

Major John Philip Thompson (c1831-1872)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2011-2012



Major John Philip Thompson
(c1831-1872)

In December 2011 representatives of the PBS TV show, “History Detectives”, contacted the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library. They were preparing an episode about the Civil War derringers of John P. Thompson of Owensboro, KY. The main question they presented was: “What happened to John P. Thompson?” “When and where did he die and where was he buried?” They had not been able to discover this from their prior contacts, including members of his family, the Virginia Historical and Kentucky Historical Societies. I was able to document that he died here in Owensboro on 3 April 1872 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Owensboro’s Elmwood Cemetery. I also provided other biographical information to the PBS show about John P. Thompson, including data on his parentage and their prominent role in the history of this county; location of his family’s residence in Owensboro; articles that provided data about the Civil War unit, the Dixie Guards, that he organized; article from the “Owensboro Monitor” about his capture in 1863; information on his service as Daviess

County Circuit Court clerk; and several scans of the two Daviess County courthouses, where John P. Thompson served. The episode aired on Tuesday, 24 July 2012. They stated that John P. Thompson died in 1872 but did comment about where he died or where he was buried. They also utilized the scan I sent of the Daviess County Courthouse from the 1876 “Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY”. Additional biographical items I provided were utilized on their write-up about the “Civil War Derringers” episode on the History Detectives website.

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Phone call : To Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, from Jerry Long, 16 December 2011:

A researcher for the PBS TV show, “History Detectives”, called the Kentucky Room. They had been submitted a story about two pistols that were sold at an auction that were identified as belonging to John P. Thompson of Owensboro. They had been bought by him in Louisville, KY about the time of the Civil War period and were carried by him during the war. They were researching the guns as a possible show. They knew that he was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War and was arrested on the river near Owensboro for trying to recruit Confederate soldiers in Union territory and he reportedly lived and died in Owensboro. They wanted to learn more about him. When and where he died and was buried. After researching for about two hours I returned Ms. Laks’ call and talked to her for about half an hour about what I had found about him.

John P. Thompson was referred to the 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago). He raised one of the first rebel outfits in Daviess County and was appointed captain of the company. The group Dixie Guards left Owensboro on 28 May 1861 to join up with the Confederate Army in Northern Virginia. I found several articles that referred to this company and to his capture in May 1863 near Henderson. The 1860 & 1870 Daviess County censuses showed that he was born 1831-32 Kentucky; and married Nelia, between 1860-68 and in 1870 they had two sons, John Jr. (born 1867-8 VA) & William C. (born 1869 KY). He served as Circuit Court Clerk of Daviess County (1856-1862 & 1868-1872) and died in Owensboro on 3 April 1872 (History of Daviess County, Kentucky, p424).

There were many deeds recorded in the Daviess County deed books by John P. Thompson and his sisters whereby they were transferring land that they had inherited from their father, Philip Thompson. His father and grandfather were quite noted figures in the history of Daviess County. He was the son of Philip Thompson (1789-1836) & Sallie Clay Moseley and grandson of Revolutionary War soldier, Thomas Moseley. His father was a lawyer, had participated in a celebrated duel with Robert Triplett and was killed in a street fight in Owensboro in 1836. John P.'s parents were moved from the old Rural Hill Cemetery along east Fifth Street to Elmwood Cemetery in 1879. Several of their children are also buried at Elmwood. I could not find a gravestone for John P. Thompson. I promised I would go to Elmwood and check in the Philip Thompson plot to see if John P. had a gravestone there. She asked for scans of several items I had mentioned. She also asked if there were any way to discover where he had lived and if there were still any Civil War era structures in Owensboro. I also checked the Daviess County Wills, Estate Settlements & Guardian Bond books, WPA's Registration of Veteran's graves for Daviess County for John P. Thompson & children.

e-mail : To Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, from Jerry Long, 16 December 2011:

I have attached an article about the capture of John P. Thompson (c1831-1872) near Henderson from the Owensboro Monitor of Wednesday, 27 May 1863. Also I have attached two newspaper articles that reflect on John P.'s father, Philip Thompson (1789-1836). One is from the Owensboro Messenger & Examiner of 2 August 1883 and the other from the Owensboro Daily Tribune of 20 June 1896 (the latter is in two parts the top and bottom of the newspaper column). The 1896 article gives the wrong death year for Philip Thompson - it was on 25 November 1836. I will attach some other items on Philip Thompson in a second e-mail.

I have attached two biographies of Philip Thompson (1789-1836). One is from the 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky (p147) and the other from the book, Ohio County, Kentucky, in the Olden Days (by Harrison D. Taylor, Louisville, KY, 1926, pp.82-85).

Pictures of the grave stones of Philip Thompson & his wife, Sallie Clay Moseley Thompson, at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY can be seen on findagrave.com. Their son, John P. Thompson (c1831-1872) is not listed.

John P. "Jack" Thompson according to the 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky served as Circuit Court Clerk of Daviess County 1856-1862 and 1868-1872 (p105). He held this

office at the time of his death on 3 April 1872, he died of brain fever (p424). He organized one of the first Confederate companies in Daviess County. He was the Captain of the Dixie Guards (Company G, 1st Kentucky Infantry) that left Owensboro on 28 May 1861 for Richmond, VA. He became a POW when he surrendered to Captain Hornbrook on 17 May 1863.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY, 17 December 2011:

I checked the Philip Thompson family plot. Located in west end of section A between 14th & 17th rows uphill from the Old Harford Road. Philip & his wife, Sally Clay's, inscriptions were very legible, as well as their children's – Mary Thompson, William B. Thompson, Sarah Claiborne Pearl & Kate M. Craig. Parts of the monuments for their children Daniel Thompson, Susan B. Watkins & Emily Scarborough I could not read. Found one monument in the plot that could not be read. It was laying flat on the ground. Only parts of its inscription could be made out, including last name of Thompson, child of "Hon. Phil. & Sally", first name could possibly be Martha, death date could not decipher, and age looked like 19, at very top it looked like "Our Sister". A large top of an obelisk monument was off of its base and laying face down in the ground. It was the top of Sarah Claiborne Pearl monument. I found no evidence of a gravestone for Philip's son, John P. Thompson (c1831-1872). All of Philip & Sally's other children are all buried in this plot and it is reasonable that John P. would also be there.

