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Faribault County, Minnesota in a household that includes Mahala Brockett, Sarah Brockett, and Olive Serrin. In the 1900 U.S. Federal Census of Faribault Co., Minnesota, Mahala Brockett is listed as “divorced,” age 90, living with the family of Amasa Cook. The 1880 census confirms that she “lives with son.”

9Ansel [Redway] Brockett and Lucy B. Tooley had the following:

¹⁰**Nancy Jane Brockett**, b. 30 Oct 1837; m. April 1855, John Dillivan *Dayton*.

¹⁰Barbara Elizabeth Brockett, b. 26 May 1839; m. A.T. Ireland.

¹⁰Fanny Sophronia Brockett, b. 7 May 1841; m. S.H. Norton.

¹⁰Eliza Lodeema Brockett, b. 21 Nov 1842; d. 9 June 1864; m. Charles Cole.

¹⁰George Gideon Brockett, b. 12 May 1844, killed in battle on 17 Sept 1862. He was a Standard Bearer for the Union Army in the U.S. Civil War, Battle of Antietam.

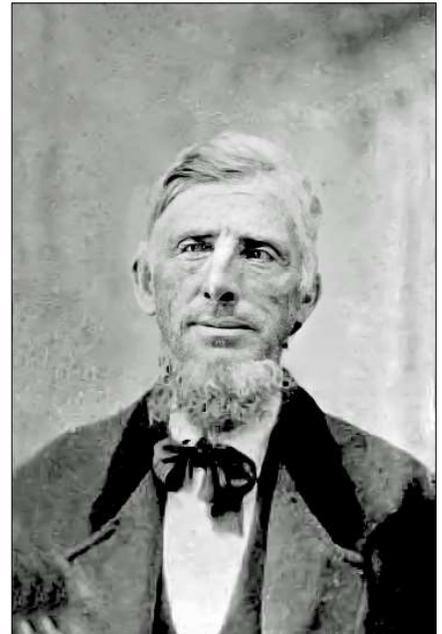
¹⁰Lucy Ann Brockett, b. 19 May 1846; d. 12 May 1886; m.

George Foreman, the best friend of George Gideon Brockett.

¹⁰Salem Ansell Brockett, b. 30 April 1848; d. 20 June 1864.

Served in the Union Army and died of typhoid fever.

¹⁰Sarah Anna Brockett, b. 17 April 1850; m. William Taylor.



Ansel R. Brockett, Free Will Baptist minister, Abolitionist, Temperance Advocate, and Republican.

TENTH GENERATION

¹⁰**Nancy Jane Brockett**,² b. 30 Oct 1837; d. 5 Dec 1888 in Waxahachie, Texas; m. John Dillivan *Dayton* on 8 May 1855. Nancy Jane Brockett’s date of death has been changed due to the discovery of a probate court document filed by John D. Dayton in Minnesota giving her place and date of death. She apparently had land in Minnesota still in her name. It lists her heirs:

John D. Dayton, residing at Waco, state of Texas, Husband of said deceased, aged 69 years

Ansel Dayton, residing at Janesville, State of Wisconsin, a son of said deceased, aged 47 years.

George Dayton, residing at Silver Lake, State of Washington, a son of said deceased, aged 42 years.

Rose Dugger, residing at Alvin State of Texas, a Daughter of said deceased, aged 33 years.

Sylvester Dayton, residing at [?] State of Texas, a Son of said deceased, aged 35 years.

Lucy Woodliff, residing at Waco, State of Texas, a Daughter of said deceased, aged 29 years.

Fred Dayton, residing at “Warabouts” State of “unnoon” [Whereabouts Unknown], Son of said deceased, aged 25 years.

Letter from Nancy Jane Brockett to John Dillivan Dayton

She used little punctuation. Forward slashes have been added to mark the ends of sentences.

March 11, 1855

Good morning my dearry John/ I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and remain your most faithfull and affectionate friend.

