

Grandpa Hart's Will:
Discovery of the Hart/Dean/Mabry Connection
Conecuh County, Alabama

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The Children of Reuben Dean, Jr. and Lavinia Hart:
Catherine, Virginia, Mary Augusta, Reuben and Victoria

The 1846 marriage of Robert B. Mabry 1817-187? and Virginia Dean 1829-1867 is recorded in Merango County, Alabama.

Appended to the marriage license is a letter from Virginia's uncle, James N. Hart, which informed the court that *Miss Dean is my niece and living with me. She is under 17 years in age but I have received a letter from her guardian within the last few days and can assure you there will be no difficulty or danger growing out of your issuing the license.*

Searching for Virginia Dean's ancestors didn't go anywhere. One could find a James N. Hart in Merango County in this time period, but he didn't seem to have anything to do with a Dean family. In retrospect, one should have kept digging!

In contrast, clues to finding the ancestors of Robert B. Mabry were revealed by indexed, Greene County, Alabama, estate documents for his mother Frances and his brother Peter. Robert's parents are Joshua Mabry 1785-1836 and Frances B. Strother 1791-1862 of Franklin County, North Carolina. After Joshua's death, Frances and her kids joined their Strother relatives in Clinton, Greene County, Alabama.

Children of Joshua Mabry and Frances B. Strother are: Robert B. Mabry, James L. Mabry (not proven), Mary Mabry (Freeman), Sydney H. Mabry, Mariah L. Mabry, Julia Ann Mabry (Fason), Peter L. Mabry and Martha Joshua Mabry.

So, back to the Harts and the Deans. In the summer of 2023, I blundered into an experimental program run by FamilySearch which used OCR to search the text of wills and deeds.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/textprototype>

What a game changer! And how disappointing when FamilySearch withdrew the program from general use just as I was getting warmed up. But in the few weeks I used the experimental search, **the name Mabry turned up in Benjamin Hart's will and probate file.** Grandpa Hart's 1851 will caused complications, which is the best kind of will for revealing family relationships. He was feeble, very hard of hearing and on his death bed when he orally dictated his wishes to his son James N. Hart. Probate went on for years (1852 to 1876), but the 113 page file provides clue after clue revealing the Mabry-Dean-Hart family connections.

It turns out that James N. Hart is Virginia Dean Mabry's maternal uncle, brother of Virginia's mother Lavinia Hart, who married Reuben Dean, Jr.

Here are two very short family trees which sort out the Harts and the Deans as revealed by (1) Grandpa Hart's will and probate file; (2) the 1877 will and probate papers of John Dean, brother of Reuben Dean, Jr.; (3) headstones in the Old Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Brooklyn, Conecuh Co., AL; and (4) research by Barrie Dean Rosier 1921-2009 (descendant of Aylett Dean), passed on by Mark Royston.

Benjamin Hart and the Dean siblings were among the first settlers in Conecuh County, Alabama.

Children of Benjamin Hart 1772-1851 and Margaret Kincheloe Foote 1777-1835

- James Newton Hart 1802-1864 +1st Lillis Elizabeth Bradley 1813-1835,
+2nd Sarah Jane Turner 1815-1893
- Amelia Frances Hart 1804-1834 +Edwin Robinson 1798-1881
- Lavinia Hart 1805-1842
 - + Reuben Dean, Jr. 1798-1843, married 5-29-1822 in Conecuh Co., AL
 1. Catherine F. Dean 1826-aft 1870
 2. Virginia C. Dean 1829-1867 +Robert B. Mabry 1817-after 1870
 3. Mary Augusta Dean 1831-1881 +William B. Swann 1818-1876
 4. Reuben B. Dean 1836-1879 +Mary Lawless 1843-1888
 5. Victoria L. Dean 1840-1886 +1st unkn Smith, +2nd Erastus Stoneham 1812-1881
- Mary Hart 1808-1837 +Thomas Strang 1795-1862
- Margaret Kincheloe Hart 1810-1839 +George Dean 1806-1859
- Frances Hart 1813-1881 +George H. Dubose 1807-1887

Children of Reuben Dean circa 1770-bef 1832 and Jane Vawter 1767-1820

- Aylett Dean 1794-aft 1850 +Ann Frances Jones 1799-aft 1850
- John Dean 1796-1878
- Reuben Dean, Jr. 1798-1843 +Lavinia Hart 1805-1842
- Catherine F. Dean 1805-1832 +William Guy unk-circa 1830
(married 4-13-1825 Conecuh Co., AL)
- George Dean 1806-1859 +1st Margaret Kincheloe Hart 1810-1839,
+2nd Elizabeth Johnson 1821-1870

Child of Reuben Dean circa 1770-bef 1832 and his 2nd wife Hester Royston 1798-?

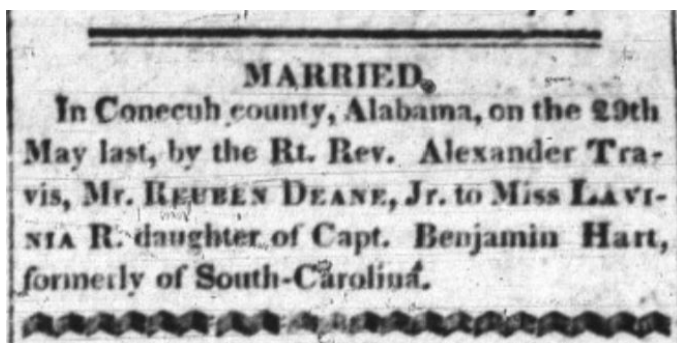
- Mary Jane Dean 1825-aft 1880 +1st William E. Adams, +2nd William W. Blackwell

Reuben Dean, Jr. and Lavinia Hart

Barrie Dean Rosier 1921-2009 left no stone unturned in her quest to find the whereabouts of her ancestor Aylett Dean. In the course of her search, Mrs. Rosier found Benjamin Hart's will and probate papers which revealed the children of Lavinia Hart and Reuben Dean. And this was back in the dark ages, before the internet! Mrs. Rosier drove from town to town in Texas and Alabama, rummaged through dusty archives and wrote letters of inquiry to anyone who might know anything about her ancestors.

Mrs. Rosier managed to round up some old family letters from which she learned "*In the fall of 1843 he [meaning Aylett] was very ill, and the family didn't expect him to live. His brother Reuben did die in September of 1843. Reuben married Lavinia Hart, daughter of Benjamin Hart.*" Mrs. Rosier also concluded that Lavinia died in 1842.

When Reuben and Lavinia married, Reuben's father, Reuben, Sr., was living on his plantation *Retreat*, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. The wedding announcement was published in the July 13, 1822 *Virginia Herald*, the local Fredericksburg newspaper.



In Conecuh county, Alabama, on the 29th May last, by the Rt. Rev. Alexander Travis, Mr. Reuben Deane, Jr. to Miss Lavinia R. daughter of Capt. Benjamin Hart, formerly of South Carolina.

The Dean siblings and Benjamin Hart were pioneer settlers, living in and around the towns of Sparta and Brooklyn in Conecuh County, Alabama.

Lavinia Hart married Reuben Dean and her sister Margaret married George Dean. Aylett was married when he came to Conecuh County and the brother John never married. In 1825, Rev. Travis performed the marriage of Catherine Dean, the only girl in the Dean family, and William Guy.

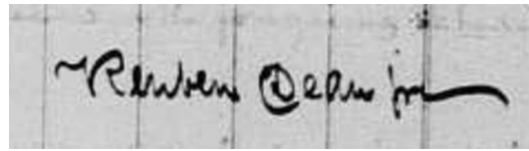
In 1821, John Dean was a founding member of the Murder Creek Navigation Company which worked to clear the creek from Sparta to its junction with the Conecuh River. In 1825, Catherine's husband, William Guy, earned a nice claim to fame when he piloted the first barge (carrying 103 bales of cotton) down Murder Creek into the Port of Pensacola.

Sparta, the county seat for Conecuh County, was a busy place. The Federal Land Office was located in Sparta as well as the county courthouse and jail. It is said John and Reuben Dean opened a "place of business" in Sparta.

Reuben served as clerk of the County Court and his brother John was Probate Court Judge. William Guy was appointed Justice of the Peace. The Masonic Lodge was located in the second story of the courthouse and the Dean brothers and William Guy were members. The names William Guy, Reuben Dean, George Dean and James N. Hart are found in early Conecuh County Militia records.

In 1826, Reuben bought 160 acres of land just north of Sparta.

The 1830 Conecuh County census was enumerated by Reuben. He signed each sheet.



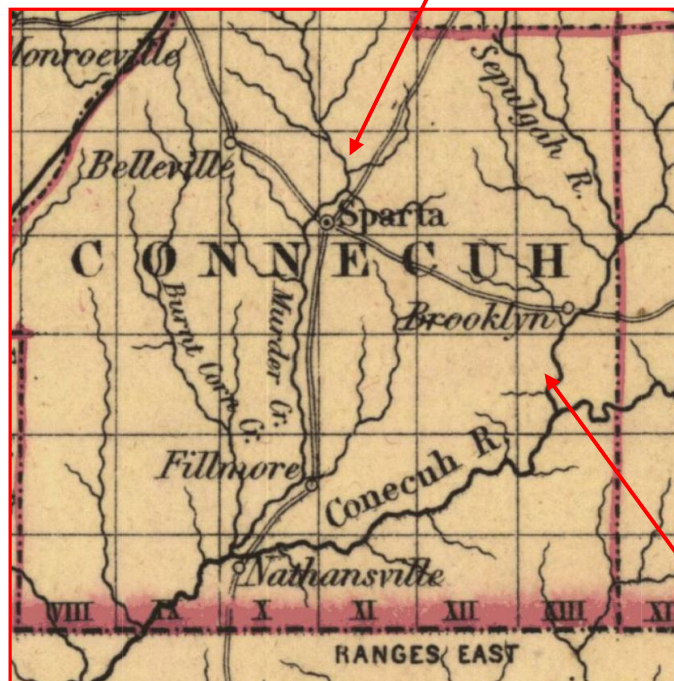
Reuben Dean, Jr. signature - 1830 census

The 1840 census (enumerated by George) tells us the brothers Aylett, Reuben and George owned slaves and were engaged in agriculture. Reuben's employment was designated "learned profession and engineers" and George as "commerce." George was school commissioner for his district.

In 1837, Reuben and his brother Aylett assembled land patents for 320 acres south of Brooklyn, along the Sepulga River where it flows into the Conecuh River. This property may have been known as the "R and A Dean Plantation."

1826 Reuben Dean Patent, 160.5 A, \$200
Northwest quarter of Township 5N, Range 11E

1853 Map



1837 Patents – Reuben and Aylett purchased about 320 A in Township 3N, Range 13E, along the Sepulga and Conecuh Rivers.

Catherine Dean Guy died in 1832. Lavinia died in 1842; Reuben in 1843. Aylett and George moved to Texas by 1850. Brother John moved around a bit and would finally settle in Galveston by 1850.

When Benjamin Hart 1772-1851 came to Conecuh County, he first lived at Hampton Ridge (the county seat up to 1820) which was located about 10 miles south of Belleville. Here he built a mill on Murder Creek. In 1821, he was one of the founders (along with Rev. Travis) of the Sparta Academy. Located in the village of Sparta, the school house was a single-story, three-room structure (boys in one room, girls in another), built of hand-sawed lumber and hand-split shingles. Limestone fireplaces in each room provided heat. Water was fetched from a spring. Latin, Greek, physiography and astronomy were on the curriculum.

With his daughter and son-in-law, Amelia and Edwin Robinson, Benjamin Hart moved to Brooklyn. Edwin had purchased the ferry business there and opened a store that turned the village into "the emporium of trade" for Conecuh County. Edwin named the village after his hometown of Brooklyn, Connecticut.

In 1841, Benjamin Hart's grandson Julius G. Robinson wrote home to his father:

Grandpa Benjamin Hart is the same restless disposition as ever. He is now engaged in building a new and patent bridge across the Sepulga. He worries himself as much about it as though he won't have to cross it for the next forty years. He intends, he says, that it shall cost him no more than \$700.00.

Benjamin Hart was a founding member of the Conecuh Navigation Company which wanted to operate steam boats between Brooklyn and Pensacola. At a large, public, organizational meeting in June of 1845, Aylett was in charge of feeding the crowd: *Dinner being announced, the meeting adjourned, and the people repaired to the table, where here was spread before them, prepared by the skilful superintendence of Mr. Aylott Dean, a most abundant barbecue, in the neatest manner, for the occasion.* (6-26-1845 Advertiser & Register)

Grandpa Hart saw to the education and well-being of his orphaned grandchildren.

