on the 3d aged 55 years, and was buried on the May farm.

[Barney May (c1794-1868) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule is reported to be the owner of 10 slaves. He lived along the Old Hartford Road about four miles southeast of Owensboro; his farm and the neighborhood were referred to as Barney May Springs.

Charlotte May is listed in the 1880 census of Daviess County, KY. She was reported to be age 69, born KY and was divorced. She was living in the home of Sam Dugan, 30, who was reported to be her son.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 5 February 1879, p.3:**

Jeff McCreery died in Yelvington of paralysis last Thursday, at the age of sixty-eight. He was a first-class blacksmith, a faithful slave until freed by political events, and a good citizen. His first use of the elective franchise was as he expressed it, to "vote like Mas Tom" meaning Hon. T.C. McCreery to whom he had belonged, and he has since been an earnest Democrat. He lived with the good will of his neighbors, white and black, who manifested their regret at his death by a large attendance at his funeral.

[He was the former slave of Thomas Clay McCreery (1816-1890), who served in the US Senate. Thomas had resided in the Beech Woods neighborhood near Yelvington in Daviess County, KY. He was reported to be the owner of 26 slaves in the 1860 Daviess County census slave schedule.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 19 July 1913, p.4:**

UNCLE ATHA M'FARLAND,  
AN AGED NEGRO, DIES

Uncle Atha McFarland, an old colored man, and well known in Owensboro, died at his home in the western part of Owensboro Friday morning, and will be buried from the Fourth street Baptist church this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Uncle Atha was a slave, the property of the late John H. McFarland, and one of the many who declined to accept their freedom when given by President Lincoln. The old man remained with his master until he helped lay him to his final rest.

Mr. McFarland, in recognition of his faithfulness, gave the old darky a house and three acres of ground near the city, on which he lived until he became too old to care for himself, when he went to live with Stephen Pope. Uncle Atha was seventy-five years old and was a respectable and well liked old man.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 22 July 1913, p.3:**

Uncle Athy McFarland, colored, devised all the property of which he died possessed to his two grandchildren, Ophelia and Joseph McFarland, the children of his son, Athy, to whom he left \$1. In the event of the death of one of the two the other is to inherit all of the property. The will provides for the erection of a \$500 monument in Elmwood cemetery to the grave of himself and wife. Stephen Pope, Jr., a nephew, is made executor under the will to execute the bequest. He qualified immediately.

**Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 9 March 1881, p.3:**

Athy McFarland, an old family servant of John H. McFarland, Esq., died suddenly in his chair a few miles from the city Friday. He was in his 70th year, and has been a sufferer from consumption for many years. He was an upright, honorable old darkey, and his death will be lamented by those who knew him.

[Atha McFarland was born in 1841 in Daviess County, KY. He died 17 July 1913 in Owensboro, KY. His death certificate recorded that he was the son of Atha & Delcie (Howard) McFarland. His death certificate mistakenly reports that he was buried at Owensboro's Greenwood Cemetery he has a monument in section E at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro. On the same monument are the names of his wife, Fanny (died age 65), son, John H. (died age 24) and daughter, Fanny Bell (died age 21). His father, Athy McFarland, Sr., died in 1881.

John H. McFarland (1798-1887) settled in what became Daviess County in 1805. The 1860 Daviess County census slave schedule recorded that John H. McFarland was the owner of 18 slaves. During the Civil War he lost \$40,000 in slaves. He and wife Harriet, conveyed to Athy McFarland, three tracts of one acre each on the Lancaster Road on 12 February 1873 (Daviess County deed book 27, p.452), 29 October 1877 (Daviess County deed book 31, p.565 and 29 February 1884 (Daviess County deed book 41, p.30).

Atha McFarland is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900 & 1910 Daviess County censuses. He was a farmer. He married Fanny about 1867. After emancipation they recorded a declaration of their marriage on 5 March 1877 (Daviess County, KY Freedmen's Declaration of Marriage Register, pp.18-19). They had four children, only one son, Atha (born c1872) was living in 1900. Atha McFarland, III married Marietta Buckner in 1895, they divorced in 1902; they had two children – Ophelia and Joseph Nathaniel.]



**Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 17 October 1866, p.3:**

Tony, a negro man formerly the property of the McFarland family, was shot through the head and instantly killed on the 13th inst., about 8 miles from this city, on the Hartford road. A man named Wm. Bell is said to have been guilty of the murder. The proper officers are in pursuit of him, and we have no doubt he will be speedily brought to justice.

**Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 19 December 1866, p.3:**

Wm. Bell, who killed Tony, a negro recently belonging to the McFarland estate, a few months ago, has been arrested at Oakford, Tenn.

[In the Daviess County, KY 1860 census slave schedule three McFarlands were listed as being slave owners – John G. McFarland, 7; John H. McFarland, 18; and John S. McFarland, 13.]



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 4 November 1892, p.3:**

Aunt Becky McHenry, a highly respected colored lady, died in Hayti Wednesday morning, and was buried at the colored burying grounds yesterday evening. She was a nurse in the family of Judge John H. McHenry.

[John Hardin McHenry, Sr. (1797-1871), was a lawyer and judge, who served in the Kentucky Legislature. He is buried at Elmwood Cemetery, in Owensboro, KY. The Daviess County, KY 1860 census slave schedule shows that he owned 16 slaves.]



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 22 February 1907, p.1:**

“Uncle” Jack McHenry Dead.

“Uncle” Jack McHenry, of color, an exemplary type of the old school negro died at his home in Hayti Tuesday at the age of about 98 years. During slave times Uncle Jack belonged to the Hon. H. D. McHenry and while Col. McHenry was absent in the war of the Rebellion and even after the proclamation of freedom had been issued Jack remained a faithful and valliant servant of the family whose interest he guarded with exacting scrutiny. He remained with the McHenry family, who came to regard him almost as one of its members, for many years after his freedom.

“Uncle” Jack was certainly a good old darkey whose character and service his race would do well to emulate.

[Henry Davis McHenry (1826-1890) served in the Kentucky Legislature and US Congress. He is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Hartford, KY. The Ohio County, KY 1860 census slave schedule shows that he owned 7 slaves.

Jack McFarland is listed as John McFarland in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Hartford, Ohio County, KY. In 1870 he was reported to be 65, born KY, farmer. His wife was Sefrona and his children were – Precilla, Thurston, Lincoln, Napoleon and George. In 1880 John was reported to be 65 and his wife, Lucy, was 60.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 29 December 1893, p.1:**



## A FAITHFUL SLAVE.

Death of Lewis McHenry, One of the City's Best Known Colored Men.  
He Was the Devoted Body Servant of the Late Col. John H. McHenry.

Lewis McHenry, a well-known colored man, died yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock at his home, 702 Hathaway street, of consumption. He was the devoted slave and body servant of the late Col. John H. McHenry, and went with him during the war. During all those dark days Lewis was in constant attendance on his every want. After the war and up to the time of his fatal illness he was the man-of-all-work for the McHenry family. His faithful attention and devotion to their interests was a matter of common remark. Lewis was a privileged character about town and quite a wag in his way. Everybody knew him and no harm was ever said of him.

The funeral will take place this afternoon from his late residence and the remains will be interred in the McHenry family lot in Elmwood. All friends are invited.

[Col. John Hardin McHenry (1832-1893) raised and commanded the 17th Infantry of Union Army during the Civil War. He took issue with Lincoln's proclamation on slavery that resulted in his dismissal from the service. The Daviess County, KY 1860 census slave schedule recorded that he owned one slave – a male age 19; the same record listed that his father, John Hardin McHenry, Sr. was the owner of 16 slaves.

In the 1880 census of Owensboro, Lewis McFarland, is listed. He was reported to be – black, age 72, born KY, parents born North Carolina, farmer. His wife was Martha, and his children were Robert M., George M., Rush, Adaline and Mattie.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 7 June 1903, p.9:**

### Negro Buried With Pomp.

Hawesville, Ky., June 6. – Elias Miller, a negro, nearly 100 years old, died near here, and was buried with great pomp by the negroes from all over the surrounding country. Many years ago Miller killed a white man while attempting to escape from slavery. Later he killed a negro.

[Elias Miller, black, age 60, born KY appears in the 1880 census of Hancock County, KY (Hawesville District). Four of his children were listed with him – Charlotte, 18; Luetta, 16; Elias, 13; and Martin, 9.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 27 September 1894, p.1:**

### FOUND DEAD IN BED

An Old Negress Dies of hemmorrhage at the Poor House.

