

(The back of the previous pedigree chart)

11. Little Baby Girl      born 25 Nov 1897 - died: 13 Mar 1898
12. James Wade      born 3 Mar 1899 - Montgomery County, Kentucky  
married 30 Apr 1919 Martha Eason  
died 10 Mar 1976 - Sarasota, Florida, body was cremated.
13. Willie Franklin      born 31 Oct 1901 - Montgomery County, Kentucky  
died 31 Dec 1905  
buried Eldridge Family Cemetery, Todd Road, Fayette County

# Table of Contents

Editors Message.....	6
Elijah and Elizabeth Coke/Cocke Franklin.....	6
Clark County, Arkansas Marriages.....	7
Thomas Baker Franklin .....	7
Wayne County, Kentucky Census 1810 .....	8
History of Wayne County, Kentucky .....	8
First Marriage Records of Wayne County, Kentucky .....	8
Clark County, Arkansas Federal Census .....	8
1860 Census, Pittis County, Missouri .....	9
Madison County, Alabama Marriages.....	9
Culpepper County, Virginia Marriages .....	9
Jonathan and Nancy Franklin .....	10
Sabine Parish, Louisiana Marriages 1840-1900 .....	16
Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812 .....	17
Index to Civil War Pension Applications .....	17
Voters Registration, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana .....	18
Marriages Of St. Helena Parish, Louisiana. ....	18
Saint Tammany Parris, Louisiana Marriages.....	18
St. Helena Parish, Louisiana Deeds .....	18
Kanawha County, West Virginia Death Records 1853-1934.....	19
Kanawha County, West Virginia Deeds.....	20
Kanawha County, West Virginia Marriage Records Index .....	21
John W. and Sallie (Bondurant) Franklin.....	22
Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia.....	23
Campbell County, Virginia Marriage Bonds.....	24
Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol VI, Virginia.....	25
James and Nancy Franklin.....	25
James and Nancy Whitten Franklin.....	26
Correspondence Received from Franklin Researchers.....	30
Chronologies of two James Franklins of Amherst County, Virginia .....	37
Amherst County, Virginia Courthouse Minutes.....	38
Major Anthony Franklin.....	41
Will of Robert Franklin .....	42
Wilson (Willson) Franklin and Elizabeth Perry .....	43

Queries.....	44
Name Index.....	46
Place Index.....	54

## Editors Message

1994 has certainly roared in with a vengeance for some of us. With so many of our members living in the California area our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you. We pray that you have been spared the worst of the quake.

And, not to forget our researchers in the Eastern States. The cold weather has certainly been severe for them. Texas has been fairly calm until lately with the extreme cold and we even saw some snow. Many of our stately pine trees succumbed to the weight of the ice and with the falling of the limbs they took electrical and telephone lines with them, causing many to suffer. We have been lucky and have not experienced any of the hardships that some of our neighbors suffered.

We hope that you enjoy Volume 10. Perhaps it will come at a good time as you too may have been confined to your home. A lot of effort has gone into this issue. We have tried to address issues of family research concerning one particular line beginning on page 27. Several researchers have expressed the need to clarify materials submitted to FFRU as you will note from the letters that have been included (at their request). While I agree with the importance of clarification, it is our hope that all researchers involved will analyze the materials and respect the research of each other and work together as a team. We reiterate our stand on these issues that every effort is made to publish valuable information for the benefit of all of our members, however, our staff does not have the time to verify information submitted and it is up to each individual researcher to obtain documentation. We would certainly hope that information submitted is backed up with documented proof; it is not a requirement of FFRU to submit such documentation. We do appreciate your citing sources in all cases.