I should have wrote you a letter last week but expected to go home. more over Whights talk of moveing in the corse of two or three weeks and wants me to stay til then and I expect I shall stay/ I have been here three months and If I stay four weeks longer it will be four months since I have been home/ and when I come home I mean too make a good long visit and shall be very happy to see you if you come and see our folks/ perhaps they will be making [maple shugar] and you can have a dish of it with me if you wish

since I saw you last my arms have been getting better/ all the while I have new hopes that I will get entirely cured and if I doo I shall be the happyest person that ever lived and I don’t think you will be sorry/ I hope you got home safe from our slay ride and have enjoid [enjoyed] yourself well [ever] since/

I have no more to write at present/ I got your letter and was very glad to read it. If I was going to stay long enough I would ask you to write me another one but I mite go home and not get it/ but you most not fail to come and see me soon as you can/ you are the onley one I ever loved, the *onley* company I would ever except of and you are the only hope I have of a home bi and bi [bye-and-bye]/ yes, you are the onley one I [love]/ I love you dear as my self the best of any [body] [...]/ now I must close my letter/ hope you will not forget me/

from your most warm [...]
good afternoon

Nancy Jane Brockett to
John D. Daton

Last Letters of George Gideon Brockett to John Dillivan Dayton before the Battle of Antietam

This was from a handwritten note (I recognize the handwriting of Rosalie W. Morse) on the outside of an envelope containing letters from George Brockett:

Camp near Culpepper

Two old letters written Aug 17, 1862 and Sept 10, 1862. Camp near Clemason [Clemens], Maryland
Written to John Dayton
from Geo. Brockett

George Brockett was the brother of Nancy Jane Brockett, daughter of Ansel R. Brockett. He was killed at Antietam. His best friend and companion in uniform, George Foreman, later married his sister, Lucy Ann Brockett. In her book, Pearl Ghormley included a photo of the skillet that caught a bullet for Foreman, saving his life. Just before he died, George Brockett wrote two letters to John Dillivan Dayton. One week after penning the last one, he was killed at Antietam. The second letter paints an anxious picture of conditions at war.

Camp near Culpeper Aug the 17, 1862

Dear Brother John I received your letter with pleasure and was glad to hear from you. You wrote that you wanted to borrow some money of me. and John I don't know but I would as soon that you would have it as anny body you say but you want fifty dollars. I sent home with the company 25 dollars this payday and told father that if he does not want to use the money that I would like to have him put it out or save it for me. You can see him and if he does not want to use the money there is 25 dollars and I wil send the rest as soon as I can and you can have it and give Father [Security] for it. I am not particular about anny Interest just as you and Father can agree up on. tell father to do as he pleases about it and I wil satisfy him for his trouble. John not much news to write this time. Jacob to Silvester and Fanny about in the Battle here and I suppose they have told you all about it. I found one of my Cousins in the 61[st] Regiment his name is William Tooly he sends his respects and best wishes to you and wants you all to write to him and he belongs to Company D Oh. Regt. I must bring this brief letter to a Close for it is most time for drill. Write as soon as you get this this is from your brother

George Brockett

Camp near Clemasons [Clemens] Maryland
Sept 10, 1862

Brother John it has been a long time since I commenced this letter and perhaps you have thought that I have forgotten you but indeed I have not. when I commenced this letter we was at Culpeper. we have been marching and fighting ever Since we fel back from the cedar mountain to the Rapahannock River and was running about all the time we was night and day nearly a week and did not take off our a cootermnts all the time that we was there and did not get anny thin to eat but apples and green corn and then we were oblige[d] to eat without cooking the privalige of a fire being denide as we was so close to the enemy that it would be danger to have one. We endured this six or seven days and then got back to the Buls run [Bull Run] and Mannaces [Manassas] junction and then to Alexandria and then to Washington and have been marching ever since and there is not much show of our stopping yet for the enemy has crost the River and are now in Frederick City the old [house] of the [third]. I don't know

1848, Canton, New York; m/2 Abigail Smith;² m/3 Esther Wood;³ and later two others. It appears from her death date that Diadama White was the mother of John Dillivan Dayton.

²**John Dillivan Dayton**, b. 4 Dec 1833; d. in Texas 10 Jan 1907;⁴ m. Nancy Jane **Brockett**³ (b. 30 Oct 1837; d. Dec 1887) on 8 May 1855. John Dillivan Dayton served with a Wisconsin regiment during the Civil War. The letters written to him by his brother-in-law George Brockett who was killed at Antietam are extremely informative.¹¹ The 1880 U.S. Federal Census shows John and Nancy Jane living in Blue Earth, Minnesota at the time and records John Dillivan Dayton's birthplace as New York and Nancy Jane Brockett's as Vermont. *Their children were:*

³Ansel F. Dayton, b. 14 July 1856, Wisconsin; d. 28 Jan 1910, Yakima Co., Washington; m. Mary Jane Atkinson.