"Aunt Ain" Mobberly, an old colored woman, formerly a slave of the Mobberly family, died Monday night at the county poor farm. She was found lying dead in her room, with blood

about her face and the bed clothing saturated with blood. This gave rise to the suspicion that she had been murdered and those about the place were afraid to make an examination or disturb the body. Dr. Daniels was summoned and pronounced her death to have been caused by hemorrhage of the lungs. There were no marks or bruises about her person and nothing to base the theory of murder on except the blood. She was an innocent, harmless, old creature and had been in the poor-house for several years.

[William Peyton Mobberly (1811-1872) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule is recorded as being the owner of 4 slaves. He lived along the Masonville-Habit Road about one mile northeast of Masonville.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 13 July 1902, p.5:**

**Old and Blind**

Isaiah Moorman, Colored, Going Back to Hawesville

Isaiah Moorman, an old colored man, now seventy-one years old, was on the streets of Owensboro Saturday soliciting aid. He is blind as the result of disease of the optic nerve. He was born a slave to the late White Moorman, of Breckenridge county, in 1831. His master died during the war and then Mrs. Lucretia Moorman owned him. For twenty years after the war Isaiah was the most industrious and the best behaved negro in Hawesville, where he worked most faithfully and skillfully at the stone mason's trade. Then he went to Evansville for more and higher class work, but lost his sight. He is now hoping that he may get back to his old home near Hardinsburg, where he may, as he said to the writer, lay his bones beside those of his father, who is buried there.

[Isaiah Moorman records suggest was born during 1830-1835 in Breckinridge County, KY. In the Civil War draft registrations made during 1863-1865 Isiah Moorman was registered in Breckinridge County, KY; in this record under his slave master, William W. Moorman, three blacks were listed – Isiah Moorman (age 30), Joel Moorman (27) and Richard Moorman (23). His master, William White Moorman (1803-1864) is listed in the 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses of Breckinridge County; his widow was Lucretia Webb Moorman (1819-1903). The 1860 Breckinridge County, KY Slave Schedule records that W. W. Moorman was the owner of 16 slaves; one of these was a 25-year-old male who possibly was Isaiah Moorman. William White Moorman's will written on 21 April 1864 refers to "my slaves" but does not name them.

Isaiah Moorman married Margaret Board about 1860. He is listed as a resident of Hawesville, Hancock County, KY at the time of the 1880 census. His entry reported that he was black, 50 years old, born KY, parents born Virginia, stone cutter, married. In his home were his wife, Margaret (40 born KY) and children: Bell (17), George Ann (16), Florence (15), Henry (12), Ada (9), James (6) & Sallie (1); all were born KY. When he voted in 1886 he was a resident of Hancock County, KY. Isaiah appears in the 1900 census of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, IN. In this census it was entered that he was born in January 1839 in KY, parents born VA, no occupation was given; he was married 40 years to Margaret (born August 1842 KY, she was the mother of 9 children, 3 of whom were then deceased. Still living at home were two children: Henry (July 1869 KY) and Lena (August 1882 KY).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 12 December 1914, p.8:**

**"UNCLE DICK" MUNDY FOUND DEAD AT MACEO**

"Uncle Dick" Mundy, one of the oldest and best known negroes in Owensboro, was found dead near the L., H. and St. L. railroad tracks about a mile east of Maceo early yesterday morning. His death was not attributed to any unnatural causes, as an examination of his body failed to reveal any marks which would indicate that he had met with foul play. The aged negro had been subject to "spells," and the supposition is that he wandered along until he dropped from exhaustion. His body was brought to Owensboro yesterday afternoon and prepared for burial. "Uncle Dick" was a slave to Peter Brashear, deceased. His faithfulness won him a home with the younger generation of the family, and he was always taken care of.

["Dick" appears to be a nickname for Henry Mundy. His name is entered as Henry Mundy on his death certificate. His death certificate recorded that he – died on 11 December 1914 in Daviess County, KY, born 25 December 1850 Breckinridge County, KY, son of Willis Mundy, married, buried Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY and the informant was Dealia Mundy. Henry Munday married Delia Johnson in Daviess County, KY on 8 June 1899. Henry & Delia Mundy appear in the 1900 and 1910 censuses of Owensboro, KY. In 1900 he was reported to have been born in 1845 and in 1910 he was reported to have been married twice. Delia in 1900 was reported to have been born in 1866 and in 1910 it was reported that she had been married twice and was the mother of 7 children, none of whom were then living.

Peter C. Brashear (1801-1867) resided at Stephensport in Breckinridge County, KY. The Breckinridge County, KY 1860 census slave schedule records that he was the owner of 8 slaves.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 12 February 1901, p.5:**

**FORREST'S BODY SERVANT.**

An Interesting Colored Character at Henderson.

Uncle Tom Nelson, colored, who lives on Adams street, is worthy of note from the fact that he was a body servant of Gen. Forrest, and served the noted general during the eventful four years of the civil war. Uncle Tom was born in Henderson and according to his own reckoning he is about seventy-six years of age. Just before the war, while he belonged to the Dr. Charles M. Allen estate, he was taken South and sold, thereby being separated from his then young wife. Gen. Forrest was his purchaser and become Uncle Tom's master. During the war Tom remained always at his master's side and was very fond of Gen. Forrest, who in turn appreciated his servant and was kind to him.

An amusing anecdote is told by him. He says that, during the war he was cooking a hoe cake for his master, when, upon turning his back, the half-done torn cake disappeared. When asked who stole the hoe cake, he answered, "Mr. Bill Yancy done got dat cake."

The old confederates of the city, who expect to attend the reunion at Memphis next May will try to arrange to carry Uncle Torn with them. The old man is looking forward to the trip with high anticipations. – Henderson Journal.

[Thomas Nelson is listed in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses of Henderson County, KY. The 1870 census lists Tom Nelson – age 50, born KY, black, farmer (Corydon Precinct). He married Amanda Powell by 1864. ]



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 18 January 1907, p.1:**

**Aunt Julia Newton Dead.**

“Aunt” Julia Newton a highly respected negro woman of the “old school,” died at her home near Pleasant Ridge on the 9th inst. in the seventy ninth year of her age During the days slavery she belonged to the family of the late Wm. C. Rowan and although in common with all her race, her freedom was vouchsafed by the terms of Lincoln’s, she was loath to exercise it on account of the ties of love existing between her and the members of her late masters family. So to speak she was a mother to Mrs. Abbie Ford of this place, Mrs. Fords mother having died when she was only a few days old, and “Aunt” Julia then assumed the duties incumbent upon her as the “black mamma” of the family.

“Aunt” Julia was constantly the recipient of tender care and attention at the hands of those she loved and had served so well to the last. To the writer this sort of thing is indeed a beautiful sentiment.

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**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 10 January 1907, p.1:**

**Aged Colored Woman Dies.**

Aunt Julia Newton, a respected colored woman of the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood, died at her home Tuesday after a paralytic stroke. She was eightyeight years of age and was known by many families of McLean and Daviess counties. Her remains were buried at Pleasant Ridge yesterday.

[William Cooper Rowan (1792-1879) in the 1850 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule was reported as being the owner of 21 slaves.

Julia A. Rowan was born c1827 in Kentucky. She married Benjamin Newton, who was born c1825 KY. After Emancipation they registered their marriage in Ohio County, KY on 24 August 1866; they testified that they had been living together as husband and wife for 13 years. Julia & Benjamin are listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Ohio County, KY. They were living near Buford. In 1870 her household appeared only two residences after her former owner, William C. Rowan. Her home was recorded as – Ben Newton (45, KY, works on farm); Julia A. Newton (43, KY); Benjamin Newton (19, KY, works on farm); and Mathew D. Newton (6, KY). In 1880 also living with Benjamin & Julia, and sons, was Judy Newton (“mother”, age 77, born KY). In 1900 Julia Newton (born May 1830) was living in the home of her son, Matthew Newton (1863-1950), in Daviess County, KY.

Benjamin Newton, "of Daviess County, KY" on 21 May 1896 drafted his final will and it was recorded on 20 December 1897 in Daviess County, KY will book E (pp.40-41). He devised to his wife, Julia, the farm they were living on. In his will he named three sons, Benjamin & Matthew Newton and Lewis Rowan.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 20 April 1907, p.2:**

**A Former Slave Dies.**

Aunt Lizzie Patterson, an aged negress of Owensboro, died yesterday morning after a brief illness. Aunt Lizzie was known by many people and was a slave before the war. She had worked in many families around town. She was about seventy-five years old.