Hopefully it will be much easier for us to publish your materials in the future with less proofing, etc. We are enjoying the addition of a scanner as well as a new computer that has a 1 gig hard drive. Our data base continues to grow (with over 33,000 Franklin and allied names) so we upgraded our computer system to accommodate our growth. A new Laser printer has also been added. We have acquired a CD-ROM Reader and some CD's have been ordered. As soon as Franklin information has been extracted, we will be passing this information on to you. So far we have ordered Louisiana Marriage Records 1739-1910 (285,000 marriages). Most dates post 1850; Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina Marriages 1641-1944 (190,000 marriages). Most of the South Carolina marriages are from 1750-1850; and Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas Marriage Records 1766-1983 (524,000 marriages). We have also ordered from LDS a catalog of materials available on microfilm. We are particularly interested in probate records for various states.

## Elijah and Elizabeth Coke/Cocke Franklin

Submitted by Jean Davis Duckworth, 1020 S Pine, Chelsea, OK 74016

Elijah Franklin was born 1775 in Virginia. County is unknown. He married Elizabeth Coke or Cocke (born about 1790) in Wayne County, Kentucky. Their marriage bond was dated 19 Dec 1807 in Wayne County, Kentucky; signed by Elijah Franklin and G. W. Gibbs. He was in the Wayne County, Kentucky 1810 Census with one male 26 to 45; 2 females under 10; 1 female 16 to 26 and 2 slaves.

Elijah had at least one brother Elisha Franklin in Wayne County, Kentucky. Also, there was a deed record in Wayne County, Kentucky. This indenture made the 17th day of February, 1813 between William Franklin and Nancy his wife and Elijah Franklin and Elisha Franklin all of Wayne County, State of Kentucky of the one part and Jesse Cocke of the County and State afore said.

Elijah Franklin was in Wayne County, Kentucky 20 Oct 1802 where he signed the marriage bond of Sally Franklin his sister to be married to John Morris.

Elijah and Elizabeth (Coke or Cocke) had the following children:

1. Amanda Franklin born 1811 Wayne County, Kentucky married Samuel C. Thornton 12 Feb 1837 Clark County, Arkansas. Amanda was still living in the 1860 Clark County Census. Her husband had died before the 1850 Clark County, Census. She was a widow with three children living in the

house with her father and brothers and sisters.

2. Emily Franklin born 1813 Wayne County, Kentucky was still unmarried 1860 Clark County, Arkansas census.
3. Charles C. Franklin born 1815 Madison County, Alabama was still unmarried in 1860 census.
4. Elizabeth Franklin born 1819 Madison County, Alabama was unmarried in 1860 census.

Elijah Franklin's wife Elizabeth signed deed record in Clark County, Arkansas 1844, her X mark. By 1850 she must have died. Elijah Franklin was a 75-year-old widow living with his children.

Elijah Franklin had some dealings with Charles Cocke both in Wayne County, Kentucky and Clark County, Arkansas. Elijah died before the 1860 census.

## Clark County, Arkansas Marriages

Franklin	Spouse	Date	Source
Ethelbert	Dehila Hudgens	30 Nov 1827	Vol A page 26
James	Wilma E. Turner	31 Oct 1832	
Amanda	Samuel C. Thornton	12 Feb 1837	
James	Mary C. Hollinsworth	23 Oct 1866	Vol E page 40 (married at Baptist Church)
G. A.	L. J. Stroud	05 Nov 1879	Vol 1 page 52
B. F.	Mary Johnson	05 Feb 1895	Vol J page 261
J. A.	Lou Kerr	13 May 1895	Vol J page 323
James	Mandy Hardage	28 Oct 1897	Vol K page 216

## Thomas Baker Franklin

Genealogical Records Committee, *NSDAR Grandparent Papers*. Published in Franklin Fireplace page 348 May 1971. This is not part of Jean Davis Duckworth's research. Submitted by Elaine F. Giddens, Rt 2, Box 212, El Campo, TX 77437. Entire Franklin Fireplace in personal library.

