

Chapter Eleven

Revised January 2021

THE CHINN FAMILY

of Virginia, Kentucky and Louisiana

CHINN is an ancient family from England and Scotland where the orthography of the name has been changed many times from the Norman-French title De Cheyne. It is variously written in *Nesbett's Heraldry* and other works on this subject as Chein—Cheyne—Chinn—the last being adopted as the spelling of the name in America.

The Chinnns of Virginia are from the Ingles-Scott-Chichester families. Thomas Chynn of England, a minister who came to Virginia with Sir Walter Raleigh, was the father of John, the immigrant Chinn.

There are a great many people by the name of Chinn in America and while many may be vaguely connected, most of those that constitute the clan that interests us are more or less detailed in a book on the Chinn Family found in the Mormon *Family History Library* in Salt Lake City simply entitled *Chinn* by Ruth Dillon Wilson. The book has been well-researched although there are a few dates which conflict with other records on file at the *Family History Library* and elsewhere. Some information on the various branches of the Chinn family in Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana were extracted from this publication.

There are a variety of Coats-of-Arms and Crests purporting to belong to the Chinn family. Which, if any, are genuine, and more importantly represent this particular line of the Chinn family, has not been determined. It is therefore not appropriate to illustrate here a Chinn Coat-of-Arms or Crest which has not been properly authenticated.



Chinn Coat of Arms
supplied by
Thomas¹⁰ Patrick Chinn

Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn (1885–1968) was descended from Raleigh² Chinn (1684–1741) who in 1700 married Esther Ball (1685–1751). Esther Ball was the daughter of Colonel Joseph Ball (1649–1711) and his first wife Elizabeth Romney (–1703). **George Washington** (1732–1799) is the grandson of Colonel Ball and his second wife, Mary Montague Johnson. Thus descendants of the Saunders-Chinn union have a common ancestor with George Washington in Colonel Joseph Ball.

The Saunders-Chinn marriage brought about another connection to the Washington family. Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn's grandfather, Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn (1825–1888), married Frances³ Sophia Conrad (1829–1893). Her uncle, Charles² Magill Conrad was wed to **Mary Eliza Angela Lewis**, the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington and her first husband Daniel Parke Custis. Angela is also the grandniece of George Washington, she being the granddaughter of George's sister Elizabeth who married Fielding Lewis. Angela Lewis Conrad is buried at Mount Vernon by the side of George Washington and his wife.

Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn and consequently her descendants are directly related to the Scottish romantic author, **Sir Walter Scott** (1771–1832), pictured at right. Raleigh Chinn's grandson, Thomas⁴ Chinn (1740–1773), married Jennett Scott (1734–1791). Her uncle, Robert Scott (1699–1775) was the grandfather of Sir Walter Scott. Thomas Chinn's son, Chichester⁵ (1771–1814), was Walter Scott's second cousin. They attended University together in Edinburgh. Chichester⁵ Chinn is the grandfather of Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn mentioned above.



An extract from *Genealogies of Kentucky Families* from the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* gives a background to the Chinn genealogy:

The Chinns are an ancient family in England and Scotland, where we find the name under the seal *Cheyne*, bearing one of the oldest and most illustrious Coats Of Arms in Britain. The orthography of the name has been changed from the Norman-French title, DeCheyne. We find it variously written in Nesbitt's Heraldry and other works on this subject, viz.: Le Chein, Cheyne, Chynn, Chinn, the last being adopted as the spelling of the name in America. In London there is an avenue called for the family of ancient times, *Chynne-Row*.

The Chinns in Kentucky are descended as far as their history has been traced, from John Chynn, the colonist, and from his eldest son, Raleigh Chinn, burgess for Lancaster County, Virginia, 1731. (See Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies* and Bishop Meade's "History of Old Churches and Old Families of Virginia" and Register for May, 1905.)

Raleigh Chinn married at Stratford-by-Bow, London, 1700, Esther Ball, daughter of Joseph Ball, by his first wife. She was half-sister of Mary Ball, the mother of George Washington. In 1713, it is written, he settled in Lancaster County, Virginia, and was one of the largest landowners in South-eastern Virginia. ... They had a large family of sons and daughters, who married among the leading families of Virginia. It is from this Ball branch of the Chinn family that the Chinns in Kentucky, as far as known, are descended.

... The progenitor of the Chinn family in England and America was one Thomas DeCheyne, of Norman-French descent. ... In England it (the name) appears under the crest, a Maltese cross on armorial bar, Cheyne. Later with their seal, two-edged sword with stars about it, as Cheynne, and still later in Virginia in the House of Burgesses as Chinn. The family generally adopted the last spelling of the name. By reference to Browning's *History of Americans of Royal Descent*, it will be seen the Chinns belong to a long line of titled nobility in Europe.



*Ancient Seal of Chynne
In England and Scotland*

2 May 1803

The Louisiana Purchase. France sold Louisiana to the United States for about 15 million dollars. At that time it comprised much of the Mississippi Valley. The transaction extended the western US boundary from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, doubling the size of the U.S.



John Chinn to Lillian Frances Chinn

John¹ Chinn or Chynn 1640–1692 Original immigrant to America	<i>m. 1st 1660</i> <i>m. 2nd 1680</i>	<i>Elizabeth Travers 1630–1679</i> <i>Alice Smoot 1641–1701</i>
/		
Raleigh² Chinn 1684–1741	<i>m. c1703</i>	<i>1st Esther Ball 2nd Margaret Downman (de facto)</i> 1685–1751 Esther's half sister married Augustine Washington, George Washington's father
/		
Chichester³ Christopher Chinn 1706–1747	<i>m. 1739</i>	<i>Agatha Thornton</i> 1709–1773
/		
Thomas⁴ Thornton Chinn 1740–1773 Niece Synthia Davis Chinn married Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman, father of William Tell Coleman	<i>m. 1761</i>	<i>Jennett Scott</i> 1740–1790 1 st cousin, once removed to Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832)
/		
Chichester⁵ Thornton Chinn 1771–1814 Kentucky Senator	<i>m. 1789</i>	<i>Susanna Sukey Withers</i> 1767–1819 Cousin of Alexander Withers, 1791–1865 Author of <i>Chronicles of Border Warfare</i>
/		
Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn 1791–1852 Physician, jurist, politician and plantation owner in Feliciana Parish, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Appointed <i>chargé d'affairs</i> of the two Sicilies, 1849	<i>m. 1817</i>	<i>Elizabeth Johnson</i> 1794–1877 Daughter of Isaac Johnson, owner of Troy Plantation
/		
Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn 1825–1888 Major in Confederate Army Operated family plantation which was destroyed during the Civil War	<i>m. 1848</i>	<i>Frances Sophia Conrad</i> 1829–1893 Her uncle Charles Conrad married Mary Eliza Angela Lewis, great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. Martha was 1 st married to Daniel Parke Custis
/		
Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn 1853–1913 Removed to San Francisco in 1876 Employed by William Tell Coleman	<i>m. 1882</i>	<i>Lillie Belle Smoot</i> 1860–1920 Married 2 nd to Jackson T. Pendegast
/		
Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn 1885–1968 Married 2 nd to Harry Innes Borden in 1927 and divorced in 1948. Migrated to Australia 1957	<i>m. 1905</i> <i>div. 1925</i>	<i>John Henry Saunders</i> 1880–1940 Migrated to Australia 1924 Married 2 nd to May Agnes Snowdon in 1926