[Lizzie Patterson was not identified in the Daviess County, KY census records.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 18 September 1918, p.1:**

**WOOD PHIPPS DEAD.**

Woodford Phipps one of Hartford's most respected colored citizens died at his residence last Friday morning about 4 o'clock, of trouble incident to old age, he having passed his 88th birthday. His remains were interred in the Hayti cemetery. "Uncle Wood" as he was familiarly known, had been living in Hartford for 80 years having been brought here when 8 years old. He had been a member of the Baptist church for a half century. He is survived by two sons, Dr. Gordon Phipps, of Texas and George B. Phipps, of Hartford, his wife, who was in her 91st year preceded him two years.

**Fogle's Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky, McDowell A. Fogle, Ohio County Historical Society, Hartford, KY, 1981, p.113:**

In his [Washington Phipps] home on Walnut street the local financier lived and also for many years transacted his banking business, frequently keeping, it is said, large sums of money in an old iron safe in his bedroom with practically no protection except himself and his Negro slaves living on the place. His house servants were a colored couple, Woodford and Caroline, who kept house for him in ante-bellum days and then continued to look after the wants of "old marster" after emancipation. In his latter years he built for the couple a home further down Walnut street toward "Muddy bottoms", where he then went for his meals as long as his advancing years permitted. A portion of this structure is part of the residence now owned by Isaac Poole, Jr., and occupied by him and his family.

Part Negro, part Cherokee Indian, she said, "Aunt Caroline" was, when I knew her, as the old saying goes, a "likely looking colored woman", and probably in youth striking. The romantic unconventionality of Mr. Phipps' domestic menage was common knowledge during his lifetime and his belief in his paternity of his housekeeper's son, Luther, resulted, it is said, in his financing

of the youth's medical education and later in life the conveyance to him of a sizable portion of his estate. And then in his will, he bequeathed to "Uncle" Wood, "Aunt" Caroline, Luther and three of the latter's brothers, \$500 each.

Luther, a handsome man, reminding one of a South European, obtained a good education, studied medicine and practiced in Chicago until his death some 25 years ago. His children and wife were educated and cultured, one of the daughters studying art or music in Paris. But they were always considerate and devoted to "Aunt" Caroline and her husband, "Uncle Wood", as well as respectful to their white friends, frequently visiting here until their own marital difficulties and the death of the old folks ended the trips.

[The 1900 census reported that Woodford Phipps was born in August 1833 in Kentucky. Woodford "Wood" Phipps had been a slave of Washington Phipps (1805-1885), of Hartford. The 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule records that Washington Phipps was the owner of 9 slaves. Woodford Phipps about 1854 married Caroline McFarland. Woodford & Caroline are listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses of Hartford, Ohio County, KY. He was a blacksmith. In 1870 Woodford and his family were living at the residence of Washington Phipps.

The obituary of Washington Phipps said he was the wealthiest man in Ohio County and noted – "Uncle Wash was never married, and spent the latter years of his life with his nephews, William and John R. for whom he had great respect, passing his nights at his old home on Walnut street, in Hartford, guarded and protected by the kind hands of the family of Wood Phipps, who had been his former slaves, and all whom were faithful to him unto death, and worthy of his confidence and esteem (Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 5 August 1885, p3). By his will Washington Phipps left \$500 each to Woodford Phipps, his wife Caroline, and their children – Judson W., George Buell, Gordon and Luther Phipps (Ohio County, KY Will Book D, p.218).

Woodford Phipps was a deacon of the Hartford Baptist Church. His wife, Caroline, died on 28 November 1916 at her home on Walnut Street in Hartford, KY; her death certificate reports that she was born 15 February 1826 in Ohio County, KY and her mother was Hannah Petticord. Woodford Phipps died 13 September 1918 in Hartford, KY. His death certificate gives his mother's name as Lydia Nall. He and his wife were buried at the Hayti Cemetery in Hartford. The 1910 census recorded that Caroline was the mother of 5 children, 2 of whom were then deceased. Their children included – Luther Hansford (1857-1957, dentist), Gordon (1859-1918, doctor), George Buell (1861-1924) and Woodford Judson (1863-1896). The death certificate of their son, George, lists his parents as Wood Phipps & Caroline McFarland.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 22 June 1904, p.3:**

**AUNT TINA QUEEN DEAD.**

She Was a Good, Old-Time Negro, Honest. Industrious and Religious.

Aunt Tina Queen was buried from Stephens church on Tuesday. She died the night before, aged about sixty-eight years. The Interment was in the Catholic cemetery. She was an old-time negro of the best type, honest, humble and industrious. She was well known in the city. One gentleman in speaking very eulogistically of her said he did not doubt that she had washed or done other work for half the families in the city. An old-time negro who knew her well said he doubted whether she missed a single week in twenty-five years from the washtub. Washing and ironing

was her special work. She belonged to the Queen family in the latter days of slavery. She was a Catholic and a most devout and attentive one according to the statements of those who knew her best in her church relations.

[Tina Queen was born about 1855 in Kentucky. In the 1870 Daviess County, KY census Tina was reported to be 15. She was then living at home with her parents, William Queen (age 52, born KY, farm hand) and Harriett (age 50, born VA). Her siblings were listed as Julia, Emaline, John, Nancy, David and Fanny. In the 1880 census of Daviess County, KY Tina Queen was reported to be 24 years old born KY and her occupation was listed as washes; she was living alone. Tenie Queen on 2 November 1882 in Daviess County, KY married John Rudd. In the 1900 census of Owensboro Tena Rudd, born April 1860, a wash woman, is listed as being widowed. After being emancipated William & Harriett Queen on 14 June 1866 in Daviess County, KY registered that they had been living together as husband & wife.

In the 1860 census slave schedule for Daviess County, KY Louis M. and L. R. Queen each were recorded as owning 2 slaves.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 18 June 1950, p.1B:**

**Days of Slavery, Slave Auctions In Owensboro  
Told By Woman, 107, Who Remembers When**



Aunt Eliza Roberts & daughter, Ann Roberts

Vague though they may be, memories of the days during which slaves were sold on the auction block in Owensboro are held in the mind of Aunt Eliza Roberts, 107-year-old resident of Grandview, Ind., and herself a former slave in Owensboro.

Now bedridden. Aunt Eliza has forgotten many of the happenings of her slave days, but she still remembers the Tom Pointer family, which she says owned her in Owensboro, and she still remembers how she met her husband, Stewart Roberts, while he also was a slave in Owensboro.

"Owensboro wasn't much of a town in those days, was it, Aunt Eliza?" and now-sightless old woman who was born Nov. 15, 1842. and who has outlived all but three of the 11 children

born to her and to Stewart Roberts, was asked by a reporter who is proud of the Owensboro of today.

"Yes, it was a right smart of a town," is the way she remembers it.

Holding up a feeble right hand, Aunt Eliza mimicked the Owensboro slave auctioneers as she remembers them.

"How much am I offered? How much am I offered?" she said they would cry.

No, she was never sold insofar as she remembers, but she saw other slaves sold.

She and her brothers and sisters were "hired out," however, and it was only on such occasions that "I wasn't treated good and kind."

"I can remember just one family that wasn't good to me," she relates. "But when they wasn't good to us Mr. Pointer wouldn't let us stay. He would take us back home again, even if we was supposed to hired out by the year."

It was through an unidentified descendant of Tom Pointer that Aunt Eliza learned her true age. About 20 years ago she was sent a family Bible containing the record, but it has been misplaced in the house in which she, her eldest daughter, 81-year-old Anna Roberts, and a granddaughter, Georgia Orendorff, reside. Anna was born at Grandview in 1869, a short time after Aunt Eliza moved to Grandview. That, of course, was in the days after slavery had been abolished.

When Aunt Eliza became old enough to work, she was assigned to the task of being nurse girl for the Pointers, she says. Her mother. Aunt Marsha, was cook for the family. She also remembers when slaves were freed and when Abraham Lincoln was shot. In addition, she can recall, with the help of her granddaughter, the days at Grandview when there were wild turkeys and Indians, and when plowing was done with oxen.

Aunt Eliza is spry enough to feed herself and to eat anything she wants with her "store teeth," but her condition demands that she remain in bed most of the time. Eighty-one-year-old Anna and Granddaughter Georgia wait on her, and there are times at which another daughter. Susie Robinson, who also lives at Grandview, helps. Her only living son is Stewart Roberts, who resides at Lincoln, Ill.

"I know you have to be careful about how you live this life," the little woman says, and she should know. Eight more years than a century prove that.