"Ethelburt Sexton Franklin was the child of Thomas Baker Franklin born 1765 South Carolina died Union County, Arkansas between<sup>1</sup> May 1829 (est. adm Oct 1828) and his 2nd wife Ann \_\_\_\_ died Chester County, South Carolina (signed dower rights Oct 1806 last time) about Nov 1806 married about 1792. References: Thomas Baker Franklin's Estate probated 1829. Tombstone records.

Thomas Baker Franklin was the child of Thomas Franklin born about 1740 died Chester County, South Carolina 1789 (Will dated Jan 1789) and his wife Priscilla (Rogers?) died Chester County, South Carolina about Jan 1807 married about 1762. References: Thos. Franklin: Will-Death Photostat. Papers verified by Photostatic copies of wills, bible records, tombstones, deeds, etc.

Thomas Franklin's place of residence during the Revolution was Chester County, South Carolina. His service was: Private, South Carolina Militia and Patriot, furnish 5 sheep for Continental use. 73 days Militia duty 1781, in Captain Robert Frost's Company. References: Photostatic copy of Indented Certificate of original Indent in files of Historical Commission of South Carolina Certificate #464 Book Q. (See upcoming publication of Andrea Papers for more documentation on this family. /Editor).

---

1. "before"? Editor, 2nd Edition

**Children of Revolutionary ancestor:**

John Franklin born about 1763 married #1 Mourning Carter; #2 Mrs. Nancy Freeman.  
Thomas Baker Franklin born about 1765 married #1 Winifred Wood; #2 Ann \_\_\_\_; #3 \_\_\_\_.  
Frances Franklin married #1 William Trussell, Jr.; #2 Major Grisham; #3 \_\_\_\_ Knight.  
Mary Franklin possibly married Moses Cockrell, Jr. Was unmarried as of 19 Dec 1809.  
Elizabeth Franklin unmarried as of 19 Dec 1809.

## Wayne County, Kentucky Census 1810

Franklin, Elijah males; 1 26-45; females 2 under 10 yrs, 2 16-26; 2 slaves.

## History of Wayne County, Kentucky

This is not part of Jean Davis Duckworth's research. Submitted by Elaine Franklin Giddens, Rt 2, Box 212, El Campo, TX 77437. See FFRU Vol 9 page 37 for another Wayne County, Kentucky researcher.

pg 20: Grants for Headrights, provisions were made to following:  
Elisha Franklin and Thomas Franklin

pg 46: War of 1812 - almost all men were Rev. soldiers, Roster of Capt. Wm. Cross' company of volunteers, Aug 1812

## First Marriage Records of Wayne County, Kentucky

John Morris to Sally Franklin, 26 Oct 1802

Elijah Franklin to Eliz. Coke, 9 Dec 1807

A marriage is recorded Pulaski County, Kentucky for Elisha Franklin to Polly Coys (?) Reid Kiggin, step-father of Polly, no date. Wayne County was created 1801 from Pulaski County, Cumberland. /ed

## Clark County, Arkansas Federal Census

### 1840

Franklin, Elijah males; 2 under 5 yrs, 2 20-30, 1 50-60, 1 70-80: females; 1 20-30, 1 50-60

Thornton, Samuel C. males; 1 40-50: females; 2 under 5 yrs, 1 30-40 yrs.

### 1850 Elkins Twp, Clark County, Arkansas 8 Dec 1850

308-308	Franklin,	Elijah	75 male	farmer \$600	born Virginia
		Emily	37 female		born Kentucky
		Clark C.	35 male	farmer	born Alabama
		Elizabeth	31 female		born Alabama
	Thornton,	Amanda	39 female		born Kentucky
		Elizabeth J.	12 female		born Arkansas
		Verginia	10 female	at school	born Arkansas
		Franklin	08 male		born Arkansas

**1850 Gentry Twp, Clark County, Arkansas 11 Dec 1850**

356-356	Franklin,	William	32 male	farmer \$50	born Arkansas
		Rebecca	22 female		born Arkansas
	Ferrell,	Celia Jane	06 female		born Arkansas
		Mary	03 female		born Arkansas