e-mail : To Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, from Jerry Long, 19 December 2011:

Over the weekend I visited Elmwood Cemetery. I checked the family lot of Philip & Sally (Moseley) Thompson. It is on a ridge near the west end of section A, one of the older sections in the cemetery. In this plot eight children of Philip & Sally have marked graves. Their only child who does not have a gravestone there is John Philip Thompson. There are, however, open areas in the plot where he could be buried. John P. may never have gotten a monument since he was the last surviving child of his parents. This often occurs in families. Also it could be that he had a monument but it was broken and removed over the years.

It was beginning to look like when I wrote you today all I could tell you about John P. Thompson's final resting place was my belief that he was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in his parents' family plot. Today, however, while doing some work on an unrelated project I found proof that John P. Thompson was indeed buried at Elmwood Cemetery. Here at the Kentucky Room one of my ongoing projects is abstracting death notices and historical articles in the old Owensboro newspapers for our online Owensboro Obituary Index on the Daviess County Library's Web site (dcplibrary.org). The first page I worked on today was the 26 May 1890 issue of the Owensboro Inquirer (p1, copy is attached). On this page was an article entitled, "Decoration Day – Graves of Federal and Confederate Soldiers at Elmwood to be Decorated, Friday, May 30". One of the four Confederate soldiers noted was John P. Thompson. His father, Phil Thompson, a veteran of the War of 1812 was also noted in the article. I believe this proves

that John P. was interred at Elmwood Cemetery. Sometimes we just get lucky and make accidental discoveries.

Out of curiosity about what happened to John P. Thompson's family I did a little more research over the weekend. You probably know the following already but I thought I would mention it just in case. John P. Thompson married Maria Cornelia Cave in Orange County, Virginia on 19 December 1865. She was the daughter of William Porter Cave & Isabella Delacy. She was born in New York City on 4 July 1842. She is listed in the 1880 & 1900 censuses of Orange County, VA; the latter census reported that she was the mother of three children, one of whom was then deceased. Cornelia died on 9 April 1903 and was buried in the Cave (Montebello) Cemetery in Orange County, VA. Two of her children are buried in the same cemetery – William Cave Thompson (born 1869 KY died 1871?) and Isabella delacy Cave Gray (24 November 1871 KY – 2 May 1962, wife of Leslie H. Gray). The third child of John P. & Cornelia, John Philip Thompson, Jr., was born in June 1867 Orange County, VA and died there on 18 March 1945, he married Florence B. Kemper during 1899-1900. Interestingly a Civil War diary of John Philip Thompson (c1831-1872) survives. It was kept by him while a prisoner on Johnson's Island. I did not get to see the original diary only a catalog reference to it.

The family of John P. Thompson has many interesting interconnections to the early history of our county - Daviess County. His father was a US Congressman and was quite noted for other circumstances of his life. John P.'s grandfather, Thomas Moseley, was a Revolutionary War soldier – at his home the first court of Daviess County was held. His grave in a family cemetery, here in Owensboro, is one of only three known graves of Revolutionary War soldiers in the county. He has had numerous illustrious descendants. John P. Thompson's four brothers-in-law were all prominent citizens of Owensboro – George Scarborough was the most noted early educator of the city, an addition to the city was named for him and Dr. Francis M. Pearl was a dentist and a city street is named for him.

If you have any biographical items related to John P. Thompson, such as his diary, that you could share, we would greatly like to have copies for our collection. If you should decide to use John P. Thompson for a televised episode please let us know.

If we can be of any other assistance please let me know.

Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

e-mail : From Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, to Jerry Long, 19 December 2011:

Hi Jerry, Thanks so much for sending these documents. The article about Phil Thompson (Sept 17, 1986) states, "Phil Thompson was the son of a very wealthy slave-owner who owned nearly the entire southern and western end of the city of Owensboro." Have you come across any records that list specific properties or locations that were once owned by the Thompson family? Also, you mentioned a second email with attachments, but I only received one email from you on Friday. Our server limits attachments to 8MB per email, so the email may have

bounced back to you. Can you resend the attachments in two separate emails? Thanks again for you help! Best, Fran

e-mail : To Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, from Jerry Long, 20 December 2011:

Did you receive the e-mail below (with one attached page) on Monday afternoon? Your subsequent e-mail made no reference to it so I am not sure if it got there are not. The two separate e-mails I sent last Friday contained a total of seven different attachments. I will resend each of these after receiving confirmation that you got the following. The reference about Phil Thompson's large land holdings was from the 20 June 1896 (not 1986) issue of the Owensboro Daily Tribune. There are numerous deeds whereby John P. Thompson and his sisters sold lands inherited from their father. A lot of these lots were along Frederica Street now Owensboro's busiest thoroughfare.

e-mail : From Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, to Jerry Long, 20 December 2011:

Hi Jerry, First and foremost, thank you for your incredible research!

No, I did not receive an email from you yesterday afternoon. Perhaps the attachment was problematic. The file "Owensboro Inquirer 1890.jpg" did go through this time around. The 1890 Owensboro Inquirer reference to J. P Thompson's and Phil Thompson's is quite the coincidence! The email I received on Friday had three attachments: Owensboro-Monitor, Messenger Examiner, and Owensboro Tribune. These were the only attachments that came through from you on Friday. Most likely our server blocked the email as the files totaled over 8MB.

