

# Report on Thomas Moseley (c1765-1841) & His Family

By Jerry Long



Grave of Thomas Moseley (c1765-1841), Fifth Street, Owensboro, KY



**An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY.**  
**Leo McDonough & Co., 1876, p.81:**



The Moseley family cemetery is on the south side of Fifth Street just east of Triplet Street (along left side of image). The Cemetery Addition, labeled on the map, was bounded by Fourth, Triplet, Sixth and Centre Streets – it included the Moseley family cemetery and the “Rural Cemetery”, a burial ground for the city of Owensboro until the establishment of Elwood Cemetery in 1868.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 30 October 1879, p.4:**

**“Rural Cemetery.”  
A Deserted City of the Dead**

On yesterday Mr. C. R. Milne, assisted by a corps of workmen, was busy removing the remains of the following persons from the old cemetery, corner Fourth and Triplett streets, to "Elmwood," viz: Phil. B. Thompson, wife and two children; first wife of Robt. Craig; the wife of Dr. F. M. Pearl and infant son. But one grave that can be identified yet remains, that of Matthew Kirkpatrick, who died in 1852 at the age of twenty-four years. This grave is on the old Mosley lot, which as deeded to be used for a grave-yard only, the property reverting to the heirs whenever used for other purposes. We give a brief historic sketch of the old and new cemeteries.

The necessity for a suitable place to bury the dead, becoming manifest to the citizens of Owensboro, in the year 1856, a company was organized composed of Wm. Bell, James Weir, R. M. Hathaway, Geo. Scarborough, D. M. Griffith, F. M. Pearl, J. B. Anderson, Robt. Craig, John H. McHenry, Sr., S. M. Wing and E. A. Hathaway. The newly organized company purchased of R. M. Hathaway and F. M. Pearl about nine acres of ground, in what was then known as Hathaway's addition, but now bounded by Fourth, Triplett, Sixth and Centre streets. The plot of ground purchased was appropriately arranged and laid out for a city of the dead, and dedicated as the "Rural Cemetery," the remains of Elisha Athy being the first deposited in it. Its use was continued until 1868, when the small area and the growth of the city necessitated a more spacious and suitable place. A new company was then organized composed of the following, persons, viz: S. M. Wing, James Weir, R. M. Hathaway, D. M. Griffith, F. Kimbly, C. Griffith, T. S. Venable, W. B. Tyler, W. N. Sweeney, B. Bransford, T. S. Anderson, David Hamilton, J. H. McHenry, Jr., Charles Werner, John G. Barkley, W. T. Courtney, S. H. Ford and W. H. Perkins. Forty acres of ground were purchased of John G. Barkley, situated about one mile south-east of Owensboro, which was handsomely laid out, beautifully adorned with shade trees and shrubbery and the name "Rural Hill Cemetery" given to it, which in April, 1869, was changed to its present name – "Elmwood." Mr. C. R. Milne was admitted into the company in May, 1875. Nearly all the remains were removed from the old to the new cemetery, as soon as change was made. Vast improvements were made at a large expense, which encumbered the cemetery with a heavy debt. A publication on this subject, says: "The Directors were urged to make arrangements to pay off the debt, if possible, but they seemed unable to do so. T. S. Anderson, being the largest creditor, then proposed to give the company one year's time, without interest on his claim, if they would secure it, but this was declined. He then proposed to pay the entire debt of the cemetery, himself, if the company would transfer its property to him. It was generally conceded at the time that the entire property of the cemetery would not pay its debts at a forced sale, and, before said, the debt was increasing yearly. The Directors said the proposition was liberal, more so than they would be willing to make, and on the 25th of June, 1878, the cemetery and assets were conveyed by deed to T. S. Anderson, on condition that he should pay all debts of the cemetery, and that the grounds should be forever used as a burial-ground and kept in good order." Since the transfer was made to Mr. Anderson the grounds have been greatly improved, and it is no wonder to us that all who had departed relatives and friends in the old neglected cemetery were anxious to have them removed to Elmwood.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 24 September 1899, p.2:**

### Reminiscences of Ancient Yellow Banks

... Sam and George Moseley were sons of Capt. Moseley, who owned and lived on a farm lying between the eastern limits of the city at that time and the Leitchfield road. He raised a large family of children. His daughters were among the beautiful and elegant belles. One married Wm. R. Griffith, one married John H. McFarland, and one married Mathew Kirkpatrick, who is alluded to as a merchant with his brother-in-law, Moseley, and who owned and lived on the property beginning at Fourth and Frederica streets and running out to Anthony street. His son, Matthew, heired the estate and sold it to the late S. M. Moorman, emigrating to Missouri...

[Note: Above was written by Frank Lockett Hall (1823-1907), an early settler at Yellow Banks (Owensboro). Thomas Moseley's son, Samuel Moseley, in 1829, was partners with his brother-in-law, Anthony Kirkpatrick, in the firm of Moseley & Kirkpatrick.]



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 12 March 1916, p.4:**

### The People's Forum

... "Another big word for the little fellow was 'prominent.' When a party to whom my mother was talking had left her – I asked the meaning of the word. She said, 'I want to impress its meaning on your mind – hence I'll not answer immediately. Do you remember while going down in town with me, of seeing a log house with an open hallway and stairs running up in the hallway? You asked me what the little house on top of that building was for. I told you that was where they hung a bell when that was a tavern. Then you asked what all the bricks were lying about there for. I told you that was where Capt. Moseley's tavern had burned. Now I will tell you the meaning of the word "prominent." Anyone who is much talked about is prominent. Capt. was prominent because he brought a flatboat load of lumber and brick to Owensboro and built the tavern where you saw the ruins. And his family was prominent because there were 19 children. There were 13 girls and four boys."

"The daughters married prominent men of Owensboro – namely – Phillip Thompson, William R. Griffith, Dr. John Roberts, Mathew Kirkpatrick [should be Anthony Kirkpatrick], James Daniels, James Hannah, John S. McFarland – I am not positive about the others.

"Capt. Moseley and his wife were a happy, jovial couple."...

[Note: The preceding was written in a letter to the editor of the Owensboro Inquirer by Col. James M. Holmes (1825-1925).]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 26 May 1926, p.10:**

**D. A. R. TO HAVE  
SERVICES SUNDAY**

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**Marker For Capt. Thomas  
Moseley To Be Unveiled  
With Program.**

The General Evan Shelby chapter D. A. R. will unveil a marker for Capt. Thomas Moseley at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon at a private burying ground in Fifth street, just off Triplett street. This plot of ground was reserved by Capt. Moseley as a burying ground and he requested that his remains be laid there.

This marker was presented the chapter by the government, which is endeavoring to locate the graves of all Revolutionary soldiers. It will be presented by Mrs. S. S. Watkins. Capt. Thomas Moseley being her great grandfather. The marker will be unveiled by Misses Rose Yandall and Mary Holmes McCulloch. who are great-great-great-grandchildren of Capt. Moseley. The program follows:

Invocation, Rev. O. C. Griffith. "Star Spangled Banner," audience.  
Address, Frank D. Rash. Louisville, national committeeman from the American Legion.  
Presentation of marker, Mrs. S. S. Watkins.  
Unveiling of marker, Misses Rose Yandall and Mary Holmes McCulloch.  
Benediction, Rev. O. C. Griffith.  
Salute – R. O. T. C. firing squad in charge of Major Joseph Earle.  
Taps



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 September 1964, p.2B**  
(Dedication of New Courthouse Historical Edition)

### **Daviess County Created By State Legislature In 1815**

... (According to an affidavit signed by Col J. M. Holmes, born Nov. 10, 1825, Thomas Moseley Sr. owned a tavern between the Ohio River and 2nd Street where the "first court of this county was held.")

[note: Col. James M. Holmes (1825-1925), elder statesman and longtime resident of Owensboro, was considered Owensboro's unofficial historian and several articles about his recollections were published in the Owensboro newspapers.]