**1860 Census, Pittis County, Missouri**

**Blackwater Twp 18 Sep 1860 page 94**

Franklin,	John	43 male	farmer \$1400 real; \$375 personal	born Kentucky
	Mary	44 female		born Kentucky
	James	17 male	farmer	born Kentucky
	George	15 male		born Kentucky
	Martin	11 male		born Missouri
	Mary	08 female		born Missouri
	Mildred	06 female		born Missouri
Moore	Margaret	70 mother		born Virginia
Franklin	William	18 male	farmer	born Kentucky

**Madison County, Alabama Marriages**

<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Spouse</b>	<b>Date</b>
Margaret	Robinson, William	30 Aug 1816
May	Winford, John	17 Feb 1817
May	Wilford, Michael S.	01 Jan 1817
Ann	Johnson, Allen	04 Aug 1820
Patsy	Marrow, James	25 Nov 1823
May	Lewis, Edward	13 Jan 1826

**Culpepper County, Virginia Marriages**

Franklin, Agnes Order, 23 Aug 1821, Minister Lewis Connor

Franklin, Miss Franky to Enoch Gilley, 26 Dec 1781, Minister George Eve

## Jonathan and Nancy Franklin

The following was prepared for the Texas City Ancestry Searchers a few years ago for a publication that they printed. Submitted by Susie McBride Moncla, 1513 22nd Avenue N., Texas City, TX 77590.

Jonathan Franklin (1766 - 1851) and his wife Nancy (about 1785 - 1861) are buried side by side in the Mitchell Cemetery at Anacoco, Vernon Parish, Louisiana. Matching headstones mark their resting places. Inscribed on Jonathan's grave is his death date, 24 Jun 1851 and the phrase "Free from all cares and pain, asleep my body lies, until the final trumpet calls the dead to Christ."

From the scarce documents uncovered and from a scant knowledge of the history of his day, it's unlikely that Jonathan's life had been free from all cares. To have lived in wilderness areas where the only neighbors were Indians, to have been among the settlers who were forced by the government from their homesteads in Miller County, Arkansas when the land they had settled on was returned to the Choctaw Indians, and to have moved his family across the country from one piece of land to another indicated that he possessed a rugged, pioneer spirit.

According to the 1850 Census for Sabine Parish (Family #384), Jonathan (age 84) was born in Virginia. He and Nancy (age 67) are shown residing with their youngest son Thomas (age 24 and unmarried). The occupations of the two men is given as "farmer". Jonathan appears on the 1840 census of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, his age given as between 70 and 80, one other male 10 to 15, and a female between 40 and 50. Because Sabine Parish was formed from Natchitoches in 1843, the appearance of his name in both parishes does not necessarily indicate a move. However, he was in North Louisiana in the year 1830, as his name appears in the Claiborne Parish Census with one male under 5, two between 10 and 15, one between 15 and 20, one 20 to 30 and one 60 to 70. A lone female (Nancy) between 40 and 50 years of age also appears.

It has not been established as to the year that Jonathan first arrived in Louisiana, but a copy of a certificate showing that he acquired 39.87 acres in Beinville Parish is on file at the Louisiana State Land Office. His mark, a blotted "X" appears on the certificate which was sworn to on the 25th day of November 1833. The fact that his youngest son Thomas was born in Louisiana in the year 1826 indicates that the family had migrated into the state before that year.