[In 1860 Thomas H. Pointer (born c1815 VA) was a resident of Owensboro, KY. The 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule reported that he owned 15 slaves. Eliza Roberts is listed in the 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 and 1950 censuses of Spencer County, IN. She is identified as Eliza Hagan on the death certificates of several of her children. She married Stewart Roberts about 1869. Stewart Roberts was a Union soldier during the Civil War. He and Eliza divorced during 1900-1910. He died on 7 February 1925 at Grandview, IN, where he was buried in the Grandview Cemetery. His death certificate gave his birth as 15 September 1844 in KY and his father as Gurly Hathaway.

The 1900 census reports that Eliza and Stewart Roberts had been married 31 years and she was the mother of 11 children, 9 of whom were then living. She was the mother of – Anna Roberta, Stewart, Jr., Albert Porter, Susie (Robinson), Adda, James, Elizabeth (Derrette), Mary, Benjamin and George. Eliza Roberts died at Grandview, Spencer County, IN on 7 September 1951 and was buried at the Grandview Cemetery. Her death certificate recorded her parents as Benjamin & Marcia Hagan.]





**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 16 May 1901, p.1:**

**Remembers the Author of "Old Kentucky Home."**

Bardstown, May 15. – One of the most notable characters of Bardstown is "Uncle Mack" Rowan, an aged colored man who is very near the , century mark. "Uncle Mack" was the property of Judge John Rowan, a man of national distinction, and was born and reared at "Federal Hill," near here.

He remembers Judge Rowan well and claims to have witnessed the duel between the latter and Dr. Chambers. He was also present when the duel between John Rowan, Jr., and Hon. Tom Marshall was fought, and assisted in carrying Marshall from the field, after he was shot in the hip by young Rowan. He has a distinct remembrance of Henry Clay as a visitor to "Federal Hill," and can give a very good description of the "Great Commoner," as he appeared at that time. Among other celebrities who visited the Rowan homestead, and whom "Uncle Mack" remembers, were Stephen Collins Foster and his sister. The former composed and wrote the famous song, "My Old Kentucky Home," while a guest at "Federal Hill."

"Uncle Mack" was a trusted servant; and, although he was seriously handicapped by deformed feet, he was active and performed his duties satisfactorily. For years he earned a living as a shoe cobbler, and notwithstanding his great age and failing eyesight he was, until a short time ago, quite an expert at his trade. In politics "Uncle Mack" is an uncompromising Democrat, and has always given his warm support to the nominees of his party.

[John Rowan (1773-1843), jurist and congressman, settled in Bardstown, KY in 1790. Mack Rowan is listed in the 1870 census of Nelson County, KY. He was reported to be 50 years old, born KY, occupation was shoe maker; and with him was Emma Rowan, age 32.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 17 March 1880, p.3:**

Richard Rucker, of color, an old and time-worn citizen, died at his home in this place last Monday morning. Uncle Dick's age is not definitely known, but the oldest citizens of town place it at 85 to 90 years. He was an industrious, energetic man – having bought his freedom many years previous to the war.

**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 27 November 1895, p.3:**

Mrs. Ann Rucker, of color, died in Hayti Monday night. She was the oldest negro in the county and perhaps in the State, having attained the advanced age, it is said, of 104 years.

[Richard Rucker in 1860 was a free man. He is listed in the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Hartford, Ohio County, KY. In 1860 he was reported to be 58, born in Virginia, and was residing in the home of Dr. Samuel O. Peyton. In 1870 his age was given as 65; with him was Ann Rucker, age 61, born KY. The 1880 Ohio County, KY 1880 census mortality schedule records that Richard

Rucker died of pneumonia in February 1880; he was 85, born Virginia, married, gardener, resident of the county 65 years. His widow, Ann, at the time of the 1880 census of Ohio County, KY, was living with a son, James Rucker (age 30). Richard & Ann and their son, James Rucker, were buried in the Hayti Cemetery in Hartford. James Rucker served in the Union Army during the Civil War 118th Colored Infantry).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 January 1899, p.2:**

**OLD SLAVE DIES.**

His Death Recalls a Romance  
of Real Life Worth Relating.

"Uncle Jim" Scott, the well known colored character about town, died Wednesday morning of old age, says the Hawesville Clarion. He was eighty-four years old and was known far and near as one of the most polite old darkies in this whole section.

His death recalls a romance growing out of the unsettled marital relations existing between colored people during slavery. While a slave and in early manhood he was married to the wife who now survives him. They were sold and sent to different sections of the country and were lost to one another for over, fifty years. In that time each had married and buried an other partner. Four years ago, brought to light in his endeavor to secure a pension, he learned of the existence of the wife of his young manhood in Louisville. A reunion followed, the pension secured and the old couple lived happily together until the sad event of his death.

**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 January 1899, p.4:**

**A SLAVE'S ROMANCE**

Death of an Old Negro Recalls an Interesting Story

Jim Scott, a negro who was 84 years old, died at Hawesville Wednesday. He was married before the war to woman who was the property of neighbor. Her owner sold the wife "down South," and her husband heard nothing of her for 40 years. He served in the war, and four or five years ago applied for a pension. In some way this brought his wife into notice, and he found her in Louisville. The couple were reunited, and they lived happily until the old man's death, the pension which he seemed being enough for them to live on.

[Note: James Scott, born c1814 KY, is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Hancock County, KY. His wife was listed as Celia, born c1817 KY. They had sons – Alfred & James.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 15 August 1900, p.3:**

**AN OLD WILL**

**CONSULTED TO LEARN AN OLD NEGRO'S AGE.**

He Was to Get His Freedom When He Was Thirty-seven, and Declined Emancipation.

Geo. Shauntee, an old slave negro, was in the city yesterday endeavoring to discover his exact age from the will of the late John Shauntee, a well-to-do farmer who resided in the Thruston neighborhood.

The will was found on record in the county clerk's office. It was written June 27, 1841, and provided that Geo. Shauntee, a slave boy owned at that time by the testator, should have his freedom at the age of 37 years. Mr. Shauntee died in July after making his will in June.

The emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln gave "Uncle George," as he is now familiarly known by many Daviess county people, his freedom one year before he received it by the provisions of his master's will, but when all the other slaves of his master quit, "Uncle George" refused to go. He said that his freedom did not come till he was thirty-seven years and he would remain with "ole massa's" widow till the will set him free, and this he faithfully did, never considering, that President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation made him a free man. This proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863. According to this, Shauntee must now be past seventy-three years of age.

"Uncle George" is very anxious to learn the exact date of his birth, and knew of no document that would probably furnish him the desired information except his old master's will, and he was very much disappointed to learn that the date of his birth was nowhere mentioned in that document

"Uncle George" has been an honorable and upright negro all his life, and has prospered since he attained his freedom under his master's will. He owns a good farm, and is in easy circumstances.

[George Shauntee was born about 1827 in Kentucky. The 1840 census of Daviess County, KY lists John Shontee in the Yelvington neighborhood; he was reported to be the owner of four slaves – 2 males, one was aged 10-24, and 2 females. At the time of the 1830 census John was residing in Washington County, KY; he then owned 3 slaves – 1 male under 10 and two females aged 24-35. The will of John Shauntee recorded in Daviess County, KY in September 1841 referred to two of his slaves – Sophy was to be auctioned at the courthouse door on 1 January 1842 and “my mulatto boy George” was to be emancipated at the age of 37 (will book A-B, p.120). John’s widow, Mary Shauntee, in the 1850 Daviess County census slave schedule is shown as being the owner of 4 slaves – male age 23, male age 13, female age 11 and male age 8; the first listed is George Shauntee.



George Shauntee

George Shauntee married twice – Charlotte Weldon about 1850 and Peggy Taylor about 1870. George Shauntee after his liberation continued to live and farm in the Yelvington

neighborhood, where he is listed in the 1870, 1880 & 1900 censuses. In these three censuses he appears with his wife, Peggy. In the 1870 census his surname appears to be entered as Shanto or Shants. Children in his home in 1870 were – Lucinda, George, Nancy Ann, Sallie, Thomas, Julian, Henry and Rosella. In his home in 1880 were children – Sallie, George, Thomas, Julius, Abraham, Robert, Ben, Kitty, Randall and Stephen. In the 1880 & 1900 censuses George is listed under the surname of Conway. George Shauntee died about 1910. His sons, Thomas & Abe were appointed administrators of his estate in March 1910 (Owensboro Messenger, 13 March 1910, p.1B). George is probably buried at the Greene’s Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery near Yelvington; the cemetery is also referred to as the Shauntee or Yelvington Black Cemetery. George’s wife, Peggie C. Shountee (born 22 Sep 1840, died 19 Apr 1903) has a monument in the cemetery. Several family trees on Ancestry.com have pictures of George & Peggy Shauntee.]