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 October 1965, p.5C:**  
(Daviess County Sesquicentennial Edition)

**Thomas Moseley, Revolutionary Soldier, In Owensboro Grave**

Another veteran of the Revolutionary War is buried in a long-since abandoned cemetery on the south side of East Fifth Street, between Triplett and Center, in Owensboro. He was Thomas Moseley, who was born in Virginia in 1756 and served as a private and later a sergeant in the 9th Virginia Regiment. He died in Owensboro in 1841 and was buried in the one-fourth-acre plot officially designated in the Daviess County records as the "Moseley cemetery."

On February 1, 1924, General Evan Shelby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, applied to the federal government for a marker for the grave. More than two years later, on May 30, 1926, it unveiled with fitting ceremonies. Today this marker stands in the old graveyard in which three ancient stones remain. One marks the grave of Mathew Kirkpatrick who died on Nov. 11, 1827; another the grave of Anthony Kirkpatrick, and the third, the final resting place of Malvina (Kirkpatrick) Watkins.

None of the three stones is standing, but they remain face up on the turf, and legible.

The present grave of Moseley fails to come up to the specifications in his will, dated March 21, 1829. This document set out that Moseley's wish was that he be "buried in the usual way, surrounded by a brick wall; and a neat tom (sic) stone."

The brick wall and the original "tom stone" are missing.

The location of Moseley's grave was authenticated on Jan. 28, 1924, by an affidavit signed by Col. J. M. Holmes, who said he was born in Daviess County on Nov. 10, 1825, and recalled the lot in which the veteran of the national War of Independence was interred. He explained that Moseley was "the ancestor of the Griffith family of which I am a kinsman."

The Holmes affidavit also revealed that Moseley owned a lot in St. Ann Street, between the Ohio River and Second Street, on which a tavern was located. It was in this tavern, he said, that the "first court of this county was held."

The Moseley cemetery and the around the land around the original quarter-acre plot was Owensboro's third cemetery. After Elmwood was opened, all but a few of the bodies buried in the Fifth and Triplett streets area were moved there.

A deed of sale of the Moseley property, which was purchased from John May and David Ross, for whom Rossboro (Owensboro second) was named, is in Deed Book "M" at the Daviess County Court House. It reserves the quarter-acre for a cemetery.



**A History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky,**  
**Hugh O. Potter, Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing, Montgomery, AL, 1974, p.81:**

Sgt. Thomas Moseley, who served in a Virginia regiment, owned a lot on St. Ann Street where he built a tavern which served as the first courtroom of Daviess county. He is buried in a long-since abandoned Moseley cemetery on the south side of East Fifth Street, between Triplett

and Center, in Owensboro. Sergeant Moseley was born in Virginia in 1756 and served as a private and later as a sergeant in the 9th Virginia Regiment. He died in Owensboro in 1841. On February 1, 1924, the General Evan Shelby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, applied to the federal government for a marker for the grave. More than two years later, on May 30, 1926, it was unveiled with fitting ceremonies.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 May 1978, p.1B:**

3 tombstones remain in forgotten cemetery

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

Matthew Kirkpatrick was 35 in the late fall of 1827 when his friends and neighbors buried him on the rural hillside a mile or so from the settlement of Owensboro.

Malvina Watkins was 24 when she was buried in an adjoining plot seven years later.

Sgt. Thomas Moseley, a Virginia veteran of the American Revolution, was 85 when he was laid to rest there another seven years later.

Of the hundreds of pioneer Owensboroans buried in the cemetery that stretched from what is now Triplett to Center Street and from Fourth to Sixth, only their tombstones remain this Memorial Day.

The woods in which this cemetery was begun has long vanished. And although the cemetery is listed on county records as "Old Rural Hill Cemetery" the nearest rural land today is more than two miles away as the crow flies.

L.W. "Luke" Vetter lives two houses' down from the small plot that remains from the once large cemetery. He stood on the little knoll overlooking the intersection of 5th and Triplett streets recently telling visitors about the old burying ground.

Vetter has lived all his 78 years in eastern Owensboro around the old cemetery. He remembers that when some of the houses on the north side of 5th Street were built, workers dug into old graves.

"When they were building that house over there," he pointed, "they hit a vault. A lot of the people that was buried here was moved out to Elmwood cemetery when it opened (in the 1860s) but a lot of them are still buried out here."

The three tombstones belonged to people wealthy enough to have that type of marker, he says. But the cemetery also held many people not that well off financially.

At one time, when the city was mowing the remains of the cemetery, Vetter says, all the small grave markers were given away to anyone that wanted them. He has a dozen or more in his back yard – one of which marks the final resting place of his dog "Tutue" against which Lassie wouldn't have stood a chance in trick competition, he says.

Occasionally on Memorial Day ceremonies are held at the Moseley grave, Vetter says, and a flag is flown there,

On Memorial Day 1926, the Daughters of the American Revolution unveiled a federal marker on Moseley's grave. Today it is also marked by a large rosebush growing on top of it.

Moseley, who ran a popular tavern on St. Ann Street in the early days of the settlement, is credited with owning Daviess County's first courthouse.

According to county history, Moseley's tavern served as a courtroom while the county was in the process of building a public facility. Records aren't too clear on why some of those buried in the old cemetery remained behind when others were moved to Elmwood. But the exodus cost the cemetery one of its more illustrious residents.

Thompson, an extensive land owner and one of Daviess County's first tobacco brokers, became the first Owensboroan to serve in Congress in 1823. He was buried in Old Rural Hill Cemetery in 1837 and moved to Elmwood some 30 years later.

As the years rolled by, the settlement turned into a village, a town and a city. The old cemetery was engulfed by progress.

It's doubtful if any of those who lie here, except perhaps for Moseley, were remembered this Memorial Day.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 August 1999, p.1B:**

**What's That?**

Why is there a tombstone near the southeast corner of Fifth and Triplett streets?

That's Old Rural Hill Cemetery, which dates to the 1820s when East Fifth really was a rural area. Most of the graves were moved to Elmwood Cemetery in the 1860s, but many remained behind. Only two tombstones have survived. Malvina Watkins died in 1834 and Sgt. Thomas Moseley, a Virginia veteran of the American Revolution and owner of a popular St. Ann Street tavern, died in 1841. Watkins' tombstone is flat against the earth. Moseley's is still standing, but it's covered by a bush.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, , KY, 29 May 2000, p.1A**

**Revolutionary War vet to be honored**

Moseley led faction that pushed  
for formation of Daviess County

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

It wouldn't be too much of a stretch to call Sgt Thomas Moseley, a St Ann Street tavern owner, the "father of Owensboro" or even the "father of Daviess County."

After all, he led the faction that split Daviess from Ohio County in 1815 and demanded that the seat of the new county be established at the settlement then known as the Big Yellow Banks.

But time has not been kind to Moseley's memory. He lies in a forgotten grave behind a tire store near the corner of Fifth and Triplett streets.

That, however, is about to change.

By next Memorial Day 160 years after his death city officials say Moseley's grave will have a monument worthy of a man of his stature in local history.



Or his grave may be moved to the Veterans' Monument in front of the Sportscenter.

City Manager Ron Payne says, "We've got the Daughters of the American Revolution and some veterans' groups helping us. We've got a Revolutionary War veteran buried in Owensboro, and we need to pay some attention to him. Not only is he a veteran, but he played an important part in our history."

According to a history written by Lucius P. Little, Daviess circuit judge in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was a meeting of the state militia at Moseley's tavern in what is now the 100 block of St. Ann Street in 1813.

Someone brought up the topic of breaking away from Ohio County and forming a new county.

But some argued that there were only 2,000 people in the proposed county. That was too small to guarantee the money for a courthouse and jail, they argued.

"Why, it would break up the county," a man named Joe Barnett declared.

A lot of what would become Daviess County was swampy, he said. "How are they going to hold court where the people can't get to the courthouse? The legislature is never going to make a goose of itself by establishing such a needless county."

But Moseley, who listened to the argument from behind his bar, would have none of that. He was a fiery advocate of the change. "

Yellow Banks is destined – mark that gentlemen, destined," he is reported to have said. "Yellow Banks is the rising town on the Ohio. That's right. Destined, predestined, foreordained and eternally fixed and settled in the unchangeable order of future events."