According to various sources including *A Brief History of Vernon Parish, Louisiana* by John T. Cupit (1963), the Franklin's arrived at the present site of Anacoco in the early 1830's. Cupit described the terrain as a vast wilderness covered by forest trees, a mass of switch cane and wild beans, with creeks, swamps and hammocks. Cupit notes that there were no white settlers in the area, no churches, no schools, no roads, no bridges--just virgin forests in which deer and wolf roamed. To this area "came a man, his wife, and 6 sons -- Bill (William), James, Benjamin, George, Jackson, and Thomas. They camped atop a knoll where "the home of A. J. Franklin now stands." And thus began the settlement of Anacoco. Other families--the Conerly's, Miers, Martins, and Balls--arrived shortly thereafter and provided neighbors and wives for the Franklin boys. Luke Conerly from Pike County, Mississippi moved to the area and he, along with the Franklins and Miers were instrumental in building a log school house and the Holly Grove Methodist Church.

Another history of Vernon Parish entitled *Tall Pines* by Erbon W. Wise (1971), page 44; states that the Franklins arrived in the Anacoco area in 1834 and that Jonathan was moving his family from Tennessee to Texas. According to the family tradition recorded in this history, the sons and father constructed two log houses - one for the family and one for the pigs. "It was necessary to keep the domestic animals inside a house at night because of the wild animals. Pigs were not the only victims of wild life, one learns from a story which praised the bravery of Jimmy Franklin, who with only a Barlow knife killed a bear which was about to kill his favorite dog."

The Anacoco area has the distinction of being the home of Holly Grove Methodist Church, the oldest church in Vernon Parish and the first Protestant Church west of the Mississippi River. Jonathan and Nancy Franklin, along with the Conerlys and Miers have the distinction of being the founders of this church.

*A Short History of Holly Grove Church* by R. T. Wright, written in the early 1940's in the shaky handwriting of an old man, is in the local history files of the Vernon Parish Library in Leesville, Louisiana. Excerpts of this history follow:



“In giving a history of Holly Grove Methodist Church it will be necessary also to mention some of the first Emigrants to this country which was then inhabited altogether by Indians. In the early 1830’s three or four families came to this part of the country, but did not remain long, returning to Mississippi.

In 1834 and 1835 three or four families came to this part of the state--to wit, the Franklins from Tennessee, Martins, Mires, Ball and Tomb--from Mississippi. In 1836 missionaries from Mississippi came through these parts and would hold religious services at private residences. There was but one person among those emigrants that would offer a Public Prayer (A Godly old lady) Nancy Franklin - my wife’s grandmother. Through her Godly influence and the faithful work of missionaries the above mentioned immigrants came together -- selected a place and with their limited means erected a small log house for religious worship and for the schooling of their children.

In 1836 the Rev. James Ford, a Missionary from the Mississippi Conference came to this community, preached to the people and organized a Methodist Society in the little log house with the following members--Jonathan Franklin, Nancy Franklin, James .W Franklin, Elisabeth Franklin, Peter Sandell and wife, John Ball and wife and a Mister Tomb. After the organization of the society it was given the name of Holly Grove. Some time after the organization others moved into the community and cast in their lot with the people in the work of the church --to wit -- Rev. Luke Conerly and Rebecca Conerly, John R Conerly and Elisabeth Conerly, William Conerly and wife, Thomas ? and wife and Albert Self and wife. The Rev. James Ford at that time was stationed at Bienville and from there he would come to Kisatchie, Holly Grove to Negreet to Bayou Sill, Pleasant Hill and back to Bienville once each month. . . . In 1837 Rev. Luke Conerly and J. W. Franklin, having the interest of the church at heart and the future interest of the community uses at heart, rode to Natchitoches -- a distance then of 65 miles and bought 40 acres of land from the government and had it patented to the Holly Grove Church.

From 1836 to the present date Holly Grove and the entire charge have never been without a preacher-- In looking back over the 106 years from the organization of Holly Grove Church we are frank to confess that she has not done what she could have done. Yet we feel proud of the record it has made and the good it has done the entire country. From this little organization in 1836 in the little Log House there has been six ordained ministers given to God’s Holy cause besides the great host that have died in the faith and gone to their reward...