**History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State  
Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1883, p.300:**

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.**

Collins's History of Kentucky says : " But two cases of hanging have occurred in the history of the [Daviess] county, a negro man for rape, in 1838, and Curtis Richardson, Nov. 1, 1854, for murder."

... The negro above referred to was a slave belonging to Mr. Shauntee. The scaffold from which he was hung was erected near where St. Stephen's (Catholic) Church now stands. He was executed by E. C. Jett, Sheriff. [note: Richard Cole Jett served as sheriff of Daviess County in 1838-1839. John Shauntee was the slave owner.]

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 7 February 1897, p.5:**

**LEGAL HANGINGS.**

**There Were Two In Daviess County Long Years Ago – An Early Lynching.**

It is an interesting fact not generally known that there have been but two legal hangings in the history of Daviess county. The first person legally hanged in the county was a negro. The exact date of the hanging is not known, but it was in the year 1842, and the execution took place in the vicinity of Snow Hill. The negro had attempted to rape a young white woman, but was frightened away before he could accomplish his purpose. He fled, but hounds were put on his track and he was found sitting on the river bank, near what is now the foot of Clay street. He was tried and hanged with but little delay.



**Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 12 May 1899, p.2:**

**Colored Man Dead.**

Echols, May 8. – Please allowed me space in your valuable paper to mention the death of George Schultz, colored, who was 77 years old and for 42 years a member of the missionary Baptist church. Died May 3rd. Died as he lived, a christian, To the family we tender our condolence and trust that we all may bow with humble heart to the will of him that doeth all things well. C. L. Bailey.

**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 11 August 1991, p.1C:**

To hold stock in this company, you have to be part of the family

By Tanya Bricking, Messenger-Inquirer

Jessie Maye Finley kept photographs and articles tucked in large manilla envelopes under her chair at a banquet table Saturday night.

In her light blueish-green, sequined dress, the 85-year-old sat quietly at her table - until anyone gave her a chance to talk about her favorite subject: her family history.

The rest of the family listens to Finley. She's a pretty important person.

She started the organization that's made her family's reunions seem more like conventions.

In 1968, Finley established George Schultz and "His," Inc.

She and four others traced their roots back to Schultz and decided to set up an organization that would give them the benefits of tax deductions and a scholarship fund for their children.

All 11 branches of the family are asked to donate \$200 every two years for the fund. College-age family members fill out applications and are given money on an equal basis. Thirteen students each received \$100 last year.

"It doesn't amount to much right now," family president Ernestine McCullough said. "They're love tokens, but they help." For \$10 per year, any Schultz household can join the group.

And once nearly every other year the family chooses a city to meet in for a weekend.

This year they're staying at the Executive Inn Rivermont, but their activities extend from Friday's trip to Holiday World Amusement Park to a jaunt to the races at Ellis Park, a fish fry and hayride at Diamond Lake Resort, and an excursion to Schultztown.

Finley said she "realized many years ago that we needed to do something about getting the family together." "I said George Schultz and 'His' so we wouldn't leave anybody out. We're just about now getting all the 'his'es in there." Schultz was born sometime around 1850. Family history says he was a slave who was thrifty enough to buy a 280-acre farm that still stands in Schultztown, near Beaver Dam. He had children by two marriages and died in 1899.

Finley is third-generation Schultz.

A blue-and-white baby stroller in the reception hall gives evidence to the family's seventh generation.

The daughter of a coal miner, Finley came from an Ohio County family where she was taught she could "be somebody." She ended up in Illinois, where she worked for the state for 50 years, was widowed twice and continues to win awards for her contributions to her community.

But she tries to make her family her first priority.

"It's the greatest thing in the world," she said. "I wake up in the morning thinking 'What can I do for my family?' And that's my life. And that's how most of my family is, too." Family historian Charlotte Johnson said to her the reunion doesn't seem elaborate.

For her, it seems regular even with its name tags, officers, bylaws, telephone list, membership booklet and even the reunion site-selection committee.

And it wasn't too much trouble for her to fill the hotel's Missouri Room with displays. She spread a family tree across three long banquet tables and lined the wall with a version for people to update.

McCullough, of Los Angeles, said Johnson's whole basement is filled with memorabilia.

Johnson said her husband doesn't mind.

"Sometimes he gets upset when I take over his pool table, you know - for three or four months at a time," she said. "But I don't smoke. I don't drink. I've only got two kids. So, hey, I've got to have some vice." Finley said she hopes the tradition will continue.

"You know, so many people work on their careers and with organizations, and they actually think they're not supposed to do all that for their families," she said. "But I think we can have a family organization and do that all for our families.

"Not many people have anything like that."

[George Shultz is listed in the 1870 and 1880 Ohio County, KY censuses. He was born during the 1820's. His wife was Julia Ann Hocker, born c1833 KY. His children included – Laura E., Willis H., Lonzo Buel, James Sherman, Riley C., Salona Ann, Cora, Dilla C., Sophrona, Carl Brister and Kiah O. George's widow, July Shultz, in the 1900 Ohio County, KY census was reported to have been born in December 1833KY, widowed and was the mother of 11 children, 4 of whom were then deceased.

In the 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule Joseph, Mathias, Nathaniel, Thomas and Williams Shultz were listed as being slave owners.]



George & Julia Ann (Hocker) Shultz



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 22 August 1901, p.4:**

### An Old Negro Man Dead.

"Uncle" David Simmons, an old colored man who has lived here nearly all of his life, died Wednesday and was buried this morning. He was once owned by Dr. J. Hale, and was 90 years of age. He had been a member of the U. B. F. lodge for over thirty years, and the lodge has paid his dues for the past ten years. His principal occupation was to cut the grass in yards about the city, and he used the same cradle forty-five years.

[David Simmons married Ann Brown on 19 January 1867 in Daviess County, KY. David Simmons (55, born KY) and wife, Annie (48, born KY) are listed in the 1880 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. In the 1900 census of Owensboro David Simmons, born March 1819, is reported to be widowed. Dave Simmons on several occasions received funds from the county for grading and caring for the courthouse lawn.

Dr. Josiah Hale (1829-1905) during the 1860's moved to Owensboro, Daviess County, KY from his native county Ohio County, KY.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 26 April 1899, p.8:**

THE DEATH RECORD.

Austin Speaks, seventy-two years of age, died at his home near Macedonia yesterday morning of pneumonia. The funeral will occur this morning at 10 o'clock from the Catholic church at Knottsville, the interment being in the church cemetery.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 28 April 1899, p.3:**

Knottsville, Ky., April 27 – Austin Speaks, a very old relic of slavery days, was buried here yesterday, the first colored person in St. Williams cemetery.

[Austin Speaks appears in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Daviess County, KY. In 1870 he was reported to be 37, born KY and his wife was Teany (22, born KY). In 1880 he was reported to be 59 and his wife was Mary (34, born KY). His children were – Henry, John Albert, Laura, Ellen, Charles and Mary. On the death certificate of his daughter, Laura Valentine, her parents were given as Austin Speaks & Tiny Bell.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 21 October 1933, p.8:**

Frederick Starks, Former Slave, Is Taken By Death

Frederick Starks, an aged and respected negro, died at 3:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the home of his brother, Oscar Starks, on the Veach road, of infirmities incident to advanced age. He was a slave of the late Sidney Yewell and spent most of his life on the farm of Dr. A. S. Yewell. He is survived by two sisters, Molly Edwards and Jennie Glenn, and two brothers, Howard and Oscar Starks.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the Asbury Methodist church, Fifteenth and Moseley streets. Burial will be in Greenwood cemetery.

[Frederick Starks, born about 1854, was the son of Essex Starks & Anna Pope (or Yewell). Fred Starks, age 16, born KY, in the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY was living in the home of Jack & Sarah (Pope) McFarland. Fred's mother, Anna, married second William Henry McFarland, 11 April 1868, at the residence of Mary Yewell in Daviess County, KY. William & Ann McFarland are listed in the 1880 census of Daviess County. Ann's children by her Starks

marriage are listed as McFarland – Mary Starks (‘Molly’, 1860-1946, married William Henry Edward in 1882), Oscar Starks (c1862-1939) & Amie Starks. Ann & William McFarland’s children included – Ada (c1868- , married John Bullett in 1888), Howard (1871-1950), Virginia (1873-1941, married William H. Glenn in 1898) and Sarah (c1877- ). Frederick Starks is listed in the 1900 census of Daviess County, KY and 1910 census of Spencer County, IN; he was single.

