

The Children of John McAdams, Sr, [II] Walker County, Texas

Mary Frances Murphy – 1991

James McAdams

Born: 1804 in North Carolina,
Died: Oct, 1837 in Sabine District, Texas
Married: Elizabeth Leavandall

Birth year may have been 1805,

James and Elizabeth settled in Sabine Co, , Tx, on Patroon Bayou along with his parents, He was riding horseback to Milam when ambushed and killed by a band of men in October, 1837, His father, John,Sr, applied for land grant in Jan, ,1838 but Wm, Defee acted as administrator of James' estate and secured his land grant,

Elizabeth remarried soon after to Richard Devinney who might have also come from Ala, They were parents of a son, Ebenezer or Ebville born in Texas in 1839 and moved to Natchitoches, La, From census records it appears they had two other children born in La, In Natchitoches Parish there are records of two sales of property by the sheriff in the 1850's, One would guess that Richard Devinney failed to pay taxes on this land,

James McAdams was buried in an unmarked grave on Patroon Bayou along with his brother, Joseph McAdams, The site has not been positively located, The family tradition is that William McAdams was killed in the Civil War along with his half brother, Eb Devinney, No descendants have been located,

The name Devinney is spelled variously: DeVinez, Divini, Devina, Divinney, There is a Second Class Certificate issued by the Sabine Co, Land Commissioners to Ebenezer Deviriney #39 for 640 acres and claims he emigrated in September,1837,

REFER:

First Census of Texas, Marion Day Mullins

Tuscaloos Co, ,Ala, -Marriage Records
Clipping from Telegraph & Texas Register found by Marilyn McAdams
Sibley
Natchitoches Marriage Book 2 and court records, Natchitoches Parish, La,
The First Settlers of Sabine County, Texas, Gifford White

Elizabeth McAdams

BORN: July 8, 1806 in S, C, (her statement on 1850 & 1860 census) KY,
(her son's claim)

DIED: Feb, 8, 1895 Buried Rancho Cem, , Gonzales Co, ,Tx

MARRIED: George Gallaspy (Spelled Gillespie by sons) Date unknown as
is place Tn or Ala?

Resided in Greene Co, , Ala in 1830 with 3 children: John, Priscilla, James
C, and 1 female slave (U, S, Census)

Two other sons: William born in 1831 and George born in 1833 in Ala,

George left the family in Ala, and immigrated to Tx in 1835, He claimed to
have fought in Tx Revolution but was denied a Bounty Warrant, Received
1476 acre grant in Sabine Co, but located in present day Panola Co, on either
side of the Sabine River, This is the 1/3 league granted -to all single men
who immigrated before the Revolution, After a time Elizabeth heard that
George had been killed in battle and so she remarried, Her marriage to
Henry Reed in Tuscaloosa took place on the 13th of Nov, in 1838 and is
recorded in Tuscaloosa Marr, Book dated 1-2-37 to 2-9-1843, Family
tradition tells that one night Elizabeth dreamed that George was still alive
and it was so vivid that she sent her oldest son to Texas to find out about his
father, On the road to Texas John Gillespie is supposed to have met George
returning to Ala, They went back to Tuscaloosa together and there George
and Henry Reed discussed the situation, Henry decided the only thing for
him to do was leave, Sometime in the 1840's George and Elizabeth moved to
Walker Co, ,Tx, Their daughter, Priscilla married John Milton Dickey in
Ala, and they lived for a while in Choctaw Co, ,Miss, For a short while they
lived on the Red River near Mansfield, La, before arrivino in Walker Co, in
time to be listed on the 1850 census, George was called for jury duty in
Walker Co, in March 1849 but was excused because of poor health, When

the 1850 census was taken Elizabeth is listed as a widow, About four or five years later Elizabeth moved on west with her sons and daughter Priscilla Dickey's family, They lived at various times in Gonzales and Wilson Counties, Many of their descendants are still in the area, The story is told of how Elizabeth McAdams Gillespie traveled back to Alabama to visit, Train travel was something new for her, She got there all right but somewhere on the return trip she forgot who she was and where she was going, The only information she could supply the Conductor was that her son was Post Master somewhere in Texas, The train crew put their heads together and wired Washington for a list of Texas' Post Masters to be sent to a station they would reach later, The list arrived on schedule and the Conductor began reading off the names, When he read "James C, Gillespie, Rancho" Mrs Gillespie pricked up her ears, "That's my James," she said, So they tagged the old lady with her name and the depot closest to Rancho so she would reach home safely,

REFER:

Memorial & Genealogical Record of Southwest Texas, Goodspeed
On the Watershead of Ecleto-and the Clear Fork of Sandies, Karon Mac
Smith

TheFirst Settlers of Sabine County, Texas, Gifford White

Interview by Jo Ann Nowotny Richardson with Myrtle Calley, great-
granddaughter of Elizabeth McAdams Gillespie

Walker County Records

Panola County Records

Mary McAdams

BORN: 1808 in Tennessee or Kentucky

DIED: 1857 in Walker Co, , Tx,

MARRIED:

1. John Williams May 17, 1824 Tuscaloosa, Ala,
2. Wilson Price Sept, 20, 1834 Tuscaloosa, Ala,

CHILDREN:

1. William Archibald Williams b, June 3, 1826 d, Sept, 14, 1916
2. Mary Jane Williams b, about 1830
3. Thomas Williams b, about 1836

4. Wilson Alonza Price b, March 7, 1843 d, May 13, 1926
5. Cicero Price b, about 1841
6. John Price b, about 1848

Mary, called Polly by her family, was born in an area claimed at various times by Kentucky and Tennessee, Because of this uncertainty both states are given as her birthplace, Polly was married at age 16 not long after the family moved to Tuscaloosa, She and John Williams were parents of three children before he died, Her parents and all of her siblings except Elizabeth Gillespie had moved to Sabine Co, , Tx, by this time, Polly married a second time in Tuscaloosa a man named Wilson Price, Three more children were born to her, Sometime during the early 1850's Polly made the move west by boat out of Mobile to Galveston bringing her children to live near her relatives, Her husband was not with her, She is named on tile 1854 Walker Co, Scholastic list as having children enrolled in school there, She secured a land grant and was just getting settled when she died in 1857, She was buried in a rock covered grave next to her sister-in-law, Hester McAdams in the McAdams Cemetery, Her oldest son, William Williams, was quite independent and left home at an early age, He worked in Montgomery and in 1849, along with a cousin, traveled to Texas where he finally settled in Gonzales Co, Family tradition tells of a brother killed by Indians in Kerr Co, during the eight year period in the 1860's when William lived there, His brother Thomas is listed on the Walker Co, 1860 census as head of the household along with Mary Jane and the younger Price children, Perhaps Thomas joined William in Kerr Co, after his siblings were old enough to care for themselves, Younger brother, Wilson joined Elmore's Regiment of the Texas Infantry serving in the Civil War along with his cousin, Hiram McAdams, Wilson later lived in Madisonville, Tx, where he raised a family, He owned a prosperous business selling saddles, harnesses and buggies, Cicero Price also worked in Kerr Co, for a period of time but moved back to Walker Co, As far as we know, he never married,

REFER:

Tuscaloosa Co, , Ala, Marriage Records

Deed records, Walker Co, , Tx

U, S, Census Records for Walker, Madison, Kerr, Gonzales Counties,
various years

Memorial & Genealogical Record of Southwest Texas, Goodspeed, 1894

Interview: Pearl Wiley Chandler, great-granddaughter of William Williams

Interview: Joan Jackson Severin, great-granddaughter of Wilson Price

Joseph McAdams

BORN: 1811

DIED: Between 1834-1837 Sabine Co, , Texas

Joseph is not listed with his parents in 1830 Alabama census but in 1834 resides with John and Martha McAdams in Sabine Co, , Texas, He was unmarried, Family says he died of pneumonia, His father filed for land for Joseph's estate in 1838 before the Sabine Co, Land Commissioners and was granted 1/3 league which was located in present day Panola and Shelby counties,

Nancy McAdams

BORN: March 26, 1814 Tennessee

DIED: After 1890 Cherokee or Walker Co, , Tx,

MARRIED:

1. Joseph Smith, Nov, 24, 1832 in Greene Co, , Ala,
Parents of one son, Joseph born in 1333, He may have taken the Kimbro name,
2. Lemuel Kimbro, August 4, in 1846 Walker Co, , Tx,
Parents of one son, , Martin Luther born in 1848,

