

THE ARKANSAS FAMILY HISTORIAN



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Spring 2025

Arkansas Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 26374
Little Rock, AR 72221-6374

Established in 1962
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AGS Contact Address: www.ArGenSo.org/contact

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Cover Photo: The Nash Family and their home in Republican, Faulkner County, Arkansas, about 1906. Four on the left, from left to right: John Logan Nash, Rosa Ann Harrawood (Nash) (wife), Forest Nash (son), George Washington Sims (son-in-law). Six in the middle, tallest to shortest: Cora Jane Nash (Sims) (daughter), Jesse Bruce Sims (in Jane's arms) (grandson), Alma Retta Nash (daughter), John Ross Nash (son), Von Nash (daughter), Joe Nash (son). Two on right, left to right: Ollie Bell Nash (daughter) and Emmie Zettie Nash (daughter). Photo from the collection of Margaret Ann Lieblong (Vann), granddaughter of Emmie Zettie Nash. Scanned by Scott Edward Lee, grandson of Alma Retta Nash.

Major Events in Arkansas History

1686: French establish Arkansas Post, the first European settlement in Arkansas.

1803: Louisiana Purchase; Arkansas becomes U.S. territory.

1819: Arkansas Territory created, covering the present state and much of Oklahoma.

1836: Arkansas admitted as the 25th state in the Union.

1861: Arkansas secedes from the Union and joins the Confederacy.

1863: Little Rock falls to Union forces.

1868: Arkansas readmitted to the Union during Reconstruction.

1906: Arkansas State Capitol completed in Little Rock.

1927: The last county boundary change in Arkansas.

Vital Records Begin

Birth: 1914, **Death:** 1914, **Marriage:** Varies by county, generally from 1820s, statewide indexing 1917, **Divorce** Varies by county, generally from mid-1800s, statewide recording 1923

In-Person Research

Arkansas State Archives, 1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 682-6900, archives.arkansas.gov

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 401 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, AR 72201 (501) 320-5700, butlercenter.org

Central Arkansas Library System (CALs), Genealogy & Local History Room, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 918-3000, cals.org

University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections, 365 N McIlroy Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 575-5577, libraries.uark.edu/specialcollections

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA), 11 North 4th Street, Powhatan, AR 72458, (870) 878-6521, archives.arkansas.gov/research/NEARA.aspx

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA), 201 Highway 195 South, Washington, AR 71862, (870) 983-2633, archives.arkansas.gov/research/SARA.aspx

Fort Smith Public Library, Genealogy Department, 3201 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903, (479) 783-0229, fortsmithlibrary.org

Garland County Library, Local History and Genealogy Room, 1427 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901, (501) 623-4161, gclibrary.com

Saline County Library, Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library Genealogy Room, 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, AR 72015, (501) 778-4766, salinecountylibrary.org

Fayetteville Public Library, Genealogy Department, 401 W Mountain St, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 856-7000, faylib.org

County Records, addresses and phone numbers: countyclerkrecords.com/state/arkansas

Online Research

Cyndi's List, cyndislist.com/arkansas

A comprehensive list of links to websites with genealogical information for Arkansas.

Arkansas Gravestones, arkansasgravestones.org

A volunteer-driven database of gravestone images and transcriptions from across Arkansas.

FamilySearch, familysearch.org/arkansas

Free access to a large collection of Arkansas vital records, census data, and more.