Algernon Sidney Yewell (1825-1893) in the 1860 Daviess County, KY census slave schedule was reported as being the owner of 6 slaves.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 13 August 1909, p.3:**

**Hancock County**

Henry Sterett, colored, of New Albany, Ind., spent Monday in Hawesville. Sterett is one of three living ex-slaves of the sixty owned by Wm Sterett, a citizen of Hawesville, who died in the '70s. Henry Sterett is a very much respected negro, and has been in the employment of the government as janitor of the custom house at New Albany since he was freed by the great Civil war. He had not been in Hawesville in twenty years. – Hawesville Clarion.

[Note: William Sterett (1803-1872) in the 1850 Hancock County Slave schedule was listed as being the owner of 29 slaves and in the 1860 Hancock County Slave Schedule as the owner of 31 slaves. William was born in 1803 and died in 1872; he was buried in the Sterett Cemetery in Hancock County, KY. Henry Sterett, born c1833 KY, is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses of New Albany, Floyd County, IN. In 1920 he was employed as the janitor at the New Albany city hall. About 1858 Henry Sterett married Margaret Helms (c1835-1920). Henry died on 10 November 1922 in New Albany, where he was buried in the New Haven (Colored) Cemetery.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 17 May 1882, p.2:**

Died, at the residence of William Baltzell, near Hartford, May 8th, 1882, Newton Stevens, colored, aged about eighty years. In the time of slavery he belonged first to the Monroe family, but afterwards was sold to John Stevens, now deceased, lie was an honest, industrious man.

[Newton Stevens married Martha Cook in Ohio County, KY on 25 January 1868. He was also known as Nute Stevens. In the 1870 Ohio County census Newton was reported to be 73, born KY, farmer, and living with him were Martha (44 KY), Marshall (6 KY) and Bidly Stevens (83 VA). In the 1880 Ohio County census Newton Stevens is listed as 75 and with him was his wife, Martha (40,) and Marshall Stevens (17 KY).

In the 1850 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule Andrew Ball Monroe (1794-1862) is listed as the owner of 8 slaves and two John Stevens were reported to be slave owners.]





**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 29 January 1900, p.1:**

The Husband Came Back

Leitchfield, Ky., Jan. 29. Back in 1864 Tom Storms, of Goldsbury, a slave, was sold and taken south, his wife remaining here. After the war was over nothing was heard from him, and his wife married another negro named Bill Woodson, and she still lives with him in the upper end of the county. It is now reported that some days ago old man Tom Storms returned to Grayson and the aged woman now has two husbands. The first husband having been sold away from her, the case presents a complicated feature and some difficulty may arise as to which matrimonial knot is not a knot.

[The wife of Tom Storms was Tillie Ann (Higdon) Woodson. By 1870 she was the wife of William Woodson (c1839-1917). The 1870, 1880, 1900 & 1910 Grayson County, KY censuses suggest she was born during 1820-1830. She died in Grayson County on 8 September 1913. Her death certificate reported that she was born in Grayson County and was the daughter of William & Ellen Higdon. Her husband, William Woodson, was the informant on her death certificate. She and William Woodson were buried at the St. Augustine Cemetery at Clarkson in Grayson County. Early settlers of Grayson county included the white families of Peter, John and William Storms. At the time of the 1870 census Tillie Woodson was residing near several white Storms.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 20 January 1926, p.5:**

Former Slave 107, Lives In Hawesville

Hawesville, Ky., Jan. 19 – "Aunt Mary" Stours [sic], colored resident of this city, is probably the oldest citizen in Kentucky if dates she has and those in possession of descendants of her former owners be correct. She says that she was born in 1818 in what is now Trimble county. Her mother belonging to a family by the name of Barr; that she was later owned by Mrs. Robb, who was a descendant of John Barr. Her daughter is 76 years old. She is remarkably spry and her hearing is good. Her mind is active and she talks freely of things that happened long before the Civil war.

**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 24 January 1926, p.3:**

Hawesville, Ky., Jan. 23 – Aunt Mary Stours [sic], aged negro woman of this locality is entering upon her one hundredth and eighth year. Although she has lost most of her sight, her hearing and memory are remarkably good. "Aunt Mary" says her birth was in 1818.

[Mary Stowers died on 23 March 1926 in Hawesville, Hancock County, KY. Her death certificate gave her age as 107. Like many blacks her age was exaggerated. The 1880 census suggests she was born about 1832; if correct she would have been about 94 when she died. She was the wife of Frank Stowers (born c1835 KY), who died after 1880. Frank & Mary Stowers are listed in the 1880 census of Hancock County, KY; they resided in the neighborhood near Lewisport. On records of her sons, Willie Stowers (1867-1943) & Noah Stowers (1868-1947) their parents were entered as Frank Stowers & Mary Gates and on the death certificate of her daughter,

Marietta Stowers (1876-1917), they were given as Frank Stowers & Mary Hopkins. Mary Stowers in listed in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. In the 1900 census it was reported that she was widowed and born in August 1839. The children of Frank & Mary Stowers living in 1880 were Willie, Noah, Thomas, Ella and Marietta.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 November 1903, p.3:**



Cal Thomas

**WELL KNOWN COLORED MAN.**

Cal Thomas, Proprietor of the Y. M. C. A. Barbershop.

Cal Thomas is one of the best known colored men in Owensboro. He is well known as the proprietor of the Y.M.C.A. barbershop, where he has been in business for some time. He is more particularly known as one of the very few negroes who vote and work for the Democratic party and its candidates at every election. Cal has been doing this for twenty-five years. His behavior is always consistent with his Democratic principles. He is ever polite and has many friends among the whites whom he is delighted to serve freely, faithfully and independently. He was born and reared at Hartford, in Ohio county, where he was a slave, but came to Owensboro in 1866, where he has resided ever since.

**Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 12 May 1876, p.5:**

East End Barber Shop.

Cal Thomas' barber shop, upper Main street, opposite Ford's drug store, is furnished with all the appliances necessary to the perfection of the shaving art. With good barbers, sharp razors, etc., a shave or shampoo is indeed a luxury. Cal. only charges 10 cents for a shave and does other work proportionately low.

**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 28 September 1932, p.10:**

**Cal Thomas, Democratic Colored Man, Is Dead**

Calvin Thomas, 86 years old, retired colored barber and veteran of the Union army, died of complications, Monday night at his residence at Seventh and Center streets. Cal Thomas was a staunch Democrat and was recently called on by Ex-Governor Beckham of Kentucky. He is

survived by his niece, Mamie Haynes. who had at tended him since the death of his wife last year. Funeral will be Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

[Calvin T. Thomas was born 20 June 1846 Ohio County, KY. His death certificate recorded his parents as Pleasant Walker & Emily Morton. The Owensboro Messenger of 16 July 1899 (p.5) noted that Anthony Walker, of Hartford, KY, was a half-brother of Cal Thomas, of Owensboro. The death certificate of Anthony Walker (c1847-1925) gives his parents as Pleasant & Chloe Walker, who were natives of Richmond, VA. Calvin Thomas (alias Calvin Morton) served in the Union Army during the Civil War (42nd US Colored Infantry). Calvin Thomas is listed in the 1870, 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses of Owensboro, KY. The 1870 census reported that he was age 23, was a barber, and was living with fellow barber, Clay Helm.

Calvin T. Thomas married Lydia Sanders in Daviess County, KY on 29 January 1874. Lydia Thomas died at her residence, 830 East Seventh Street in Owensboro on 28 June 1931 at the age of 85. Cal Thomas died at the same residence on 27 September 1932. Cal & Lydia were buried in section A of Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery, where he has a government monument. The 1910 census reported that Lydia was the mother of two children, one of whom was then deceased. Cal & Lydia Thomas' son, Albert C. Thomas, was a medical doctor.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 29 June 1915, p.4:**

"Aunt Tildy" Tillman, colored, died at Rockport, Ind., Sunday. She claimed to have been 112 years old, and papers which she had in her possession since she was a slave in Daviess county, Kentucky, proved her to be well over 100. She hart never had much sickness and died ns the result of a paralytic stroke. She attributed her long life to the use of her pipe and apple brandy.

[The death certificate of Matilda Tillman records that she died in Rockport, Spencer County, IN on 21 June 1915, she was about 112, was born in KY and was buried at Rockport, IN. She had a son, Porter Fields, who served in the Union army during the Civil War (23rd US Colored Infantry) and died at Rockport, IN on 13 July 1905. His death certificate recorded that he was 72, born KY and was the son of John M. Fields & Matilda Caster. Matilda Tilman is listed in the 1880 and 1900 and 1910 censuses of Rockport, Spencer County, IN. In 1880 she was listed as being 59, widowed, and born KY; she was living in the home of her son, Porter Fields (50, born KY). In 1900 she was living with son, Porter Fields; she was reported to have been born in August 1819.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 25 May 1895, p.1:**

Dead at 105 years.