³John Dillivan Dayton Jr., b. 10 Sept 1858, New York; d. 24 July 1860.

³George Henry Dayton, b. 3 June 1860, Wisconsin.⁵

³Rollin H. Dayton, b. 20 April 1863, Wisconsin; d. 22 Oct 1889, Hermosa, New Mexico.

³Sylvester Harrison Dayton, b. 20 Nov 1867, Blue Earth, Minnesota; d. 3 Jan 1950, Abilene, Texas; m. Laura Lou Anza Parrish on 19 May 1888.

³Rosa "Rosey" Jane Dayton, b. abt. 1878 in Minnesota;⁶ d. 31 March 1936, Brownwood, Texas; m. J. M. Dugger on 29 July 1891.⁷

³Myrtle Azinnia Dayton,⁸ b. 24 Oct 1871, Minnesota; d. 1899, unmarried.

³**Lucy Violet Dayton**, b. 21 Aug 1873, Blue Earth, Minnesota; d. 31 Jan 1961, Alice, Texas; m. Oscar Clayton **Woodliff** on 24 Dec 1891.

³William Eli Dayton,⁹ b. 12 Nov 1875, Blue Earth, Minnesota.

³Fred Dayton,¹⁰ b. abt. 1877, Minnesota; d. 2 Feb 1922, Waco, Texas.

Purported Line of Jacob Dayton Before Coming to America

I have within my files a worksheet I received from June Derrickson who was still working out the details of the pre-America Dayton line before she passed. I include it here because I recently ran across some plausible evidence that Jacob Dayton's father was, indeed, Thomas Dayton. I have listed these generations with subscript letters to avoid confusion with the verified line above.



Lucy V. Dayton was probably less than 27 when this photo was taken. After the death of her husband, Oscar C. Woodliff, she worked in the textile mills and was later a men's tailor for Sanger Bros., Waco, Texas.

The photo of this unidentified man was found among photos of Lucy Dayton's brothers. I am fairly convinced now it is her father, John Dillivan Dayton. The clues came from his fashion. The hairstyle, shorter on the side and back with a "crown" of curls at top, was common in 1840-1865. In addition, his suit is baggier, which was also common in that day.





Lucy V. Dayton (left) and a Mrs. Rumney, via Ancestry.com (1920). From a newspaper photo.



Women's Temperance group. Lucy is second from the left at the top. Waco, Texas. Newspaper photo via Ancestry.com.

¹**Nicholas Lanière I**, b. 1544, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, Haute-Normandie, France; d. 31 Jan 1611, East Greenwich, Kent. His will was dated 28 Jan 1611/12 and proved July 1612, Rochester XIX, folia 514. Court musician; m/1 [Unknown]; m/2 Lucrece **Bassano** on 13 Feb 1570-71 in All Hallows Barking.

²**Clement Lanier**, b. 1580, Greenwich, Kent, England; d. 6 Nov 1661, East Greenwich, Kent, England; m. Hannah Rebecca Collett on March 1627/28 in St. Margaret's, Lee County, England.

³**John Lanier** (#1), immigrant to America, b. Oct 1631, Lewisham or Lewisburg, England; baptized Oct 1631; d. about 1683 in Prince George Co., Virginia; m. Lucrece [—] bef. 1656 in England. Came to America in 1656.

⁴**John Lanier** (#2), b. 1655, London; d. 1719, Charles City Co., Virginia; m/1 Katherine Elinor Sampson (d. bef. 1685); m/2 Sarah Edmunds (widow). By Katherine Elinor Sampson, he had:

⁵**John Lanier** (#3), b. abt. 1680, Charles City Co., Virginia; d. abt. 4 March 1727/28, Surry Co., Virginia; m. Elizabeth Bird in 1703.

⁶Bird Thomas Lanier, b. 1703; d. abt. 1788; m. Mary Madison (Madderson). They had 11 children.

⁶**Lemuel Lanier**, b. about 1707; m. Hannah Peters.