For the town to prosper, he argued, a new county must be formed.

And on Jan. 14, 1815, the Moseley faction won.

The Kentucky Legislature created Daviess County. And a committee was appointed to select the county seat.

It came down to a choice between Vienna (now Calhoun), the oldest settlement in the new county, and Yellow Banks, a still raw frontier clearing.

Yellow Banks was the only choice, faction said. And they won the day, Little wrote, donating two acres for a public square and offering to sell land to pay for the cost of construction of necessary buildings.

Moseley's tavern even became the first courthouse.

On Oct 9, 1815, Circuit Judge Henry Powell Brodnax dressed in short breeches with knee buckles, his hair plaited and tucked with a comb walked into Moseley's tavern and called to order the first session of circuit court in Daviess County.

After that Moseley quietly faded from local history.

A Virginian by birth, he had served as a sergeant in the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment during the American Revolution.

He must have found prosperity in his adopted Owensboro. His will leaves several slaves to various family members.

In 1827, when he was 71, Moseley bought a large wooded area east of the settlement.

It was there that he wanted to be buried.

When he drafted his will in 1829, Moseley wrote: "I wish to be buried in the usual way, surrounded by a brick wall and a neat tombstone."

He would live another 12 years, dying in 1841 at age 85.

If there was ever a brick wall around Moseley's grave, it's long gone now.

The "neat tombstone" he wanted also disappeared years ago.

But in 1924, the Daughters of the American Revolution discovered Moseley's unattended grave and worked for two years to get the federal government to supply a monument for it. They dedicated Moseley's monument on Memorial Day in 1926.

But 74 years of weather have left that monument in rough condition, too. "We've removed it for safekeeping, and if stored until we make a decision on what we're going to do," Payne said.

"We're trying to determine if we want to renovate that area, put up a picket fence around the grave and maybe a flag, or if we want to relocate the grave to the Sportscenter."

By the time Moseley was buried, his family graveyard had become known as Rural Hill Cemetery. It stretched from Triplett to Center and from Fourth to Sixth. But when Elmwood Cemetery opened in the 1860s, many of the people were re-buried there.

Moseley and some others remained. But Fifth Street was cut through the cemetery and houses built across much of it.

In 1920, Moseley's heirs he reportedly had 18 children and the city worked out a deal for the family cemetery to become Moseley Square Park. But it was never developed.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 27 May 2001, p.1C:**

**Group seeks to improve, preserve historic cemetery near Fifth Street**

By Joy Campbell, Messenger-Inquirer

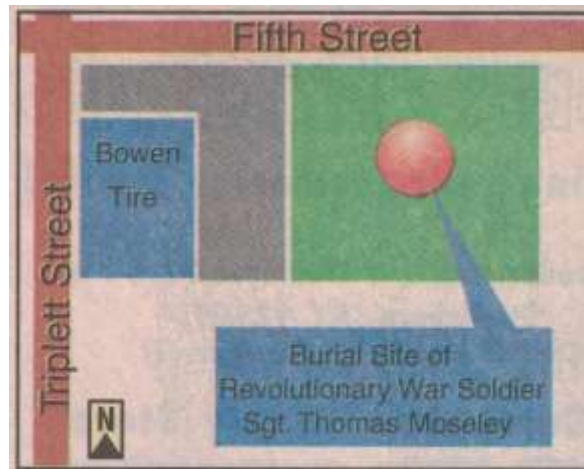
"Most people would be surprised to know there is a historic cemetery off Fifth Street in Owensboro," said Bob Darling, chairman of the Old Owensboro Neighborhood Alliance.

Darling is part of an informal group hoping to change that.

The little-known burial ground is on a hillside south of East Fifth Street, between Triplett and Center streets. It is the final resting place for Sgt. Thomas Moseley, a Revolutionary War soldier with a prominent place in Daviess County's history.

"Any veteran needs to be recognized, not just put in a field and forgotten about," Randall Aull said.

Aull, who will take over as commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 on June 25, is seeking ideas for preserving the landmark.



“We want to improve the site, preserve it and make it more visible and accessible,” said Community Coordinator Tracy McQueen Marksberry, who is facilitating the group’s efforts. “Our plans are very preliminary right now, but we hope to have them finalized before Veterans Day in November and finish it next year.”

For now, the group is proposing an entrance to the cemetery from Fifth Street that would feature a brick walkway leading up the hill to brick pillars with wrought iron on each side.

“Some of our concerns have been how to make the walkway gradual enough for people to use, including those who are handicapped,” Marksberry said. “And we don’t want to disturb the site.”

Creating a border of shrubs and trees near the Seventh Street side, with a few more placed strategically for screening, also may be part of the plan, Marksberry said.

A key part of the improvements will be resetting Moseley’s marker. The Gen. Evan Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution secured a marker from the federal government that was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1926. City officials stored the monument for safekeeping until it can be more permanently affixed.

“We want to build a small brick wall behind the marker,” Marksberry said.

City Manager Ron Payne has suggested that a Revolutionary War flag be placed on or near Moseley’s marker with backlighting to accent the site.

Moseley died in 1841. He is credited with leading the effort to split Daviess County from Ohio County in 1815. He was buried in his family graveyard called Old Rural Hill Cemetery, which then extended from Triplett to Center and Fourth Street to Sixth Street.

Many graves were moved to Elmwood Cemetery in the 1860s, but several, including Moseley’s, remained on the hill. Fifth Street later came through the cemetery, and houses were built on it.

“We’re not sure how many graves are there,” Marksberry said. A few tombstones, most illegible, remain at the site.

Darling said he would like to work with a local college or university to conduct a preliminary site survey that might determine if tombstones have been buried slightly beneath the surface. The project would not disturb the site, he said.

Marksberry estimates the improvements will cost \$20,000.

“This is a ballpark estimate, because we don’t know how much the walkway or wall will cost,” she said. “The historical marker will cost about \$1,600.”

The project may qualify for a grant from the Kentucky Historical Society, Marksberry said. The group also hopes to work with other local organizations to raise money for the improvements.

Two members of the DAR, Jane Stevenson and Norma Smith, also are working on the project.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 6 October 2001, p.4C:**

**Group plans Moseley cemetery dedication for Veterans Day**

**By Joy Campbell, Messenger-Inquirer**

The will of Sgt. Thomas Moseley, a prominent Revolutionary War soldier who died in 1841, reportedly stated that he wanted to be buried “in the usual way, surrounded by a brick wall and a neat tombstone.”

If all goes well, Moseley’s wishes will be carried out by Veterans Day in a memorial service at his grave atop a steep hill south of East Fifth Street.

“Any military person shouldn’t be buried and left,” said Randall Aull, commander of the Owensboro Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696. “We want the plot recognized as the resting place of this Revolutionary War soldier.”

Aull is a member of an informal city committee that has been working on the dedication for more than a year and a half. Other members are Bob Darling, chairman of the Old Owensboro Neighborhood Alliance, and Jane Stevenson and Norma Smith of the General Evan Shelby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

“We’re installing a brick wall with two columns and wrought iron in between,” Community Coordinator Tracy McQueen Marksberry said. “If he ever did have a wall, it’s long since disappeared.”

The footer has been poured for the wall and work is expected to be finished in time for the Nov. 11 ceremony, Marksberry said.

Moseley’s name and military information will be inset into the brick wall, and the grave marker provided by the DAR in 1926 will be reset in front of the wall, Marksberry said.

A lighted, 15-foot flag pole will fly the Revolutionary War flag, Marksberry said. “This will be visible from Triplett Street as well as Fifth Street and will help people locate the site.”

The plaque will contain this information:

“Moseley Square Cemetery. Final resting place of Sgt. Thomas Moseley, Revolutionary War soldier and Daviess County pioneer. Rededicated by the city of Owensboro, Veterans Day, 2001.”

The committee had planned to create an entrance with stairs up the hill and a walkway. Those plans were abandoned out of concern for damage that might occur from excavation.