Benjamin Hart is buried in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Brooklyn (also known as the Old Brooklyn Methodist Cemetery or Benjamin Hart Cemetery). Invoices in Grandpa Hart's probate file tell us it took a while to get Grandpa to Brooklyn.

Benjamin Hart died November 6, 1851 at the residence of James N. Hart near Mobile. The Mobile city sexton and cabinetmaker, James F. McBride, provided a mahogany casket and a hearse (total bill \$44.00). Presumably Grandpa Hart was buried somewhere in Mobile.

In March of 1854, Daniel Robertson, the next city sexton and also an undertaker, presented a \$10 invoice to the estate of Benjamin Hart "for a new case and services rendered in exuming [sic] the said deceased." Mr. Robertson sold Fisk's Metallic Burial Cases. Maybe Grandpa Hart went home in one of these new-fangled coffins. There is a separate payment of \$50 for transportation from Mobile to Conecuh County.

FISK'S		BURIAL
METALLIC		CASES.
We also have on hand, a large lot of FISK'S METALLIC BURIAL CASES, Air-tight for protecting the dead for prolonged interment, for transportation, or any other desirable purpose,		

Conecuh County Courthouse records were destroyed by fire in November of 1866--so basically what happened in Conecuh County, up to that time, stayed in Conecuh County.

12-12-1866 *West Alabamian* (Carrollton, Alabama)

Fire in Sparta – The Montgomery Advertiser learns from a gentleman just arrived from Conecuh county, that the courthouse at Sparta was burnt down on Friday last. The records were all destroyed. It is thought to have been the work of an incendiary, and the parties suspected were deeply interested in the destruction of certain troublesome documents which threatened the curtailment of their future liberty.

Grandpa Hart did us a great favor by passing away in Mobile County! It was a close call. The 1850 census finds Benjamin Hart living in Conecuh County with his daughter Frances Hart Dubose. Within the next year, 80 year old Grandpa Hart moved down to Mobile, 100 miles away, to reside with his son James N. Hart.

Fast forward to 2023. No plodding through dusty archives in Mobile County for me. Optical character recognition plucked the name Mabry out of Grandpa Hart's will and provided a whole new family line to explore.

First from Grandpa Hart's probate file is a letter written by James N. Hart, Grandpa's son and administrator of his estate. The letter introduces the children of Lavinia Hart and Reuben Dean, Jr.

1861 Newsy Letter from James N. Hart to Reuben B. Dean

James N. Hart, brother of Lavinia Hart Dean, was a prosperous cotton planter in Jefferson, Marengo County, Alabama. He owned 1800 acres in Marengo County, 740 acres in Sumter County and 108 slaves. He maintained a summer residence in Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi. Around 1850 he owned a 22 acre farm on the outskirts of Mobile. It would appear that James had a great interest in the welfare of the orphans of his deceased sister Lavinia.

Most of Grandpa Hart's assets were tied up in notes associated with a store in Brooklyn, Alabama. Around 1842, Julius G. Robinson 1821-1876, son of Grandpa's deceased daughter Amelia and Edwin Robinson, started this dry goods store with the help of Grandpa Hart and uncle James N. Hart. At Grandpa Hart's death, notes were due from Julius, James N. Hart, and John A. Robinson. Interest from these loans, and then the principal amounts when due, were to fund some of Grandpa Hart's bequests. Executor James N. Hart had his work cut out for him keeping all this straight.

Among Grandpa Hart's probate papers is the following letter from James N. Hart to his nephew Reuben B. Dean. The letter touches on the lives of the five children of Lavinia Hart and Reuben Dean, Jr.--Reuben B. Dean, Mary Augusta Dean Swann, Victoria Dean Smith, Virginia Dean Mabry and Catherine Dean. The "Judge" is the Dean children's paternal uncle John Dean who lived in Galveston.

John A. Robinson 1826-1915 married Frances Dubose, a child of Grandpa Hart's daughter Frances Hart Dubose. I don't know if John A. Robinson is related to Julius G. Robinson. It seems that John's father Austin Robinson 1805-1828 married Sarah P. Jones, sister of Ann Jones who married Aylett Dean.

Marengo, January 24th, 1861

Dear **Reub**,

Your favor of the 3rd ulto has been to hand sometime and I have no excuse to offer for not noticing it before. I was pleased to receive it and thought I would reply to it in a few days after the receipt, but one thing and then another has caused the delay.

I suppose the Judge has had a merry time with all his relations around him. I think you said they were to remain a month which would make quite a long visit. Longer I fear than they would be able to keep the old man in a good humor for if I remember correctly he was not very remarkable for patient endurance particularly when there were children in the way and more particularly when they were not under the best of discipline and I think **Augusta** was indulgent with hers and perhaps Swann was a little so himself.

I hope you will be pleased with **Victoria's** man while they were at Lauderdale Springs last summer. I had very little opportunity of learning anything of his character or disposition. The poor man seemed to be in the greatest agony all the time from an affliction of neurology or something like it, but I was fearful the future was not likely to produce a large share of domestic tranquility for them, in a word to me it appeared an unequal match. The disparity in age, their manners, habits, customs and tastes were so entirely different. Smith is a man I think that has seen a great deal of the world and Vic. nothing but she loves him with her whole heart and that may do much.

I was in Mobile some time in November and saw Bob but did not call to see **Virginia**. I only remained part of two days was the reason. They were however all well. Bob was disposed to talk a good deal. He does not like Smith nor Swann either very much but I was in a hurry at the time and did not hear much. He told me they had gone on to Texas and hoped they would all do well. Mabry has changed as little in his appearance or manners as any one you knew. The same disposition to run wild with everything he gets hold of. I mean that same impulsive nature that you knew him. But I think he is trying and is doing better than formally (sic). He tells me he is now laying up a little from his salary. Bob is a first rate clerk as is getting a good price for his service.

You say you cannot come to Alabama this spring. I should like to see you here so would all your friends and relatives in my family. I would suggest to you to get your sisters to relinquish all interest they may legally have to your legacy from your grandpa and enclose the same to me. Get the Judge to do the writing effectually for you. I will take all responsibility as far as Kate is concerned and I think I can get along with Virginia in the matter. I expect to go down by the way of Brooklyn and have written to Julius to get the Robinson business closed so that I can tell all about, if not pay it up. **Catharine** is in very good health and in other respects very much as she was when you knew her. She is no trouble only that it necessary to keep a strict watch on her actions.

We all well here and join in love to you and respects to the Judge. I will only say the political excitement in this section is very great. The movements of course you are advised of.

Good by &c
J.N. Hart

P.S. Enclose all matters for me to Mr. Strang to retain till I go down to Mobile the 1st of April next.

Virginia Dean 1829-circa 1867

It was a great “genealogical moment” when the name Mabry appeared in the 1851 will of Benjamin Hart.

I wish James N. Hart to collect five hundred and fifty Dollars from claims I hold against persons residing near Brooklyn in the County of Conecuh in this State and hold the same in trust for the benefit of Mrs. Virginia C. Mabry and her children. I wish him to apply the interest from this sum annually to their support during the minority of the children and upon their becoming of age to divide the principal equally amongst the survivors.

That was an eye-opener, but best was yet to come in Grandpa’s probate file. James N. Hart, executor of his father’s estate, compiled a list of Grandpa’s heirs, as they were in 1855. The list includes the children of Benjamin Hart’s deceased daughter Lavinia Hart Dean--Catherine, Virginia, Mary Augusta, Reuben and Victoria.

Eighteen years later, in May of 1870, John N. Hart was long-gone and his son Benjamin T. Hart had taken over management of Grandpa Hart’s estate. He submitted to the probate court the names of Grandpa’s current descendants. The list includes the *children of Lavinia Dean, deceased, who was a daughter of said Benjamin Hart, decd, viz:*

The children of Virginia C. Mabry, wife of Robert B. Mabry, the said Virginia died in the Fall of 1867 having surviving her the following children, viz:

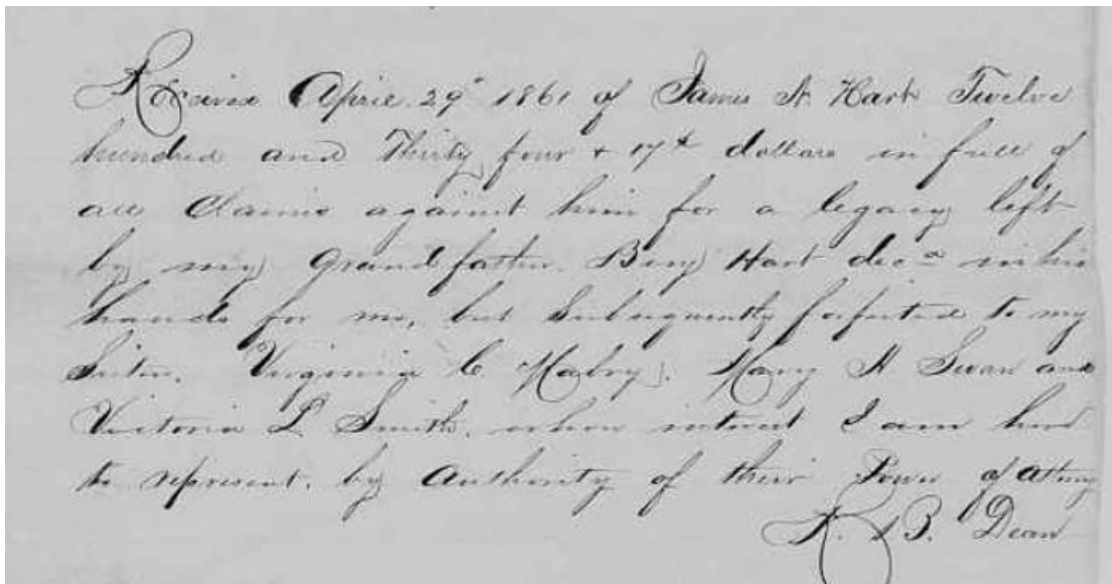
- *Augusta Mabry who this deponent is informed has lately married to some party whose name is unknown and resides in Galveston, Texas.*
- *Ross Mabry who is a minor living with his uncle John Dean in the city of Galveston, State of Texas.*
- *And another younger son whose name is unknown to this deponent and who he is informed resides with said John Dean in Texas.*

The document goes on to name the rest of Lavinia’s children--Catherine F. Dean, Mary Augusta Swann, Reuben B. Dean and Victoria L. Stoneham.

Here, in one fell swoop, we learn that Virginia died in the fall of 1867 and three children survived her: Sara Augusta Mabry 1848-1884 (married John N. Stowe 12-9-1869 in Galveston), Albert Ross Mabry 1855-1913 and James Childs Mabry 1862-1940.

Did Virginia and her children ever benefit from Grandpa Hart’s estate, in the way he intended? It’s not known if James N. Hart arranged yearly payments to support the Mabry children. It seems unlikely anything was paid to the children when they reached their majority.

As suggested in James N. Hart's January 1861 letter, the sisters Virginia, Mary Augusta and Victoria were persuaded to give up their claims to "any interest they may legally have to your (meaning Reuben) legacy from your grandpa." In April 1861, Reuben collected \$1,234.17 from the estate and turned the money over to his sisters Virginia, Mary and Victoria.



In the summer of 1869, Benjamin T. Hart wrote to Reuben Dean and reported, in a very cryptic way that leaves much to be wondered at, that he had received a letter from Robert B. Mabry:
P.S. Recd a letter from Bob Mabry but will not condescend to answer.