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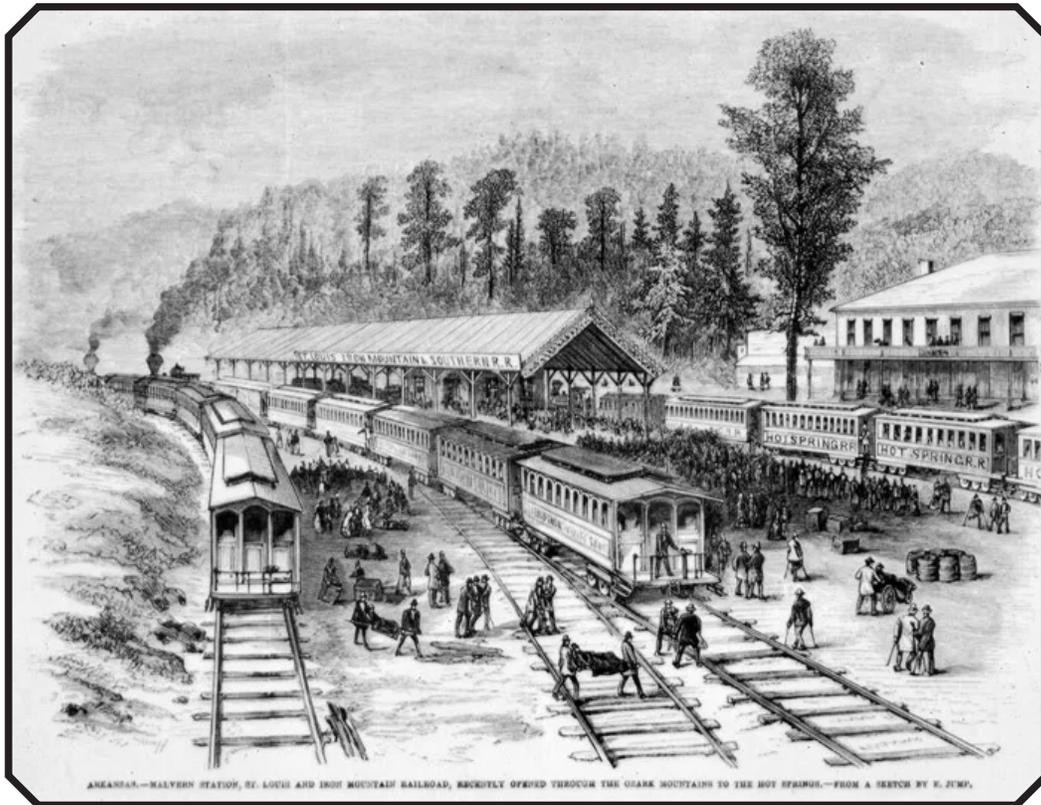
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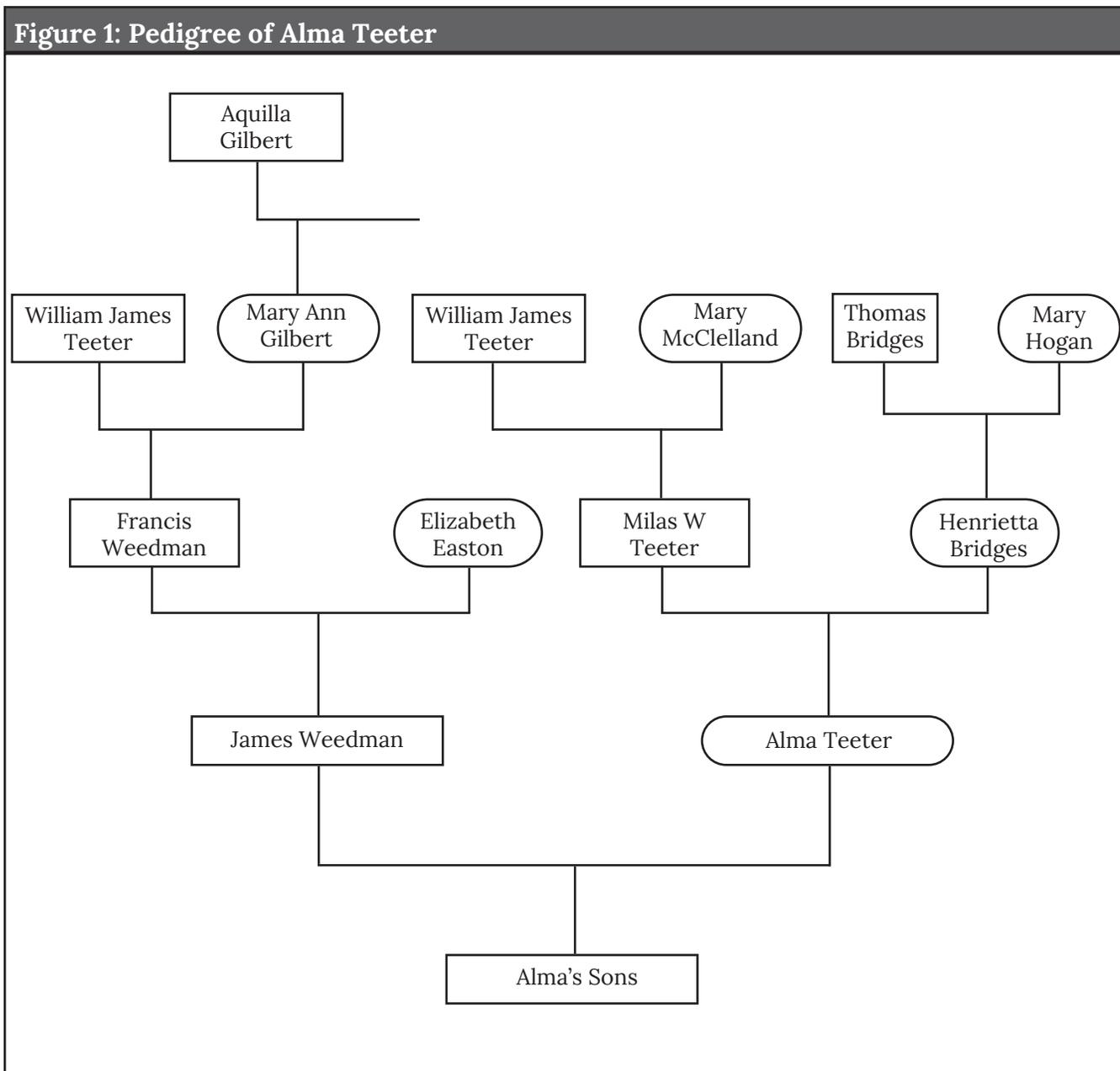
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Alma Teeter was first married to James D. Weedman, the father of her three sons. AncestryDNA ThruLines matches were checked, and there were 16 DNA matches for Stephen Weedman. The DNA matches were identified, ranging from 8 to 53 cM of shared DNA. The matches were from six different children of Stephen Weedman (see Table 9). Each of the matches' shared DNA fell within the expected range of the hypothesized relationship.