RE Thompson properties in Owensboro: The Thompson relative that we are in communication with mentioned that seven of J. P. Thompson's properties in Owensboro burned down while J.P. Thompson in Virginia marrying Maria Cornelia Cave. However, she thinks that two properties did survive. Did the deeds you came across mention any structures or buildings? Perhaps the deed was only for the lot as the homes/buildings were destroyed in the fire.

RE the Civil War diary of John Philip Thompson and other biological related items: I believe the relative we are in contact with has this diary, but I have not seen any writings from it. I would think that she would be more than happy to share her documents with you. I will ask the producer to ask the relative if she would mind if you contacted her. We may request that you contact her after we finish filming the story- the pistols are a sensitive topic (they were stolen from the family home in Montebello in the late 1970s).

Thanks! Fran

e-mail : To Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, from Jerry Long, 20 December 2011:

The following is the second e-mail I sent last Friday. It appears this is the one that you did not receive. It had three attachments. I will send each of these three attached to separate e-mails. The deeds that I have checked for John P. Thompson are only for the lots and do not mention any structures on the lots. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, to Jerry Long, 21 December 2011:

Hi Jerry, Well I just looked at my Junk Email folder and found many emails from you, including the missing email from Friday. I don't know why some emails came through and others did not. I will talk to our IT people here. I haven't had a chance to go through the emails you sent last night but will go through them shortly. Sorry for the confusion. I will try to fix the server problem on my end. Thanks! Fran

e-mail : To Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, from Jerry Long, 22 December 2011:

1. I have ten more pages that I will send as attachments today. I will attach each to a separate e-mail. The first is from the book History of Kentucky published by Richard H. Collins in 1874 (p228). He mentions the death of John P. Thompson in a chronology. An entry for the date of April 3, 1872 was “Death, at Owensboro, of Maj. John P. Thompson, clerk of the Daviess co. circuit court; he was the first man in Ky. who raised a company of soldiers for the Confederate army.” The other six attachments are about the Dixie Guards (Company G – First Kentucky Infantry). Four pages is a roll of the company published in the volume Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky: Confederate Kentucky Volunteers – War 1861-65 (pp.22-25). The company consisted of 101 men, 94 of whom enlisted at Owensboro and others enrolled at Richmond, VA. Two other pages are copies of an article, “Long List Of The Men of 1861: From Daviess County Who Joined Confederate Army – ‘Dixie Guards’ First Company To March Away” (from Owensboro Daily Messenger of 21 May 1905 p.1, part of the bottom of this article was damaged). The final three pages are from a thesis by a local historian, Aloma Dew that contained a reference to John P. Thompson and the Dixie Guards. Best wishes, Jerry Long

2. I studied the Daviess County deed records yesterday. I had hoped to learn where John P. Thompson was actually residing at when he died. There were many deeds between 1850 and his death whereby he was selling land. However, none of the deeds suggested the property was his actual residence. Almost all were for land that he had inherited from his father's estate. Many were town lots that were located in what was known as Scarborough's addition to Owensboro. George Scarborough married the eldest daughter of Philip Thompson and was the administrator of his father-in-law's estate. These lots were just west of the original town limits that were laid out on the original plat of the city. I was able to learn where Philip Thompson's home was located based on a later newspaper reference and the deed books. It was located on the west side of Frederica Street between 2nd (main) & 3rd streets just across from the Daviess County Courthouse. By the mid 1880's Guenther Hardware Company store was located on the site (224-226 Frederica Street). This business continued there until about 1967 when it was torn down. Subsequently the Owensboro National Bank was located there. Just in the last few years the bank became the BB & T Bank.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

e-mail : From Fran Laks (fran.laks@liontv.us), PBS – History Detectives, New York City, to Jerry Long, 22 December 2011:

Hi Jerry, I have received all of your emails and they are a wonderful wealth of information! My head is spinning with JPT family history and I need to take some time to go through everything you have sent so far. I have copied Andy Montoya, the History Detectives archivist who you spoke with the other day to keep him in the archival loop. I will make sure that Andy has all of the files you have sent to me. And of course, if anything else comes up in your research, please let me know! Best, Fran

Phone call : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 6 January 2012:

Asked for pictures, images or sites that could be used for their segment on John P. Thompson. Mention two courthouses where he would have served. Also told him about two current Owensboro homes that date to the Civil War – Medley and Smith houses. Asked if we had any images pertaining to the Dixie Guards such as their regimental flag. I told him I did not know of any graphics about this Civil War outfit.

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 6 January 2012:

The e-mail that you said you sent I never received. If you included any questions you may want to resend it to jlong@dcplibrary.org I have made six scans of the Daviess County Courthouse. The three attached to this e-mail are of the courthouse that was burned in 1865. The jpg labeled #2 was published in the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer (new courthouse edition) on 5 September 1964. No. 3 was published in the Owensboro Messenger on 19 July 1931. No. 5 was published in a postcard pictorial book.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 6 January 2012:

I have made six scans of the Daviess County Courthouse. The three attached to this e-mail are of the courthouse that was built in 1868 and was torn down in 1963. The jpg labeled #1 was published in the "Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer" (new courthouse edition) on 5 September 1964. No. 4 was published in an Owensboro pictorial book. No. 6 was published in a postcard pictorial book. Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashlevlevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 6 January 2012:

Mr Long, You have been such a great help to this story. The scans are wonderful. I will let you know which ones we decide to use for the show. Now that I have your correct email, I will paste the original email that failed this afternoon (containing some questions that you answered already). Much appreciated, Ashley

Sent earlier in the day: Hi Mr. Long, this is Ashley, one of the archivists at *History Detectives*. You have really been an valuable contact point and resource for our story on JP Thompson and his Deringer pistols. I understand that you and the Assistant Producer have really dug through the Daviess County Public Library to find out his story, but we are still having difficulty finding visuals for Owensboro, KY during the 1860s. We are specifically looking for visuals (photos, engravings, lithographs, ANYTHING) for:

- General area of Owensboro
- The Daviess County Court House where JP Thompson served as County Clerk (from what you uncovered, the courthouse burned down in Jan. 1865? We want visuals for that one if possible)
- Land owning society/class in Owensboro (to help illustrate JP Thompson's societal position)
- Kentucky Divided (visuals conveying the complex status of KY during the war)
- Kentucky CSA Infantry flags (preferably one from the 1st KY Infantry of which Thompson was a part)
- Anything conveying confederate regiments popping up in KY, despite the state's eventual allegiance to the Union
- The Frankfort Arsenal before or during the war

I apologize for this additional request (or multiple requests rather!). I can give you a ring in an hour or so to talk about the request if necessary. Also, I understand that the Library has a Kentucky Room, for which Debbie is the contact. If you think that would be a better place to ask for these materials, then that's the route we will take. Thanks again for making our time with you so worth while.