In 1871, interrogatories, prepared by the Mobile law firm Smith & Herndon on behalf of the children of Robert B. Mabry, were sent to John A. Robinson. Mr. Robinson was quizzed on what he remembered about the notes which constituted the bulk of Grandpa Hart's estate (in short, he believed they had all been settled). He was specifically asked if he knew anything that would benefit the children of Robert B. Mabry. To this query he replied: *I also heard James N. Hart say that if he never realized enough from money and goods placed in his possession for full payment of all these notes, that he would pay the children of R.B. Mabry the full amount of them anyway.*

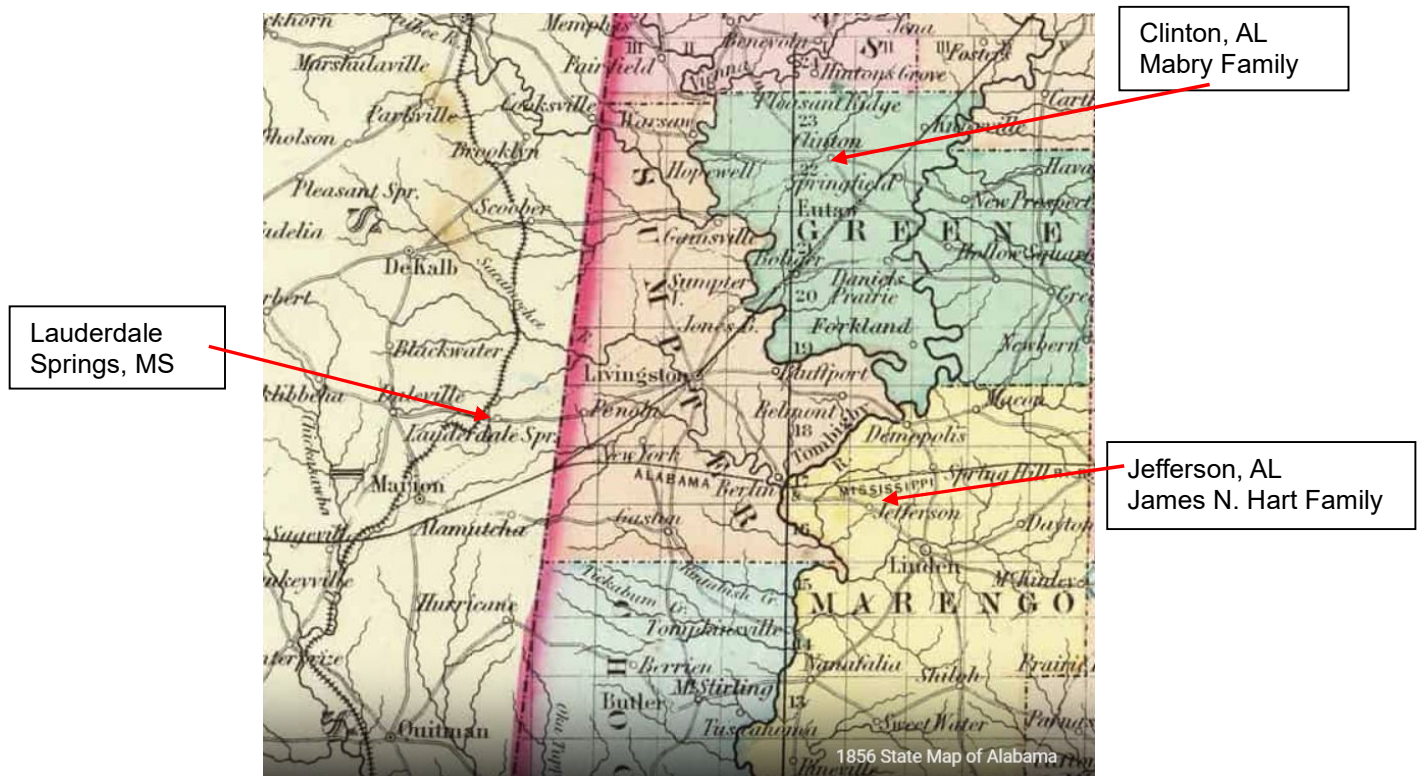
Marriage and Acquaintances

The April 15, 1846 marriage of Robert B. Mabry 1818-187? and Virginia C. Dean 1829-1867 is recorded in Marengo County, Alabama. Though generally known as Virginia, the marriage entry reads Caroline V. Dean. Robert B. Mabry's bondsman was Levi Robinson. The minister was Rev. William Fluker.

At the time of her marriage Virginia was probably living with her maternal uncle James N. Hart 1802-1864 and his wife Sarah on their 2500 acre plantation near Jefferson, Marengo County, AL. During the summers, the Hart family could travel due west to their summer home at Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi. The Mabry family lived due north in Clinton, Greene County.

The minister, Dr. William Fluker 1783-1855, had a large plantation in Sumter County, not far from the Hart family in Marengo County. In 1823, Dr. Fluker's first child, Elizabeth 1808-1866, married Henry Chiles 1798-1879. Their child Isabella Caroline Chiles 1824-1911 married John G. Ulrick 1819-1867 in 1842. John G. Ulrick was the business partner of Thomas Strang who had been married to

Grandpa Hart's daughter Mary who died early. John G. Ulrick was the only non-family person holding vigil at Grandpa Hart's death. An interesting circle of connections.



Mr. Chiles lived in Lauderdale Springs and was the ticket and freight agent for the Missouri and Ohio railroad when the line was extended to Lauderdale Springs in 1856. The Harts and Ulricks had summer homes near Lauderdale Springs. Hart, Chiles, Ulrick and Strang were all involved in real estate transactions in Lauderdale Springs.

Virginia and Robert Mabry lived in Mobile by 1851. They weren't wealthy enough to have a summer home, but there was the train that ran directly to Lauderdale Springs where they could visit with the Harts, the Chiles and the Ulricks and go up to Clinton to visit with the Mabrys.

In 1851, James N. Hart, John G. Ulrick, Thomas Strang and daughters Lavinia and Mary, and Robert and Virginia Mabry were present when Grandpa Benjamin Hart dictated his will and passed on. John G. Ulrick, Thomas Strang and James N. Hart signed the bond at Hart's appointment as administrator of his father's estate.

So there are connections here--family, friends, business associates. Virginia Mabry, her cousin Lavinia Strang Carver (married to Thomas J.) and Isabella Ulrick were approximately the same age, married around the same time, had children and the three young women all lived in Mobile.

This got me wound up for a day or two. Does this Chiles family connection have anything to do with the middle name of Virginia and Robert's son, James Childs Mabry? The Civil War death of Isabella Ulrick's little brother James Clark Chiles on December 12, 1862 (double pneumonia in General Hospital No. 12, Richmond, VA) seemed like a poignant connection, but....

Then it turned out there might be a more straightforward Childs connection. There is one Childs family living in Mobile in the 1850s and 1860s. One son was a doctor, Dr. Duff D. Childs. In April of 1861, Dr. Childs and Peter L. Mabry enlisted within days of each other into the "Mobile Rifles," Company K of the 3rd Alabama Infantry.

Childs Geo G, cotton Pickery, se cor st joseph
and bloodg, res st joe, bt cong and lips
Childs, Geo G, jr, clk E V George, res as above
Childs, D D, Dr, office 85 n royal, res as above

Anyway, in 1850, the Mabrys lived in Merango County (possibly in Linden) with their two year old Sarah Augusta and Virginia's sister Catherine. Robert was working in a warehouse. By the time Grandpa Hart died in 1851, Virginia and Robert Mabry had moved into Mobile.

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We are determined to sell our goods at very low prices to PROMPT PAYERS and CASH
BUYERS.
PLANTERS and MERCHANTS will do well to inspect our stock and prices before
purchasing elsewhere.

The 1859 Mobile city directory lists RB Mabry, salesman, H.L. Reynolds & Co., residence south side of Conti, west of Broad.

Robert's brother Peter is working as a bookkeeper for WH Wickes & Co., a clothing firm at 16 North Water Street.

Henry Lee Reynolds came to Mobile from Connecticut about 1852 and went into the hardware business with William A. Witherspoon. By 1860, Reynolds was associated with his nephew James C. Reynolds and Jack P. Richardson.

H.L. Reynolds sold everything from canning jars to barrels of zinc.

By 1861 Robert had moved on to a job with J.C. Gwin & Co.



Joseph C. Gwin arrived in Mobile in the 1840s, started off with a furniture store and then went into the hardware business.

Maybe this is where Robert was working the day in 1861 when James N. Hart dropped in for a visit.

In the 1860 census, the Mabry family is listed next door to the Stuart W. Cayce family, Mr. Cayce being Mr. Gwin's business partner. The Cayce family had four children ages 4 to 10.

1860 Census - Mobile Ward 6, Mobile County, Alabama

RB Mabry	age 43	clerk, \$3,000 personal estate
CF Mabry	age 30	\$1,000 personal estate
Sarah Mabry	age 12	attending school
Seawell Mabry	age 7	attending school
AGR Mabry	age 5	
Louisa	age 3	
C	age 8/12	



In the 1861 directory, the Mabrys are at 316 Dauphin Street and the Cayces at 11 North Bayou.

Interactive map - modern streets with historic overlay: <https://mobilemap.us/>

The Curious 1859 Real Estate Transaction

In 1859, Robert and Virginia were involved in this real estate transaction. For about five minutes they owned property located four to five miles southwest of downtown Mobile. Your guess is as good as mine.

Mobile County Deeds - Vol. 13 (1859), Pg. 588 (image 6)

Date: June 17, 1859 Recorded: July 11, 1859
Price: \$350
Grantor: Charles R. Labuzan of the City of Mobile, Trustee for Janet M. Labuzan
Grantee: Robert B. Mabry
Description: Quit-claim. 20 acres, house and outbuildings in Mobile County formerly known as the Perryman Place and recently occupied by B. Labuzan (20 A to be surveyed and divided off from tract containing 160 A, bought by M. T. Perryman of Collins).

Mobile County Deeds - Vol. 13 (1859), Pg. 589 (image 7)

Date: June 17, 1859 Recorded: July 11, 1859
Price: \$255
Grantor: Robert B. and wife Virginia Mabry of City and County of Mobile
Grantee: P. A. Joullian
Description: Quit-claim. Same description except: formerly known as the Perryman Place and recently occupied by R.B. Mabry.

Mobile County Mortgages - Vol. 5-7 (1857-1860), Pg. 454 (image 507)

Date: June 23, 1859 Recorded: July 11, 1859
Price: \$255
Grantor: Philip A. Joullian
Grantee: Jack P. Richardson
Description: Perryman Place formerly occupied by Robert B. Mabry. Subject to a note of \$255 made by Jack P. Richardson dated Mobile June 23, 1859 in favor of and endorsed by Charles A. Joullian and payable ninety days after date. (Note - This mortgage is not marked paid.)



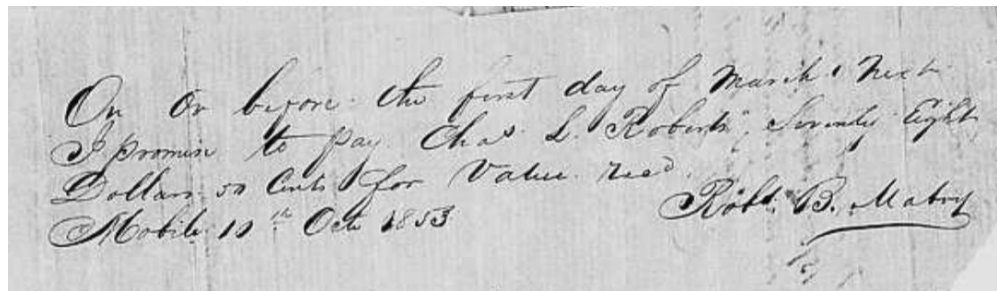
1907 Map

In 1859, Milton T. Perryman ran a retail/wholesale grocery business. I don't know who Collins is. Charles R. Labuzan was a cotton factor. Bartholomew Labuzan, attorney at law, is probably Charles' brother. Janet M. Labuzan is Bartholomew's wife. Phillip A. Joullian operated a grist mill and his brother Charles was an engineer at the Alabama Press. Jack P. Richardson was a partner in the HL Reynolds Co. (Robert Mabry's employer). All of these people lived in downtown Mobile.

The so-called Perryman Place was located about five miles southwest of Mobile in the NW Quarter of Section 1, Township 5 South, Range 2 West (St. Stephens Meridian). Today the lot is near the Heron Lakes Country Club.

Robert B. Mabry's IOU

In the early hours of May 24, 1860, one Charles L. Roberts fell out of a second story window of a building at 10 South Royal Street and plummeted to his death. Found among his belongings was an IOU from Robert B. Mabry, who had borrowed \$78.50 from Mr. Roberts in 1853.



On or before the first day of March next
I promise to pay Chas L Roberts, Seventy Eight
Dollars or less for Value recd.
Mobile 13th Oct 1853
Robt B Mabry

The May 25, 1860 issue of the *Mobile Register* tells the story of Mr. Roberts' demise.

Yesterday morning, at about a quarter to four o'clock, a man by the name of C.L. Roberts was found lying in Royal Street a few feet from the curb stone, and opposite Jno. Bowzer's saloon, in an insensible state. Those who first discovered him called "watch," and the police answering the call he was taken to the police office, where in about half an hour he died, having uttered no word or shown any evidences of consciousness.