⁷Thomas Lanier m. [—] Herring.

⁷Elizabeth Lanier (#1), m. [—] Mills.

⁷**John Lanier** (#4), b. bef. 1738; d. about 1809, Bulloch Co., Georgia; m. Sarah Nance (b. 1742).

⁸Sabra Lanier, b. 1774; d. 1846; m. David Williams, b. 1776; d. 1862.

⁸John Lanier (#5), b. 1778; d. 1844; m. Lucy Townley, b. 1804.

⁸Elizabeth Lanier (#2), b. about 1783.

⁸**Sarah Lanier**, b. about 1785; m. Shadrack **Mills**, b.1780; d. bef. 1850.

ANOTHER SOURCE FOR LANIER

Nicholas Lanier: Master of the King's Musick, by Michael I. Wilson (N.p.: Routledge, 2016). (Refer also to the **Bassano** family entry in this book.) Publisher's remarks:

"Nicholas Lanier (1588-1666) was not only the first person to hold the office of Master of the Music to King Charles I, he was also a practising painter, a friend of Rubens, Van Dyck and many other artists of his time, and one of the very first great art collectors and connoisseurs. He is especially remembered for the part he played in acquiring, on behalf of Charles I, the famous collection of paintings belonging to the Gonzaga family of Mantua. Many of these paintings still form an important part of the Royal Collection today. In this book the different strands of Lanier's colourful life are for the first time drawn together and presented in a single compelling narrative."



Rumored to have been the "Dark Lady of Shakespeare," Aemilia Bassano Lanyer, the first English woman to publish poetry under her own name, wrote *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (*Hail, God, King of the Jews*, 1611). She was the daughter of Baptiste Bassano and wife of Alphonse Lanier. Miniature portrait by Nicholas Hilliard, via Wikimedia Commons.

Portrait by Anthony Van Dyck via Wikimedia Commons of Nicholas Lanier II, grandson of Nicholas Lanière I and his first wife. The Lanier family fell upon hard times during the English Civil War, which prompted the emigration of some family members to America.



SCOTT

This line has been officially verified and registered with the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

¹**James Scott**, b. 1720 in Scotland; d. 1791 in Virginia; m. Sarah Pegram (b. before 1727 in York Co., Virginia), granddaughter of George Pegram¹ of Williamsburg, York Co., Virginia. Of this James Scott, Gen. Winfield Scott later wrote that he was of the Clan of Buccleuch, that his father was a landed proprietor, that James Scott supported the Bonnie Prince, and that he fled the Battle of Culloden. He was smuggled onto a ship where he sailed from Bristol and went to Virginia Colony before 1747.²

²**Capt. William Scott**, b. 1747 in Dinwiddie Co., Virginia; d. 1791; m. Ann *Mason*. (For more on the Mason family see *Pegram Family album* <https://patch.net>.)

³Elizabeth Winfield Scott, b. 1767; d. 1836; m. Joseph Wells Harper.

³Rebecca Scott, b. abt. 1780; d. before 1850; m. Edward Henry Pegram.¹

³Mary Mason Scott, b. 1772; d. 1838; m. Theodorick Scott.

³**Ann Scott**, b. 1775, Dinwiddie Co., Virginia (her headstone says she was born at Laurel Branch Plantation); d. 1872, Lee Co., Mississippi; m. Maj. Theodorick *Walker* in 1802.³

³Col. James Scott, b. 24 Feb 1777; d. 1840; m. Martha *Pegram*¹.

³Martha Scott, b. 1783 in Dinwiddie Co., Virginia; m. Judge Thomas Field.

³Gen. Winfield Scott,² b. 13 June 1786, Dinwiddie Co., Virginia; d. 29 May 1866 at West Point, New York; m/1 [Unknown] Baker; m/2 Maria Mayo.