The Rockport Journal says: "Anderson Tomason, colored, perhaps the oldest citizen of Indiana, died in this city last Saturday, at the advanced age of 105 years. Tomason was born in North Carolina, but removed to Daviess county, when about twelve years old, crossing the Alleghanies in a wagon. For 73 years he lived in slavery, his first master being Nelson Tomason.

Of his twelve children but one lived to see him buried. His endurance was remarkable, for until his last sickness he walked wherever he wished, but for several years he had been totally blind."

[Anderson Tomason was not located in the Spencer County, IN census records.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 2 September 1894, p.8:**

### The Last Slave Sold in Kentucky.

Dick Trent, said to have been the last slave sold in Kentucky, died at his home near Henderson Friday. He was last sold Sept. 21, 1863, the day before Lincoln issued his proclamation, and brought \$600. He was a highly respected old darkey.

[Dick Trent is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Henderson, Henderson County, KY. They suggest that he was born during 1809-1814 in Virginia. His wife was Jane, born c1820. His children included – Peggy, Susan, Ellen, Virginia, Emma and Peyton.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 28 November 1883, p.3:**

### Pleasant Thomas Walker.

Uncle Pleas. Walker, as he was commonly known, a colored citizen of our town and county, died at his residence in Hartford, on Thursday, the 22nd, after a brief illness, in the 73rd year of his age, having been born in 1810. Pleas, was born in Virginia and lived in the city of Richmond, the capitol of that State, until he was nearly grown, when he was brought to this State and county by Mr. Thomas, the father of our fellow-citizen, Mr. James A. Thomas. After the death of Mr. Thomas, Sr., he was sold as a slave and was bought by Mr. R. L. Walker, the father of our distinguished citizen, Hon. E. Dudley Walker, who, after the death of his father, became the owner and he was the property of the latter, until he was freed. We have known Pleas, from our earliest recollection and he had many distinguishing characteristics that marked him as a genius.

He possessed an ordinary education – could read and write with ease und facility – was intuitively and naturally a mechanic – possessing considerable ingenuity, tact and great fertility of resource in emergencies, and could come nearer making something out of nothing than any one we have ever known. He was Mormonistic in his notions and believed in plural wives and the result of his legitimate issue was twenty children.

Another characteristic about "Mos Pleasant" – as he was sometimes called was, that he was rarely ever known to get mad and was always smiling and pleasant and that too under the most unfavorable circumstances

The first recollection the writer ever had of music and serenading was by Pleas, and his band, which consisted of a fiddle, drum and triangle. This was grand music in the primitive days of old Hartford and this will refresh the recollection of many of the older citizens. For years upon top of years, at the first dawn of Christmas morning, Pleas. and his band would greet the inhabitants of the town and take the grands round – always, however – exacting to be treated – as was the each

and every place. For many long years in the past, Pleas, was the only musician that could be commanded about town, and in his palmy days was hard to beat on the violin. Time out of mind, when we were young and attending balls, when towards the "wee sma hours of the night," Pleas would fall asleep and we would have to wake him up in order to knock off the set or change the tune. He could play the fiddle us well asleep us he could awake and make as good music and keep as good time, which can be vouched for by many now living and who were engaged in those divertissements. Our old colored friend has taken his departure to that undiscovered country and that bourne from whence no traveler has yet returned to report good or bad tidings, and we hope his spirit is at rest. We will now "lay down the shovel und the hoe, and hung up the fiddle and the bow," for our poor old darkey friend we hope has gone where the good darkeys go. Requiescat in pace.

[Pleasant Thomas Walker and his wife, Amanda, after their emancipation registered their marriage in Ohio County, KY on 24 September 1866, they testified that they had been living as husband and wife for two years. Pleasant & Amanda were listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Ohio County, KY.

Pleasant Walker's children included – John Dudley (1855-1922, mother Lila Parks), Alexander, Mary M., Pleasant Thomas, Martin D., Georgia A. and Loga. Calvin T. Thomas was born 20 June 1846 Ohio County, KY and died 27 September 1932 in Owensboro, KY. Calvin's death certificate recorded his parents as Pleasant Walker & Emily Morton. The Owensboro Messenger of 16 July 1899 (p.5) noted that Anthony Walker, of Hartford, KY, was a half-brother of Cal Thomas, of Owensboro. The death certificate of Anthony Walker (c1847-1925) gives his parents as Pleasant & Chloe Walker, who were natives of Richmond, VA.

John Thomas (c1785-1835) came to Ohio County, KY in 1827. In his residence in the 1830 census of Ohio County was listed one slave and one free colored person. The 1850 Ohio County, KY 1850 census slave schedule shows that Richard Logan Walker (1794-1857) was the owner of 4 slaves.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 21 April 1875, p.3:**

**Suicide of an Old Negress.**

An old negro woman named Hannah Ware, residing in the Pond Creek settlement, at the north end of the county, drowned herself in Panther creek on the 5th inst. Her body was recovered, and Coroner Boswell held an inquest upon on the 7th. From the evidence elicited, it appears that the old woman committed suicide while laboring under mental aberration. A day or two before her death she had startled the community by a confession to some of her neighbors that her grand-daughter had given to birth to an illegitimate child, and that she (Hannah) had been compelled, on threats of death, by several negroes in the neighborhood, to burn the infant up. She afterwards retracted this statement, and said she told a lie on her grand-daughter. The jury came to the opinion that she was crazy, and returned a verdict as above stated. Our Buford correspondent writes us under date of the 14th that the affair of the infant is being investigated, and we will know by our next issue whether or not there was any truth in the old first story about the cremated infant.

**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 31 March 1880, p.2:**

WANTS TO HEAR FROM HIS PEOPLE.

A Colored Man Who was Born in Ohio County, and Sold in Texas by the Notorious Dock Brown, Twenty-Eight Years Ago, Wants to Hear From His Relatives.

Breckenridge News:

I write to make inquiries through your paper in regard to my parents and relatives, if you will be so kind as to grant me the space.

My father's name was Thomas Ware and my mother was named Hannah. They belonged to Mr. Billy Haynes before the war. I had several brothers and sisters, but remember the names of but three of them – George, Davy Crocket, and Emily – as I was only nine years old when I was sold to Park Brown and his brother, Dock Brown and was brought by the latter to Texas and sold here. That was about twenty years ago, and since that time I not heard a word from or about any of my family.

As have stated above, my mother belonged to Mr. Billy Haynes, who' lived in Ohio county at the time I was brought to Texas. My parents were members of the Baptist church in Ohio county. I don't remember their post-office, nor the name of the nearest town to which they lived.

I would lie thankful if any one reading this, who knows anything of my father, mother, brothers or sisters, would advise me of their whereabouts. Or if this falls under the eye or comes to the knowledge of any of my relatives, I want them to write to me, as I am very anxious to hear from them. I am living in Austin, Texas, and am in the employ of the banking house of Jas. H. Raymond & Co. Please address,

Ambrose Ware,

Care Jas. H. Raymond & Co., Austin, Texas

[Thomas & Hannah Ware are listed in the 1870 census of Daviess County, KY. Thomas was reported to be age 60, born KY, farm hand, and Hannah was 55, born KY; living with them was Rachel Ware, age 16.

In the 1872 city directory of Austin, Texas Ambrose Ware is listed – colored, porter with Raymond Whitis, bankers, corner Congress Avenue & Pecan Street. Ambrose Ware in the 1880 census of Austin, Travis County, TX is reported to be age 40, born KY, wife Betty, married circa 1866.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 9 January 1909, p.2:**

**An Aged Negress Dies.**

"Aunt Jane" Washington, colored, formerly a slave of the late James L. Ireland, of Hawesville, is dead at the age of 104 years. She died at Skillman and was buried at Cannelton.

[Jane Washington is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Cannelton, Perry County, IN. They suggest she was born during 1829-1833 in Kentucky. She was the wife of George Washington (born c1830 KY. Her children included – Alice, Charles and Annie. The death certificate of her daughter, Alice E. Washington (1850-1936) records her parents as George Washington & Jane Burnett.

In the 1860 Hancock County, KY census slave schedule James B. Ireland (1797-1801) is listed as the owner of 4 slaves.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 4 February 1904, p.7:**

**BIG BLACKS PASS AWAY.**

Two Women, Whose Combined Weight Was 810 Pounds, Dead.