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashlevlevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 9 January 2012:

Hi Mr. Long, Ashley from *History Detectives* again. Would it be possible, when you have a chance, to rescan the Daviess County Courthouse newspaper images you emailed me on Friday at a higher resolution (approximately 3000 pixels)? These visuals will prove most helpful in telling our story. Please do not hesitate to shoot me an email or call if there are any questions/issues. Much appreciated, Ashley Levine, Archivist, "History Detectives", Lion TV for PBS, ashley.levine@liontv.us, office: 212.929.0229 ext. 276, fax: 212.929.6109, <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/> And to add one more question, The view of the old Daviess County Courthouse, from the postcard book (attached to this email)...do you have an idea as to which book published this image? Thank you thank you! Ashley

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 10 January 2012:

I have attached one scan of the Daviess County Courthouse that was built in 1868. The .jpg file was scanned at 2,400 dpi (7,810 x 12,611 pixels), file size 12,898 KB. The original photo is a 4 x 6 postcard. Is this size what you had in mind? We will wait for your reply before scanning the other pictures. Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long:

We are still trying to figure out how to send the other Courthouse pictures. We have scanned six more views that are ready to be emailed. We are still working on a seventh, which is much larger than a scanner screen. Since you requested that the pictures be scanned at such a large dpi (we did them at 2400 dpi) the files are very huge. The KB's of the jpgs range from 32,874 to 46,991. In order for our e-mail program to accept such a large attachment we had to contact our vendor to increase the attachment size that was allowed. Can your e-mail program accept attachments that are this large? Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 11 January 2012:

Several times today I have attempted to send the second scan of the Daviess County Courthouse. But again we could not get the huge file to attach to the e-mail. Is it possible that we could put the scans on a CD and mail them to you? Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 11 January 2012:

Hi Mr. Long, I suspect that our email can accept these files. I appreciate all the effort and apologize for the difficulties! Ashley

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 12 January 2012:

I have rescanned the pictures of the Daviess County Courthouse at 1200 dpi. We have never been able to get the ones previously scanned at 2400 dpi attached to an e-mail. If you need copies at the 2400 dpi we can mail them to you on a CD unless you have some other suggestion. On Tuesday we mailed a higher resolution copy of a postcard of the 1868-1963 Courthouse. The original is from the Daviess County Public Library's photograph collection. It was also published in the book, A Pictorial History of Owensboro - Daviess County published in 1994 by the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer newspaper (p40). I have seven other pictures of the two courthouses that I will attach to e-mails. The first (Courthouse-8) is the Courthouse that burned in 1865. It was published in the book, An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY, published in 1876 by Leo McDonough & Co. (p19). I previously sent a copy of this picture

that was reproduced in the 5 September 1964 Courthouse Edition of the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 12 January 2012:

Hello Mr. Long, I apologize for the delay in responding--I have been having computer issues since yesterday afternoon. We can receive the scans via FTP, if that is a possibility for you. Otherwise, being that you were kind enough to send the lower res scans previously (meaning we have place-holder for the time being), we can wait for you to mail the scans on a disk. Our FedEx account number is: 238802849. Also, if the sender of the package could write "HD 1002" on the "Internal Billing Reference" line of the FedEx form, we would appreciate it. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks again! Ashley. Message 2. Mr Long, I should have included the address: Ashley Levine, Lion TV, 304 Hudson Street 5th floor, New York, NY 10013. Thanks! Ashley

mail : To Ashley Levine, Lion TV, 304 Hudson Street 5th floor, New York, NY 10013, from Jerry Long, 12 January 2012:

By FedEx mailed a CD with eight pictures of the two Daviess County Courthouses (one that burned in 1865 & one that was used 1868-1963). Included xerox copies of each picture with file name and identification of picture and its source on the backs.

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 17 January 2012:

Ashley: On Friday afternoon I mailed a CD by FedEx. It contains eight views of the two Daviess County Courthouses. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 17 January 2012:

Mr Long, I received the CD, and am grateful! Ashley

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 19 January 2012:

Hello Mr. Long, Ashley from *History Detectives* here again to bother you. All of the scans you sent on the disk are fantastic...except the one titled Courthouse-8.1.tif (The view of the old courthouse that burned in 1865, from *An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY* (1876 by Leo McDonough & Co. p. 19)...it won't open...a corrupted file perhaps (and the only one on the disk that was saved in the .tif format). So whenever you have a chance, we would love to receive another copy of this view (perhaps the best one the Library is giving us!). All the best, Ashley

2. Also (sorry for yet another email) Mr. Long, Because we suspect the courthouse images you so generously provided will work well for the show, I now want to make sure that

we can actually air any images licensed to the Daviess County Public Library. I am thus attaching our standard permission form for your consideration. Let me know if there are any issues, and please recognize our utmost appreciation for your continuing assistance with the Kentucky Pistols story. Best, Ashley

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashlevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 19 January 2012:

I have rescanned the picture previously labeled as "Courthouse 8". I rescanned it as a jpg file. I hope your servers will accept the file this time. I have now rescanned this particular one many times. This picture is from a published Atlas of Daviess County, KY (c1876). This book can be found in many libraries. Possibly you can locate the original. Best wishes, Jerry Long

2. I have rescanned the picture previously labeled as "Courthouse 8". I rescanned it as a jpg file at 1200 dpi. A short time ago I attached it to an e-mail and sent it. After several minutes I got a notice that the delivery failed. I had hoped your servers would accept the file this time. If you are requesting files such as this I don't understand why your e-mail servers will not accept them. Possibly you can locate the original book that this picture appears in. The book, An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY was published in 1876. This book can be found in many libraries. And since it is an older book it is available on the Internet. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashlevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 19 January 2012:

Mr Long, I deeply apologize that the email did not go through. I suspect that the image will go through if you send it at 600 dpi. There is no rush for this request. If this is not a possibility, then can you recommend where to find the book online (I have searched, and cannot find anything digitized)? Otherwise I will make a trip to the NYPL when I have a chance. We are so grateful for you help regardless, and I look forward to hearing from you. All the best, Ashley

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashlevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 20 January 2012:

I rescanned the picture at a lower resolution. After several attempts this is the best one I could get. The original is a little bigger than the screen of the scanner and it is very difficult to get the full image. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashlevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 20 January 2012:

Mr. Long, This one works great. Sorry about the trouble, and thank you so much for everything. We hope you'll tune-in this summer to see the Kentucky Pistols episode. As I suspect we will want to use at least one image owned by Daviess County Public Library, we hope that you will be able to fill out our standard permissions form (so that we can actually use

Daviess County Public Library materials in our episode). I believe I sent one out earlier, but will attach another one. Most appreciated, Ashley

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 25 January 2012:

Hello Mr. Long, Ashley from *History Detectives* again.

You supplied me with a couple of images (attached) that are from *A Pictorial History of Owensboro--Daviess County* 1994 by the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, and, after speaking with the Messenger-Inquirer Librarian (Ms. Heckel), I realized that these visuals were actually submissions to the newspaper from the public. Ms. Heckel said the images had captions indicating the contributor (i.e. the owner of the materials). If this is in fact the case, when you have a moment, could you relay to me the names of the individuals who contributed the two attached images. I just to make sure we can legally use these, should the producers wish to show them on TV (and if I can even track these people down!).

Let me know if there are any issues with our permissions form I sent to you last week (attached to the forwarded email below). If you prefer to mail the form back to us (as opposed to fax/email) we have a FedEx account that you can charge to (and I'll give the the account number if FedEx is the route you want to take).

I apologize for bugging you so much, and am grateful for your help. Best, Ashley

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, from Jerry Long, 25 January 2012:

Ashley: We have not signed and returned the usage form yet. We are not sure that we have publication rights to all of the eight different pictures I have sent. Three of these we believe we can consent to because we either have copies of the original or the published source date places it in the public domain. These three are the pictures labeled (on CD) as Courthouse 01 (original postcard that the library owns), Courthouse 07 (from 1931 Owensboro Messenger newspaper) and Courthouse 08 (from 1876 An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess Co., KY). The last two are of the Courthouse that was burned in 1865 and the first is of the one that replaced it in 1868. Can the library sign usage consent for just these three?

Courthouse pictures 02 & 03 are from the Messenger-Inquirer 1994 pictorial booklet. The captions to these pictures do not state who loaned the pictures to the Messenger-Inquirer for publication (see scan of full page of pictorial from an earlier e-mail that I sent you). We do not know who has the original photos. Was Sherry Heckel at the newspaper's archives certain that they no longer had the list of contributors for the book? Allen Lake was the photographer who worked on the pictorial book for them. He is no longer with the newspaper. Two possible contributors are: P. A. Hicks, 2174 Tamarack Road, Owensboro, phone 270-683-4841 and (Judge) Wilbur M. Norris, 6321 Sutherlin Lane, Owensboro, phone 270-729-4537. Both have large collections of Owensboro photographs.

Courthouse pictures labeled 04, 05 and 06 (on CD) are from a book, Postcard History Series: Owensboro, published in 2007 by two Owensboro residents, Terry Blake and David Edds, Jr. Terry Blake resides at 2429 Whirlaway Dr., Owensboro, phone 270-685-1561 and David Edds, Jr. at 1811 McCreery Ave., phone 270-686-7178.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301, Phone 691-1883, jlong@dcplibrary.org

e-mail : From Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, to Jerry Long, 26 January 2012:

Mr. Long, Yes, I understand that the Daviess County Public Library "owns" only the images you specified below (and I have taken note of this). So, please, sign the release for only those images. Ms. Heckel at the Messenger-Inquirer indicated (although not directly) that the newspaper doesn't possess the pictorial booklet, which is strange. But, I am so happy that you gleaned the names of two possible contributors, because, even if they are not the individuals who contributed the courthouse images, perhaps--as you indicate--they can help us out with Owensboro-related imagery (something we have had trouble securing). I have called and mailed Arcadia publishing for the Postcard book...they still haven't gotten back to me (not everyone's so punctual and considerate like yourself!). But, that you gave me the authors' contact info, perhaps I will bug them if Arcadia doesn't get back to me soon. We are so grateful for the help, and look forward to hearing back soon! All the best, Ashley

Message 2. Mr. Long, Do you know if any visuals exist for Kentucky's officially becoming Union (eg KENTUCKY IS UNION!)...I'm not sue this exists, but you seem to be a great person to ask. Best, Ashley

e-mail : To Ashley Levine (ashleylevine@liontv.us), Archivist, History Detectives, from Jerry Long, 28 January 2012:

Ashley: I have attached the signed usage form. It is for the three photos discussed in my last e-mail - those labeled 01, 07 & 08. Best wishes, Jerry Long

Message 2. We do not have any original Civil War era photographs in our collection. Possibly the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, KY or the Filson Club Library in Louisville, KY may have some. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Rachel Ross, History Detectives TV Show (Rachel.Ross@liontv.us) to Jerry Long, 15 June 2012:

Hello, Thank you again for your participation and assistance with the "Civil War Dingers" segment for our upcoming season of History Detectives. We're pleased to announce that this story will premiere on PBS on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 8PM EST / 7PM CT [in most areas]. Please check your local listings and tune in.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 20 July 2012, p1A:

PBS show goes gunning for Owensboro man

Who was John P. Thompson of Owensboro and how much are a pair of his Civil War-era Derringer pistols worth today?