Gen. Scott m. First, a Miss Baker, according to one source, and then secondly Maria Mayo by whom he had:

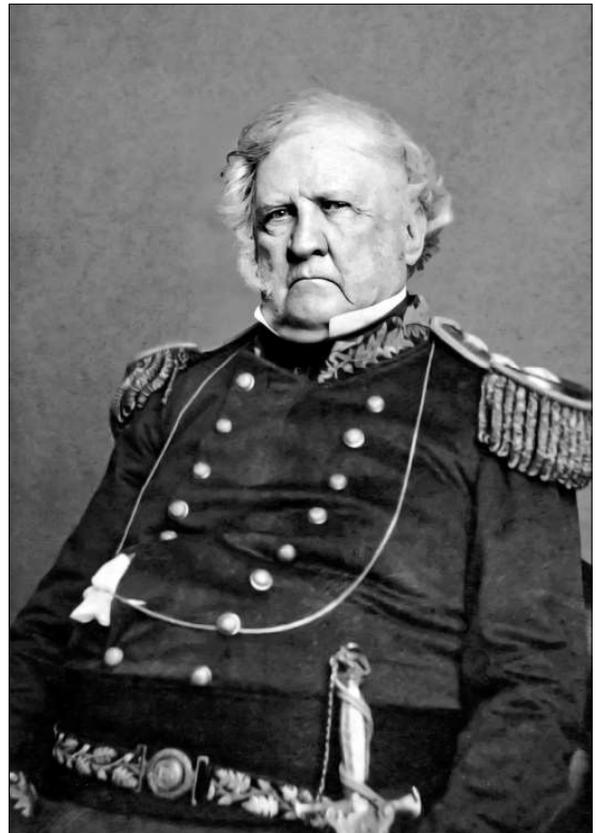
Maria Mayo Scott; d. 1833

John Mayo Scott, b. 18 April 1819; d. 1820

Virginia Scott, b. 1821; d. 1845



Ann Scott Walker, daughter of Capt. William Scott and sister of Gen. Winfield Scott. Photo via Ancestry.com.



Gen. Winfield Scott. Photo by Charles D. Fredricks & Co., West Point, New York, 10 June 1862. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

J. P. Bolding
Et al
vs
Deed
A. P. Fisher

This Indenture made and entered into this the 15th day of November A.D. 1867, Between J. P. Bolding & Henrietta Bolding wife of the said J. P. Henrietta Fisher & C. W. Cockerham Parties of the first Part, and A. P. Fisher Party of the

Second Part, all of the County of Lee & State of Mississippi. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred Dollars, cash in hand paid by the said A. P. Fisher to the Parties of the first the Receipt, whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Parties of the Second Part doth grant, bargain, sell & convey and do hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey & quit-claim unto the said A. P. Fisher his heirs and assigns forever, all Right, Title and Interest either in Law or Equity to the following described Lands, being Intestate in the said Lands as Legatees of the late John Fisher, namely the North East quarter of Section Fourteen and the East half of the North West quarter of the same Section all in Township ten (10), Range Five (5) East of the Basis Meridian, Chickasaw Survey, making in all two hundred & Forty Acres of Land, more or less, together with all of the appurtenances thereto annexed, to have and to hold the same hereby granted, bargained & sold Land from the Parties of the first Part, to the said A. P. Fisher his heirs forever, the title in fee simple. In testimony of the above I herunto affix my name and Seal the day and date first above written

C. W. Cockerham
Henrietta Fisher
J. P. Bolding
E. L. Bolding

Seal
Seal
Seal
Seal

State of Mississippi
Lee County

Personally appeared before me
J. Tankersly Justice of the Peace in
and for the said County, J. P. Bolding

The Fishers And The Boldings

A Confederate Family In Verona, Mississippi

The earliest members of the 19th-century Fisher-Bolding family known to have settled in Mississippi were Maj. Theodorick Walker¹ and his wife Ann Scott.² Their own story reaches back into Virginia and has a colorful history of its own, but the present chapter covers the descendants of their daughter, Martha Ann Walker, and her husband John Fisher.³ Details of the Fisher-Bolding family of 19th-century Mississippi remain obscure, except for the knowledge that their relatives included physicians, lawyers, military men, and planters. This fact alone indicates that they must have been educated people of some standing in the communities where they lived.

Census records indicate that John Fisher, justice of the peace for many years in Monroe Co., Mississippi, was born in North Carolina,⁴ although how and why he ended up in Mississippi remains a mystery. His father-in-law, Theodorick Walker, had distinguished himself in the War of 1812, and his wife's uncle, Gen. Winfield Scott, was long held by some to have been the greatest military commander in United States history. There were also an astounding number of physicians among Martha Ann's Walker relations—at least fourteen in a period spanning about three generations. John and Martha Ann's eldest daughter, Elizabeth, later married a physician herself, James P. Bolding, whose family origins remain obscure.