Hawesville, Ky., Feb. 3. – Two of the oldest, as well as the largest, negresses in Hawesville, died here yesterday and were buried today. They were Mrs. Angelina Hardin and Mrs. Jane Williams. The former was sixty-eight years of age and weighed 450 pounds. The latter was about seventy-two years of age and weighed 360 pounds. As well as could be determined both died of heart disease. They were old-time darkies and much esteemed. The last named was formerly the slave of the late Geo W. Williams, of Owensboro.

[Jane Williams is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Hawesville, Hancock County, KY. They suggest that she was widowed and born during 1819-1830. Her children included – Malinda, Nellie, Milard, Lydia, Lewis and Asberry.

George W. Williams (1814-11890) is listed as owning 4 and 8 slaves in the 1850 and 1860 Hancock County, KY census slave schedules. He served as Daviess County, KY circuit judge. His sympathy was with the South during the Civil War.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 7 March 1909, p.1B:**

**AUNT MARTHA RETURNS**

Was Sold as a Slave Over Fifty Years Ago.

Sold on the block at the age of eight years by her owner, Tom Jett, of the Newman neighborhood, over fifty years ago. "Aunt" Martha Williams was separated from her family in this county and taken to Longview, Texas, by her new owner, Dr. Noel. A few days ago "Aunt" Martha arrived in Owensboro, the first visit she left the county. She is a sister of "Uncle" Jim Morton, who lives on a farm south of the city and a well known old negro.

The meeting of these two old negroes, who had been separated over fifty years, was a most affecting one, and in honor of her home-coming a regular old time feast was given at "Uncle" Jim's home.

"Aunt" Martha will go to Cloverport today, where she will pay a visit to her old mother, who is alive and living at that place. She has not seen her mother . since leaving the state as a slave.

[James Morton, born 1863-1867 Daviess County, KY is listed in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 Daviess County, KY censuses. Thomas Fisher Jett (1826-1906) is listed in the 1850 census of Daviess County, KY; his father, Richard; Cole Jett, was a slave owner. The Dr. Noel referred to is probably Dr. Charles T. Noel (1819-1862), of Daviess County, KY, a captain in the Confederate army, who was killed in a Civil War skirmish.]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 15 March 1900, p.5:**

REMEMBERED  
JACKSON'S FAMOUS VICTORY AT NEW ORLEANS.

Death of Winnie Wilson, a Remarkable Colored Woman, Nearly a Century Old.

Winnie Wilson, colored, the oldest person with probably one exception in Owensboro, died yesterday at the home of her grand-niece, Virginia Hathaway, mother of the well known barbers, Sam and Charley Hathaway, 410 West Main street. She was over ninety-five years of age, though her exact age was not known. She was a girl of ten or eleven when the battle of New Orleans was fought, January 8, 1815, and remembered that battle. She was quite a remarkable old woman and up to four years ago retained all her faculties and was quite active. Since that time she has been confined to her bed from weakness, although still possessed of a good memory. Her life passed away like a spent candle.

She was a direct descendant of the "Guinea negroes" of Louisiana, where she was born. She was sold when a girl to parties in Kentucky and subsequently sold again down South. She made her escape, but was recaptured. She was industrious, and by working at night earned enough to purchase her freedom. This was sixty years ago. Soon after that she came to Owensboro and has lived here ever since.

She remembered distinctly the famous battle of New Orleans, when Gen. Andrew Jackson so badly defeated the British, and was fond of telling about that exciting time. She was then a slave in the Jackson family of New Orleans. She was married once, but her husband died years ago. She was a devout woman and highly respected by all who knew her, white as well as black. The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the Hathaway home and the interment will be at Elmwood.

[Winnie Wilson, age 65, is listed in the 1880 census of Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. She was living in the home of Charley Powell (40); she was reported to be his aunt. Winnie's daughter, Virginia, was born during 1831-1839 in Kentucky. About 1861 she married Elijah Hathaway, a barber, who conducted a barber shop on Frederica Street in Owensboro. Virginia Hathaway is listed in the 1870, 1880 and 1900 censuses of Owensboro. In 1900 Virginia was reported to have been widowed and was the mother of 7 children, 5 of whom were then living. In section A at Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery there are monuments for Elijah Hathaway (1821-1890) and Virginia Hathaway (1831-1905). Virginia Hathaway died on 2 December 1905 in Owensboro. Elijah & Virginia's children were – Dangerfield (died 1878), Mary Ellen, Charles S. (died 1909), Samuel W., Phillip, Elinor and Louis Elijah Hathaway (died 1898). No monument for Winnie Wilson could be located at Elmwood.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 June 1924, p.1B:**

"Aunt" Rachael Winstead, 110 Years Old, Dies in County



Passing 110 years In one community, in Daviess county, west of the city, Aunt Rachael Winstead passed to her reward Wednesday night of the past week. She was born in times of slavery, the year being a bit uncertain, and was the property of S. H. Winstead, grandfather of former Sheriff Ike Winstead, who confesses to 60, summers, and S. H. Winstead, an older brother. The old negress had lived with the family until released by the proclamation of President Lincoln, and then remained with them for many years as a free servant.

Aunt Rachael died at the home of her daughter, Jennie Hall, on the Boonville road, and was buried from Little Flock church west of Sorgho, and in the church cemetery. A very large congregation of colored people, and many white people who had known the elderly woman in her life, attended her funeral. She is survived by five children 25 grand children, 27 great grand children and 11 grand children, twice removed.

[Rachel Winstead was born about 1825 KY and died on 6 June 1924. Her death certificate gives her father's name as Dan Evert. She is listed in the 1870, 1880 & 1920 censuses of Daviess County, KY. Her children included – Mary Susan, Jennie, Rosa, Joseph, Minnie, John and Lucinda.

Stephen Hall Winstead (1782-1841) moved to what is now Daviess County, KY during 1807-1811. At the time of his death, he owned 8 slaves, one of whom was Rachel Winstead. He resided at Bellwood Hill, near Sorgho, in Daviess County.]



(Rachel Winstead (c1825-1924))



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 11 January 1899, p.3:**

Curdsville, Ky., Jan. 9. – "Uncle" Henry Wright, colored, died near here yesterday of pneumonia. "Uncle" Henry, though a darkey, had many friends, and was regarded by all as an honest, upright man. He was born a slave and belonged to Esq. John Wright, who at that time was one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the county. He was born, reared and lived to a good old age and died on the same farm, which is one of the largest and most valuable in this section, and I understand now descends in fee to his children.

[John Wright (1804-1886) in the Daviess County, KY 1850 and 1860 census slave schedules is reported as owning 4 slaves.

Henry Wright, 20, mulatto, born KY, farm hand, is listed in the residence of John Wright (66, white) in the 1870 census of Curdsville Precinct, Daviess County, KY. Henry Wright married Matilda Collins on 15 January 1880 at Curdsville in Daviess County, KY.]



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 14 June 1882, p.4:**

#### Advice to Colored Men.

Editor Herald: I wish to speak to the colored people of Ohio county, and as many throughout the entire State as may read your paper. I desire to say to them that, as the Constitution of the United States declares us to be free men with all the rights of citizenship and suffrage, it is necessary that we should exercise these rights as intelligently as possible, so as to be of the greatest benefit to ourselves and the good people of the country. I have come to the conclusion from observation that the only way for us to become able to discharge all our duties as citizens is to inform ourselves thoroughly of the affairs of the day and of the men and measures, which are being constantly brought before the people for consideration and action. Our object should be information, and the question arises as to how we shall acquire it? My answer is by reading everything pertaining to subjects of genuine interest and especially the newspapers. The newspaper tells us all about the issues of the day, because it is the editor's business to keep himself and his readers posted in everything. When a man comes to the front and asks the support of the people for any office, the newspaper tells us what kind of a man he is; if he is not worthy of office and honor they tell us so and if he is a man of true principles they inform us and thus enable us to be our own dictators in regard to casting our votes for him

The time is now at hand when we should work with all power to fill our offices with good men, regardless of anything else. We, as colored men and as citizens of the State of Kentucky, should adopt some rule of action that will lead us to support men who we believe will work to protect us and the whole people in the fullest enjoyment of all the great blessings of freedom, men who will work us to guarantee to every citizen, rich or poor, white or colored, native or foreign born, the greatest personal liberty consistent with good order and the well-being of society. We should at all times be for men who we believe will work to let all men, white or colored, have freedom not only to think, but to speak, to write, to print and to vote, freedom to worship God in any manner or not at all according to the dictates of our respective consciences, freedom to buy and to sell, to come and to go at s throughout the land.

CALVIN TAYOR, Colored.