Four generations of Chinn



*Judge⁶ Thomas Withers Chinn
1791-1852*



*Major⁷ Bolling Robertson Chinn
1825-1888*



*Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn
1885-1968*



*Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn
1853-1913*

1st generation**JOHN¹ CHINN or CHYNN**
1640–1692*Great Britain to Virginia, USA*

JOHN¹ CHINN or CHYNN, the first immigrant, is said to have been born around 1640 in England during the reign of Charles I. He is reported to have arrived in America aboard the *James* landing at Morattico Creek, Virginia in 1657 when he was only about 17 years old.

The records indicate that John Chinn settled in Virginia and lived on his estate *Oakley* on a land grant in Lancaster County on the dividing line between Lancaster and Richmond Counties, Virginia. The land grant stretched from Morrattico Creek to Chinn's line.

At the time John is said to have left England for America, Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector and perhaps he felt that his future looked more secure in the New World.

John Chinn's first wife was Elizabeth Travers (1630–1679) whom he married about 1660. She was the sister of Rawleigh Travers (1625–1670), the grandfather of Priscilla Downman (1706–1789) who married as her second husband, Joseph³ Chinn (1703–1754), John Chinn's grandson.

John¹ Chinn and Elizabeth Travers had at least six children:

1. John² T. Chinn, born about 1662 and died 6 December 1698.
2. Ellen² Chinn, born about 1663 and died 1700.
3. Elizabeth² Chinn, born about 1664. She married John Trussell. He died intestate after which Elizabeth married Henry Hudson.
4. William² Chinn, born about 1668.
5. Joseph² Chinn, born about 1670.
6. Sarah² Chinn, born 1669 in Lancaster, Virginia and died 1695. She married Thomas Chilton. He was born 1670 and died 1776.

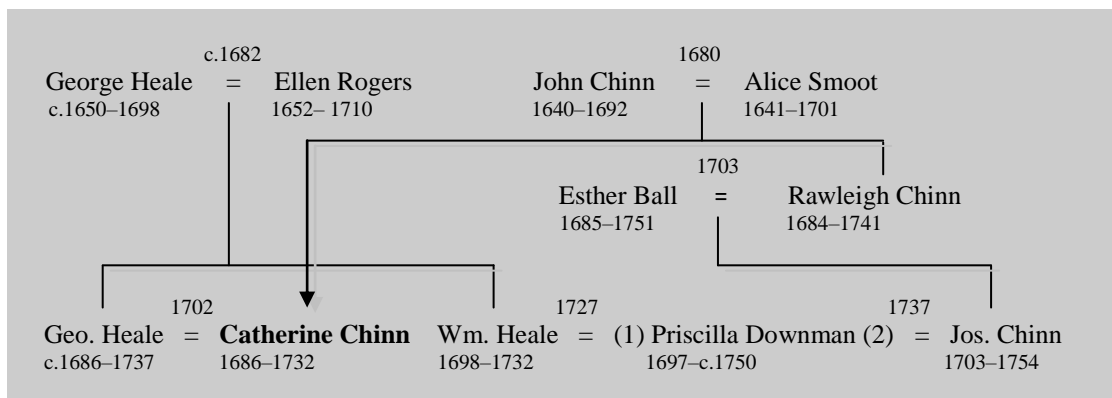
In 1680, following the death of his first wife, John¹ married Alice Smoot. She was born 1641 in Hampton, York County, (Elizabeth City) Virginia and died 1701. She was the daughter of William Smute/Smoot/Smoot and Grace Wood.

By a strange coincidence, some 200 years later, Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn (1853–1913), a direct descendant of John¹ Chynn, married Lillie Belle Smoot (c.1866–1920) in 1882. She had been adopted by David⁸ L. Smoot (1835–1900) who was descended from Thomas Smoot, the brother of Alice Smoot who married John Chynn in 1660. Lillie⁹ Belle was thought to be the daughter of David⁸ Smoot's older brother, Thomas⁸ Silliman Smoot, and murdered in 1867 by the aggrieved husband whose wife Thomas was having an affair with. David had several other siblings. one of whom may be the father of Lillie⁹ Belle. If she is indeed the daughter of the slain Thomas Smoot or one of his brothers or sisters, then she and Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn were 7th cousins. → See this chapter – 8th generation: Thomas Withers⁸ Chinn (1853–1913) and also Chapter 12: Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn.

In colonial times in Virginia it was not unusual for members of prominent families to intermarry amongst each other. This was certainly the case with the Chinn family who frequently intermarried with members of the Ball, Heale and Downman families. This often led to the marriage of descendants who were cousins.

John Chinn and his second wife Alice Smoot had five children:

1. Ann² Chinn was born 5 May 1682 and died c.1729. She first married Captain William Fox in 1709. He was born 1647 and died 1718 and was the son of Captain David Fox (1647–c.1699) and Hannah Ball (1650–1694). Hannah Ball was the daughter of Col. William Ball (1615–1680) and Hannah Atherold.
On 11 July 1719 the now widowed Ann² married Richard Chichester (1656–1734). Her brother Rawleigh² Chinn and J. Chichester are noted as witnesses.
2. **Rawleigh² Chinn 1684–1741 → See 2nd generation**
3. Catherine² Chinn was born 7 June 1686 and died 25 September 1745. She married Captain George Heale in 1702. He was born 1686 and died 1737 and was the son of George Heale Sr (c.1650–1698) and Ellen Rogers. Captain Heale was the older brother of William Heale (1697–1732) who married Priscilla Downman (c.1706–1789) as her first husband. Her second husband was Joseph³ Chinn (1703–1771), Rawleigh² and Esther (Ball) Chinn's eldest son.



4. Joseph² Chinn was born about 1688.
5. William² Chinn was born about 1690.

John¹ Chinn died 12 November 1692 in Lancaster County, Virginia after which his wife Alice married John Stretchley.