"History Detectives," a popular PBS program, will answer those questions in a segment airing at 8 p.m. Tuesday on KET.

The mystery began last August during a taping of "Antiques Roadshow" in Pittsburgh. According to a story on www.PBS.org, a woman named Dulcie came to the taping with a pair of Derringer pistols her father had bought 30 or so years ago for between \$500 and \$600. She suspected they were from the Civil War.

The PBS site says, "Arms & Militaria expert Christopher Mitchell told Dulcie the pair of pistols were made a good 10 to 20 years before the Civil War began, and were 'prestige' pistols meant more for personal use than for any battlefield, and he imagined the easily concealable Derringers might have come in handy for any traveler."

The site says, "Mitchell knew that gun collectors would be excited by the set because they were cased, a rarity. The barrels also had 'Louisville, Kentucky,' stamped on them, designating the location of the merchants who sold them, making the pistols especially attractive to Kentucky gun collectors. The Derringers had one more intriguing feature: on the guns' silver escutcheons, were the place name, 'Owensboro, Kentucky' and the name 'John P. Thompson'." Mitchell appraised the pair of pistols at \$30,000.

But, the site says, Mitchell added, "If he (Thompson) owned a large home or a large plantation, they could possibly be worth more. "

So "History Detectives" began tracking down information about Thompson.

The PBS site says the investigation found that Thompson "did live in Owensboro as a single lawyer and a circuit court judge in 1860 and showed up again in 1870 as a married man."

Thompson was not a circuit judge here in the 1860s, however.

Daviess County records show that James Stuart served as circuit judge here from 1856-1867.

Thompson was circuit clerk here from 1856 to 1862 and from 1868 to 1872.

Local histories say that on June 1, 1861, Co. G, 1st Regiment Infantry, Kentucky Volunteers — a Confederate unit — was organized in Owensboro with 101 men. John P. Thompson was the commanding officer.

The PBS site says, "He went to Virginia, serving under Joseph Johnston, who was the commanding general of the Confederate army early in the war, but it's not clear what battles Thompson fought in, if any. What is known is that he returned to Kentucky in 1863 to try to quietly recruit more soldiers for the Confederacy."

It adds, "He wasn't at battles such as Shiloh or Vicksburg but was apparently working to get soldiers on his side. Thompson was caught by authorities in May 1863 and sentenced to be shot as a spy, but Confederate authorities apparently intervened and he was imprisoned instead." The site says he was imprisoned at Johnson's Island in Sandusky, Ohio.

It says in December 1865, Thompson married Maria Cornelia (Neilia) Cave, who he had met when he was stationed in Virginia, and they lived in Owensboro until his death in 1872.

But tracking down Thompson's history apparently won't increase the pistols' value.

The site quotes Mitchell saying, "In order for the value to go up, he would have needed to be killed by an important battle, to go on to become governor of Kentucky, do something hugely meritorious in the war, or reprehensible, or be the owner of a famous plantation. He was a fairly

prominent citizen who made a decent living, but that's not too big a deal. You want a guy who captured a flag at Gettysburg, not a guy who spent most of the war in a prison camp."

The episode of "History Detectives" will also be online starting Wednesday at www.pbs.org/video.

e-mail : To Keith Lawrence (klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com), Messenger-Inquirer newspaper, Owensboro, KY, from Jerry Long, 23 July 2012:

Mr. Lawrence:

I would like to offer a couple of comments about your recent article, "PBS show gunning for Owensboro man". I offer my comments only because I don't know how the PBS report will play out and from your article I am not sure if you are aware of these points. Were you aware that the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Library had provided crucial elements to their story? In recent articles in several other Kentucky newspapers the Kentucky Historical Society, where the episode was filmed, has gained credit for their assistance but nowhere is our library cited. Also on the PBS.org site they allude to the Kentucky Historical Society but nowhere give any mention of Owensboro's contribution. I am hoping that the PBS's episode will give some suggestion of our role.

Last December representatives of the "History Detectives" contacted the Kentucky Room. The main question they presented was: "What happened to John P. Thompson?" "When and where did he die and where was he buried?" They had not been able to discover this from their prior contacts, including members of his family, the Virginia Historical and Kentucky Historical Societies. I was able to document this very crucial ending to their story. From two published sources, History of Kentucky by Richard Collins (1874) and History of Daviess County, Kentucky (1883) I learned that John P. Thompson died of brain fever here in Owensboro on 3 April 1872.

I first had difficulty documenting his place of burial. After visiting his parent's family lot at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro I felt sure that he was buried there. But because no monument could be found for him and since the Cemetery burial records and Owensboro newspapers for the period of his death are missing it seemed that documentation would be missing. However, a few days after the show's initial contact I returned to my ongoing project of indexing the Owensboro newspapers for deaths and historical items for our online Owensboro Obituary Index on the Daviess County Library's Web site (dcplibrary.org). To my surprise the very first article and page I looked at provided proof that John P. Thompson was indeed buried here at Elmwood Cemetery. On this page was an article entitled, "Decoration Day – Graves of Federal and Confederate Soldiers at Elmwood to be Decorated, Friday, May 30" (26 May 1890 issue of the Owensboro Inquirer). One of four Confederate soldiers noted was John P. Thompson. His father, Philip Thompson, a veteran of the War of 1812 was also noted in the article. Sometimes we just get lucky and make accidental discoveries. I have since found other articles surrounding Memorial Day in subsequent years that note that the grave of John P. Thompson at Elmwood was one of those honored.