Corner Roulston empaneled a jury on hearing of the case and elicited the following facts: A witness stated that at about fifteen minutes to four o'clock he was passing up Royal street toward Dauphin, and on reaching Dauphin heard the fall of some heavy body which attracted his attention, and walking in the direction indicated by the sound he discovered Roberts in the position and condition described above. About the time he reached Roberts another person came up and they called for the "watch," which call being responded to by the police on duty, the unfortunate man was taken at once to the police office, where he died. Other evidence shows that Roberts had been drinking pretty freely with his friends up to 11 or 12 o'clock on the night previous to the accident—that a policeman had found him sleeping at a late hour in a doorway, and woke him up with the remark that he must not sleep there.

Roberts, no doubt, to get out of the street went up to a window in the second story at the head of the stairway over Bowzer's saloon, and sat in it, fell asleep, lost his balance, pitched out upon the awning which extends over the pavement, and being unable to recover himself in his confused condition rolled thence to the street, where he was found.

In taking off his clothes at the police office to examine into his injuries, a handsome gold watch and chain with some eight or ten dollars in bills and some change were found. The impression which prevails with some that there has been foul play, we think, is unfounded.

The jury found that the deceased came to his death from an accidental fall from the window of No. 10 South Royal street.

The Odd Fellows took charge of the body and were to have interred it yesterday afternoon, every preparation having been made for the purpose, but many being in doubt as to the actual cause of death it was determined that a post mortem examination should be had. Accordingly Drs. Miller and Woodcock, and another medical gentleman whose name we could not ascertain, made one. The result proved that Roberts came to his death from concussion of the

brain and other causes. The accessory causes were the unhealthy and peculiar condition of the brain induced by a free use of stimulants.

It was determined that Charles L. Roberts died intestate and had left no relatives in the state, and none in the Confederacy, so the Mobile County Probate Court appointed William W. McGuire, the General Administrator of Mobile County, to take care of matters. In August of 1860, most of Roberts' worldly goods were auctioned: one accordion, three razors, one trunk and one valise, clothing and sundries, a rifle and jewelry.

On October 8, 1862, Robert Mabry was looking through the day's issue of the *Mobile Register*. After reading about the latest Civil War battle (Sharpsburg) and going through the list of dead and wounded (Robert's brothers Peter and Sydney had enlisted in April 1861 and March 1862, respectively), he was probably surprised (as was I) to see his IOU mentioned in an upcoming auction to settle C. L. Roberts' estate. Mabry quickly filed an affidavit to the effect that the \$78.50 debt had been paid. The auction proceeded and the last of Mr. Roberts' possessions were sold: "one fine Double-cased Gold Watch" for \$200, the "heavy Gold Guard Chain" fetched \$77 and a plated chain sold for \$2.00.

Robert's neighbor and employer Mr. Cayce was an active member of the Odd Fellows. Maybe he helped out with the burial of the unfortunate Mr. Roberts.

Virginia's Letter - 1862

Mrs. C.V. Mabry had a letter waiting for her at the Mobile Post Office, as advertised in the May 14, 1862 *Mobile Register*.

OFFICIAL
LIST OF LETTERS
For May 14, 1862.

REMAINING in the Postoffice at Mobile. Persons calling will please say that they are advertised. And be it further enacted, That all the advertisements made under the order of the Postmaster General, in a newspaper or newspapers, of letters un-called for in any Postoffice, shall be inserted in the paper or papers of the town or place where the office advertising may be situated having the largest circulation.

Ladies' List		
Bond Martha miss	Gethers A J mrs	Roberts Anna miss
Baird Minnie A miss	H	Russell L E miss
Booth E mrs	Hartean Julia mrs	Rogers J B mrs
Bark B mrs	Hatfield Harriet A	
Bla Euphrosina miss	mrs	
	Handly Hannah	Sturtevant F E mrs
	miss	Stearns Wm mrs
Cabancers J nettes	Hall Margaret M	Seabury Mary J mrs
F mrs	mrs	Eber Vernonelle E
Chappe l Susan mrs	Hamilton Mary	madame
Conway Mary miss	miss	Shwinly Christina
Crabree Nancy	Humphreyville J	miss
mrs	mrs	Stillman Enna miss
Clifford Ida V	Hawkins Matilda	Sullerwhite Julia
Cooper M C mrs	mrs	miss
	J	Sticks R A mrs
Du see Emma E	Johnson Martha	
mrs	miss	Taylor Mollie miss
Devine mrs	Johnson M L miss	
Dominig Bedford	H	Williams Pradra
mrs	Kark Emma J miss	mrs
Delebar Mattie E	King Manerva mrs	Willson Leontine
miss	miss	miss
	Lan Anna miss	Willoughy George
Ells Delono mrs	Lewis N miss	miss
Extine Mary miss	M	Smith
Fans E C mrs	Murphree Ma y	Smith Martha mrs
Fich Margoreth	Jane mrs	Smith Josephina A
mrs	Morgan Susan mrs	miss
Lukherd Carolina	Mercer Margaret	
miss	mrs	McGowan Ellen
	Merrill O M mrs	miss
Fletcher Martha	Mabry C V mrs	McGowan E mrs
mrs	Mooney Mary miss	McWilliams Sarah
Fell Elizabeth mrs	miss	miss
Fairly Rosann mrs	Noris Mary A miss	McLaughlin David
	miss	McKenzie Eliza A
Gool Julia miss	Price R D mrs	miss

Mobile and The Civil War

At the start of the Civil War, Robert Mabry's brother Peter L. Mabry joined the "Mobile Rifles," Company K of the 3rd Alabama Infantry. On April 24, 1861, the company left the city with a flourish. They marched through the streets from the Armory to the docks and boarded the steamer *LeGrand*, headed for Montgomery. *The Rifles were in high spirits and much cheered at the prospect of active service. They are of the flower of the city and under good officers and discipline. As the boat steamed off...the artillery fired a salute, the multitude shouted, the bells were rung, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs and the gallant boys cheering.* Peter named RB Mabry as his next of kin. Virginia was probably among the ladies waving her handkerchief.

Sydney H. Mabry, Robert's brother living in Clinton, AL, enlisted on March 8, 1862 into the 43rd Alabama Infantry, Company C. A few months later, Virginia's brother Reuben B. Dean and their cousin Frank Dean, both living in Galveston, joined the 20th Texas Infantry, Company G.

Home Guard.

Messrs. Editors: Believing that there is no power in the Governor to legalize or authorize the "Home Guard"—and knowing that a large number of citizens over forty-five and not subject to militia duty—are willing and ready to unite for home defence: it is proposed to form a body as a special police, under the authority of the Mayor and City Council, to be officered and drilled, and armed as a military company, to assist in the defence of the city.

All citizens favoring this arrangement are requested to leave their names at the Advertiser office.

HOME GUARD, No. 1.

At the start of the Civil War, Robert B. Mabry was 44 years old.

A Home Guard unit was proposed for the older citizens of Mobile. Numerous militia groups were formed throughout the city.

6-16-1861 *Advertiser and Register* (Mobile)

This February 14, 1864 announcement by the Governor of Alabama, requesting the women and children of Mobile to vacate the city, was followed by similar messages from the mayor of Mobile, R.H. Slough, and Major General Dabney H. Maury.

In June of 1864, Robert's brother Peter was shot through the knee and died after his leg was amputated.

The Battle of Mobile Bay was fought on August 5, 1864. Union troops defeated the Confederate fleet and took control of the port.

If Robert B. Mabry had not joined a militia group before now, these events probably spurred him on.

2-16-1864 *Advertiser*

To the People of Mobile.

Your city is about to be attacked by the enemy. Mobile must be defended at every hazard and to the last extremity. To do this effectively, all who cannot fight must leave the city. The brave defenders of the city can fight with more energy and enthusiasm when they feel assured that the noble WOMEN and CHILDREN are out of danger.

I appeal to the patriotic NON-COMBATANTS to leave for the interior. The people of the interior towns and the planters in the country will receive and provide support for all who go. The patriotic of this city will see the importance and necessity of heeding this call.

Those who love this city and the glorious cause in which we fight, will not hesitate to obey the calls which patriotism makes. THOS. H. WATTS,
Governor of Alabama.

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 14, 1864.

A muster roll dated November 6, 1864 for Company B of the Mobile County Home Guards is indexed here <https://archives.alabama.gov/research/CivilWarService.aspx>. R.B. Mabry and an array of downtown Mobile merchants and professional men signed up. A few are listed here. Their occupations are from the 1866 Mobile directory.

John Chamberlain, grocer
D. Hubbard, insurance
William G. Jones, attorney at law
S.S. Webb and J.T. Mickel, cotton factors
George Rapelge, dry goods
C.L. Thomas, clerk
Amos Towle, head of Mobile College

On April 12, 1865, faced by an overwhelming number of Federal troops, Confederate forces withdrew from the city and city authorities surrendered Mobile.

As far as I can tell, Robert's neighbor and employer, Lieutenant Stuart W. Cayce, was in charge of the Mobile volunteers at this time.

What Happened to the Mabrys in the 1860s

It's unknown what the Mabry family did during the Civil War. RB Mabry is listed in the 1861 Mobile city directory. Virginia received a letter in 1862. Robert joined a Home Guard unit in 1864. Maybe Virginia and the kids left due to the uncertainty of war. Maybe they stayed in Mobile and weathered the storm. The next available Mobile directory is 1866 and there are no Mabrys.

The 1866 Alabama State Census has an entry for RB Mabry in Township 22, Range 1E, which encompasses the town of Clinton in Greene County. Living nearby are Robert's maternal uncle F.P. Strother and his sister Mary Mabry Freeman. A notable absence in the census is a female of Virginia's age.

1 male under 10	James, age 4, born 1862
1 male 10 to 20	Albert Ross, age 11, born 1855
1 male 40 to 50	Robert B., age 49, born 1817
1 female 10 to 20	Sara Augusta, age 18, born 1848

This brings us back around to Grandpa Hart's estate and the list of his descendants submitted to the probate court in May of 1870 which stated Virginia died in the Fall of 1867 leaving children Augusta, Ross and James. Maybe Virginia actually died prior to the 1866 state census.

The fate of Virginia and her daughters Seawell, Louisa and "C" can only be guessed at. Robert and their three surviving children, Sarah Augusta, Ross and James, moved to Galveston.

On May 11, 1867, in Galveston, Robert and his brother-in-law Reuben B. Dean signed as witnesses to John Dean's deed transferring a tract of land to Edward Austin (Ellis County, Deed H/144). RB Mabry is listed in the 1868/69 Galveston City Directory. He appears the 1870 census in Galveston.

Virginia, about age 37, was the first of her siblings to pass on, leaving behind Catherine, Mary Augusta, Reuben and Victoria.

Catherine F. Dean 1826-after 1870 census

Catherine was cared for during her lifetime. We know she lived with her sister Virginia and her maternal uncle and aunt, James N. Hart and his wife Sarah.

In the 1850 census, Catherine is living with her sister Virginia Dean Mabry in Marengo County, Alabama. Others in the household are Virginia's husband Robert B. Mabry and their two-year-old daughter Augusta. Catherine's "condition" is reported as "insane."

In 1855, James N. Hart presented to the probate court a list of legatees for the estate of his father Benjamin Hart. Included was Catherine F. Dean, of unsound mind, living with Robert and Virginia Mabry in Mobile County.

In his 1861 letter to Reuben B. Dean, James N. Hart includes a few lines about Catharine (sister to Reuben B.) who is now living with the Harts in Marengo County, Alabama: *Catherine is in very good health and in other respects very much as she was when you knew her. She is no trouble only that it necessary to keep a strict watch on her actions.*

A May 7, 1870 list submitted to the probate court with an accounting of the living descendants of Benjamin Hart includes Catherine: *Catherine F. Dean who is a daughter of said Lavinia Dean decd who is over 21 years, resides with Sarah J. Hart in said Marengo County and is of unsound mind.*

Catherine is on the 1870 Census in Jefferson, Marengo County, Alabama, living with the widow Sarah J. Hart and three of her children. Catherine is listed as "Kate Dean, 4 years old, idiot." In 1870 Catherine would have been 46. I can't find Catherine after the 1870 census.



Here is an image of Sarah, James N. Hart's wife, who cared for Catherine.