“That cemetery is so old, we’re not sure where the graves are,” Marksberry said.

Smith, past regent of the Shelby DAR chapter, said she is pleased the city has taken an interest in restoring the cemetery. “That is one of the objectives of the DAR – to mark the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers.”

City Manager Ron Payne said the city’s old cemeteries were ignored too long, but the city has made progress in restoring them.

“We have a famous person buried up there,” Payne said. “Sgt. Moseley played a role in the community’s development – his tavern was used as the first courthouse, and he’s a veteran of the Revolutionary War.”

Payne said the city needs to honor the prominent Daviess Countian and distinguished veteran and preserve that part of the community’s history.

“This marker could be something that our schools will want to bring schoolchildren to and talk about local history,” Payne said.

The project will cost about \$5,000 after landscaping, Marksberry said. The city should learn soon whether it will receive a grant of up to \$2,500 from the Kentucky Historical Society to help with funding.

Darling said his neighborhood includes a lot of history of the area. “It’s important that we remember our history, and this is part of Daviess County’s history.”

Aull asked Master Sgt. James Goodall of the U.S. Army Reserve to coordinate the Nov. 11 ceremony. “He has organized two or three other dedications of Revolutionary War cemeteries,” Aull said.

Goodall said the program has been tentatively set to feature a color guard, soldiers dressed in period uniforms, speakers, a flag-raising ceremony, 21-gun salute and taps.

“Sometimes we forget our history,” Goodall said. “This reminds us that some people paid for our freedoms.”



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 9 November 2001, p.1C:**

**Soldier’s grave site will be rededicated on Sunday  
Thomas Moseley served during Revolutionary War**

By Joy Campbell, Messenger-Inquirer

Doug Moseley, 73, of Bowling Green was visiting Owensboro a few years ago and discovered the grave of an ancestor, Sgt. Thomas Moseley, hidden atop a hill on East Fifth Street.

“I was going to try to get permission to move Sgt. Moseley to the veterans cemetery in Bowling Green,” Doug Moseley said. “The grave had been neglected so long. I wrote to the mayor, and he told me what the city was planning.”

The plans to restore and rededicate Moseley Square Cemetery will come together at 2 p.m. Sunday in a public ceremony at the site. The event will include a color guard, soldiers dressed in period uniforms, 21-gun salute and comments from family, veterans groups and local officials. The cemetery is just east of Triplett Street behind Bowen Tire Co.

“I’m elated with what’s happening with this ceremony,” Doug Moseley said.

Sgt. Moseley served as a private and later a sergeant in the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment during the American Revolution. He also was a businessman and a strong proponent for breaking away from Ohio County and creating a new county. Historians recount that his tavern was used in 1815 as the first Daviess County courthouse.

The soldier died in 1841 and was buried in the East Fifth Street cemetery. In 1926 the Daughters of the American Revolution had a military marker installed at Moseley’s grave, but the site has been in a state of disrepair since most graves were moved to Elmwood Cemetery. A few years ago the city took down the marker to protect it from vandalism and stored it for safekeeping until the grave could be properly restored.

The city’s restoration of Moseley Square Cemetery has involved constructing a brick wall at Moseley’s grave and resetting the original DAR marker. A new plaque with his name and military information will be inset in the brick wall.

A lighted, 15-foot flagpole will fly the Revolutionary War flag and make the site more visible, said Community Coordinator Tracy McQueen Marksberry.

Marksberry said the project cost about \$5,000, including landscaping. A Kentucky Pioneer Cemeteries grant from the Kentucky Historical Society offset some of the cost.

The group had hoped to install a wheelchair ramp at the site. Members decided against that, however, because of the steep grade and a concern that excavation might cause damage. Stairs have been built to provide better access, Marksberry said.

An informal committee organized Sunday's restoration project. Members in addition to Marksberry were Randall Aull, commander of the Owensboro Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696; Bob Darling, president of the Old Owensboro Neighborhood Alliance; Jane Stevenson and Norma Smith of the General Evan Shelby DAR Chapter.

Parking is available on Fifth Street, and Bowen Tire has given permission to use its parking lot Sunday.



**Messenger-Inquirer. KY, Owensboro, KY, 12 November 2001, p.1B:**

Long overdue – Owensboro honors one of its founders

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer



As the Moseley Square Cemetery Rededication comes to a close, period-dressed soldiers and their wives depart Sunday afternoon past Sgt. Thomas Moseley's marker.



Dressed in traditional period clothing, the Fort Hartford Muzzleloaders fire their first rounds for a 20-gun salute Sunday afternoon during the Moseley Square Cemetery Rededication.

It took nearly two centuries. But the city that innkeeper Thomas Moseley fought to create finally honored his memory on a sun-splashed Veterans Day.

“This restoration is long overdue,” City Manager Ron Payne told more than 50 people who gathered Sunday for the dedication of the newly renovated Moseley Square Cemetery near the corner of Third and Triplett streets.

“It’s very fitting that we do this on Veterans Day,” Payne said of the new monument erected over Moseley’s grave.

Moseley, who died in 1841, was a veteran of the American Revolution, serving as a private – and later, a sergeant – in the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment.

“The spirit of patriotism is never blurred,” the Rev. H. Dudley Moseley, pastor of New Friendship Baptist Church in Auburn, told the crowd. “That same spirit of liberty and freedom still burns in our hearts.”

Moseley is a descendant of Sgt. Moseley, who came to Kentucky in 1783, when it was still part of Virginia.

By 1813, Moseley was operating a tavern in what is now the 100 block of St. Ann Street.

It was there, according to a history written by Lucius P. Little, a Daviess County circuit court judge in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, that the movement to break away from Ohio County and create Daviess County was born.

Little’s history says that during a meeting of the state militia at the tavern in 1813, some argued that with only 2,000 people, the area proposed for the new county was too small to succeed.

But Moseley, a fiery advocate of the change, told the crowd: “Yellow Banks (the settlement’s original name) is destined – mark that, gentlemen, destined. Yellow Banks is the rising town on the Ohio. That’s right. Destined, predestined, foreordained and eternally fixed and settled in the unchangeable order of future events.” And on Jan. 14, 1815, the Moseley faction won. That was the date that the Kentucky General Assembly created Daviess County. Moseley’s tavern even served as the first courthouse for the new county.

But Ohio County also paid tribute to Moseley on Sunday.

A 10-member honor guard from the Fort Hartford Muzzleloaders fired a 20-flintlock salute over his grave as the dedication ended.

The smell of black powder hung in the warm Indian Summer air and tiny pieces of wadding drifted on the breeze.

Each member of the re-enactment group adopts the persona of a person living in Kentucky’s frontier times.

Michael McKannan of Ohio County, in his persona as the Rev. Nathaniel Witherspoon, commanded the honor guard with authentic firing squad commands from two centuries ago.

“Bring your firelock to the ready,” he commanded. “Prime your firelock. Charge your firelock. Ready your firelock. Fire.”

As the sound of gunfire faded, Phillip Crabtree II sounded “Taps,” a tune written more than two decades after Moseley’s death, to end the tribute.

It had begun 30 minutes earlier when the Owensboro High School Junior ROTC color guard marched to the grave site.

Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 398<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 100<sup>th</sup> Division of the U.S. Army Reserves raised the “Betsy Ross” American flag from the Revolutionary War on a 15-foot pole behind the grave.

Payne said a spotlight will illuminate the flag at night.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlie Castlen reminded those gathered in the old cemetery that “it was not a united America that went to war to fight for liberty.”

Only approximately one-third of those living in the 13 colonies in 1776 “were willing to fight for our liberties,” he said. “The fact that we’re standing here today tells me we haven’t forgotten.”

Doug Moseley of Bowling Green, another of Sgt. Moseley’s descendants, told the crowd that many of them are probably related to the man they were honoring.

“He had nine children,” Doug Moseley said. “Five of them were daughters and his bloodlines have entered many families. The Moseleys are a prolific bunch, and we’re probably kin to half of the people here today.”

Randall Aull, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696, said, “We should never forget our fallen comrades, wherever they are laid to rest.”