His Last Will and Testament is transcribed in Ruth Dillon Wilson's account of the Chinn family, pp. 5–7. It is copied here with all its unusual spellings, language and syntax:

Will of John Chinn – 1691

In the name of God Amen, the fifteenth day of December An. Dom. 1691, I JOHN CHINN SR. of the County of Lancaster, Gent. being in sound and perfect memory thanks to the Almighty God and calling to remembrance the uncertainties thereto of this transitory life and that all flesh must give unto death when it shall please God to call do make constitute ordaine and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following revoking and annulling by these presents all and every Testament and Testamenty, Will and Wills heretofore by me made and declared whether by word or writing and this to be taken only for

my last will and testament and none other. And first being penitent and sorry from the bottom of my heart for my sins past most humbly desiring forgiveness for the same I give and commit my Soul unto God my Saviour and Redeemer in whom and by the merits of Jesus Christ I trust and believe assuredly to be saved and to have full remission of all my sins and that my soul with my body at the General Day of Resurrection shall rise again with joy and through the merits of Christ's death and passion possess and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven prepared for the elect and chosen and my body to be buried in such place where it shall my executor hereafter named to appoint. And now for the settling of my personal estate and such goods and chattels and debts as I am now possessed with and it hath pleased God for far above my deserts to bestow upon me I doe order and dispose of the same in manner and form following that is to say:

Item I give unto my loving wife ALICE CHINN my saddle horse and all my furniture thereunto belonging called by the name of Dragon and also the riding horse with all her furniture belonging called by the name of Hester.

Item I give unto my sone JOHN TRUSSELL and my daughter ELIZABETH TRUSSELL his wife twelve pounds apiece to be paid them six months after my death.

Item I give unto my sone THOMAS CHILTON and my daughter SARAH CHILTON his wife twelve pounds a piece to be paid within six months after my decease.

Item I give unto my daughter ANN CHINN all that tract of land bee it more or less thereon Thomas Chilton now lives which I bought of Richard Lloyd lying upon the head of Powells Creek and to her heirs forever I give unto my said daughter ANN one feather bed a pair of blankets a rug a bolster and one pillow one iron pott a frying pan a mare with all her increase runing Kirbys Nook foure sheep twelve head of Cattle when she shall come to the age of sixteen years and not before.

Item I give unto my daughter KATHERINE CHINN all the right and title which I have to a tract of land lying at the head of Morattico which I purchased of Thomas Maddison to her and her heirs forever ten head of cattle foure sheep a mare aged two years old with all her increase forever one feather bed a pair of sheets a rug bouldster and one pillow one iron pott a frying pan when she comes to the age of sixteen years and not before.

Item I give unto my sone JOHN CHINN twelve pounds in money to bee paid as that six months after my decease because I have paide and he has used his portion already.

Item I give unto my sone RAWLEIGH CHINN all that tract of land I now live upon and to his heirs forever one feather bed and furniture one iron pott four sheepe tenn head of cattle one mare three years old with all her increase when he shall come of age of twenty years and not before and also one negro between sixteen and twenty.

Item My will and pleasure is that all the said cattle and sheep soe given unto my saide children as aforesaid as they shall come to their respective age or ages to be delivered as aforesaid the cattle shall not exceed tenn years apiece nor the sheep to exceed five yeares apiece.

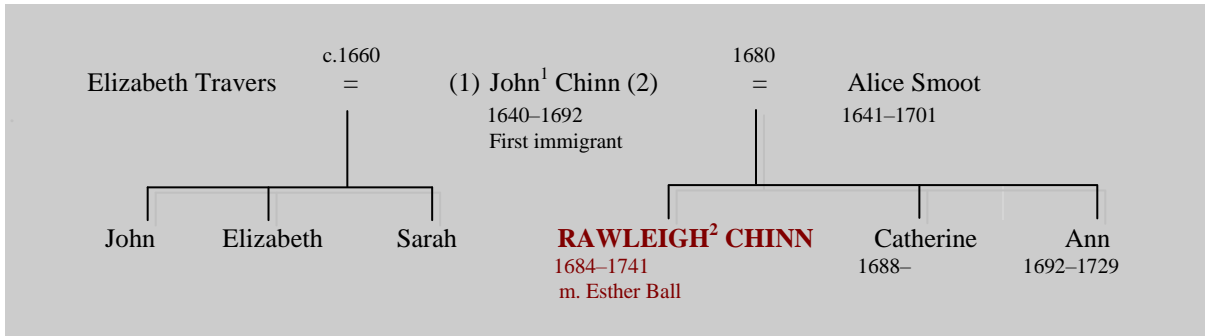
Item I will and pleasure is that all my estate both Chattles and personall except before expressed given and bequeathed as aforesaid I give unto my loveing wife ALICE CHINN whom I make whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale the day and year above written.

JOHN CHINN Sig. ye Seale

Signed sealed published and declared this to bee my last will and Testament in presence of us: William Smith, Alexander Dune, Edward Goffery.

Recorded the 21st day of May 1692, Teste: John Stretchley. Recorded in the Clerk's office of Lancaster County, Virginia in Will Book No. 8 at page no. 35. A TRUE COPY. TESTE: Frances Currie, deputy Clerk Circuit Court, Lancaster County, Virginia.



2nd generation**RAWLEIGH² CHINN****1684–1741***Virginia*

RAWLEIGH² (OR RALEIGH) CHINN was born 23 May 1684 in Lancaster County, Virginia, during the reign of Charles II. He died in Lancaster County, Virginia in 1741. Sometimes his name is spelt ‘Raleigh’ in the records and it is thought to be derived from Sir Walter Raleigh (1552–1618) who was a contemporary of John Chinn’s father, Thomas Chynn.

Raleigh Chinn first married Esther Ball about 1700 in Stratford-by-Row, London, England. This seems a little early, as they would have only been 19 and 16 respectively at the time. Nonetheless, in those times marrying young, particularly for women, was not uncommon. Esther Ball was born 1685 in England and died 1751 in Virginia.

The Washington Connection

The Washington family tree can be traced back to King John of England (1199–1216) and nine of the twenty-five Barons Sureties of the *Magna Carta*, sealed 15 June 1215.

Esther Ball was the daughter of Colonel Joseph Ball (1649–1711) and his first wife Elizabeth Romney (1653–1703). They were married in 1675. Colonel Joseph Ball was the son of Colonel William Ball (1615–1680) who married Hannah Atherold (1615–1695) in 1644. Esther had four siblings—Hannah, Elizabeth, Anne and Joseph.

After Elizabeth Romney died, Colonel Joseph Ball married Mary Montague Johnson. Their daughter Mary (1709–1789) married **Augustine Washington** (1694–1743) in 1730/31 as his second wife. Augustine was the son of Lawrence Washington (1659–1698) who in turn was the son of John Washington (1632–1677).

With his first wife, Jane Butler, Augustine had four children, one being **Lawrence Washington** (1718–1752), mentor and guardian of his half-brother George. Lawrence’s wife, Anne Fairfax (1728–1761) was a cousin of Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron, the largest property owner in Virginia. → See Chapter 2: Joseph Saunders – Reeve Family.