Only four of the descendants of the first organization are still living--all four have past their fourscore years. A few more battles and they will pass to their rewards. But we pray that the mantles of our Forefathers will continue to fall on those that have the cause of the Church at Heart...”

And thus was written a history of this early church, by R. T. Wright whose wife was a granddaughter of Nancy and Jonathan Franklin. Appended to this narrative is a chronological list of all the ministers serving the church. among the names are John Franklin and James M. Franklin, the latter serving during the years of 1865-1868 and again in the year 1871. Both John and James M. were grandsons of Jonathan, James M. being my great grandfather.

Jonathan’s youngest son Thomas, born in North Louisiana on 8 Jan 1826, married Martha A. Davis on 15 Dec 1853 as recorded in Marriage Book 1, page 48 of Sabine Parish. On the 1860 census for Sabine Parish, he is listed with wife and sons John W. age 5, Allen J. age 4, Thomas B. age 10 months, a daughter Sarah H. age 2, and his mother Nancy age 75. Jonathan had died in the year 1851 according to his tombstone. As indicated in references in Beslisle’s *History of Sabine Parish, Louisiana*, Thomas worked as a teacher in the parish before turning to the ministry. I have uncovered only one writing that he left for posterity-- *A History of the First Grave Yard of this Country* which was written before his death on 8 Feb 1891. In it he tells of the first families who arrived in that section of Louisiana, adds to the history of the Holly Grove Methodist Church, tells of the first burial in the cemetery, and names other persons buried there including two sons of J. W. Franklin (my Great Great Grandfather) one child of W. G. Franklin and two children of Thomas J. Franklin. “And here lies our father who has often told us that he did service in the Revolutionary War (I have not established that claim) and by him our mother has been lain, who departed this life in the full triumph of a living faith”.

An addendum to this graveyard history, prepared by a cemetery committee, was added to a printed copy of

Thomas Franklin's history in 1903. It stated: "The above was written by Rev. Thomas Franklin, who died 3 Feb 1891, in the full triumph of a living faith, and the committee who has been appointed to revise this History will say: Here lies his body. Also, the Rev. Thomas Franklin was one of the old pioneers of this country, and while bodily afflictions held him back to a great extent from taking part in manual labor, yet he was always ready to do what he could, and will say, there were few men in this country who were more prosperous than he was. In his early days he was one of the few school teachers in the country, and he always gave general satisfaction to his employers, in the way of instructing the young. He was at this day universally loved by all, both old and young. He was also a local preacher, and did much for his church, and the building up of the country. But Alas! his days on earth have ended and he has gone to reap his reward. A few years after his death his companion was lain by his side."

"Many changes have taken place in this country since these annual grave-yard workings have commenced. Many bodies have been buried there, too numerous to mention, all of them, but we will mention a few.

J. P. Mitchell, who was so prominent in this working.

A. J. Weldon, A Baptist preacher

Nancy Kay, a daughter of J. W. Franklin, have died and were buried here.

J. W. Franklin, one of the old pioneers, an early settler of this country, and who had taken such an active part in the improvement of this grave-yard, as well as the general building up of this country, and who expected at his death for his body to be lain here, has gone to reap his reward. But in his last sickness on being interrogated by his children as to his burying place, said it made no difference with him said it made no difference with him as to where his body was placed, and the most of the children preferred that his body be buried at his old church--Holly Grove. It was thus placed in the Holly Grove Cemetery to await the resurrection morn..."

Jonathan Franklin's sons, approximate birth dates, and places of birth are listed as follows:

1. William G. Franklin (born about 1812 Tennessee) married to Mathilda \_\_\_\_\_.
2. George W. Franklin (resident of Rapides Parish, Louisiana).
3. James W. Franklin (born 22 Aug 1814 Tennessee - died 3 May 1897 buried Holly Grove Cemetery, Vernon Parish, Louisiana) married 1834 to Elizabeth Meyers (Miers), daughter of David Miers and Rebecca Morgan, in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.
4. Andrew Jackson Franklin (born about 1816 in Arkansas) married Nancy \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Benjamin Franklin
6. Thomas Franklin (born 8 Jan 1826 Louisiana - died 3 Feb 1891 buried Mitchell Cemetery, Anacoco, Louisiana) married Martha A. Davis 15 Dec 1853.