Jane Stevenson, representing the Gen. Evan Shelby Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, reminded the crowd that it was 75 years ago in 1926 that the DAR honored Moseley with a special tombstone.

That stone, badly weathered, was restored for the project.

“Sgt. Moseley’s visibility has been raised,” she said.

Bob Darling of the Old Owensboro Neighborhood Association noted that Moseley “has resided in our neighborhood for more than 160 years.” He thanked the city for restoring the abandoned cemetery.

In 1827, when he was 71, Moseley bought a large wooded area east of Owensboro.

It was there that he wanted to be buried.

When he drafted his will in 1829, Moseley wrote: “I wish to be buried in the usual way, surrounded by a brick wall and a neat tombstone.”

He would live another 12 years, dying in 1841 at age 85.

If there was ever a brick wall around Moseley’s grave, it disappeared years ago.

But Community Coordinator Tracy McQueen Marksberry, who coordinated the renovation, was able to get a wall erected behind the grave with a plaque bearing Moseley’s name.

Marksberry said the project cost about \$5,000, including landscaping. A Kentucky Pioneer Cemeteries grant from the Kentucky Historical Society offset some of the cost, she said.

By the time Moseley was buried, his family graveyard had become known as Rural Hill Cemetery. It stretched from Triplett to Center and from Fourth to Sixth.

But when Elmwood Cemetery opened in the 1860s, many of the people were reburied there.

Moseley and some others remained. But Fifth Street was cut through the cemetery and houses built across much of it.

In 1920, Moseley’s heirs and the city worked out a deal for the family cemetery to become Moseley Square Park. But it was never developed.

Until now.





**Messenger-Inquirer. KY, Owensboro, KY, 4 June 2015, p.1B:**

**Movement to create Daviess born in a tavern**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

As Daviess County celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and Owensboro follows suit in 2017, there really should be a marker of some kind in 100 block of St. Ann Street.

That apparently was where the movement was born to create Daviess County out of Ohio County and to make what was then simply known as the Yellow Banks, the county seat.

Sgt. Thomas Moseley, who fought in the American Revolution with the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, came to Kentucky about 1783, when it was still a Virginia county.

By 1813, Moseley was operating a tavern in what is now the 100 block of St. Ann Street.

It was there, according to a history written by Lucius P. Little, a Daviess County circuit court judge in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, that the movement to break away from Ohio County and create Daviess County was born.

During a meeting of the state militia at Moseley's tavern in 1813, Little wrote, an argument broke out between Moseley and a member of the Barnett family that figured prominently in Ohio County history.

The Barnett faction argued that with only 2,000 people, the area proposed for the new county was too small to guarantee the money for a courthouse and jail.

"Why, it would break up the county," Barnett is said to have declared.

A lot of what would be Daviess County was swampy, he said.

"How are they going to hold court where the people can't get to the courthouse?" Barnett argued. "The legislature is never going to make a goose of itself by establishing such a needless county."

But Moseley, a fiery advocate of the change, told the crowd: "Yellow Banks is destined — mark that, gentlemen, destined. Yellow Banks is the rising town on the Ohio. That's right. Destined, predestined, foreordained and eternally fixed and settled in the unchangeable order of future events."

And on Jan. 14, 1815, the Moseley faction won.

That was the date that the Kentucky General Assembly created Daviess County, although the change wouldn't take effect until June 1.

A committee was appointed to select the county seat.

It came down to a choice between Vienna (now Calhoun), the oldest settlement in the new county, and Yellow Banks, a still raw frontier clearing.

The citizens of Yellow Banks won the day, Little wrote, donating two acres for a public square and offering to sell land to pay for the cost of construction of necessary buildings — like the jail.

So Yellow Banks, given the new name "Owensborough," was selected as the seat of justice of the new county because it better suited "the public convenience, of water and situation, as it respects the capacity of the land in said county for sustaining present and future population."

Moseley's tavern even served as the first courthouse for the new county.

On Oct. 9, 1815, Judge Henry Powell Brodnax strode into the tavern and called to order the first session of circuit court in Daviess County.

During that first session of Daviess Circuit Court, George Handley was appointed circuit court clerk and Joseph Allen, Moses Cummins, Philip Thompson, William R. Griffith and Arch Wilson were admitted to practice law.

In 1827, when he was 71, Moseley bought a large wooded area east of Owensboro.

It was there that he wanted to be buried.

When he drafted his will in 1829, Moseley wrote: "I wish to be buried in the usual way, surrounded by a brick wall and a neat tombstone."

He would live another 12 years, dying in 1841 at age 85.

After years of neglect, Owensboro officials cleaned up what was left of the historic cemetery and restored his tombstone on Veterans Day 2001.

"This restoration is long overdue," then-City Manager Ron Payne told more than 50 people who gathered that Sunday for the dedication of the newly renovated Moseley Square Cemetery near the corner of Fifth and Triplett streets.

Since then, the Lt. Robert Moseley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has conducted a special observance in Moseley Square on the Thursday night before Memorial Day.

But it would be nice to have a marker in the 100 block of St. Ann to tell visitors that here was where the movement to create both Owensboro and Daviess County was born.



## **Report on Thomas Moseley (c1765-1841) & His Family**

By Jerry Long

Thomas Moseley (Jr.), a Revolutionary War veteran, was a native of Virginia. Quotes of his birth year vary from 1756 to 1767. Interpreting jointly his age category as reported in the 1810, 1820 and 1830 federal censuses his birth was during 1765-1770 (in 1810 aged 26-45, in 1820 aged over 45), in 1830 aged 60-70). He was a son of Thomas Moseley & Jane Stoner, who were residents of Cumberland County, VA and its adjoining county of Powhatan County. His parents were married on 4 December 1759 in Cumberland County, VA ([Virginia/West Virginia Genealogical Data From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Records](#), Vol. 3, Patrick G. Wardell , Heritage Books, Inc, Bowie, MD, 1992, p.312).

The Daviess County, KY deeds and his will shows that Thomas Moseley's wife was named Mary. Her name also appears as 'Polly', a common nickname for the name Mary. Thomas married Mary ('Polly') Watkins. They obtained a marriage license in Cumberland County, VA on 28 June 1790. Mary, the daughter of John Watkins & Mary Hudson, was born about 1772 in VA. Thomas' wife is identified as "Miss Watkins" in a biography of a grandson, Clinton Griffith, published in the 1883 [History of Daviess County, Kentucky](#) (pp.868-869):

CLINTON GRIFFITH, of Owensboro, born one and a half miles southwest of Owensboro, Daviess County, Oct. 18, 1832, is a son of Wm. R. and Arrie (Moseley) Griffith... His mother was born in Virginia, a daughter of Captain **Tom Moseley**, a very old settler of Daviess County. He was one of the first settlers of Owensboro, and his old residence is still standing on Main street, in the upper part of town, a part of the Dunlap

plow property. The house is a two-story frame, and is in a good state of preservation. This is about the oldest house in town, and when first built was in the woods. Mrs. Moseley was a **Miss Watkins**, cousin of General Watkins, of Missouri. Mr. Ridgely Griffith, father of the subject of our sketch, was elected several times as a Representative from Daviess County to the Senate and Lower House. He died in December, 1848. Mrs. Griffith died in 1832. They had four sons, two living – Daniel M., real estate agent, and Clinton...

Thomas Moseley and his father-in-law, John Watkins (1742-1807), removed to Kentucky not long after his marriage. In 1791 Thomas Moseley acquired from John Watkins "part of the land whereon Watkins now lives" in Woodford County, KY (Woodford County Deed Book B, p.6). On June 8, 1792 Thomas Moseley is recorded as a bondsman in Woodford County, KY, for the re-marriage of his wife's aunt, Eliza (Watkins) to John Moss. The 1795 tax list of Woodford County shows that Thomas Moseley was taxed on 2,600 acres on Green River, a tributary of the Ohio River that extends through several counties in central and western Kentucky. John Watkins was a delegate to the Kentucky Constitutional Convention in 1792; a member of the first Kentucky legislature; and in 1792 was one of the founders and an original trustee of the town of Versailles, KY. In the will of John Watkins, he left bequests to his "daughter Polly Mosley" (horse bridle & saddle, and 15 pounds in cash or merchandize) and two slaves to Polly's daughters named as Sarah and Aria (Woodford County, KY Will Book C, pp.44-48, written on 1 April 1807 and recorded 5 August 1807). John Watkins brother, Henry, was the guardian and stepfather of Henry Clay (see History of Woodford County, William E. Railey, Roberts Printing Co., Frankfort, KY, 1928).