Sarah (Sallie) J. Turner 1815-1893 married 1st Alanson Brown in 1832 and 2nd James N. Hart in 1839. She had three children from her first marriage, nine from her second.

In his will, Grandpa Hart instructed Sarah *to take from my pocket book a twenty dollar bill in it and purchase presents for the servants who have waited on me and to take twelve dollars and a half in gold and silver from my purse for herself.*

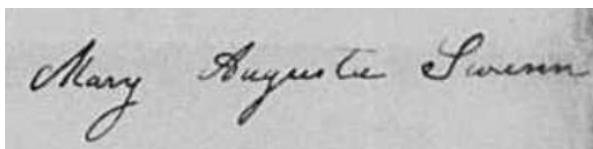
The image was shared by Lexi Meyer at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

Mary Augusta Dean 1831-abt 1881

Mary Augusta Dean married William B. Swann on January 12, 1849 in Marengo County, Alabama. Mary was probably living with her uncle James N. Hart at the time of her marriage.

The Swanns aren't easy to track. They seem to have evaded all census records until the widow Swann is found in 1880 living with a married daughter in Chambers County, Texas. Glimpses of the Swanns, in more or less chronological order, go like this:

At the time of Grandpa Hart's death in 1851, Mary Augusta and William Swann gathered with other Hart descendants at James N. Hart's residence outside of Mobile, Alabama, where Grandpa had been living. In the next few years, the Swanns were subpoenaed in Sumter County, Alabama, to give sworn testimony about the circumstances of the will. Here is Mary's signature from one of her affidavits.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Augusta Swann". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured.

By 1858, the Swanns were living in Mississippi, maybe Kemper County. They were guardians to Mary's younger sister Victoria. In his will, Grandpa Hart had left Victoria a young enslaved woman named Julia and Mr. Swann was trying to gain possession of Julia who was currently held by Robert B. Mabry in Mobile, Alabama.

In his 1861 letter to Reuben B. Dean, James N. Hart put forth his views on the Swann's parenting skills: *...if I remember correctly, he [meaning John Dean] was not very remarkable for patient endurance particularly when there were children in the way and more particularly when they were not under the best of discipline and I think Augusta was indulgent with hers and perhaps Swann was a little so himself.* Perhaps there was something to this observation, given subsequent events in the life of the Swann's son Joseph.

Recorded in the Montgomery County, Texas, land records is a power of attorney dated 11-13-1869 in which John Dean of Galveston nominated William B. Swann of Montgomery County, Texas, as his representative. So it seems that Mary Augusta's paternal uncle John Dean and her husband William B. Swann had a trusting relationship.

The Swanns turn up in Grimes County, Texas, after 1870. Mary Augusta's sister Victoria was living in Navasota, Grimes County, with her husband Erastus Stoneham and their two children. The Grimes County Land Records has a few Swann transactions:

2-10-1871, Book J, Page 159, William B. Swann and Mary A. Swann of Grimes County, Texas, sell 301 A to David Burns. Described as part of a tract of land purchased by "William B. Swann of John Dean."

In 1873, William B. Swann sells land on behalf of John Dean.

A short death notice appears in the the column "Texas News" of the November 10, 1876 *The Times-Argus* (Selma, Alabama): *Died, in Navasota, 5th ult, W.B. Swann.* Likely this is William B. Swann, died October 5, 1876 in Navasota, Grimes County, Texas.

On October 25, 1877, Mary Augusta's uncle John Dean wrote a long, rambling will with many bequests to his numerous nieces and nephews.

Item 12: I will my Niece Augusta Swann one hundred fifty dollars per annum for two years to be paid to some trusty person for her special benefit and what furniture I may leave on my place on Cedar Bayou and my place to be rented to her son and son-in-law at a reasonable price, they to support their mother at a reasonable price during her life.

John Dean died July 26, 1878 and his estate finally closed in 1887. We learn of Mary Augusta Swann's death in John Dean's probate records. An October 1882 report on the probate process includes the phrase: "Augusta Swain is dead."

It doesn't look like Mary Augusta received financial assistance from her uncle's estate during her lifetime. After her death, the estate paid \$225, \$23.81 and \$42.70 to "W.B. Denison, assignee of Augusta Swann." Colonel William B. Denison was a prominent lawyer in Galveston.

John Dean owned two properties (139 A and 38 A) on the waters of Cedar Bayou in Chambers County. Maybe this is where Mary Augusta was living in the 1880 Chambers County census, with her daughter and son-in-law, Annie and Charles Theall. Mary Augusta's second daughter Mary doesn't turn up in the census but she was soon married to Hartwell H. Alford. In 1880, Mary Augusta's son, Joseph W. Swann, was in the penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas.

As reported by the *Galveston Daily News*, in January of 1879, one Joseph Swan, age 24, tried to pass counterfeit money at the Grand Central Theater in Galveston. He was arrested and accused of making and coining counterfeit money at Cedar Bayou in Chambers County. *The accused is a country boy, who does not appear to have been very familiar with "the coin of the realm."* In May of 1879, Joseph was found guilty on three charges, received a \$1 fine and was sentenced to three years in the pen. And here we find Joseph in the 1880 census. He was granted parole on November 22, 1880.

Joseph again turns up in the 1900 census in the same penitentiary. This time the charge was murder in the second degree. The *Brenham (Texas) Weekly Banner* carried the story. In a moment of anger, fueled by non-payment for his mechanical work and aspersions cast at his new wife, Joseph leveled his shot-gun on James F. Foster with disastrous results. Joseph turned himself in and was convicted on May 25, 1898 to 25 years. He benefitted from a blanket pardon by Texas governor Joseph D. Sayers on his last day in office, January 20, 1903. Joseph and his wife moved to North Carolina.

The known children of Mary Augusta Dean and William B. Swann

Joseph W. Swann 1854-1932 +1st Stella Rice, +2nd Sarah Browning

Mary A. Swann 1861-1922 +1st Hartwell H. Alford, +2nd Thomas S. Jennings

Annie V. Swann 1863-1929 +Charles E. Theall

Reuben B. Dean 1838-1879

A death certificate for one of Reuben's children lists Reuben's middle name as Benjamin. So this child of Lavinia Hart and Reuben Dean, Jr. would have been named after his father and paternal grandfather Reuben and his grandfather Benjamin Hart.

The 1850 census finds the orphans Reuben and his younger sister Victoria in Brewersville, Sumter County, Alabama. There are payments for the 1851 school term from Grandpa Hart's estate for Reuben and Victoria's tuition at the Brewersville Academy and board paid to William L. Williford. Williford ran a dry goods business and the kids ran a tab for school supplies--books, pencils, pens, and slates. Some of Reuben's purchases: suspenders, shoes, knife, cravat, straw hat, fish lines, shot and powder.

In his will, Grandpa Hart left Reuben his library and wardrobe and funds to support him in his minority. When Reuben became of age, he was to receive a lump sum. But Grandpa had some specific ideas about Reuben's future and imposed this caveat:

Provided however he continues at school and qualifies and engages in the practice of the law and does not go to Texas under John Dean, his fraternal uncle and does not during his minority place himself under the guardianship of said John Dean, and should Reuben fail to do what is here required of him, I wish said fund to be equally divided amongst his brothers [sic ?] and sisters.

Reuban didn't practice law and in 1855 moved to Galveston and took up residence with his uncle John Dean and his cousin Frank Reuben Dean 1832-1886 (son of Aylett Dean). I'm pretty sure Grandpa Hart would not have approved!

On January 29, 1857, Frank wrote a letter to his cousin James Sanford Jones, inviting him to visit in Galveston.

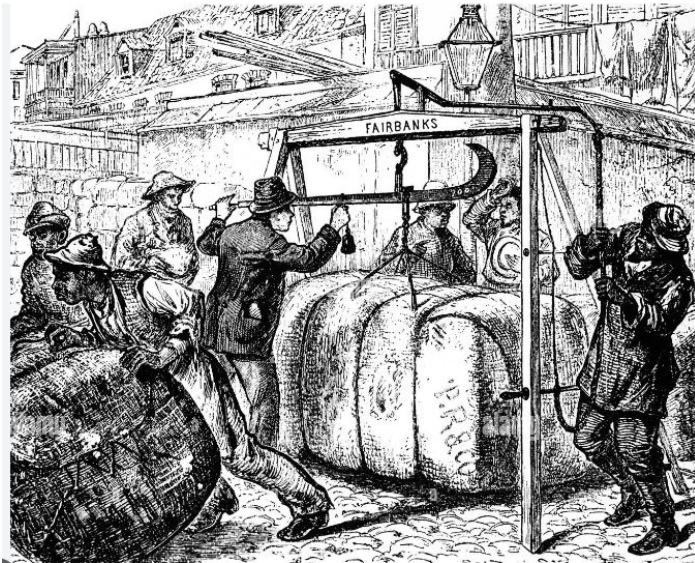
Come down and live with us a while. Bachelors Hall, nobody but Uncle Jon [Dean], Reuben and myself. We live well. Oysters, fish, anything you like. You have nothing to do and are able to afford it.



The John Dean Residence a/k/a Bachelors Hall was at 372 Church Street between 17th and 18th
Lots 10 & 11 of City Block 437 (center house)
1871 Birds-Eye-View of Galveston, Texas

<https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/89086-birds-eye-view-of-the-city-of-galveston-texas-non-glo-digital-images>

In 1860, the John Dean household on Church Street in Galveston included Reuben, working as a clerk. Also in residence were three children of John Dean's brother George Dean, who had died in the past year: Rufus Dean age 14, Catherine F. Dean age 12, and Margaret Dean age 10.



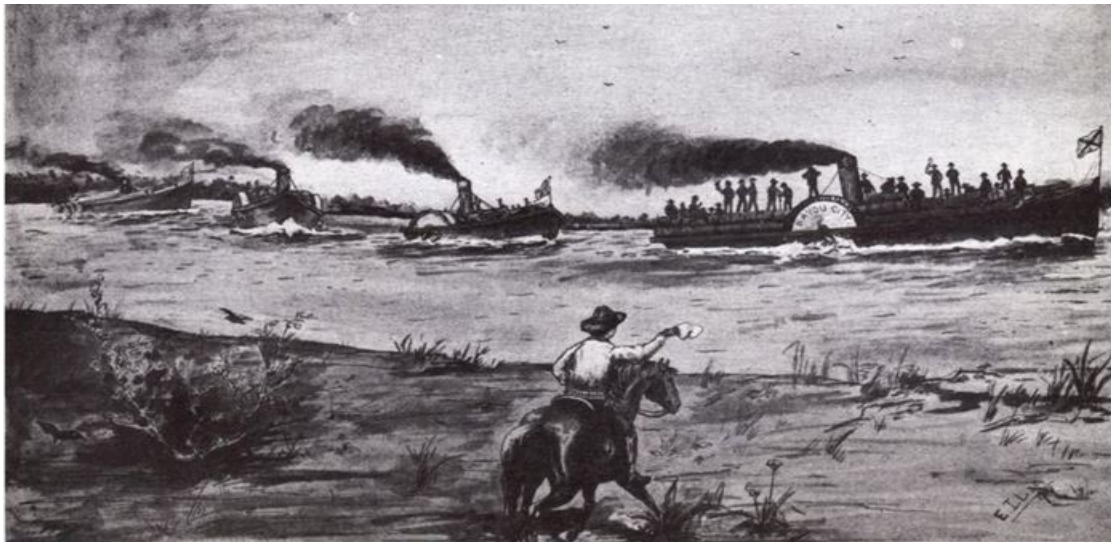
Uncle John and cousin Frank were in business together as cotton factors and merchants.

Reuben's work was as a cotton weigher, an important function in the cotton trade. Reuben was part of several partnerships that provided this service.

This could be Reuben at work, weighing bales with a Fairbanks scale made in Vermont.

In March 1862, Reuben married Mary Lawless, daughter of Captain John Y. Lawless who commanded ships sailing out of Galveston Harbor. On May 9, 1862, Reuben and cousin Frank joined the Twentieth Texas Infantry, Company G (Elmore's Regiment).

Come the "Battle of Galveston" on January 1, 1863, Captain Lawless was in the midst of the fray, commanding the steam tender *John F. Carr*. It is likely the soldiers in Company G, including Reuben and Frank, were responsible for physically dragging artillery across Galveston Island to be positioned along the waterfront. The Confederate troops drove the Federal fleet out to sea, captured the *Harriet Lane* and protected the city of Galveston from a Yankee invasion. I bet the Dean cousins and Capt. Lawless recounted this day for the rest of their lives.