Because one of Jonathan's sons was born in Arkansas as early as 1816, I looked for and found two records indicating that a Jonathan Franklin had settled in Arkansas. Among the petitioners entreating the President of the U. S. to reconsider a decision to move the white inhabitants of Miller County, Arkansas Territory from their lands following the signing of a treaty with the Choctaw Indians which established the Choctaw boundary east of the Miller County line was Jonathan Franklin. In 1825 there were 2500 white people living in Miller County including Jonathan Franklin and his family. He was among the 300 signers who expressed indignation because they had settled upon U. S. land rather than Choctaw land, had made improvements, planted orchards, increased their stock and were being forced to abandon their improvements. Two petitioners, one dated 1819 and the other 1825, are reprinted in Carter's *Territorial Papers of the U. S. Arkansas*. Vol XX and XXI. Jonathan had no choice but to leave his Arkansas homestead, when the pleas of the petitioners were ignored, and move south into Louisiana.

A biographical sketch of James Washington Franklin's son James Meyers Franklin (my great grandfather, in *Biographical and Historical Memories of Northwest Louisiana*, page 479 reveals the following facts about James W. Franklin. Married in 1834 to Elizabeth Meyers. He was a native of Tennessee, she of Mississippi. They settled on a tract of land then in Natchitoches Parish and has been cut off by two other parishes, Sabine and Vernon.

J. W. Franklin followed agricultural pursuits all his life. Of the 12 children born to his marriage, 10 lived to adulthood: Approximate years of their births from 1850 and 1860 census records are:

1. James M. Franklin
2. Mary Franklin (born about 1839) - wife of J. P. Mitchell
3. Nancy Franklin (born about 1842)- wife of E. Kay
4. John Franklin (born about 1845) - Methodist Episcopal minister and state representative of Vernon Parish.
5. Eliza J. Franklin (born about 1849) - wife of A. Dixon
6. Elizabeth Franklin - wife of P. B. Kay
7. Lydia Franklin (born about 1853) - wife of H. W. Presley
8. Thomas Franklin (born about 1847)
9. Luticia Franklin (born about 1858 - twin to #10) - wife of John Kane
10. Melissa Franklin (born about 1858 - twin to #9) - wife of Robert Wright

An obituary of James W. Franklin is printed in the 24 Jun 1897 issue of the *Christian Advocate*, a Methodist newspaper published in New Orleans between the years 1855 and 1902. From the information here, we have a clue as to the section of Tennessee that the Franklins were from. The following was written by H. C. Murphy, minister of Holly Grove Methodist Church upon the death of my great great grandfather:

“James W. Franklin was born near Nashville, Tennessee, 22 Aug 1814 and departed this life 3 May 1897 making him at his death eighty-two years, eight months and eleven days old.

His parents moved to this State (Louisiana) when he was quite young and settled on the Ouachita River; and in about the year 1836, they moved to this country, now Vernon Parish, but then Natchitoches Parish; thus, he was one of the old pioneers of this country.

He was married in the year 1836 to Miss Elizabeth Morse (Meyers) and settled a wilderness place, on which he lived continuously till his death, which was over 60 years. He raised a family of ten children to be grown and married, all of which, with his companion, yet survive. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren number (living) over 134. However, many of his grandchildren preceded him to the other shore.

He joined the M. E. Church South about the year 1845, in which church he ever lived, ever advocating and defending the doctrines of Methodism till death. Two years ago, when it became necessary to build a new church house, he said to the building committee, “Go ahead; put up this church, and I will foot the bill.” Thus they went ahead, built a nice neat church, which he was privileged to dedicate before he died. He took great interest in his church and Sunday School. His seat was never found vacant when it was possible for him to be there.