Thomas Moseley was a resident of Ohio County, KY when it was formed from Hardin County, KY on 17 December 1798. In a published listing of the 1796 tax list of Hardin County, KY Thomas was not found. In the annual tax lists of Ohio County Thomas is listed during 1799-1814. He is listed in the 1810 federal census of Hartford, Ohio County, KY and 1820 and 1830 censuses of Daviess County, KY.

In Ohio County, KY Deed Book A in 1804 there was recorded a series of deeds that pertained to lands on Panther Creek in Ohio County, KY owned by the late Thomas Moseley, Sr. (pp. 280-289). Among the documents filed with the deeds in Ohio County at this time was the will of Thomas Moseley, Sr. that had been recorded in Powhatan County, VA on 19 February 1795. The will stipulated that:

... To my daughter Catherine Branch two negros, a woman named Patt and a girl named Luckey. To my son **Thomas Moseley** all my lands in Kentucky and five shillings. To my daughter Susannah Haskins, a negro named Ned. To my son Peter Moseley, the land where I now live and seven negros Bratcher, Moll, Moses, Davy, Lid, Polly, and Abram, and all my livestock and household furniture . All estate in possession of my sons Daniel Mosley and Thomas Mosley to remain theirs. Witnesses Henry W. Watkins, Josiah Forlines, William Forlines.

Thomas Moseley, Sr. in 1781 purchased from Goodrich Crump lands on Panther Creek in Kentucky. The land was originally part of a land warrant issued to the said Crump. The land was located in what subsequently became Ohio County, KY. Thomas, Sr. left to his son, Thomas (Jr.) all of his Kentucky land. At the November 1803 court of Ohio County an order was issued ordering the heirs of Goodrich Crump to convey to Thomas Moseley two tracts (600 & 2000 acres) that he was entitled to by virtue of the will of Thomas Moseley, Sr. (Ohio County Order Book 1).

In the first court order books of Ohio County, KY Thomas Moseley was frequently named. During 1801-1809 he served as a justice on the Ohio County Court (Ohio County Order Books, 1-3). In September 1804 he was appointed jailer of Ohio County (Ohio County Order Book 1). In 1804 Thomas Moseley purchased 43 acres part of which was in the town of Hartford (Ohio County deed book AA, p130). In 1805 & 1806 "Thomas Moseley, of the town of Hartford," sold several slaves (Ohio County deed book AA, pp.138, 169, 170, 185, 196). In 1808 he was granted a license to keep a tavern at his house in Hartford (Ohio County Order Book 2). In 1810, 1812 and 1813 Thomas Moseley, and his, wife, Polly, sold 150 acres in Ohio County (deed book AA, pp.282, 455). In the 1810 census of Ohio County Thomas Moseley was listed as a resident of the town of Hartford. His household consisted of 16 whites and 6 slaves; Thomas' age appeared in the age range of 26 to 45. In 1810 Thomas Moseley was serving as sheriff of Ohio County" (Ohio County Order Book 3).

Thomas Moseley was a resident of Daviess County, Kentucky when that county was created from Ohio County, KY on 14 January 1815. Thomas Moseley during 1812-1813 moved from Hartford to the town of Yellow Banks (Owensboro). In March 1812 Thomas Moseley renewed his license to maintain a tavern at his home in Hartford (Ohio County Order Books 3). By 1813 he was operating a tavern in Owensboro (Yellow Banks) in what's now the 100 block of St. Ann Street. According to a history written during 1893-1895 by Judge Lucius P. Little (1838-1918), Daviess circuit judge in the late 19th century, there was a meeting of the state militia at Moseley's tavern in what is now the 100 block of St. Ann Street in 1813. After the formation of Daviess County the first session of the county's court was held at the tavern of Thomas Moseley. Col. James M. Holmes (1825-1925), a native son and historian of Owensboro wrote that the first court session of Daviess County was held at Moseley's tavern. This event was noted in the 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky (Inter-state Publishing Co., Chicago, p.108):

The records of this court are complete from the organization of the county in 1815 to the present time. As a matter of interest and curiosity in this historical work we will copy the first proceedings of this body:

"At a Circuit Court began and held for the county and circuit of Daviess at the house of Thomas Moseley, Sr., at the Yellow Banks in said county on Monday, the 9th day of October, 1815, and in the twenty-fourth year of the Commonwealth, were present the Hon. Henry P. Broadnax; George Calhoon and Anthony Thompson, Esquires."

The first official tabulation of residents of Owensboro appears in the 1821 tax book for Daviess County — the following "white males over 21 living in Owensborough" were listed:

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.

Thomas Moseley was partners with his son-in-law, Philip Thompson, in the firm of Moseley & Thompson. The 1822 Daviess County tax book reported that "Moseley & Thompson" were taxed on 5 town lots in Owensborough and 2 town lots in Hartford. In 1827 Thomas Moseley

purchased land along the Ohio River that was just east of the town of Owensboro and that was a part of John May's 1,950-acre survey (Daviness County, KY Deed Book B, p.350). He was subsequently buried on this land. On 21 March 1829 Thomas Moseley drafted a will. It was presented to the court and recorded in December 1841 (Daviness County, KY Will Book A-B, p.127). It appeared as follows:

I, Thomas Mosley of Davies County, Kentucky being of sound mind do make and ordain this my last will & testament.

Viz: I will to the heirs of my deceased children Aria Griffith heirs five dollars, Matilda McFarland heirs five dollars, Malvine Kirkpatrick late Mrs. Watkins heirs five dollars, & to my son John W. Mosley heirs five dollars. I will to my daughter Sally C. Thompson five dollars, to my daughter Mary Roberts five dollars and a negro girl Patsy, which she now has in her possession. I will to my son Thomas Mosley, Jr., three hundred dollars. I give to my wife Mary Mosley during her natural life time half of the negroes I may possess at my death. I give to my son George W. Mosley the remaining half of the negroes that I may possess at my death and I give to him the negroes at the death of my wife, which I have given her during her natural life time. I also give to my son G. W. Mosley all my stock consisting of horses, cattle & c. I make G. W. Mosley my heir to any and all species of property whatever I may have inherited from my son Meritt Mosley in the City of New Orleans in the state of Louisiana. I request my wife to live with my son George W. Mosley. I wish every just debt to be paid off that I may owe. I wish to be buried in the usual way surrounded by a brick wall and a neat tom stone.

March 21st, 1829

Thomas Mosley (seal)

Witness

W. M. Pickett (seal)

John Miller (seal)

Kentucky Daviness County Court Dec. Term 1841. The foregoing will of Thomas Mosley dec'd was produced in Court and proven by the oaths William Pickett & John Miller subscribing witnesses thereto to be the act & deed of said Thomas Mosley and ordered to record Whereupon said will hath been duly recorded in my office.

Att. John S. McFarland, Clk,

By Jos. Thomas, D.C.

State of Kentucky

Daviness County June Term 1867

The book containing the foregoing will having been destroyed it is ordered that the same be re-recorded. Witness my hand the 10th June 1867. T. C. Jones, Clk.

Thomas Moseley was not listed as a household head in the 1840 census of Daviness County, KY. The male aged 70-80 and the female aged 60 to 70 listed in the household of George W. Moseley are most likely Thomas & Mary Moseley. In his will Thomas had requested that his wife, Mary, live with his son, George W. Mosley. On 1 May 1840 Thomas Moseley & wife, Mary, and George W. Moseley & wife Ann, transferred land to Robert Triplett, one-half acre was reserved for the family graveyard (Daviness County, KY Deed Book F, p.331).