The *Bayou City* and the *Neptune*, with tenders, *Lady Gwinn* and *John F. Carr*, making their way from Harrisburg down Buffalo Bayou en route to battle in Galveston Bay.

A member of the Galveston Artillery, Reuben was a “crack shot” and turned up for all the shooting contests. He was a founding member of the Galveston Rifle Club. After Reuben’s death, his widow donated his Scott shot-gun for a raffle.

4-6-1879 *Galveston Daily News*

Last night at the store of C.J. Randlett & Co. a fine Scott shot-gun was raffled for Mrs. R.B. Dean, the arm having been the property of the late R.B. Dean. Mr. Joe E. Mason threw 43 which was the winning throw, and thus the gun falls into the worthy hands of an old comrade of its former owner.

Ten years after Grandpa Hart’s death, Reuben was still trying to collect the last of his inheritance, which is good for us or we would never have seen the newsy letter from his uncle James N. Hart.

In 1858, Reuben was a legatee in the will of his cousin William T. D. Guy, the only child of his father’s sister Catherine F. Dean Guy. Guy left personal property and real estate to “my cousin Reuben B. Dean son of Reuben Dean deceased.” This clue led to finding the Dean sister, Catherine.

Reuben B. Dean’s wife and children benefitted from Uncle John Dean’s will. Uncle John wrote his will in October of 1877 and died in August of 1878. He left Mary \$1,000 in city bonds, she to have exclusive control of the bonds and to invest the interest for the benefit of herself and the children. Uncle John left Reuben B. Dean’s children an undivided one-fourth interest in a tract of land in Haskell County, containing 4,468 acres. An 1886 trust deed for the Haskell County property names the children of Reuben B. Dean (Deed 19/422).

2-9-1879 *Galveston Daily News*

R.B. Dean, a well-known and highly respected citizen of this city, died at 4 o’clock Sunday morning at his residence, corner Thirteenth Street and Avenue H. He was a member of the Galveston Artillery, and at his request was buried in the uniform of the company. The funeral took place at 4 o’clock Sunday, afternoon, the Artillery company accompanying the remains to their last resting place. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Briggs. The deceased leaves a wife and four children to mourn his loss.

5-25-1879 *Galveston Daily News*

In Memorial - Headqrs, Galveston Artillery, May 1879

Reuben B. Dean died in this city on the 9th day of February, 1879, 41 years.

The deceased was born in Alabama and after spending his early life in that state moved to Galveston in 1855 and was identified with this city from thence to the time of his death. He was a volunteer in the Confederate army during the late war between the states and took part in the battle of Galveston as a member of Elmore’s regiment.

He joined the Galveston Artillery about eight years ago, and continued one of its most active and zealous members to the date of his death. His cheerful disposition, devotion to the interests of the company and alertness in performing his duties, endeared him to the members of the Company. His attachment to the Company was so strong that he requested his comrades to bury him in his uniform, a request reverently and sadly complied with by them. He will long be missed from the ranks, for his place can not be filled. The Company tender their sincere and respectful sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

It is ordered that a page in our records be suitably inscribed and that this memorial of his surviving comrades' appreciation be published and a copy thereof sent to the family.

Mary Lawless Dean and the Children

After Reuben's death, Mary took up running a boarding house. Her 1880 household consisted of the five Dean children and 10 boarders. On May 6, 1886, Mary married one of her boarders, watchmaker and jeweler John E. Evard 1851-1926. The couple moved to Indianapolis.

The February 17, 1888 *Galveston Daily News* reported: *The remains of Mrs. M.T. Evard, formerly Mrs. Reuben Dean, will arrive at 9:00 this morning for interment in the family lot in the Cahill cemetery at 10 o'clock. The remains are coming from Indianapolis, Ind., where the deceased died.*

Children of Reuben B. Dean and Mary Lawless

Theresa Virginia Dean 1863-1957 - Theresa lived to 94. She never married and in 1894 left Galveston to live with her sister Mary Louise in California.

Charles Beissner Dean 1866-1939 - Looks like Charles was a career US Army man. He was with the 6th Cavalry, Headquarters Troop, from 1898 to 1924. Charles is buried in Evergreen Cemetery (formerly called Cahill) in Galveston.

Daisy V. Dean 1869-1902 - Daisy married Austin P. George who died of injuries received in a house fire. Daisy died eight years later of a broken heart, so the family story goes. Her two children Reuben Dean George and Austeene Paralee George were taken in by their aunt Mary Louise in California.

George Guy Dean 1870-1895 - George was a promising baseball player until he was struck down at age 25 by typhoid fever.



Mary Louise Dean Brand - 1917

Mary Louise Dean 1871-1945 - Mary married Leslie Coombs Brand in 1891. Reportedly, they eloped to Mexico.

The couple moved to California where Mr. Brand made history by developing the city of Glendale. Wikipedia and YouTube videos can fill you in.

Mary had no children. She provided a home for Daisy's children, her sister Theresa and her maternal grandmother Mrs. John Y. Lawless, who lived to 87.

Victoria L. Dean 1840-1886

Victoria, the youngest child of Lavinia Hart and Reuben Dean, Jr., was about three years old when her parents died. Grandpa Hart may have been the guardian to his grandchildren, but it is unlikely he provided day-to-day care. Perhaps Lavinia's brother James N. Hart took in the kids or maybe they were taken in by other Hart and Dean relatives.

The 1850 census, taken September 24, 1850, finds Victoria and her brother Reuben in Brewersville, Sumter County, Alabama, living with Edwin and Louisa Gibbs and their three young children. Mr. Gibbs was a teacher. Interestingly, Rev. Fluker, who officiated at the marriage of Victoria's sister Virginia and Robert Mabry in 1846, is listed on the same census sheet. What were Victoria and Reuben doing in Brewersville, a very small village, pretty much in the middle of nowhere?

Once again, Grandpa Hart's probate papers provide the answer: Victoria and Reuben had been packed off to boarding school--the Brewersville Male and Female Academy. In the estate file are bills covering the school term January 29, 1851 to November 24, 1851.

BREWERSVILLE
Male and Female Academy.

THE undersigned will open his School again, with competent assistance, on *Monday* the 12th day of September.

He would respectfully request those who desire patronizing him, to send in their children early in the session. He would also beg leave to submit to such as have children to educate, the following recommendation, from the Trustees.

R. McJIMSEY, Principal.

August 17th, 1853 19

BREWERSVILLE, Aug. 19, 1853.

We, the Trustees of the Brewersville Male and Female Academy, take pleasure in recommending Dr. R. McJIMSEY, as a teacher of undoubted qualifications for *any* institution, having few if any superiors as a disciplinarian, and gentleman of good morals, high toned honorable and dignified in deportment.

We are *entirely* satisfied with him as a teacher and gentleman, and hope he may continue to receive elsewhere what he so *justly* merits here; the approbation of his patrons.

PRESTON G. NASH,
MICAJAH McGEE,
DRURY McMILLAN,
JOS. PATTON,
THO'S A. SCALES,

August 20th, 1853. 19-5t Trustees.

The Brewersville Male and Female Academy was "pleasantly situated in a moral and healthy village," consisting of two churches, one school, and "no liquor."

Brewersville was situated about mid-way on the road between Livingston and Moscow. From Moscow, another few miles would bring you to uncle James N. Hart's plantation in Marengo County.

Of the trustees, Mr. Nash was a lawyer. The rest of the men were wealthy planters.

Rates of Tuition - Per Month

1. Spelling, Reading, Writing, Mental and Written Arithmetic - \$2.00
2. English Grammar, Geography, ancient & modern, Natural & Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, History, Algebra, etc. - \$3.00
3. Latin, Greek and French - \$4.00

Room and board, at \$6.00 per month for each child, was paid to William L. Williford. The Williford household included William 1817-1871, his wife Tabatha and their first three children. Victoria and Reuben lived with the Willifords for ten months.

NEW GOODS!
I AM now receiving and opening direct from New-York, a Fine and Fashionable Stock of Spring and Summer **GOODS**, consisting, in part, of the following: New Style of Ladies Dress Goods; Abline Challs; Brages and Silks; likewise, Gingham, at prices from 12 1-2 to 25 cents; Cambrics and Muslines, from 12 1-2 to 30 cts.; Jaconetts, from 15 to 30 cts; Chambrus, from 15 to 30 cts; Domestic, from 5 to 10 cts; Osnaburgs, 9 to 10 cts per yard; Also, Fashionable Hats, Bonnets, Boots and Shoes, Hardware and Crockery; all the above New Goods I will sell as low or lower, than any one else—*Pedlers not excepted.* My old Stock at cost.
W. L. WILLIFORD.
 Brewersville, March 20th, 1852. 49-6t

Mr. Williford ran a dry goods store in Brewersville (probably the only one) and the kids ran a tab for school supplies and other items.

Victoria's purchases at Mr. Williford's store included ribbons; shoes; hose; a bonnet; material, thread and buttons for aprons and an underdress; a half dozen whale bones; a dressing comb, a fine comb and a neck comb.

Mr. Williford's account for Victoria also included school books:

- No. 2 Reader
- Spelling Book
- Geography & Atlas
- New York Reader
- U.S. History
- Dictionary
- Grammar book
- Ladies Companion

The *New York Reader*, published in the 1820s, included a selection of prose and poetry for use in schools. Copies are on line and it looks a little dense.



1851 Fall Fashions

More interesting would be the *Ladies Companion*. Any young girl on the cusp of womanhood would be interested in looking over the newest fashions, needlework instructions, household hints and recipes scattered among the stories and poems in this magazine.

A bill submitted to Grandpa Hart's estate by Dr. Samuel E. Casteel (the only doctor in the village and whose other job was Post Master) shows Victoria and Reuben took a steady supply of quinine pills. Other medicines given to the kids were Spencer's Pills, A.B. Pills, Ipecac, and Sangumaria for Scald Head (ring worm). Victoria was given a dose of Blue Mass, a mercury-based medicine prescribed for a range of complaints including tuberculosis, constipation, toothache, and syphilis.

CHEAP AND GOOD.
THE undersigaed has a large supply of Drugs & Medicines for Sale. Quinine, cash \$4. Starch, Pepper, Ginger, Sulphur, Salaratus, Soda, Alum, Sal-Soda and Ep. Salts, per lb. 15 cts. All the Patent Medicines commonly used. A good supply of Paints & Oils, White Lead in Oil 10 cts. Glass per Box \$2 50, &c. &c. S. C. CASTEEL, M. D.
 Brewersville, Aug. 16, 1853- 18-1t

In his will, Grandpa expressed his desire to provide funds for Victoria's support and education until she reached her majority. He also wanted Victoria to be withdrawn from the school in Sumter County after the current session and to be educated near her friends in Mobile. The 10-23-1852 *Alabama Planter* carried an advertisement for the Dauphin-Way Academy in Mobile. The school was recommended by patrons James N. Hart and Thomas J. Carver. Here is a clue that Grandpa's directive liberated Victoria from Brewersville.

After Grandpa Hart died, Victoria's sister Augusta and her husband William B. Swann were her guardians. There is an 1858 guardianship record concerning Victoria filed in Mobile, Alabama probate records. At this time, the Swanns and Victoria were living in Mississippi. In his will, Grandpa Hart left Victoria a young enslaved woman named Julia. Swann, as guardian, wanted to take possession of Julia who was currently held by Robert B. Mabry in Alabama.

We know from James N. Hart's 1861 letter that Victoria married a Mr. Smith. The Smiths and Swanns moved to Texas. Mr. Smith presumably died from his painful ailment and Victoria next married Erastus Stoneham on October 27, 1864.

Erastus, a retired farmer in Navasota, Grimes County, was part of a larger Stoneham family that had moved to Texas from Conecuh County in 1844. He was 30 years older than Victoria.

The couple had two children, William E. Stoneham 1866-1938 and Seaborn A. Stoneham 1868-1933.

Erastus died intestate in 1881. By 1882, Victoria and her children moved to San Antonio in Bexar County and lived in boarding houses. Erastus Stoneham's estate was poorly managed. Victoria, in poor health and very infirm, was left practically destitute. Finally the Stoneham homestead was sold and Victoria's share amounted to \$675.

Died,

At the residence of Mrs. Sturdevant, 444 Soledad street, Mrs. Stoneman, a lady about 40 years old, on yesterday morning from consumption. Although a stranger in that neighborhood, Mrs. E. K. Sturdevant and other kindhearted ladies did all that was possible for the sufferer up to the last moment. Her remains will be interred this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Victoria died May 25, 1886, from pulmonary consumption. She was interred in a Lutheran cemetery in San Antonio.