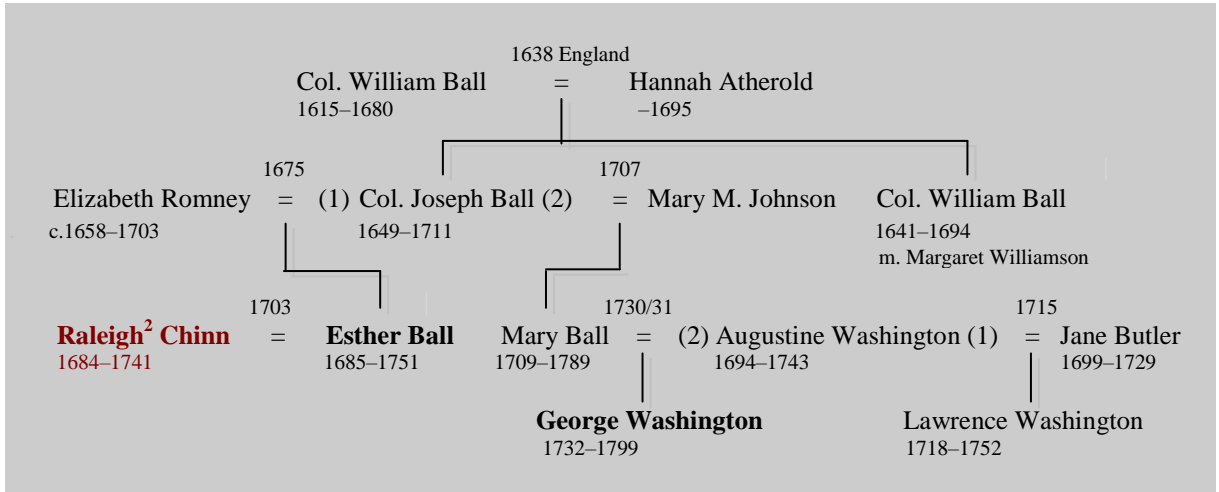
Augustine Washington
1694–1743

Mary Ball
1709–1789



Lawrence Washington
1718–1752





Augustine Washington and his second wife Mary Ball had six children:

- i. **George Washington** was born 22 February 1732 and died 14 December 1799. He married the widow Martha Dandridge Custis (1731–1802) on 6 January 1759. Eight months older than George, she had inherited an estate of about 17,000 acres and \$100,000 which was divided equally between Martha and her children. George and Martha Washington had no children of their own. In 1789 Washington became the first President of the United States.



*Daniel Parke Custis
1711–1757*



*Martha Washington
1731–1802*



*George Washington
1732–1799*



Robert E. Lee connection

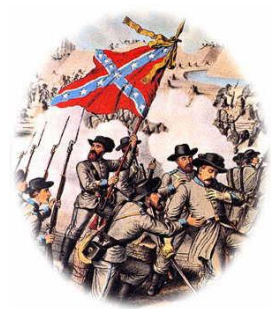
Martha Dandridge and Daniel Parke Custis had several children one of whom was John ‘Jacky’ Parke Custis (1754–1781). He married Eleanor Calvert in 1774. Amongst their children was George Washington Parke Custis (1781–1857) who married Mary Lee Fitzhugh (1788–1853) in 1804. Their daughter Mary Anna Randolph Custis married **Robert E. Lee** on 30 June 1831.



*Mary Anna Randolph Custis
1808–1873*



*Robert Edward Lee
1807–1870*



- ii. Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Washington was born 20 June 1733 and died 31 March 1797. She married Fielding Lewis in 1750. He was born 7 July 1725 and died 7 December 1881. Their son, Major Lawrence Lewis (1767–1839), married Eleanor ‘Nelly’ Parke Custis (1779–1852), the granddaughter of Martha Washington. Eleanor was the daughter of Eleanor Calvert (1758–1811) and John ‘Jacky’ Parke Custis, the eldest son of Martha Washington and her first husband Daniel Parke Custis (1711–1757).



Fielding Lewis
1725–1881



Elizabeth Washington
1733–1797



Lawrence Lewis
1767–1839



Eleanor Parke Custis
1779–1852

Major Lawrence Lewis and his wife Nelly had eight children. The youngest, Mary Eliza Angela Lewis (1813–1839) married Charles Magill Conrad (1804–1878). Charles was the uncle of Frances Sophia Conrad (1829–1893) who married Bolling Robertson Chinn (1824–1888). → See 7th generation, this chapter. Bolling was a direct descendant of Raleigh Chinn (1684–1741). Angela Lewis is buried at Mount Vernon by the side of George Washington and his wife.

- iii. Colonel Samuel Washington was born 16 November 1734 and died 26 September 1781. During his short life he had five wives and nine children. It is thought he died of tuberculosis or a similarly contagious respiratory disease.
- iv. Colonel John Augustine Washington was born 13 January 1736 in Stafford County, Virginia and died 17 February 1787. He married Hannah Bushrod in 1756. She was born 1738 and died 25 April 1801.
- v. **Colonel Charles Washington** was born 2 May 1738 and died 16 September 1799. He moved to the Shenandoah Valley in Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1780 where he built his house *Happy Retreat*. This large home is located in Charles Town which Charles Washington laid out on 80 acres of his land. The property later became the home of **Judge Isaac Richardson Douglass** in 1837. He made substantial improvements and renamed it *Mordington*.
→ See Chapter 7: The Douglass Family.
- vi. Mildred Washington was born 21 June 1739 and died 23 October 1740.



Charles Washington
1738–1799

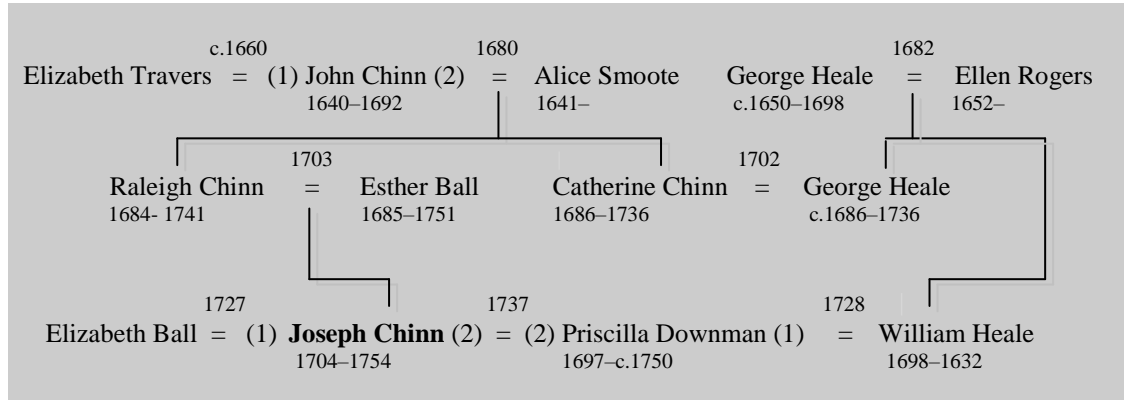
End of Washington Connection

Raleigh² Chinn and Esther Ball had eight children. Five are listed here.