Fourteen years after the death of Thomas Moseley the town of Owensboro was in need of a new place to bury its dead. A company organized to open a new cemetery in 1856 purchased from R. M. Hathaway & F. M. Pearl 9 acres. The new cemetery was to be called "Rural Cemetery" (Daviness County Deed Book M, pp.571-575). Out of the 9 acres one-fourth acre was reserved for the Moseley family cemetery.

Thomas Moseley's widow, Mary Watkins Moseley, is listed in the home of her son, George W., in the 1850 census of Neosha, Newton County, Missouri – "Mary Moseley, aged 78 years, born in Virginia"). According to several family trees Mary is said to have died in 1854 and to have been buried at Neosha, Newton County, MO.

Thomas Moseley and Mary Watkins had a large family of children. The total has been reported variously as 10, 12, 18 and 19. Col. James M. Holmes (1825-1925) stated that Thomas had 19 children in all. The will of Thomas named 9 children – Arria, Malvina, John W., Sally C., Thomas, George W., Merrit, Mary and Matilda. The will did not name all of his children. Other estate records indicate Thomas also had children named Daniel, Samuel and Martha. It is possible that the son, Merrit, named in the will of his father, was also named Samuel, who at one point was a resident of New Orleans. Any other children that Thomas may have had probably died in infancy or childhood. Thomas Moseley & Mary Watkins were the parents of the following 11 children:

- Thomas Moseley, Jr. was born 12 July 1792 KY. Thomas (Jr.) in November 1813 was appointed one of the justices on the Ohio County, KY court. He married Sally Clay Field (1797-1868) on 24 December 1818 in Bourbon County, KY. Sally & Thomas were first cousins – Sally was the daughter of Henry Field & Sarah Watkins, who was a sister of Thomas' mother, Mary Watkins. During 1817-1821 Thomas (Jr.) moved to Madison County, Missouri, where he served as clerk of the county court for 16 years ("Autobiography of Rev. John Watkins Moseley", 1909). Thomas is listed as Thomas Moseley, Jun'r in the 1830 census of Fredericktown, Madison County, Missouri. In the 1840 census he appears in Sarcoxie, Newton County, MO, a town he had laid out. The following year his home became part of the new county of Jasper County, MO. Thomas died 16 August 1858 at Sarcoxie, in Jasper County, MO; he was buried in the Sarcoxie Cemetery. Thomas Moseley, Jr. & Sally Clay Field had nine children – Lycurgus Merritt (1813-1814), Thomas Henry (1815-1817), William Stanton (1817-1879, married Eliza M. L. Lafarge), Daniel (1821-1823), Amelia (1826-1891, married Samuel David Sanders), Rev. John Watkins (1828-1920, married Margaret Dick Peter), Beverly Allen (1830-1896, married Rosa Virginia Warfield), George Henry (1832-1833) and Thomas James (1836-1911, married Sarah Sullivan). Rev. John Watkins Moseley was a Presbyterian minister; in 1909 he wrote an autobiography. In large part the notes on Thomas Moseley, Jr. are from the book, The Descendants of William Moseley 1605-1606 – 1655 of Norfolk, Va. (by Leila Eldridge D'Aiutolo, Warren L. Forsythe, William S. Hubard, and Mary Carolyn Mitton, 2000, pp.337-338).
- Sally Clay Moseley was born 25 June 1795. She married Philip Burton Thompson (1789-1836), 10 December 1816 in Daviess County, KY (marriage book A, p.4). Sally died 9 April 1841. A biography of her husband was published in the Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971 (US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1971, p.1811). It reported that he was a lieutenant in the War of 1812 and a lawyer; he served in the KY House of Representatives and US House of Representatives. This source reported that his interment was initially in the Moseley burying ground on Fifth Street in Owensboro. The Owensboro Messenger of 30 October 1879 reported that the previous day the graves of Philip & Sally (Moseley) Thompson were moved from the Moseley

graveyard and re-interred at Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery. Their children were – Emily (1817-1846, married George Scarborough), Mary A. (1819-1828), Daniel M. (1821-1839), Susan Burton (1824-1852, married Thomas Worthington Watkins), William B. (1824-1841), Martha M. (1827-1846), Sarah Claiborne (1829-1852, married Francis M. Pearl), Kate M. (1831-1856, married Robert Craig) and John Philip (c1832-1872, married Maria Cornelia Cave).

- Arria Moseley was born c1796 KY. She married William Ridgely Griffith (1793-1848) on 13 April 1820 in Daviess County, KY (marriage book A, p.16). William R. Griffith was a veteran of the War of 1812, served as the first clerk of the Daviess County, KY and served several terms in the Kentucky Legislature in both the House & Senate). Arria died 18 November 1828 and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY. Their children were – Ridgely (1823-1841), William Henry (1825-1848, married Margaret Calhoon), Daniel Moseley (1826-1893, married Virginia Shelby Todd), Dewitt Clinton (1828-1896, married Mary Frances Crawford & Anna Bell Weir), Orris (born & died 1820-1830).
- Alice Mary Moseley was born about 1800 Ohio County, KY. Mary Roberts is named as an heir in her father's will in 1829. She married Dr. John Roberts (1788-1853) on 10 December 1816 in Daviess County, KY (marriage book A, p.4). He came to Yellow Banks (Owensboro) in 1811. He was the first physician to settle there. The History of Daviess County, Kentucky (1883, p.227) stated that "he married Alice Mary Moseley, who died about 1839. Dr. Roberts never married a second time." He served several terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives, (1822, 1827 & 1831). He died on 15 June 1853. His will was written on 20 March 1853 and recorded in June 1853 (Daviess County Will Book A-B, pp.68-69). He left his estate to his brother, Dr. Henry B. Roberts. Mary Moseley & John Roberts left no children.
- Martha Moseley was born during 1800-1810 Ohio County, KY. She married James D. Hanna on 17 May 1830 in Daviess County, KY (marriage book A, p.42). James D. Hanna died in 1835; he wrote a will on 25 December 1833 and it was recorded on 8 June 1835. His will left his estate to his wife, whose name was not stated; at the time he wrote the will they had no issue of their marriage (Daviess County, KY Will Book A-B, p.83). Martha died in 1838. On 13 August 1838 Thomas Mosley, Sr. was appointed administrator of the estate of Martha Hanna, deceased (Daviess County, KY Order Book D, p.75).
- John W. Mosely was born about 1802 Ohio County, KY. He is listed in the Daviess County tax lists of 1823 & 1824. He married Sarah Simpson Hart, 23 December 1824 in Henderson County, KY. She was born in Madison County, KY about 1807. She was a daughter of Richard Green Hart (1782-1847) and his wife, Rebecca Claiborne Thompson (1781-1838). John W. Moseley was in the 1825 & 1826 tax lists of Henderson County, KY. He was deceased when his father wrote his will in 1829. John W. Moseley died during 1826-1827. He wrote his final will on 22 November 1826 and it was recorded in January 1827 (Henderson County, KY Will Book 1, p.132). In his will he referred to his interest in land in Daviess County, KY

and he named as his heirs, his wife, Sally S., and his child, Mary. He appointed “my brothers, Daniel Moseley & Samuel Moseley” as the executors of his estate. In the 1835 Henderson County, KY tax book consecutive entries were made for Sarah S. Moseley and the estate of John W. Moseley; the latter was taxed on 5 slaves. John W. Moseley’s wife, Sarah S., married Alexander Shaw (c1771-1860), 1842-1847 (during this period there were several pages missing from the Henderson County, KY marriage registers). Sarah S. Shaw is listed in the 1850 census of Lafayette County, Mississippi. Sarah S. (Hart) Shaw died on 12 August 1853 in Mississippi; she was buried in the College Hill Cemetery at Oxford, Lafayette County, MS. Sarah’s will was recorded on 4 October 1853 in DeSoto County, MS Will Book 1 (pp.60-62). In the will she names her husband and two children, Mary John & Richard H. Shaw. The will notes that she (Sarah S. Moseley) and her husband, Alexander Shaw, signed a contract in Henderson County, KY on 21 May 1847 by which they agreed to retain separate control of their estates. In 1850 John W. Moseley & Sarah S. Hart had one surviving child – Mary John Moseley, who was born 4 December 1825 Henderson County, KY; married Benjamin Alexander Shaw, her step-brother; she died 11 April 1866 and was buried in the Edmondson Cemetery, in Southaven, DeSoto County, MS. Sarah S. Hart by her second marriage had one child – Richard Hart Shaw (1849-1912).