Nancy experienced many sad events in her life, She was apparently widowed soon after coming to Texas and she and tier son lived with her parents, Her second marriage was to Lemuel Kimbro, an illiterate man who aspired for more than he was able to provide, He came to Texas and fought in the Texas Revolution and then served as sergeant in the Mexican War, Nancy and Lem moved to Cherokee Co when the Ragsdales and Smiths settled there, In 1857 Lem appeared in court in Rusk, the county seat, to ask the judge to appoint him as guardian for Martin who owned a small estate consisting of land, The family lived on this tract of land and evidently had a struggle making a living, Lem returned to the probate court in 1862 and asked for permission to sell the land so the family could move back to Walker Co, He told the judge that Martin had little education and they felt if they bought a home site in Walker Co, there would be more opportunities

for schooling, The judge approved the petition and Lem sold 376 acres to James Wright in November of 1862, We think they made the move soon after, Lem died in 1868 but the place of burial is now a mystery, By 1870 Nancy was living in Madison Co, with her son, Martin, his wife, Martha Brimberry and their two children, Sometime in the mid 1870's Martin moved his family to Wilson Co, near his cousins, the Gillespies, Nancy remained in Walker Co and is found in 1878 applying for a pension from the state claiming that hse was in indigent circumstances and that her husband had served in the Army during the Texas Revolution in Capt, William Kimbro's company, Not long after this Martin Kimbro was committed to the State Lunatic Asylum as it was then called, Martha Kimbro returned to Madison Co, and obtained a divorce in 1881, Martin lived the rest of his days in Austin claiming his cousin, John Gillespie of Gonzales Co, as his correspondent, Again in 1883 Nancy was an applicant for a pension from the state, She filed this application in Cherokee Co, with the help of her brother-in-law, W, J, Ragsdale, She swore that her total property consisted of a pony horse worth \$30 and almost \$100 in cash, One incident which gives us a glimpse of Nancy is recorded in an account of a meeting of Texas Revolutionary veterans in Temple in 1888, She was described as having a peculiar style of dress and unsophisticated manner, She spoke from the stage inviting the group to come to Jacksonville for their next meeting, This amused the crowd attending, Nancy was still living in 1890 when her brother John mentions her in a letter he wrote, It is not recorded for us to know the time and place of her death,

REFER:

First Census of Texas, Marion Day Mullins

Greene Co, , Ala, and Walker Co, ,Tx, Marriage Records

Cherokee Co, , Tx, Court Records

Smith Family Bible

The Texas Veterans - Their Late Meeting in Temple, John Henry Brown, 1888

Austin State Hospital information from Glynda Walton Malleske

John McAdams, Jr, [III]

BORN: 8 July 1815 Maury Co, , Tennessee (His statement)

DIED: 11 Sept 1892 Walker Co, , Tx,

MARRIED:

1. Hester White, 1838, Sabine or Shelby Co, , Tx,
2. Mary Frances Bankhead, 11 Nov 1849, Walker Co, , Tx,

John McAdams, Jr, never waived when asked about his birth, He always gave the location as Maury Co, , Tenn, By 1820 the family was living in Stewart Co, , Tenn, This county is located in the part of the state now known as the Land Between the Lakes, The boundary line between Kentucky and Tennessee was in frequent dispute which is probably why one of the siblings gave one state and another child would name the other state as his birthplace, Young John moved to Alabama with the family in the early 1820's and then while he was still a teenager, John, Sr, settled the family in Sabine District of Texas, Family tradition is that John went back to Alabama (where two sisters lived) for a while but he returned to Texas in time to be counted with his parents in the first census taken in 1834, When the Revolution started he joined Capt, Scurlock's Co, in San Augustine, serving for several months, He received one pair of "common brogans" in payment, After the formation of the Republic he received a Bounty Warrent for his service and his name is on a plat of land located east of downtown Tyler, He assigned this acreage to J, C, Hill in 1848, When the Sabine Co, Land Commissioners convened in January of 1838, John, Jr, applied and was granted 1/3 of a league of land for residing in the area prior to the Revolution, He patented a portion of this land in Sabine Co, and another portion in Panola Co, John married Hester White in 1838 in either Shelby Co or Sabine Co, Marriage records from both counties have been destroyed by fire, Moving to Walker (then Montgomery) Co, about 1840, John purchased land near Hester's parents and established a home, Once again in 1840 John joined others from Montgomery Co, serving in Capt, Risenhoover's Co, when Indians attacked the western frontier of Texas, They went as far as Nashville on the Brazos in this engagement which was called Archer's War, Five children were born to John and Hester before her death in 1849, She was the first person buried in the McAdams Cemetery which is still in use in Walker Co, John was a lay preacher in the Methodist Church and was said to be able to quote much of the Bible, He was a horse lover and owned a fine horse which he traveled back to Louisiana to purchase, He raced this horse which lie called "Methodist Bull" on a dirt track built in Walker Co, Although John did not believe in betting, others won much money because of Methodist Bull's winning record, When his racing days were over John continued to give the horse the best care until he died, During this period San Houston made many visits to the McAdams