I also provided other biographical information to the PBS show about John P. Thompson, including data on his parentage and their prominent role in the history of this county; location of his family's residence in Owensboro; articles that provided data about the Civil War unit, the Dixie Guards, that he organized; article from the Owensboro Monitor about his capture in 1863; and information on his service as Daviess County Circuit Court clerk. Representatives of the show stated that several views of the two Daviess County courthouses, where John P. Thompson served, that we scanned and sent would probably be used in their broadcast.

If the "History Detectives" episode fails to give any credit to Owensboro's contribution to their story it would be a very callous oversight. Without learning the fate of John P. Thompson their story would essentially have no ending.

The second comment I offer is about a reference that appears on the PBS' site. The "Antiques Roadshow" appraiser stated that what John P. Thompson did was "not too big a deal." I realize that this is not your comment but I personally feel this statement is in error. Yes, Thompson did indeed spend a large part of the War imprisoned. However, the unit he organized here a few days following the first shots of the war was the first company of soldiers raised in Kentucky for the Confederate Army. This statement is made in Collins' reputable History of Kentucky (Vol.1, p228). It was not just the first unit raised in Daviess County but was the first in the entire state. Thompson was an officer and a leader. In the second year of the war Thompson was promoted from Captain to the rank of Major and was sent back to Kentucky to recruit others for the Confederate cause. In this very dangerous endeavor he was captured near Henderson in 1863. At first it was ordered that he be shot as a spy but mercifully his sentence was changed to imprisonment. John P. Thompson spent the final two years of the Civil War imprisoned at Fort Delaware and Johnson's Island. Enduring two years of the hardships of imprisonment adds to his meritorious service – it certainly does not detract from it!

The family of John Philip Thompson also adds significant import to his story. His parents, Philip Thompson (1789-1836) & Sallie Clay Moseley, were one of the most prominent families of the early history of Owensboro. His grandfather, Thomas Moseley, a Revolutionary War veteran, is buried in Owensboro. At his home the first court of the newly formed county of Daviess was held in 1815. John P. Thompson's father was the first resident lawyer of Owensboro and one of the county's first representatives in the US Congress. His father was also celebrated because of his participation in a famous duel with Robert Triplett. He was severely wounded in his meeting with Triplett on an island opposite Owensboro in 1829. It is claimed that the pistol used by Triplett was the same one by which Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton. Philip Thompson's notoriety was added to because he owned an extensive part of the western half of Owensboro, he erected the first school in Owensboro about 1820 and because he was stabbed to death in a fight on the Owensboro streets in 1836. Another illustrious family connection of John P. Thompson was the marriage of his son, John P., Jr. to Florence Kemper, whose father, James Lawson Kemper, was a Confederate general and a Virginia governor.

To me the circumstances surrounding the life of John P. Thompson was "a very big deal."

Thank you,
Jerry Long

Kentucky Room
Daviess County Public Library
2020 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301,
Phone 691-1883,

Copies of preceding e-mail was also sent to Shelia Heflin (sheflin@dcplibrary.org) and Leslie Byrne (lbyrne@dcplibrary.org), Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY: Shelia & Leslie, I wanted to let you all know that this morning I sent the following e-mail to Keith Lawrence. I thought his recent article about the "History Detectives" episode required a couple of comments. Have a good day! Jerry Long

e-mail : From Keith Lawrence (klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com), Messenger-Inquirer newspaper, Owensboro, KY, to Jerry Long, 23 July 2012:

Thanks, Jerry, I'll check with Bob Bruck, our city editor, and see what we can do. Like you said, the Kentucky Historical Society took all the credit and didn't mention your contributions.

By the way, do any census records exist for Yellow Banks in 1800? Thanks

e-mail : To Keith Lawrence (klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com), Messenger-Inquirer newspaper, Owensboro, KY, from Jerry Long, 23 July 2012:

Hopefully the "History Detectives" in its episode will yet make some reference to Owensboro's contribution to the show. Their internet site, however, has given me doubts.

The first two censuses of Kentucky, in 1790 and 1800, were destroyed. In book form tax records have been put together in order to create a substitute for the lost censuses. In the first tax list of Ohio County in 1799 "William Smeathers" is listed and in the 1800 list he appears as "William Smothers". The tax lists for this period make no designation of towns or neighborhoods; only nearest water courses of any land holdings is given. In the 1799 & 1800 tax lists William is not shown as being taxed on land that he owned. The first surviving census of Kentucky is the 1810. "William Smethers" is listed in the 1810 census of Ohio County, KY, but again no differentiation that shows Yellow Banks is given. The only town for Ohio County that is given a separate listing in 1810 was the county seat of Hartford. In the 1821 tax book of Daviess County appears "A list of the white males over 21 in Owensborough". They were: George Hanley, Daniel Moseley, Brice P. Duncan, David Morton, Wm. W. Franklin, Christo. Jones, Isaac Kennady, Phillip Triplett, P. Simpson, Ira Hathaway, Elisha Adams, J. M. Rogers, Alexander Moreland, J. McHendle, James W. Johnston, John Roberts, Wm. R. Griffith, P. Thompson [this is Philip Thompson father of John P. Thompson], James Talbot, Samuel Smith, Thos. Potts, Willis M. Pickett, William Adams, John Parks, Thomas Moseley Senr., J. G. Livers, Jesse Kincaid, James Hiatt, James Sands, William Lampton, John Churchhill Jr., James Higgins, John Proctor, J. J. Amos, A. Legrand and Samuel Harbez.