- Daniel Moseley was named as a brother in the will of John W. Moseley in Henderson County, KY in 1826. Daniel was not mentioned in the will of his father. Hugh O. Potter in his History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky (Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing, Montgomery AL, 1974, p.11) in writing about Philip Thompson, a son-in-law of Thomas Moseley, wrote that “in 1822 he and a relative by marriage, Daniel Moseley, contracted to deliver to Robert Kelly, John Morrison and Lorin Clauson, at the port of New Orleans, 35,379 ½ pounds of tobacco on May 1, 1823; 37,693 pounds on May 1, 1824; 40,065 pounds on May 1, 1825 and 42,379 pounds on May 1, 1826.” Daniel appears to be Thomas Moseley’s son. No further reference to him was discovered.
- Samuel W. Moseley was born about 1803 Ohio County, KY. He first appears in the Daviess County, KY tax lists in 1824. Samuel married Mary Burton Hart, 28 November 1828 in Henderson County, KY. She was born in Henderson County, KY on 23 April 1809. She was a daughter of Richard Green Hart (1782-1847) and his wife, Rebecca Claiborne Thompson (1781-1838). Samuel’s brother, John W. Moseley, three years earlier had married Mary’s sister. Samuel Moseley appears as a household head in the 1830 census of Daviess County, KY. Samuel may be the Merrit Mosley named in Thomas Moseley’s will. Thomas in his will said that anything inherited from my son Meritt Mosley in the City of New Orleans, LA was to go to his son, George W. Moseley. Samuel wrote his will on 4 May 1832 and it was recorded in August 1832. He wrote: “Samuel Mosley of Yellow Banks Daviess Co. Kentucky at this time in New Orleans being low in bodily health & apprehensive I may not recover from my present indisposition... do constitute this my last will & testament.” To his wife, Mary, he left a slave & \$1,500. After debts are paid any excess is to go to his brother, George W. Mosley. He appointed as his executors Richard G. Hart, John Roberts and William R. Griffith; the last two were



his brothers-in-law (Daviness County, KY Will Book A-B, p.66). Samuel had been partners with his brother-in-law, John S. McFarland, in the business firm of S. Moseley & Co. John S. McFarland on 13 November 1832 was appointed administrator of the estate of Samuel Moseley, deceased. Samuel's widow, Mary B., married James W. Marshall, 16 June 1836 in Henderson County, KY. James W. Marshall died in 1837 (Henderson County, KY Will Book C, pp.21-22). Mrs. Mary B. Marshall married third her first cousin, Isaac Shelby Smith, 10 October 1839 in Mercer County, KY. Mary B. & Isaac S. Smith are listed in the 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 censuses of Henderson County, KY. Mrs. Mary B. (Hart) Smith died in Henderson County, KY on 15 February 1893. Samuel Moseley's will and the census listings for his widow in the 1840 census suggest that they then had no surviving children. Mary B. Hart had several children by her marriage to Isaac S. Smith.

- Matilda Moseley was born 3 January 1804 Ohio County, KY. She married John Sargent McFarland (1801-1868) on 11 December 1823 in Daviness County, KY (marriage book A, p.29). Matilda McFarland is named as an heir in her father's will in 1829. Matilda died 18 March 1838. Her husband married Indiana B. Elam on 25 December 1838 in Daviness County, KY. He was the son of John McFarland (1757-1815), whose will was the first recorded in Daviness County, KY. John S. McFarland served as county & circuit court clerk of Daviness County and was a Representative in the Kentucky Legislature (1826, 1850-1851 & 1862-1865). John S. & Indiana McFarland have gravestone's in Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY. Matilda Moseley & John S. McFarland had 5 children – Merritt (1824-1850), Mary (1826-1838), Margaret (1828-1904, married Mortimer F. Athy & Alexander M. Mayo), John J. (1830-1868) and Daniel Woods (1834-1870, married Ruth A. Murphy).
- Malvina Moseley was born in 1809 Ohio County, KY. She married Anthony Kirkpatrick on 25 January 1827 in Daviness County, KY; consent was filed by her father, Thomas Moseley (not recorded in marriage volumes but was found in the county's loose marriage documents, see Daviness County, Kentucky Marriages, 1815-1865, by Emma Dunn Mastin, p.103). Her husband, Anthony Kirkpatrick, died in 1829. Samuel Moseley & John S. McFarland were appointed administrators of the estate of Anthony Kirkpatrick, deceased on 14 December 1829 (Daviness County, KY Index to Estates and Administrations, 1815-1864). He was buried in the Moseley graveyard in Owensboro. Several published references state that his name was found on a tombstone in the Moseley Cemetery. Mrs. Malvina Kirkpatrick married second Thomas Worthington Watkins (1818-1855) on 10 July 1832 in Daviness County, KY (marriage book A, p.52). Mrs. Malvina (Moseley) Watkins died on 27 June 1834. Her grave marker in the Moseley Cemetery recorded her date of death and that she was 24 years & 11 months old. Thomas W. Watkins was buried with his second wife, Susan Burton Thompson, at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY; Susan was a niece of his first wife, Malvina. Malvina Moseley & Anthony Kirkpatrick had one heir – Matthew Kirkpatrick, who was born c1828; after he was orphaned his uncle, George W. Moseley, was appointed his guardian (Daviness County, KY Order Book D, p.574). Mathew died on 8 January 1852 at the age of 24 ( History of Daviness County, Kentucky, 1883, p.412). He was buried

in the Moseley Cemetery in Owensboro. The article, “Rural Cemetery” published in the Owensboro Messenger on 30 October 1879 (p.4) referred to the gravestone in the Moseley Cemetery of Mathew Kirkpatrick, who died in 1852 at the age of twenty-four years. An older Mathew Kirkpatrick, who died on 11 November 1827 at the age of 35, was also buried in the Moseley Cemetery; Anthony Kirkpatrick had been appointed the administrator of the estate of Mathew Kirkpatrick on 10 December 1827. Malvina Moseley and her second husband, Thomas W. Watkins were the parents of – Thomas Gassaway Watkins (1833-1916), who is listed with his father & stepmother in the 1850 census of Daviess County, KY. Thomas G. Watkins was buried at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, KY, where he operated the Watkins Hotel.

- George W. Moseley was born 16 December 1812 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY. He married Ann M. J. Carter on 27 January 1835 in Mason County, KY. She was born about 1817 in Maryland. George is first found in the Daviess County, KY tax lists in 1834 and appears there as a household head in the 1840 census. He was last in the Daviess County tax lists in 1843. On 1 February 1849 George W. Moseley, of Hancock County, Illinois transferred to his nephew, Mathew Kirkpatrick, a lot in Owensboro, KY (Daviess County Deed Book I, p245). George W. Moseley is listed as a merchant in the 1850 census of Neosho, Newton County, MO. Living with him in 1850 were his mother, Mary, and his nephew, Matthew Kirkpatrick (age 22). During 1852-1856 George moved to Jefferson County, Iowa, where he is listed in the 1860 census. George Moseley died on 5 October 1862; he was then a resident of Newton County, MO. In Newton County, MO Eli Haworth & J. M. Mitchell were appointed administrators of the estate of Ann M. Moseley, deceased on 3 August 1868. The children of George W. Moseley & Ann M. J. Carter included – James Carter (born c1837 KY, died 30 June 1861 on the USS Levant), Thomas Harold (born c1838 KY, married Rebecca E. Sands), John C. (born c1844 KY), Frances (born c 1847 IL), Mary (born c1851 MO) and Ann (born c1853 MO).