homeplace, He evidently enjoyed the opportunity to relax in the rural setting away from his obligations, On at least one point, John and Sam were in agreement, Both opposed secession from the Union, John paid substitutes to serve in the Confederate forces so his sons would not have to fight against the Union, Later, however, several of them were members of the Texas Infantry serving under Elmore, After Hester's death, John, Sr, and Martha McAdams moved in with their son to help care for the five young children, John, Jr, married Mary Frances Bankhead and, at the age of 15, she became step mother to John's five children and, in the following years, the mother of eleven children of her own, In addition, the couple took a number of orphan children into their home to raise, John was interested in education and donated lumber to build a school as well as money to pay for a teacher, John was a prosperous farmer and rancher and was well respected by the people around him, He died in 1892 and is buried in McAdams Cemetery, He left many descendants scattered around East Texas,

REFER:

First Census-of Texas, Marion Day Mullins
U, S, Census Records for Walker Co, , 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
Marriage Records, Walker Co,
Court Records, Walker Co,
Sabine Co, and Panola Co, Land Records
General Land Office, Austin #629 Veteran Donation
McAdams Cemetery Records
Interview with Ruth McAdams Cole, granddaughter of John and Hester
McAdams

Martha McAdams

BORN: December 19, 1816 (Smith Bible & cemetery marker) in Kentucky
(her statement)

DIED: November 13, 1898 (cemetery marker), Cherokee Co, , Tx, Buried
Earle's Chapel, Jacksonville

MARRIED: William Jones Ragsdale, c, 1837 Sabine Co, , Tx,

CHILDREN:

1. John Nimrod b, 1838
2. Ann Eliza b, 1840
3. Emily V, b, 1842 m, Thomas P, Williams

4. Martha C, b, 1844
5. William Baxter b, 1845 m, Mary C, Muckleroy
6. Peter Chappell b, 1847 m, Mattie A, Wallace
7. Edward J, b, 1850 m, Margaret Muckleroy
8. Rebecca A,
9. Evalina R, b, 1852
10. Dewitt C, b, 1857

William Jones Ragsdale received land grant #27 for 1 league and 1 labor of land in Sabine Co, on Jan, 1, 1838 which proves that he was married by this time, He paid taxes in Sabine Co, in 1837, -38, -39 on 1 Negro and 1 horse, Land was exempt as titles were not yet clear and 25 head of cattle and 4 horses were also exempt, The family moved to Cherokee Co, in 1847, He was a bricklayer and farmer, He served in Capt, David Renfro's Co, , Sabine Co and W, H, Landrum's Co, during the Texas Revolution, The family was active in the Methodist Church and William was a Mason, They helped establish Earle's Chapel Meth, Church five miles out of present day Jacksonville on the Palestine Road, Martha was called Patsey by the family and is remembered in family stories as being a small lady who smoked a clay pipe, Her mother, Martha Rodgers McAdams was visiting the Ragsdales and Smiths when she died in 1852 and is probably buried in Old Jacksonville Cemetery in an unmarked grave,

REFER:

U, S, Census Records, various years
 Sabine Co, Tax Roll
 Cherokee Co, Marriage Records
 Cherokee, County History
 Interview with Homer Ragsdale (great grandson)
 Smith Family Bible
 Cemetery records

William McAdams

BORN: 1819, probably in Tennessee
 DIED: ?

The only thing known about this son is the family story that he was killed when kicked by a horse immediately following his sister Elizabeth's wedding to George Gillespie,

Jane Evalina McAdams

BORN: 2 Oct 1820 (1822) (Smith Bible gives two dates) in Tuscaloosa Co, , Ala,

DIED: Nov, 1906 in Cherokee Co, , Tx,

MARRIED: Jackson Smith (1814-1897) abt, 1837 Shelby Co, ,Tx,

CHILDREN:

1. Martha Jane b, 9 Jan 1839 m, J, G, W, Griffin
2. Elizabeth Ellender b, 10 Apr 1840 m, Thomas Roundtree
3. John Wesley b, 14 Mar 1842 m, Martha Ellen Matkin
4. George Travis b, 27 Jan 1844
5. William Jackson b, 27 Nov 1845
6. Thomas Jefferson b, 13 Jan 1848 m, Hettie Matkin
7. Robert Roundtree b, 31 Aug 1851 m, Nannie Bridges
8. Francis Ann b, 29 Jun 1854
9. Mary Adaline Geneva b, 18Oct 1857 m, E, L, Reynolds