Monroe County was originally embraced within the Chickasaw Indian territory, and, by the treaty of Chickasaw Council House, concluded September 20, 1816, that nation ceded to the United States 408,000 acres on their eastern or Creek frontier. This large tract lay upon the eastern tributaries of the upper Tombigbee river and comprised the original "county of Monroe." The Creek claims to these lands were surrendered by the treaty of Fort Jackson. The tract was attached to the state of Alabama until the winter of 1820, when the boundary was determined by actual survey, and on February 9, 1821, the legislature of Mississippi recognized it as within the limits of the State and approved a law entitled, "An act to form a county east of the Tombigby [*sic*] river, and for other purposes," which defined its limits.⁵

John Fisher is listed among justices of the peace for Monroe Co. for the years 1822-1827.⁶ He was definitely in Monroe Co. by 1824, during which year he became a surety for a bond originated by one John Dexter in that county. After Dexter became Assessor and Collector of Taxes in 1826, John Fisher administered his oath of office.⁷

Fisher remained in Monroe Co. for a number of years, and his children were apparently born there in Aberdeen.⁸ His family, however, had shifted their residence to the town of Verona in Pontotoc Co. by 1850. John Fisher was listed as a farmer⁹ on the census record that year. He must have been dead by 1860, for by the time that census was taken, Martha Ann was recorded as head of household in his stead and her occupation was listed as "farmer."¹⁰ Although the census recorded her age wrong, she can be recognized by the presence of the same children of the 1850 household still residing with her in 1860.

Fisher v. Allen

More recently, John Fisher has been "resurrected" by a historical researcher, Kerry M. Armstrong, because of the landmark *Fisher v. Allen* trial he was involved in when he still lived in Monroe Co. This suit involved the laws of the Chickasaw Nation and the legal identity of a woman named Elizabeth or Betsey Love. She had apparently married a man named James Allen, and sometimes used either of the two surnames. Fisher had filed suit on James Allen for defaulting on a promise,¹¹ presumably under the impression that his wife's property could be used to pay off her husband's debts.

On November 2, 1830, a Deed of Gift of slaves from Elizabeth Love to Sally Allen and others was filed in the Monroe Co. Clerk's office. It was dated November 14, 1829. In the document Elizabeth named her children: Sally Allen, George Allen, Alexander Allen, Mississippi Allen, Louisiana Allen, Susan Allen, Tennessee Allen, Polly Allen, Elizabeth Allen, and Samuel Allen. Concerning the slaves, Susan Allen was to receive a slave named Tony. One of the witnesses listed in the document was "John L. Allen, sub-agent for the Chicka-

F. Morse and Mary Ann Harrison

of Grimes County, Texas

The murder of F. Morse was introduced earlier in the entry on the Morse family. It seems incredible that while we don't even know his first name, the fact of his elopement with Mary Ann and the manner of his death remain fixed points. The voices, musings, and discussions carried on by family members flesh the story out a little more. Yet some facts of memory are clearly in error while others are likely true, but difficult to assess. Divergences on specific points will be affected by 1) the age of the reteller upon first hearing the story, 2) the reteller's awareness and engagement with the story when first hearing it, 3) the number of generations between the reteller and Mary Ann Harrison, who received the original report, 4) the accuracy of each reteller's memory, and 5) the lines of the story's transmission, e.g., father-to-son vs. aunt-to-nephew, nephew-to-cousin, and so forth.

The following are the oral and written accounts of some of those retellers. I have bolded and italicized the consistent parts of their stories. Prominent is the account of Harry R. Morse Jr. who allowed me to record him in 2002 for an oral history project I was then working on.