The kindness of strangers eased Victoria's last days.

5-27-1886 *San Antonio Daily Light*

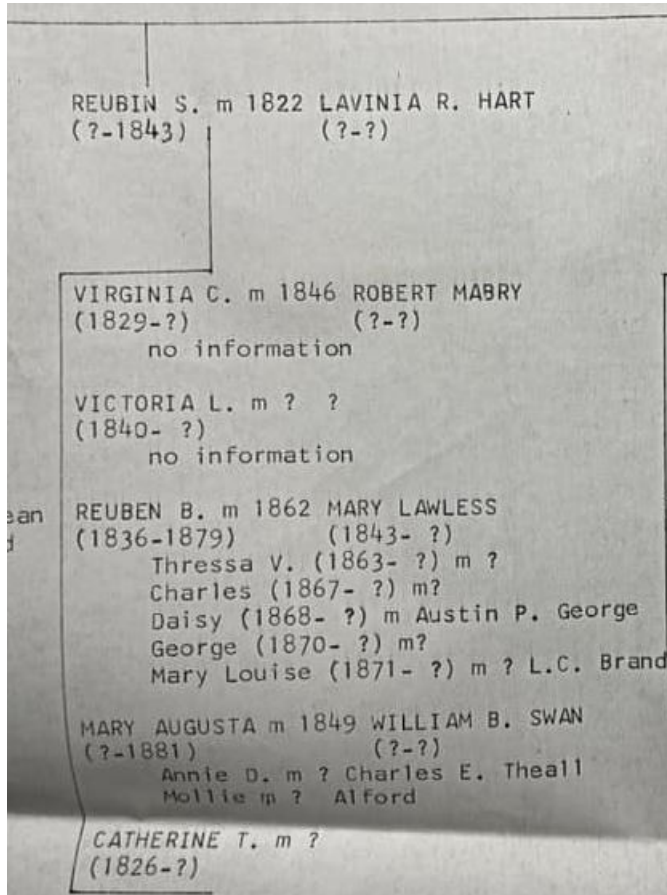
Victoria's nephew, James C. Mabry, son of her sister Virginia Dean Mabry, lived in San Antonio during the same time period. I wonder if the two knew each other.

Mrs. Lelia Sturdevant ran a boarding house at 444 Soledad Street. She was a wife of photographer Eugene K. Sturdevant 1845-1925. In the fall of 1886, Mr. Sturdevant photographed captured Chiricahua Apache Geronimo when he was held in San Antonio prior to incarceration in Florida.

END NOTES

Barrie Dean Rosier 1921-2009

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/coastalcourier/name/barrie-rosier-obituary?id=7381325>



Rosier, Dean and Crook Genealogy book collection, 1st Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064109410477>

2nd Facebook page, work of Barrie Dean Rosier. Material essentially the same as the 1st

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/395929171925227>

Mrs. Rosier found Grandpa Hart's estate file in the 1970s. No OCR for her! This is part of her descendant tree for Reuben Dean and Jane Vawter.

Also in this collection is a name index for Julius G. Robinson's Account Book 1845-1860 of the Brooklyn dry goods store Julius started with the help of his grandfather Benjamin Hart and his uncle James N. Hart. Among the names is RB Mabry.

This collection also includes a contract between Aylett Dean and Churchill Jones which mentions "R and A Dean Plantation."

Frances Mabry and Peter Mabry estate documents found at FamilySearch, Alabama Estate Files, 1830-1976

Compiled references for Benjamin Hart

[https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Benjamin_Hart_\(11\)](https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Benjamin_Hart_(11))

Benjamin Hart - Will

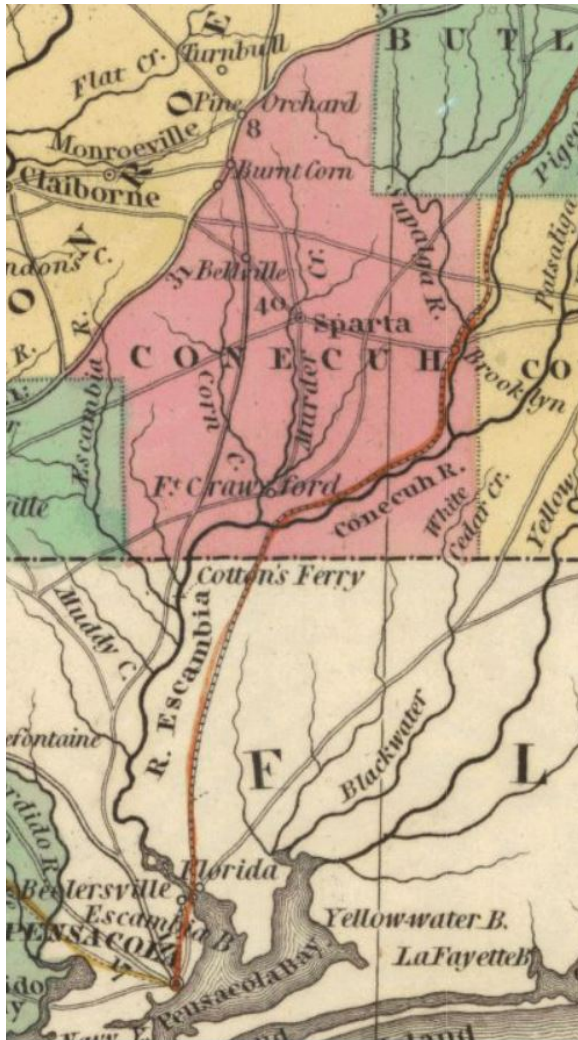
Mobile County, Alabama, Original will records, pigeon hole #397 files 1-160 ca. 1813-1957

FamilySearch Image Group No. 007736360, Image 260

Benjamin Hart - Estate File

Mobile County, Alabama, Original will records, pigeon hole #149 files 1-17 ca. 1852-1928

FamilySearch Image Group No. 007736324, Images 962 through 1075



History of Conecuh County, Alabama, Rev. B. F. Riley, 1881

People and Places of Conecuh County, Alabama 1816-1860, Conecuh County Historical Society, 1970

History of Conecuh County and its courthouses: Samuel A. Rumore, Jr., "Building Alabama's Courthouses," *The Alabama Lawyer*, Vol. 59, No. 1, January 1998

The History of Education in Conecuh County, Alabama, John Harry Dey, 1939

<https://archive.org/details/histedconecuh/page/n5/mode/2up>

Presbyterian Church Cemetery Records, Brooklyn, Conecuh County, *The Alabama Genealogical Register*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (June 1962) at FamilySearch

Excerpts from letters of Julius G. Robinson to his father Edwin Robinson in Connecticut

https://fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Members_Only/Newsletters-Chester/Chester%202005%20Vol%2029%20Nr%202.pdf

About Julius G. Robinson:

<https://www.andalusiastarnews.com/2010/12/04/robinson-descendant-became-leader-in-county>

Conecuh County 1844

Magnolia Memories, Celeste Graves, 2005

Mrs. Rosier contributed Dean family information for this memoir.

John Dean - Will - view at Ancestry.com

Galveston County, Texas, Will Book 3, Page 304

John Dean - Estate File, Galveston County, Texas

Probate Index, page 39. This index to the Probate Minutes Volumes lists the pages of the John Dean estate as it wound its way through probate from 1878 into 1887 (Volumes 9 through 18).

- John Dean's will revealed the existence of his half sister Mary Jane Dean who was married to William W. Blackwell.
- An entry in Book 13, Pg. 182 of the Minutes tells us Mary Augusta Swann had died.
- Dean owned real estate in at least 12 counties in Texas, some of which was hard to track down.
- Reuben B. Dean's widow Mary sued the estate to safeguard the Haskell land for her children. A suit was brought concerning property John Dean owned with his deceased brother George in Montgomery County. The nephew Frank Dean sued or got sued, I forget which. Joseph Swann sued.

After it was all over, I'm not sure there was much money left for John Dean's great array of legatees. But he certainly meant well!

Bureau of Land Management - Patent Search
<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx#>

Maps - <https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/index.html>
1853 map - published by Joseph Hutchins Colton has town and range grid
1907 map - Widell's New Sectional Map of Mobile County

1878 City Map of Mobile, Alabama - <https://digital.mobilepubliclibrary.org/collections/show/22>

Tharin's Marengo County Directory 1860/61, digitized at FamilySearch

Mobile Directories - Digitized
1859 - <http://www.trackingyourroots.com/pdf/1859MobileDirectory.pdf>
1861 and 1866 at Ancestry.com

History of Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi
<http://www.lauderdalecountymarchives.org/uploads/2/6/2/1/2621480/415.pdf>

Deeds from Lauderdale County, Mississippi
<http://www.lauderdalecountymarchives.org/uploads/2/6/2/1/2621480/43.pdf>

Alabama Civil War Muster Rolls, 1861-1865 viewed at Ancestry.com. This includes the story of the Mobile Rifles marching off to war.

Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., *The Confederate Defense of Mobile, 1861-1865*, Louisiana State University Dissertation 1980 - https://repository.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4510&context=gradschool_disstheses

History of Yellow Fever, George Augustin, 1867

A yellow fever epidemic swept through Mobile in 1867 (the year of Virginia Mabry's death according to Grandpa Hart's estate documents). In June, the first case was reported in New Orleans. The fever spread along the coastline and arrived in Mobile in August. In Galveston, Texas, 1,150 people died between June 26th and late November. There are no statistics for deaths in Mobile. Perusal of the "List of Interments" reported every Sunday in *The Mobile Daily Times* shows a spike of yellow fever deaths in October and November.

Grand Central Theater, Galveston, Texas

I was curious to know what the draw was at the Grand Central Theater in Galveston that impelled young Joseph Swan to pay admission with counterfeit money. His lawyer argued Joseph had paid with good specie and received the counterfeit money as change, but that ploy did not work. The Grand Central Theater did not have much of an advertising budget. About the only place in the newspapers you can find references to the theater is in the police blotter. Fights, drunkenness, and loitering were common at the Grand Central.

Letter from Frank Dean to his cousin James Sanford Jones
The Marlin Compound: Letters of a Singular Family, Frank Calvert Oltorf, 2014
<https://dokumen.pub/the-marlin-compound-letters-of-a-singular-family-1nbsped-9781477301555-9780292741492.html>

Reuben B. Dean Civil War Packet at Fold3.com - <https://www.fold3.com/image/16620115>

1863 Battle of Galveston

The *Lucy Gwinn* and the *John F. Carr*, captained by Reuben B. Dean's father-in-law John Y. Lawless, had cotton bales protecting their engines. Read Chapter 5 - "Victory at Galveston" in *Fire and Thunder: Exploits of the Confederate States Navy* by R. Thomas Campbell (Archive.org)

Robert B. Mabry's brother, Sydney Hammett Mabry, put some thought into using cotton bales to protect Confederate boats, as reported by the 6-10-1862 *Mobile Register*.

Cotton-Clad Gunboats, Camp College, June 9, 1862

The exigencies of the times are developing the inventive genius of our countrymen in various ways, verifying the old adage that "Necessity is the mother of invention."

Since the affair between the little fleet of Gen. Jeff Thompson and the Yankee gunboats, near Fort Pillow, disclosed the fact that vessels protected with cotton bales were able to contend successfully with iron clad boats, various plans have been devised for their construction for river and harbor defence.

Private Sid. Mabry, of Co. C, (Capt. Jolly's) of Col. Grace's regiment, a citizen of Green Co., Ala., has exhibited a handsome pen and ink drawing of a common high pressure river boat, metamorphosed into a gunboat, which, in the estimation of a large number of intelligent and scientific men in and out of camp, possesses extraordinary merit. For simplicity of design, for economy and facility of rapid construction, as well as for invulnerability and effectiveness, Mr. Mabry's plan is the best that has come under the writer's notice. As our unscrupulous enemy has some means of obtaining very exact information of all our doings, I will only add--avoiding details--that a boat honestly put together after this plan can never be sunk by shot, nor would hot shot burn it up _____ unless the various upright, longitudinal and traverse iron fastenings should be shot away, but the fastenings, as well as the hull and _____, are protected.

Our navel architects, we think, should give this ingenious plan of Mr. Mabry's their serious and prompt consideration. A Member of Co. A.