1. Joseph³ Chinn was born 1704 in Virginia and died 28 January 1754. He married first Elizabeth Ball on 2 May 1727. They had two children
His second marriage was to Priscilla (Downman) Heale (1697–c.1750) about 1737, widow of William Heale, the youngest brother of George Heale who had married Catherine Chinn. Joseph and Priscilla had one son.

Priscilla was the daughter of William Downman and Million Travers. Million was the daughter of Rawleigh Travers, the brother of Elizabeth Travers who married John¹ Chinn, Joseph's grandfather.

Priscilla's brother Rawleigh Downman married Margaret Ball, daughter of Captain William Ball and Margaret Williamson, who was to later enter into a *de facto* relationship with Raleigh Chinn, Joseph's father.

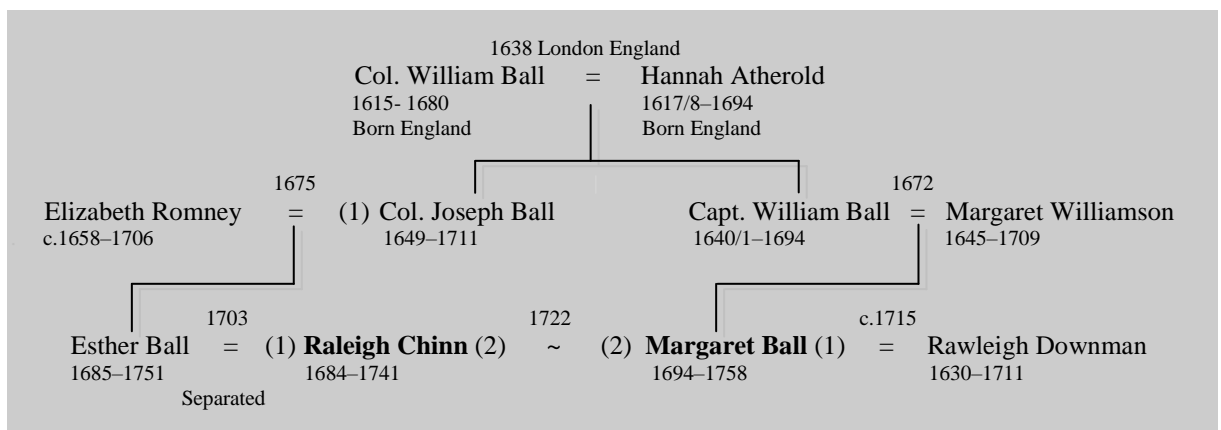


- Thomas³ Chinn was born about 1705 and died 1768, was a vestryman of St. Mary's Parish, Lancaster County, Virginia. He married first Sarah Mitchell 12 November 1735 with whom he had five children—Robert⁴, Thomas⁴, Rawleigh⁴, Susanna⁴ and Esther⁴. Thomas married second Ann (Conway) Edwards on 2 July 1752.
- Chichester³ Christopher Chinn 1706–1747 → See 3rd generation**
- Rawleigh³ Chinn Jr. was born 1706 in Virginia and died 10 March 1756. He married Elizabeth (or Ann) Ball in 1727.
- Ann³ Chinn was born 1718 and died 21 October 1793. She married Martin Shearman in 1738 and they had ten children.

Rawleigh² Chinn and Esther Ball separated after which he began a *de facto* relationship (there is no marriage record) with Margaret (Ball) Downman (1694–1758) who was the first cousin of his wife Esther. Margaret was the daughter of Captain William Ball and Margaret Williamson. William Ball was Colonel Joseph Ball's brother. Margaret Ball was the widow of Rawleigh Downman. Rawleigh and Margaret were cited several times before a grand jury and church wardens on a charge of living in adultery. They declined to answer the summons and the charges were dropped.



Margaret Downman
1694–1758



Rawleigh² and Margaret had three children whom Rawleigh refers as his godsons and sons of Margaret Downman in his Will. However, it's possible that in those times any children sired by Rawleigh out of wedlock might have been regarded as her children. Nonetheless, the three children mentioned went by the name of Chinn and some of their descendants became prominent and influential people.

1. Christopher³ Downman Chinn was born 1725 in Virginia and died 13 August 1770.
2. Elijah³ Downman Chinn was born 1727 and died 11 March 1771.
3. Charles³ Downman Chinn was born 18 October 1723 in Richmond County, Virginia and died 15 February 1788 in Fauquier County, Virginia. He married Scythia 'Seth' Davis about 1750. She was born 1734 in Wales and died 1824 in Kentucky.

Charles³ Chinn and Scythia 'Seth' Davis had fourteen children:

- A. Charles⁴ Downman Chinn Jr. was born 1 September 1756 and died 3 May 1844 in Virginia. He married Sarah French on 24 February 1794. She was born 14 January 1767 and died 1 August 1858. They had seven children.
- B. Rawleigh⁴ Chinn was born 1752 in Virginia and died 1801 in Kentucky.
- C. Mary⁴ Lila Chinn was born 3 May 1754 in Kentucky and died 17 May 1839. She married Zealous Reno on 25 July 1775 in Virginia. He was born 3 April 1757 in Virginia and died 31 January 1837. They had seven children.
- D. Nancy⁴ De Cheyne Chinn was born 1758 and died 1817 in Kentucky. She married William Ross in 1795. He was born 1773 in Scotland and died 1833 in Iowa.
- E. Elijah⁴ Chinn was born 4 February 1758 and died 1836. He married Elizabeth (Betty) Smith on 7 September 1784.
- F. Susan⁴ 'Suckey' Chinn was born 23 December 1764 and died 18 February 1817. She married Robert Holmes on 30 April 1793. He was born 23 October 1764 and died 8 July 1833.
 Their daughter Elizabeth 'Betsy' Moore Holmes married Richard Henry Chinn on 16 April 1814. Richard was her first cousin, being the son of Susan's brother John Chinn (1766–1839) – see below.
- G. **John⁴ Chinn** was born 2 August 1766 and died 8 March 1839 in Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky. He became a farmer in Kentucky and married Mildred Higgins in 1792. She was born in 1766 in Kentucky and died 1819.