He joined the Masonic fraternity in 1863, and he was ever at this post of duty when able to be at his lodge.

He was a very determined, self-willed man. His motto was, “Know you are right, then go ahead.” He was temperate in his habits and consistent in all his doings--in fact, he was a model man. But, alas, he has gone to his reward.

He was buried near the southwest corner of the Holly Grove Church, where a host of his friends and relatives assembled to see his body placed in the cold and alien grave to await the resurrection morn.

Bro. Franklin was well versed in the Bible; a man that always looked after his preacher’s support. It was not the writer’s privilege to be with him at his death: He said as one of old, “I have fought a good fight.” He served his church as steward, class leader, trustee for many years, though at his death he was trustee. To love him was to know him. May the lord’s grace comfort those who survive him and may they say, “The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

--His pastor -- H. C. Murphy.

A biographical sketch in *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana* related the following facts about the life of James Meyers Franklin, son of James W. and grandson of Jonathan Franklin on page 480.

“J. M. Franklin, the eldest of the above mentioned family, was reared and educated in what is now Vernon Parish; was brought up on the farm, and at the age of twenty two began the study of the ministry. He went through the regular course, graduated and was ordained in 1872 as an elder. He moved to Fort Jesup in 1870 and has been a resident of the same ever since. In 1887 he founded the Fort Jesup Masonic Institute, which is now on a paying basis with an average attendance of about sixty pupils. He was a liberal donator to the institution, both in money and time, and is a representative man of the parish. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Shelby’s battalion, which afterward consolidated with the Crescent. He at one time belonged to the medical department doing hospital duty or being ward master. Since the was he has been engaged in his ministerial duties and is doing much good. For a great many years he carried on farming and was very successful in this occupation. He was first married in 1856 to Miss Melissa M. Connelly, who bore him one son, John R., who is a practicing physician of Fort Jesup. His second marriage was in 1870 to Mrs. Martha A. Tally, and they have six children living: Minnie L., Mittie P., Hattie, Thomas G., James W. and Henry L., all of whom are attending school but Millie L., who is married. They lost one child, Ella.

Mr. Franklin is a Royal Arch Mason and has been a member of that organization for thirty-three years, taking a great interest in the same. His father and all his brothers were Masons. Mr. Franklin has been postmaster since 1888 and is one of the prominent men of Sabine Parish, having assisted materially in the development of the same. He has also taken a decided interest in educational and religious affairs, and is a hard worker in both causes. His work will ever be fresh and green in the memory of the people of Sabine Parish. His wife is an estimable lady and co-worker with him in all laudable enterprises. Mr. Franklin is the leading light of Fort Jesup, an was a man of great influence in his community. Politically he is a Democrat, but takes no interest in the same except to through his influence to the man he thinks will make the best officer.

The second wife of James M. Franklin was Martha Ann Gibbs Talley, daughter of James M. Gibbs (18 Nov 1816 - 1885 of North Carolina) and Mary Beddingfield Gibbs, born in Alabama.

Thomas Gibbs Franklin, my grandfather was born 23 May 1878 at Fort Jesup in Sabine Parish. He married on 13 Jul 1900 to Lela Ann Bowles in Ashdown, Arkansas. She was the daughter of John Wood Bowles and Sara Jane Jordan, both born in Virginia and later resided in Missouri. To Thomas Gibbs Franklin and Lela Ann Bowles were born five children, three of whom survived infancy. They are:

1. John Leslie Franklin
2. Marie Franklin married Edward C. Guidroz.
3. Pauline May Franklin (born 26 Mar 1912); my mother.

Thomas Gibbs Franklin worked for years for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and was depot master at Bastrop, Louisiana. He died 16 Oct 1954 in Monroe, Louisiana and is buried in Bastrop beside his wife and son John.