There is some conflict over the year of Jane Evalina's birth, The Smith Family Bible gives two dates and her age on census records is different from these, She married Jackson Smith in Shelby Co, according to her great-granddaugilter and the family lived there until the mid-1840's when they removed to Montgomery (Walker) Co, for a short time, By 1847 Jackson settled the family in what is now Cherokee Co, Jackson came to Texas from Illinois in time to serve in the Revolution in Capt, Burriet's Co, of Gen, Thomas J, Rusk's Brigade and he claimed to have guarded Santa Ana after the Battle of San Jacinto, In 1838 Jackson scouted for Gen, Rusk when troops were sent to Cherokee Co, following the Killough Massacre in which 17 people were killed, supposedly by Indians, During this service Jackson located land on Gum Creek where he later settled, It was a portion of this land that he set aside to establish the town of Jacksonville, He ran a blacksmith's shop there, During the Civil War Jackson joined Confederate forces for four years of service, He was a Master Mason and the family attended the Methodist Church, In 1987 a Texas Historical Commission

marker was placed on his grave to honor him as the founder of the town, A tragic accident in 1870 claimed the life of Jackson and Evalina's son, Bill, A circus -troop was performing in Jacksonville when a disturbance broke out between some of the performers and local people, Federal troops were called in and they captured and killed a murderer, In the confusion Bill Smith was accidently shot as he was riding out of town on his horse, He was probably buried in the Smith Family Cemetery which can not now be located, It was destroyed by bull dozers in the 1960's when Lake Jacksonville was created, Chances are that Jane Evalina was buried there in 1906, She was living with her daughter, Mary Adaline Reynolds near the cemetery, If the winter rains had set in it would have been almost impossible to transport the body to Jacksonville where Jackson is buried, Her obituary in the Jacksonville Banner of 16 Nov 1906 fails to locate the place of burial but gives her age as 89, yet a different date for her birth,

REFER:

Jacksonville, Texas, the Story of a Dynamic Community, 1972

Cherokee Co, Marriage Records

Smith Family Bible

U, S, Census of Cherokee Co, , 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890

Interviews: Lee Holmes and Elsie Bolton, great-grandchildren of Jane Evalina

Interview: Bernard Mayfield, Cherokee County Historian

George McAdams

BORN: 1824 in Alabama

DIED: ?

The McAdams family was living in Tuscaloosa, Alabama at the time of George's birth so we are assuming that he was born there, He is shown on the 1830 Alabama census and was 10 years old when listed on the 1834 First Census of Texas, The family says he died young but no cause of death is mentioned, A George McAdams is listed as a member of the militia from Montgomery County in 1842, This group joined General Somervell's expedition which was organized in San Antonio, Jackson Smith (married to Jane Evalina McAdams) was also a member of this group which leads one to speculate that this is our family's George,

REFER:

U, S, Census, Alabama, 1830

First Census of Texas, 1829-1836, Marion Day Mullins

Attack and Counterattack, Joseph M, Nance, U, T, Press, 1964

Drucilla McAdams

BORN: 1825 in Alabama

DIED: About 1855 in Walker Co, , Tx,

MARRIED: Hugh H, Stephenson, July 30, 1846 in Walker Co, , Tx,

CHILDREN:

1. John Hilliard Stephenson b, 1848 d, 1928
2. Martha Jane Stephenson b, Feb, 10, 1849 d, July 10, 1910

Drucilla was a small girl when the family moved from Alabama to Sabine Co, , Tx, She was the youngest child in this large family, In Walker Co, she met and married Hugh Stephenson and their marriage certificate is the first one recorded in Marriage Record Book I in Walker Co, Her husband died leaving her with two small children and she is found living with her widowed mother when the 1850 census was taken, Some five years later Drucilla died and the family said she was buried near her father in the family's private burial ground, Her brother, John McAdams and his wife took Hill and Martha into their home to live with their expanding family, They grew up with their cousins and in 1870 were residing with their cousins John Robert McAdams and his wife, Elizabeth, Martha married Reubin Joseph Alphin from Arkansas and they moved to Karnes Co, , Tx, Some of their descendents lived in Walker Co, , however, Hill never married, He is remembered by cousins as a man who walked throughout the area because he never accepted automobiles, In later years he lived in a small hotel in Bedias, Grimes Co, and sold subscriptions to magazines for his livelihood,

REFER:

First Census of Texas, raron Day Mullins

Walker Co, , Tx, Census Records for 1850, 1860, 1870

Marriage Records, Walker Co, , Tx,

Interview with Ruth McAdams Cole