Discovering the Paternal family of Dorothy Helen (McWilliams) Hopper: Part 2 by Drake Rinesmith

Table 9: AncestryDNA ThruLines connections to Stephen Weedman

Match	Family Line	T1 Shared DNA (cM)	T2 Shared DNA (cM)	T3 Shared DNA (cM)	Hypothesized Relationship	Expected cM Range	Average cM for hypothesized relationship
WM1	Francis Weedman	53	31	29	Half 2C2R	0-144	48
WM2	Addison Weedman	11	0	0	3C2R	0-166	36
WM3	Amos George Weedman	29	23	0	3C2R	0-166	36
WM4	Mordecai Weedman	13	0	0	5C1R	0-90	21
WM5	Miram Weedman	17	0	0	5C	0-117	25
WM6	Mary Ann Weedman	21	0	0	3C2R	0-166	36

“Shared Matches Pro for T1,” AncestryDNA (<https://www.ancestry.com/dna> : accessed 08 July 2024).

Table 10: Shared DNA Amounts among Weedman ThruLine Matches

Match	T1	WM1	WM2	WM3	WM4	WM5	WM6
T1		53	11	29	13	17	21
WM1	53			34	0	0	57
WM2	11	0		188	0	0	
WM3	0	34	188		0	0	
WM4	13	0	0	0		0	0
WM5	17	0	0	0	0		0
WM6	21	57	0	0	0	0	

“Shared Matches Pro for T1,” AncestryDNA (<https://www.ancestry.com/dna> : accessed 08 July 2024).

AncestryDNA ThruLines matches were checked for Alma Teeter’s maternal grandfather, Thomas Bridges. There were eight DNA matches between 11 and 52 cM through two siblings of Alma’s mother, Henrietta Bridges. The top three matches are listed in Table 11.

Using Conflicting Evidence to Locate the John S. Wilson Family in Northeast Arkansas, 1843–1851
by Lisa Anderson

of the rest of the northeast part of the state), perhaps due to the swampy nature of the area.¹

The 722-mile-long White River flows primarily in Arkansas, with a brief incursion into southwestern Missouri near its Arkansas headwaters, and is a major tributary feeding the Mississippi. In the 1800s, the White saw frequent traffic from large Mississippi River ports, including Memphis and New Orleans. It also passes through Batesville in Independence County, where John S. and Nancy A. Wilson came from and where they married in 1839.² Keelboats could navigate the White going either upstream or downstream in the lower reaches, from Newport (the current county seat of Jackson County) south to the Mississippi River, whereas the White from Newport north to Batesville required a steamboat to travel upstream due to a number of sharp bends, rapids, and varying water levels (keelboats could go downstream along this stretch, however).³

The Cache River originates in southeast Missouri and feeds into the White River south of what is now Woodruff County, Arkansas. Today, the area around the Cache River is considered the most important wintering area for mallard ducks and other migratory waterfowl in North America.⁴ It also holds the largest remaining tract of bottomland hardwood forest in North America. Because of its significance, the ninety-mile-long Cache River National Wildlife Refuge (passing through 4 counties, including Jackson and Woodruff) was established in 1986.⁵

1 “Arkansas: Map of Arkansas surveying district showing the extent of public surveys in said district on the 30th September 1839,” *A collection of maps, charts, drawings, surveys, etc, published from time to time, by order of the two houses of Congress : [United States, Western Hemisphere, and the world]*. Washington : [United States Congress], 1843, not paginated.

2 Independence County, Arkansas, “Record Book A” [marriages], page 65 [stamped]; “Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957,” database with images, *FamilySearch*, image 42 of 532.

3 “White River (Arkansas-Missouri),” *Wikipedia.org*.

4 “Cache River (Arkansas),” *Wikipedia.org*.

5 *Ibid*.

Figure 7.

Bayou DeView, Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, image created 19 November 2004, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Southeast Region; licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.



Arkansas Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries are always a popular feature in the AFH. AGS members may submit as many Arkansas genealogical queries as they wish for publication in this quarterly during each year, without charge. The queries will appear in the order in which they are received. Each must relate to an Arkansas family or location. Be sure to mention the county or region of Arkansas where the family lived, as well as full names and dates. In addition, submitters must include contact information and email address, if possible. Follow the format used below. Queries may be submitted by email to ArGenSoc.org or mailed to

Arkansas Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 26374
Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-6374

Please print clearly.

ANDERSON—Seeking information on Jasper Anderson, born in Alabama about 1834 and buried in Columbia County, Arkansas, in 1890. He was married to Mary and Hester, or potentially Mary Hester Anderson.

Regan Richardson
regan.history.and.research@gmail.com
602-318-0219

CHILDRESS—Seeking information on John Thomas Childress, born 11 April 1910, Forrest City, St. Francis County, Arkansas. Died 8 April 1973, Franklin Park, Cook County, Illinois. To the best of my knowledge, his mother is Ollie Brown, born 11 June 1882 in Mississippi. Ollie died on 17 January 1916 in St. Francis County, Arkansas. Looking for any information on who John's father is, and verifying that John's mother is Ollie Brown. Have been unsuccessful in obtaining birth records. John's death certificate states "not available" in the spaces for father and mother's names.