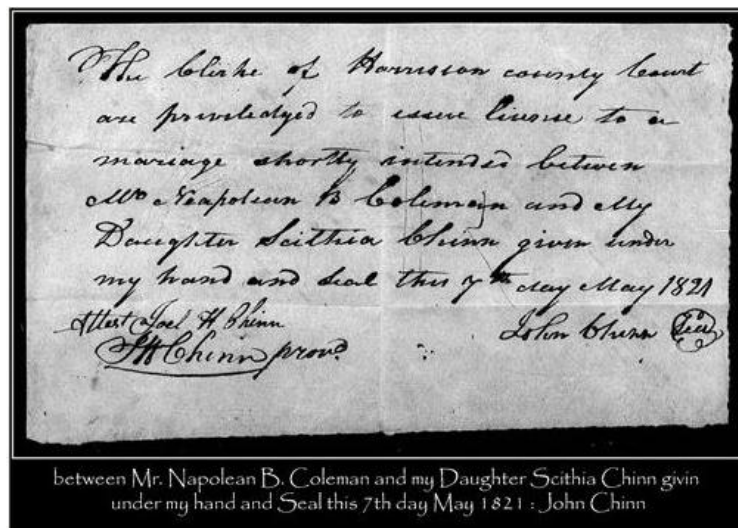
John⁴ Chinn and Mildred Higgins are reported to have produced 17 children between 1793 and 1819. Four are detailed below.

- i. Richard⁵ Henry Chinn (1795–1847). He married his first cousin Elizabeth⁵ 'Betsy' Moore Holmes (1798–1846), settled in New Orleans and became a Law partner of Henry Clay. Richard was the father of Eliza Chinn McHatton Ripley.

Betsy Moore Holmes was the daughter of John⁴ Chinn's sister Susan⁴ 'Sukey' Chinn and her husband Robert Holmes.

➔ See this chapter, 6th generation: Judge Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn (1791–1852) for further information on Richard Henry Chinn.

- ii. Joel⁵ Higgins Chinn was born 25 December 1800 in Kentucky and died 11 January 1874 in Missouri. He married Isabella Caroline Blackwell in Kentucky. She was born 7 September 1813 in South Carolina and died 9 June 1871 in Missouri.
- iii. Colonel Marcus⁵ Aurelius Chinn was born 10 March 1813 in Kentucky and died 8 June 1849 in Illinois. He married Lucy Jane Hardin on 22 February 1838. She was born 1818 in Kentucky and died 7 August 1847. Lucy was the daughter of Senator Martin Davis Hardin (1780–1823) and Elizabeth Logan (1784–1863). Marcus became the Chief Engineer of certain railroads in Illinois.
- iv. **Scithia⁵ Davis Chinn** was born 26 March 1806 in Kentucky and died in 1832. She married Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman on 1 May 1821. He was born in Mason County, Kentucky on 11 July 1799 and was descended from a well-connected and wealthy Virginian family of English and Irish stock who had originally arrived in Boston in 1671. The family moved to Kentucky in 1788. He died 11 August 1833 and was buried at Battle Grove Cemetery, Harrison County, Kentucky.



Scithia⁵ and Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman had four children:

- a. Mary⁶ Ann Coleman was born 8 June 1822 and died 29 December 1852. She married William Morrison. He was born 29 October 1810 in Pennsylvania and died 28 October 1884 in St Louis City, Missouri.



Mary Ann Coleman
1822–1852



William Morrison
1810–1884

- b. **William⁶ Tell Coleman** was born in Harrison County, Kentucky on 29 February 1824 and died 22 November 1893 in San Francisco, California. He became a very prominent citizen in San Francisco. → **See The Coleman Family following from here.**



*William Tell Coleman
1824–1893*

- c. Drusilla⁶ Sarah Coleman was born about 3 March 1826 in Kentucky and died 29 May 1857. She married James Morrison Curtis on 19 October 1847. He was born 16 March 1813 in Kentucky and died 24 October 1897.



*Drusilla S. Coleman
1826–1856*

- d. DeWitt⁶ Clinton Coleman was born 1 April 1828 in Kentucky and died 20 November 1908 in Oregon. He married Martha Ann Sargeant on 5 August 1875 in Oregon. She was born 12 April 1854 in Oregon and died 1 January 1918 in Weiser, Idaho.



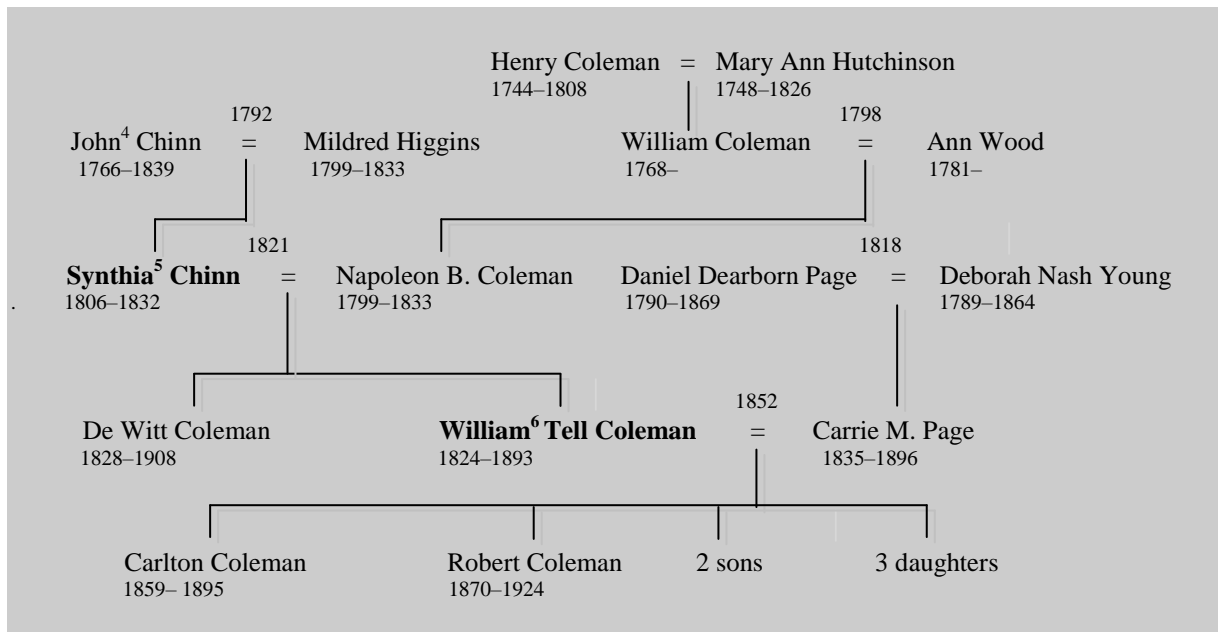
*DeWitt C. Coleman
1828–1908*

Continuing with the children of Charles³ Chinn and Scythia ‘Seth’ Davis

- H. Penelope⁴ Chinn was born 13 May 1767 in Virginia and died 1830 in Mayslick, Mason County, Kentucky.
- I. Elizabeth⁴ Ball Chinn was born 1768 in Virginia and died 13 May 1787 in Bourbon, Kentucky.
- J. Margaret⁴ Burgess Chinn was born 1769 and died 13 May 1787.
- K. William⁴ Ball Chinn was born 14 February 1770 and died 17 February 1830. He married Sally Graves in 1795. She was born 1774 in Virginia and died 12 February 1832. They had ten children.
- L. Joseph⁴ Chinn was born 1772 in Virginia and died 2 September 1833 in Kentucky. He married Polly Graves. She was born 1776 and died before 1840.
- M. Christopher⁴ Chinn was born 1773 and died 1809 in Maine.
- N. Betty⁴ Chinn.