The oral account of Harry R. Morse, Jr.:

My great grandfather, "name unknown" Morse was born in New York. This is confirmed by the 1900 census which states that the father of my grandfather was born in New York. He came to Texas in the 1800s, probably in the early to mid 1840s where he became associated with the cattle business. He returned to New York for a visit and, as he returned to Texas, stopped off in *Indianapolis, Indiana*. There he met the girl who was to become his wife, Elizabeth Harrison. [Error of fact: She was Mary Ann Harrison.] She was about **14 years old, and he was about 28 years old**, and the date was the **late 1840s**. Her father did not care for that cowboy from Texas and definitely **discouraged the relationship**. Her father, "name unknown" Harrison, was a cabinet maker and, according to legend, quite good at it. He was uneducated; i.e., he could not read nor write. He could, however, look at a wagon load of lumber and accurately estimate how many board feet of lumber were in it, also according to legend. The difference in ages may have been a factor in his dislike for that cowboy from Texas, though girls were often married at 14 years of age in that time, or it may have been that she was useful to him in that she would **hold the light**, enabling him to work at night. Whatever the reason may have been there is not question about the attitude.

The two young people, as young people often do, made up their own minds about their relationship and **it was not what the father wanted**. So they **eloped**, with the father in **hot pursuit**. Here the story gets hazy and there are two versions of it.

Version #1

They went to **St. Joseph, Missouri** and married. He sent her on to Texas by **stage coach** while **he waited to meet her father**. This version I do not believe. Coming to Texas from St. Joseph, Missouri by stage coach was risky business as they would have to pass through Comanche territory. Waco was founded in 1848, and only a few years previous to that no one wanted to set foot in the area except the very brave or the just plain foolhardy. This was because of the Comanches. And while they were largely gone from the Waco area by 1848, they could still be found a few miles west of here [Waco, Texas]. [Editorial note: As far as anyone knows, F. Morse and Mary Ann did not go anywhere near present-day Waco.]

Version #2

They went to St. Louis, **Missouri and were married**. **He sent her on to Texas** while he waited for her father. **She went down the Mississippi River** to New Orleans and then to **Galveston**, Texas by coastal sail boat. This version I do believe because I know that mode of travel to Texas was often used in those days, and when they met it was in **Galveston**.

George W. Morse Witnesses a Murder

This is the account of the murder that George W. Morse witnessed as a boy or young man in Grimes County, Texas. My mother thought he was about ten years old when this happened, but it seems he must have been closer to about 15 or so. This part of the story was narrated by Harry R. Morse Jr.

It was during the same time period, just after the Civil War, that George became friends with a fellow named Bell. What his first name was I do not remember but I have heard it. This was a very dangerous man, but George counted him as his best friend. It seems that when he became angry, that his mouth would draw up in what appeared to be a smile. This was quite deceptive, because when that happened he was ready to kill someone and, indeed, had killed several people who thought he was smiling and that they were in no danger.

George also had another friend who had married a cousin of this fellow, Bell. This man and his brother-in-law, the brother of his wife and also a cousin to Bell, were not on good terms. It appears to have been about the way he treated his wife, which her brother objected to. One day, perhaps having spent the night with this friend (I do not know his name), the friend went down to milk the cow in order to get some milk for breakfast. He had removed his gun belt and hung it on a peg on the barn. While he was milking, his brother-in-law rode up with a rifle across the pommel of his saddle, and rode right into the cow lot where this friend was milking. The brother-in-law kept raking his horse with his spurs so that the horse kept moving around. The friend, surprised and alarmed, started edging toward the barn where his gun was. However, the brother-in-law maneuvered his horse to where the rifle was lined up with the friend and pulled the trigger. The friend was killed and the brother-in-law rode away. George was a witness to the whole thing and so went to Hempstead to tell the sheriff.

The sheriff was out of town, but the deputy was there and rounded up a posse to go after the killer. He told George that, since he was just a kid, he could not deputize him and make him go, but if he wanted to go with them, he was welcome. So at 16 years of age, or thereabouts, George rode off with the posse to catch a killer.

Shoot-Out with the Posse

Meanwhile this brother-in-law had notified all of his relatives, and they had all gathered together to defend him, including this fellow Bell. They were barricaded in a house in a clearing when the posse and George rode up. In the clearing there was only one blackjack sapling tree, and the deputy got behind it and said, "We'll drive them out, boys, or I'll see you in Hell." They did drive them out of the house, i.e., behind the house. This was probably because they set it on fire. At this point the deputy was killed and the posse had no more heart for the fight, so they all got on their horses and headed back to town. As George got on his horse his friend, Bell, stepped out and shot at him with a shotgun full of buckshot. Most of it missed, but one slug took some hide off his ribs and cut several holes in a handkerchief that he had stuffed into his shirt pocket. The man that the posse went after skipped out to Mexico, so there was no trial. George later found himself coming face-to-face with Bell on the streets of Hempstead, but Bell crossed over to the other side to keep from meeting him. This probably shows that he was not angry at George, though they were both shooting at each other in the siege, and Bell had tried to kill him as he left the scene. Being older and probably more sensible, Bell avoided the confrontation that George, being a kid and feeling that he had something to prove, would not do.