Have a good day,

Jerry Long
Kentucky Room
Daviess County Public Library
2020 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301

e-mail : From Keith Lawrence (klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com), Messenger-Inquirer newspaper, Owensboro, KY, to Jerry Long, 23 July 2012:

Thanks. I'm still checking to see what we can do about crediting you all.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 26 July 2012, p1C:

First list of Owensboro residents appeared in 1821

You'd think it would be easy to find the names of Owensboro's first settlers, wouldn't you?

After all, the settlement at the Big Yellow Banks on the Ohio River apparently began sometime in the 1790s.

So, you should be able to just turn to the 1790 census and see if anybody was listed as living at Yellow Banks that year.

And then look at 1800 and see who was here then.

But that would be too easy.

"The first two censuses of Kentucky, in 1790 and 1800, were destroyed," Jerry Long, a researcher in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library, said Monday. Early tax records "have been put together in order to create a substitute for the lost censuses," he said. But Yellow Banks isn't broken out as a separate community.

"The tax lists for this period make no designation of towns or neighborhoods," Long said, "only nearest water courses of any land holdings is given."

Daviess County was part of Ohio County back then. And Long said the only town with a separate listing in Ohio County as late as 1810 was Hartford.

The first official list of people living in "Owensborough," as it was then spelled, appears in an 1821 tax book for Daviess County, Long said.

And that list only shows "white males over 21."

Long said that list of early Owensbroans includes George Hanley, Daniel Moseley, Brice P. Duncan, David Morton, Wm. W. Franklin, Christo. Jones, Isaac Kennady, Phillip Triplett, P. Simpson, Ira Hathaway, Elisha Adams, J. M. Rogers, Alexander Moreland, J. McHendle, James W. Johnston, John Roberts, Wm. R. Griffith, Phillip Thompson, James Talbot, Samuel Smith, Thos. Potts, Willis M. Pickett, William Adams, John Parks, Thomas Moseley Senr., J. G. Livers, Jesse Kincaid, James Hiatt, James Sands, William Lampton, John Churchhill Jr., James Higgins, John Proctor, J. J. Amos, A. Legrand and Samuel Harbez.

William Smeathers, who legend says was the first settler here, had moved to Texas before the 1821 tally.

Long recently helped producers of "History Detectives" trace the life and times of John Philip Thompson, a former Confederate officer and Daviess County circuit clerk, whose pistols recently turned up on "Antiques Roadshow."

Thompson's father and grandfather appear in that list of early Owensboro residents, Long said.

"His parents, Phillip Thompson (1789-1836) and Sallie Clay Moseley, were one of the most prominent families of the early history of Owensboro," Long said. "His grandfather, Thomas Moseley, a Revolutionary War veteran, is buried in Owensboro. At his home, the first court of the newly formed county of Daviess was held in 1815."

Phillip Thompson, he said, "was the first resident lawyer of Owensboro and one of the county's first representatives in the U.S. Congress."

Phillip Thompson, Long said, "was also celebrated because of his participation in a famous duel with Robert Triplett. He was severely wounded in his meeting with Triplett on an island opposite Owensboro in 1829. It is claimed that the pistol used by Triplett was the same one by which Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton."

And, he said, "Phillip Thompson's notoriety was added to because he owned an extensive part of the western half of Owensboro, he erected the first school in Owensboro about 1820 and because he was stabbed to death in a fight on the Owensboro streets in 1836."



Additional notes by Jerry Long:

John Philip Thompson was born 1831-1832. His marriage license records that he was born Owensboro, Daviess County, KY and lists his parents as Philip Thompson & Sarah C. Moseley. He is listed in the 1860 & 1870 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He married Maria Cornelia Cave, 19 December 1865 Orange County, VA. The daughter of William Porter Cave & Isabella DeLacy, she was born 4 July 1842 New York City, NY.

John P. Thompson died 3 April 1872 Daviess County, KY and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY. His parent's family lot at Elmwood Cemetery is in section A – the first section on the right after entering the cemetery and that runs parallel to the Old Hartford Road. The plot is on the hill 14 rows from the Old Hartford Road near the upper edge of the section. Philip Thompson, his wife, and at eight of their nine children have monuments in the family lot. No monument for their son, John Philip Thompson, could be found. However, he most likely was buried in the lot with his parents and siblings. Several newspaper articles note that on Memorial Day celebrations his grave in Elmwood Cemetery was decorated with flowers. In the Philip Thompson family plot to the side of the large obelisk monument of Philip & Sally Clay Thompson there is a toppled obelisk monument. The side with the inscription on this monument is face down. I suspect this is the gravestone of Major John Philip Thompson (c1831-1872).

After the death of John P. Thompson his wife lived in Orange County, VA, where she is listed in the 1880 & 1900 censuses. The 1900 census records that she was the mother of three children, one of whom was then deceased. Cornelia Cave Thompson died 9 April 1903 Manhattan, NY. She was buried Cave (Monticello) Cemetery, Orange County, VA. They had three children - John Philip Thompson (1867-1945, married Florence Belfield Kemper), William Cave Thompson (1868-1871) and Isabella Delacy Cave Thompson (1871-1962, married Leslie Higgins Gray).



Thompson family lot at Elmwood Cemetery (section A) – The four sides of the tall obelisk monument under the tree has the names of Philip Thompson (1789-1836), his wife, Sally Clay Moseley Thompson (1795-1841) and their children, Mary (1819-1828) and William B. ((1824-1841). To the left are the gravestones of several other children of Philip & Sally – Emily Scarborough (1817-1846), Daniel Thompson (1821-1839), Susan B. Watkins (1822-1852), Martha Thompson (1827-1846), Sarah Claiborne Pearl (1829-1852) and Kate M. Craig (1834-1856). Under the bush on the left is a large toppled obelisk monument. The inscribed side of this monument is face down and cannot be read. The monument is very large and heavy and I could not roll it over. There is a good possibility this is the monument of Philip & Sally’s son, Major John Philip Thompson (c1831-1872).