Lisa Koukoutsis
slak4010@gmail.com
219-985-5683

EPPS/EPPES—Requesting information on Junius Eppes (about 1842-about 1877). In 1970, Junius lived in LaGrange, Lafayette County, Arkansas, with his wife, Dinah/Diana/Diane Featherstone, and children. This is the only census he has been located in. It appears he may have been part of the J.J. Scott Plantation in Hempstead County. Any information on the plantation or Junius specifically would be greatly appreciated.

Regan Richardson
regan.history.and.research@gmail.com
602-318-0219

Arkansas Genealogical Queries

ROBINSON, FRESON—Requesting any information on Ben Robinson (1877-1939) and Mollie Freson Robinson (1876-1925). They lived mostly in Phillips County, around Marion, Lexa, and Spring Hill. Ben, Mollie, and their children are hard to locate in 1920, and the family is curious if they may have left after the—or due to—the Elaine Massacre.

Regan Richardson
regan.history.and.research@gmail.com
602-318-0219



The Thomas Kinneman Bennett family of Almyra, Arkansas County, Arkansas, around 1900

Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Baxley

Importance of Military Records

Military records should always be searched. They can provide information that cannot be located anywhere else.

Example: John D. Thompson and Nancy Vaughn's marriage license was missing since they married in Walker County, Georgia, a "burned" county, where the courthouse records were destroyed. When Nancy applies for a pension, she states their marriage date and place.

Example: John W. Peters filed for a pension in Texas for service in a Union Cavalry from Tennessee. In his application, he answers the questionnaire concerning his three marriages giving the maiden names of each wife and date and place of the marriages. He also tells the date, county, and state where the first two wives died. He names all his children. Using this information, the researcher can trace the family through census records.

Military records can provide vital records, clues for migration, maiden names of women, and prove relationships. An American male born between 1815 and 1845 probably served in the Civil War. Men born between 1780 and 1796 may have fought in the War of 1812, and men born before 1762 may have served in the Revolutionary War.

Military records are a gift from Uncle Sam to every genealogist. Take advantage of this rich source for clues in finding ancestors and collateral relatives.

The Central Arkansas Library System, Butler Center, 100 Rock, Little Rock, AR, has recently acquired 2,670 rolls of the complete set of Revolutionary War records.

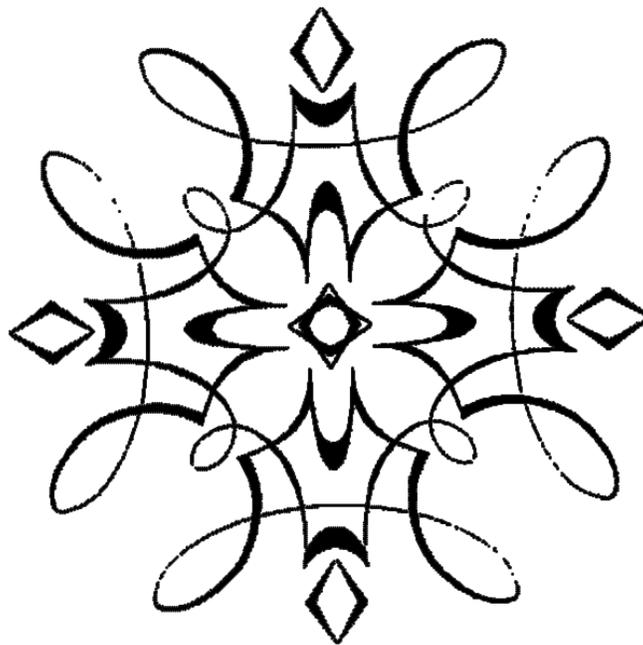


Image from Original Article from AFH Vol. 38, No. 2, June 2000