The Murder Trial of Mr. Bell

George Morse worked at a number of different things, and at the time he married my grandmother, he owned the Eddy Hotel [in] Eddy, Texas. After they were married he sold it, and sometime after that it burned to the ground.

There were several other George Morses in Texas, and one in Waco lived close to my grandfather in 1900. However, there was another one somewhere else—I do not know where—that ran a store.

Afterword

The idea that you can ever complete a family history is about as realistic as trying to make the ocean evaporate with a hair dryer. It is *never* finished. Something new always comes along, or you suddenly remember some game-changing detail you left out after the text is ready for publication. Attempts to overcast the ragged seams of such a work with a comprehensive and unassailable afterword quickly grow into “the next-to-the-last word” and “the word after that.” The core of the book will just have to be what it is, though I yearn to flesh it out without drowning the reader in a flood of words. As I said in the preface, I was interested in seeing where the family thread would take me. It actually took me much, much further than the genealogies I have included in this book. In fact, I made a pretty good stab on a couple of occasions at tracing a line back to Adam and Eve.

Before eliminating all the royal lines of previous genealogical works (on the basis that I found their connections faulty), I had tracked them as far as possible into the mists of European tribal history when the chiefs of roaming populations amounted to something like proto-kings. After that I lost the trail altogether and decided to close in on it by coming at it from the other direction. I studied the historical data of Genesis, from Adam and Eve to the time of Noah and then to the migration of peoples after the Tower of Babel. Splicing that together with the oldest European lines, I narrowed the historical gap considerably, though it still lacked about a thousand or more years of completely closing.

The Bassano Line

Later I discovered the *Bassano* family line, whose Jewishness has been under no little dispute. I have combed the Internet and academic databases for every paper I could find on the matter, and the probability of their having been Jewish still seems strong to me. However, there has been continual pushback from a small academic group holding firmly to an opinion that the Bassanos were not Jewish. I have read most of their papers (except for one which I have not been able to get hold of), and I still have not found incontrovertible evidence. It is hard to view the records of the lives and associations of the Bassanos and see how they could have been *other* than Jewish. The Bassanos just happened to have lived for some generations in the first Jewish ghetto in Europe, continued living among Jews in England, and even married Jews in some cases.

Notably at least one and maybe two Bassanos married into the *Nasi* family, a name well known to Jewish historians. *Nasi* is itself a Hebrew surname meaning “prince” or “chief,” and that family is said to descend from the House of David. If it is true, that connection has the potential to push the family history back to Genesis. The *Nasi* name (or something strongly resembling it) came to us through Elena de Nazzi, the wife of Antonio Bassano, head of the Bassanos in England. There was much to-do one time about the difference in spelling, and someone asserted that “Nazzi” was merely an Italian province. After much checking, no one could find that such a province had ever existed. Roger Prior and David Lasocki, who researched the Bassanos from a historical and musicological perspective, discovered so many spellings of both the *Bassano* and *Nasi* names, that it seemed very possible that Elena de Nazzi and a sister-in-law of the “*Nasi*” spelling may have been sisters.

I took my personal research to a Sephardic genealogy site that had *Bassano*, *Bassan*, and *Bassani* in its database, but never turned up anything concrete. I also found tentative ties to Sephardic Spain before the expulsion of the Jews sent them migrating into Italy. Later I came across a project where three family lines, including one with the *Nasi* surname, tested their male Y-DNA. The results proved what they had long believed, that they were originally one family. Yet there remains no solid proof whether *de Nazzi* and *Nasi* were one and the same surname or whether the Bassanos themselves had a Jewish origin (though recently I have come across two very convincing sources stating that the Bassanos were of German Ashkenazic origin—most of Bassano, Italy was settled by German Ashkenazis).

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