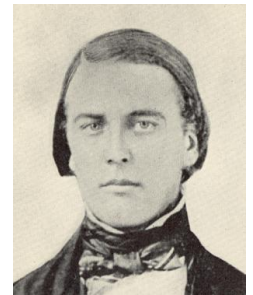


The Coleman Family



William⁶ Tell Coleman became a significant identity in California from about 1850 to his death in 1893. His life there overlapped with John Henry Saunders (1821–1885) as well as his distant half-cousin Thomas Withers Chinn (1853–1913), both of whom also settled in San Francisco.

Extracts from *History of the Life of William T. Coleman – A character Study*, by Hubert Howe Bancroft (from *Chronicles of the Builders of the Commonwealth*, by the same author), published in San Francisco by History Company, 1891.



William Tell Coleman
1824–1893

pp.302–303

His ancestors who were English and Irish, and well conditioned, came to Virginia in the seventeenth and early in the eighteenth centuries. William Coleman, the earliest direct ancestor of whom there is any record, arrived in Boston in 1671; branches of the family extended into Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Henry Coleman, great-grandfather [of William Tell Coleman], was born in Virginia, December 12, 1744, and his wife, Mary Ann Hutchinson, January 22, 1748. He was a planter in Virginia, a man of fortune, and a soldier in the revolution; moved to Kentucky in 1788, and acquired large tracts of land. His homestead was in Harrison County. He was a prominent member of the convention which formed the constitution of the state. At his death, February 29, 1808, he divided his estates among many descendants, some of the lands still being in the family [in 1991].

The grandfather [of William Tell Coleman], **William Coleman**, was born in Virginia, December 5, 1768, married Ann Wood, in Mason county, Kentucky, in 1798 and lived and died on his portion of the estate.

Napoleon B. Coleman, their first-born, and the father of William Tell, was born in Mason County, July 11, 1799, received an academic education, and began the study of law at an early age. He became prominent in his profession, and was an active politician of the Jacksonian school. He was also a civil engineer and the surveyor of his county; being, however, largely occupied in public life. ... At the time of his death, which occurred August 11, 1833, when he was thirty-four years old, he was the accepted nominee for congress from his district, which was more of a distinction than at the present time.

In 1821 he married [Synthia] the daughter of John Chinn, whose family was directly connected with that of Washington, and many of the old families of Virginia; that is to say, Raleigh Chinn, William T. Coleman's mother's great-grandfather, married Esther Ball, the elder daughter of Colonel Thomas Ball, of Lancaster. Augustine Washington married Mary, her youngest sister, and

George Washington was their son. In the traditions of the family, Washington was very often called Cousin George.

William T. Coleman's mother [Synthia] was a woman of pronounced character, very handsome, tall, with a fine physique and noble presence. Her family were leading people, and devout Baptists; and she reared her children in the Baptist faith. William, a precocious, sprightly, aggressive boy, was fairly indulged. Very self-possessed, and having a retentive memory, he got a number of speeches by heart almost before he had done learning his letters, and being called upon occasionally to declaim at hotels and other public places, he acquired village fame as a juvenile orator.

pp.385–386

... his grander works were probably in Marin County, when in 1871-2 he bought for cash some eight thousand acres of land, four thousand of which lay in solid body, reaching from the heart of San Rafael to the bay on the eastward. He there projected an extension and addition to the town, employed the best landscape engineers in the state, laid out magnolia and other parks, with broad avenues and streets and roads, about thirty-four miles in extent, and planted about 275,000 trees, 75,000 wine grapes, and built on the north side of Tamalpais mountains the Marin county water-works, which supplies the entire country around. He took a leading part in building Sonoma and Marin railroad from San Rafael to Petaluma, afterwards in building the Hotel Rafael, and in other general improvements, thus creating one of the most beautiful and desirable suburbs on the coast.

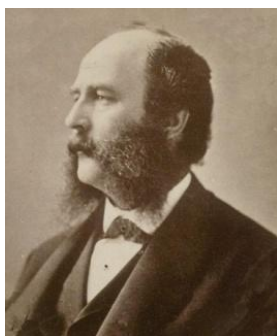
p.390

William T. Coleman married Carrie M. Page in Boston on the 11th of August, 1852, and was blessed with seven children – four boys and three girls – only two of whom, however, attained maturity, namely, Carlton Chinn Coleman, now associated with his father in the management of his affairs, and Robert Lewis Coleman, graduated with honors in the class of 1991 at Sheffield, Yale.

Mrs. Coleman came from an old and honourable ancestry both in England and the United States; her father, Daniel Dearborn Page, was born in 1790 at Parsonville in the State of Maine. When still in his youth, Mr Page sought the advantages afforded by Boston, then as now the principal city of New England. Here he married on the 11th of April 1818, Deborah Nash Young, born in Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1792, and a lineal descendant from Peregrin White, who was born in 1620 on board the *Mayflower* in the harbour of Massachusetts. Peregrin's father William White, was a son of John White, a bishop of the Church of England.

- Note:
1. Esther Ball who married Raleigh Chinn was actually the daughter of **Colonel Joseph Ball** and Elizabeth Romney.
 2. Mary Ball who married Augustine Washington was actually Esther Ball's half-sister.
 3. The spelling of the first name Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman's wife varies in the records – variants are Synthia, Scithia and Scythia.

William⁶ Tell Coleman married Caroline 'Carrie' Maria Page Gay on 11 August 1852. She was born 26 February 1828 in St Louis, Missouri and died 12 May 1896 in Oakland, California. Carrie was previously married on 23 November 1848 to John H. Gay Jr. He was born about 1825, possibly in Missouri. His death date is unknown. He and Carrie were only married four years.



*William Tell Coleman
in later years*

William⁶ and Carrie's marriage was announced in *The Daily Union*, Sacramento, CA, Saturday, 18 September 1852:

Married

August 11th, at the Bulfinch Street Church, Boston, by Rev. Frederick T. Gray, **Mr. Wm. T. COLEMAN**, of the firm Wm. T. Coleman & Co., San Francisco, to **Mrs. Caroline M. GAY**, daughter of Hon. Daniel D. PAGE, of St. Louis, MO.