Reuben B. Dean's cousin William T.D. Guy 1826-1858, only child of Catherine F. Dean and William Guy, left Reuben personal property and real estate. Texas Wills & Probate, Montgomery County.

Daisy Dean George died of a broken heart.

Jeff Cooper - The Soul and Spirit by Lindy Cooper Wisdom, 2002

<https://archive.org/details/jeffcoopersouls0000wisd/page/n1/mode/2up>

The Life and Times of Leslie C. Brand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLVFq5BlgDk>

Erastus Stoneham's estate file can be viewed at FamilySearch and Ancestry in the Grimes County, Texas Probate Minutes.

Victoria Dean Stoneham's death record is found at FamilySearch in Texas, Bexar County, San Antonio, death record, 1873-1930; death register index, 1984-1996; death index, 1873-1983

Seaborn Stoneham Testifies - *Galveston Daily News* - November 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 1893

As reported by the *Galveston Daily News* from November 11 through 19, 1893, Victoria's second child, Seaborn, testified at the trial of Frederick E. Hamilton vs. W.N. Norwood et al.

On April 1, 1892, a fire burned down three structures in Navasota, Grimes County, Texas. One building, owned by Frederick E. Hamilton, contained 300 bales of cotton. The rumor mill spread like wild fire and whipped up the townspeople into demanding the arrest and prosecution of Mr. Hamilton on charges of arson and burglary. This proceeded and Mr. Hamilton was acquitted and he moved to Minnesota.

This episode was a little bit too much for Mr. Hamilton and in 1893 he countered by suing 60 citizens of Navasota and asking for \$80,000 in damages. Lots of hard feelings and dirty linen were aired during the trial and the courtroom was packed with spectators each day. One juror died during the week.

Seaborn was called to testify. He had done himself no good by initially demanding money in exchange for his knowledge about the fire. During the course of this trial, his character was assassinated by other witnesses.

What Happened to the Dean Siblings of Conecuh County

Aylett Dean and Reuben Dean, Jr.

Mrs. Rosier never did track down the final days of her ancestor Aylett Dean. Aylett appears in the 1850 census in Montgomery County, Texas, and on an 1851 tax record in the same place. These are the last known records of Aylett and his wife.

Mrs. Rosier came by some old family letters that told of the deaths of Reuben Dean, Jr. and Lavinia Hart. I wonder where these letters ended up.

Catherine Dean

The marriage of Catherine and William Guy was announced in the *Pensacola Gazette* on May 21, 1825: *In Conecuh County, Ala., on the 13th ult by the Rev. Mr. Travis, Mr. Wm Guy to Miss Catherine F. Dean, also of said county.*

Catherine's obituary is a wonder. It was typed on a piece of paper and tucked away in the "Alabama Surname Files," indexed under "Wm Guy" and "Catherine T. Guy." The obit tells us Reuben Dean, Senior died before 1832, probably in Virginia.

DIED - At her residence, in Conecuh County, Ala. on the 13th after a painful and lingering illness, which she bore with Christian fortitude, Mrs. Catherine T. Guy widow of the late Wm. Guy, and daughter of the late Reuben Dean Senr of Virginia, in the 27th year of her age, leaving an only son, and a numerous circle of friends and relations to deplore her untimely loss.

*Beloved brother, gathered around her bed,
And watched with fearful eyes;
But their hopes were vain, her spirit fled
To realms beyond the skies.*

*But kind was the voice that called her home,
To the mansions of joy and peace,
Where the hand of death can never come,
And the mourner's sorrows cease.*

The deceased was warned of her approaching dissolution. Sometime before her death, she informed several of her friends that she was to be relieved from her mental and bodily pains on the 13th April. On the morning of the day she took leave of her friends, completed and signed a will and gave general directions, with as much apparent composure as persons usually do upon setting out upon an ordinary journey.

Mobile Commercial Register, May 4, 1832

The child, William T.D. Guy 1826-1858, was six when his mother died. Likely, the orphaned William was taken into one of the Dean households, maybe Reuben Jr. and Lavinia. In his 1858 will, William left property to "my cousin Reuben B. Dean, son of Reuben Dean, deceased."

The 1850 census finds William in Cherokee County, Texas, embarked on the adventure of being a pioneer in the new town of Jacksonville, where he left a little claim to fame. According to *A History of Cherokee County* by Hattie Roch: *WTD Guy, then manager for the Johnson Company, is credited with having sold the first bill of goods. He was also the first postmaster after the name was changed from Gum Creek to Jacksonville in 1850.*

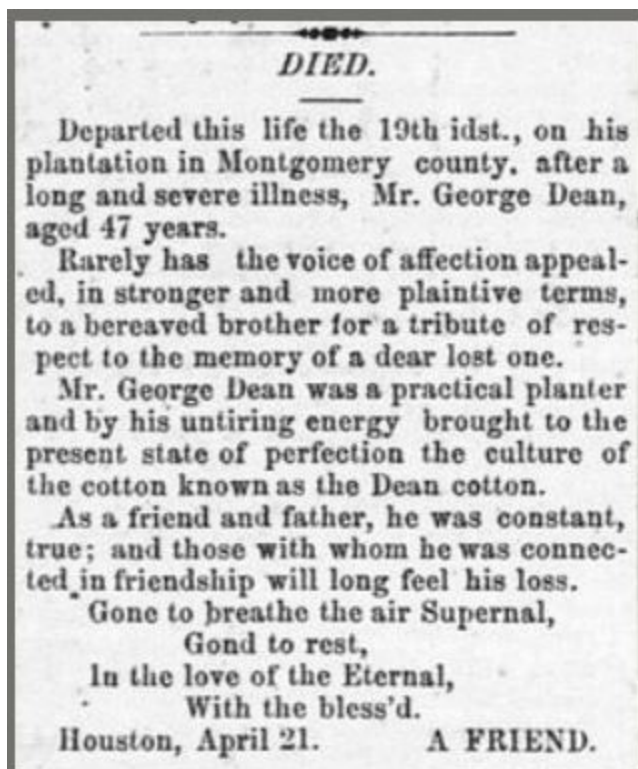
On December 4, 1851, William (W.T.D. Gay) of Jacksonville, Texas married Miss Mary B. Daniell at the home of her father Probate Judge Lewis Daniell, Clifton Plantation, Hancock County, Mississippi. Mary died a few years after their marriage and there were no children.

William died at 32. His will and probate minutes are recorded in Montgomery County, Texas. In his will, William asked to be buried next to his wife in the family burial ground of the late Lewis Daniel in Hancock County, Mississippi. William left personal property and real estate to Reuben B. Dean and slaves to either his niece or nephew, Mary Emily Stansbury and William F Stansbury, Jr., or their mother Eugenia A. Stansbury (nee Daniel) who was the sister of William Guy's deceased wife.

The estate wasn't closed until 1866 at which time a deed was to be turned over to Reuben B. Dean. The deed is identified as from John and Nancy Dean, 240 A, Choctaw County, Mississippi. I assume this deed is real estate deeded to William T.D. Guy from John and Nancy Dean. I don't know who John and Nancy Dean are.

George Dean

George Dean and his family moved from Alabama to Montgomery County by 1850. Here he died on April 19, 1859. This obituary was published in the April 27, 1859 issue of the *Weekly Telegraph* in Houston.



Dean Cotton

Around 1850, George's brother, John Dean, received ten cotton seeds from a friend who had obtained them from the island of Curacao. It was believed the seeds had originated from some part of South America. This cotton strain became known as Dean Cotton. Aylett, George and John planted Dean Cotton and seeds were sold throughout the south.

John Dean

John Dean was a man-about-Galveston. A business man, involved in politics, head of the school board, original trustee of the Bayland Orphans Home. The *Galveston Daily News* reported on his comings and goings and published his letters and opinions. So it was no surprise to find a personal tribute at the time of his death, placed on the front page of the July 28, 1878 issue. He had a plantation near Hockley.

DIED:
DEAN—Near Hockley, on the night of July
26, Judge John Dean, of Galveston.

Death of Judge John Dean

A dispatch was received yesterday evening from Mr. F. R. Dean, dated at Hockley, stating that Judge John Dean had died at 10 o'clock Friday night, at his plantation. He had left Galveston but a few days before and his death must have been somewhat sudden. Though advanced beyond the average duration of human life, his general health had been good, and he was as well and active as most men of sixty.

He was about 84 years of age, and retained a vivid recollection of having seen and been spoken to in his childhood by General Washington. He was a Virginian by birth and education, but had lived in several other states, as Kentucky, Mississippi and Florida, before he came to Texas some thirty years ago.

He first settled in eastern Texas, but afterwards removed to Montgomery county, where he engaged in planting and continued the business until his death, though he removed his residence to Galveston and commenced a cotton and commission business here some twenty-five years ago.

During his long life he had held several offices of honor and trust, and transacted a large amount of business. He was social and genial in his habits and his mind was stored with many interesting reminiscences and anecdotes of public men and affairs. His last office was that of superintendent of public schools in this county, which he accepted entirely in the interest of the rising generation.

He never married, but generally kept a family of his relatives and adopted orphan children, several of whom he had reared and educated.

The late hour at which the news of his death was received did not afford an opportunity to prepare a more extended notice of his life and character. He leaves many friends and no enemies.

In May of 1876, a reporter talked with John Dean at the Bayland Orphans Home. The article was titled "An Octogenerian." *While at Bayland it was the reporter's good fortune to meet with the venerable Judge Dean of Galveston, who was also on a visit to the Home, and who takes pleasure in referring to the scenes of his early life in Virginia, when he frequently saw Gen. Washington, and also to the time when he was a mid-shipman in the United States navy in the war of 1812, and participated in the fighting on the Lakes.*

September 1876: *John Dean has returned from a visit to his old home in Virginia and a trip to the Centennial. (Ten million people went to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.)*

Mary Jane Dean

John Dean wrote his will on October 25, 1877. The seventh item reads:

I give to my sister Mary Jane Blackwell if she is living at my death five hundred dollars. The last I heard from her she was living in Shreveport.

Strictly speaking, Mary Jane and John Dean were half siblings. Mary Jane was the daughter of Reuben Dean, Sr. and his second wife Hester Royston.

Mary Jane Dean 1825-188? married first William E. Adams ?-? and second Dr. William W. Blackwell 1820-1908. Mary Jane's daughter Mildred Slaughter Blackwell 1849-1907 caught my attention when I learned she had been awarded a medal for nursing services in the horrific yellow fever epidemic that hit Shreveport in the summer of 1873.

When the extremely virulent epidemic arrived in Shreveport, everyone who could fled before the town was sealed off. Of the 4,000 people left, a quarter died within the first two weeks. Mildred and 14 other heroic women were awarded gold medals for their unselfish valor nursing the sick and dying of Shreveport. Here is Mildred's story of love in the midst of an epidemic.

In August of 1873, Private John Lynch 1843-1909, of the United States Signal Corps, was posted to the Shreveport Signal Service Office as assistant to Hugh Coyle. They kept track of the weather, river depth, etc. and provided material for the "River and Weather" column in *The Times*. One month into the epidemic, Coyle died of yellow fever on September 28, 1873, and Lynch took charge of the office until the end of the year when he was transferred to La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Reading between the lines, in the five months John was posted in Shreveport, he and Mildred fell in love. By one account, John, a native of Ireland, was very well educated, had a good sense of humor, a charming personality and was a remarkably versatile writer of prose and poetry. And Mildred obviously was a woman with a can-do spirit--a heroine of the yellow fever epidemic. She was also married to A.F. Abington.

After Mildred shook loose Mr. Abington, the couple married in Iowa on April 19, 1875. In 1888, the marriage faltered after the death of their 10 year old daughter from typhoid. Mildred left John and New London, Connecticut (where John had quit the weather service to take up journalism) and brought the kids back home to Shreveport. In the 1900 census and newspaper articles, Mildred was matron at the Charity Hospital.

The Shreveport Journal, 28 Oct 1895, Page 4 - Dr. Blackwell visited Shreveport and reminisced: *He was here in 1873 and rendered valiant service in those trying times when the yellow fever scouraged this city...*

The Shreveport Journal, 22 Jul 1907, Page 5 - obituary of Mrs. M.S. Lynch (Mildred Slaughter Blackwell Lynch)
The Caucasian, 23 Jul 1907, Page 1 - ditto

The Shreveport Journal, 24 Nov 1932, Page 2 - obituary of Mrs. R.M. Douglas:
Mrs. Douglas' grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Slaughter Lynch, received the Howard medal for heroic services in nursing the sick during the yellow fever epidemic in 1873...