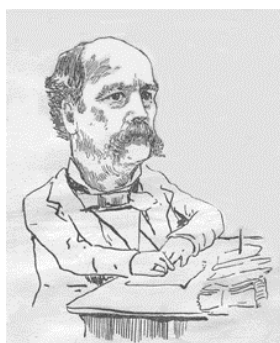
William⁶ Tell Coleman was one of San Francisco's most celebrated citizens and businessmen. An aggressive, forthright man, he became known as the *Lion of the Vigilantes*. His substantial investment in and development of San Rafael made him a contemporary of **John⁷ Henry Saunders** (1821–1885) and no doubt the two men would have known each other. Indeed, the Marin County conveyance records show that Coleman was sold a block of land by Saunders in June 1872.

→ See Chapter 6: John Henry Saunders 1821–1885

Coleman was also a contemporary of Sam Brannan (1819–1889), another very prominent Californian identity, who was the uncle of John H. Saunders's sister-in-law Emily Brannan. Coleman and Brannan knew each other well through their involvement with the vigilante movement in San Francisco in the late 1840s. → See Chapter 9: The Brannan Family

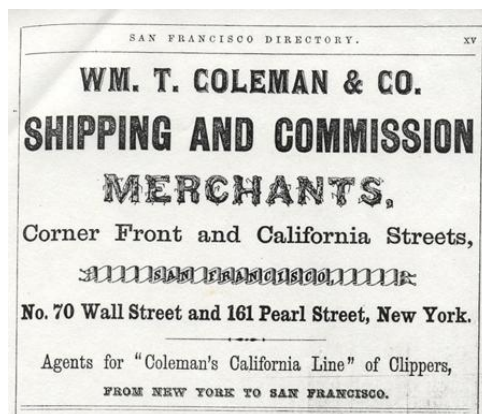
A fine summation of his character was outlined in an article in the *San Francisco Newsletter and Advertiser* of 28 May 1881:

THE TERROR OF THE MOB



Among pioneers and those who remember the stormy days of the San Francisco of '51 and '56, the name William T. Coleman [sketched at left] is a most familiar talisman. As a prosperous and enterprising merchant, he has for more than quarter of a century been a prominent member of the community, but as the foremost champion of the people, in opposition to mob violence, he has cut a still more conspicuous figure. Although Mr. Coleman never boasts of it, or even mentions it, everybody knows that he was the head and front of the Vigilance Committee movements of '51 and '56, and that to his efforts more than those of any other one man the city owes the summary suppression of villainy which those movements effected. During the Sand-lot troubles of two or three years back, he was again to the fore with all his old fire, and doubtless if, unhappily, the city should again be threatened by lawlessness, he would be the first to spring into the lists to battle with the "overlordship of the Demos".

Mr. Coleman is a Kentuckian of good family, and was born in '24. His earliest profession was that of a civil engineer, but he soon abandoned that vocation and entered upon a mercantile career in which he has since attained such eminence. He came overland to California as a goldseeker in '49, and after a little successful trading in the mining regions settled in business in San Francisco. From that time forth, by energy, industry and ability, he has waxed fat and prospered exceedingly. He is a man of generous instincts, and one that does a great deal of good among the deserving poor. Socially he is hospitable and popular. As a shrewd business man he has few equals.



William Tell Coleman's advertisement in the 1863–1864 San Francisco City Directory.

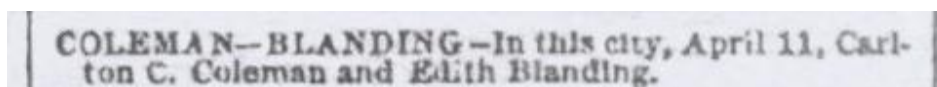
Note: John Henry Saunders (1821–1885) is listed in the same directory. He was the City and County Attorney and Counselor of San Francisco. → See Chapter 6.

oOo

When Rawleigh² Chinn's descendant **Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn** (1853–1913)—grandson of Judge Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn (1791–1852)—moved to San Francisco from Louisiana in 1876, he went to work for his cousin William Tell Coleman who had developed an extensive shipping business. (→ See 8th generation this chapter). In fact, according to the 1880 Census, Chinn was then living with Coleman in San Francisco.

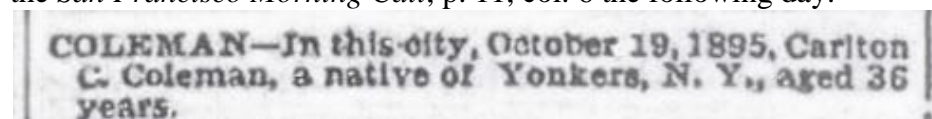
William⁶ and Carrie Coleman had seven children. However, their three daughters and two of their sons failed to reach maturity. The two sons who survived to adulthood were:

1. Carlton⁷ Chinn Coleman who was born in Yonkers, New York 18 October 1859. He married Edith Blanding on 11 April 1883 in San Francisco. She was born 24 March 1862 and died 7 July 1957. Their marriage was announced in the *San Francisco Morning Call*, p. 4, col. 4 on 13 April:



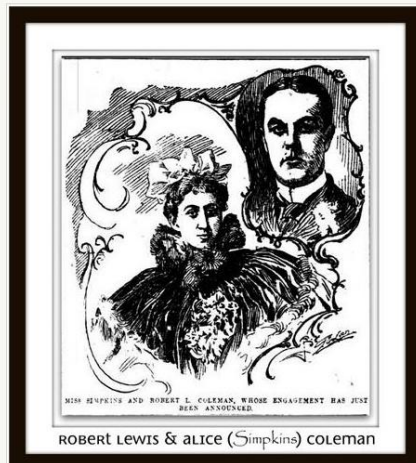
The marriage did not last long as Edith began a suit for divorce against Carlton in January 1890.

Carlton died quite young aged just 36 on 19 October 1895. His death was reported in the *San Francisco Morning Call*, p. 11, col. 6 the following day:



2. Robert⁷ Lewis Coleman was born 3 July 1870 in Yonkers, New York. He married Alice Ritchie Simpkins on 24 April 1895 in San Francisco. She was born 10 April 1871 in New York. Their engagement had been announced in the local newspaper.

Robert & Alice Coleman

**BEFORE THE ALTAR.**

ROBERT Louis Coleman and Miss Alice Simpkins were married last Wednesday at noon at Trinity Episcopal Church in the presence of most of the leading society people of the City. The groom is a son of the late William T. Coleman. The bride is a daughter of the late Charles Simpkins, a large property-owner in the southern section of the State, and resides with her mother at 1738 Broadway.

The San Francisco Call
28 April 1891

Alice Simpkins Coleman Died 13 October 1915 in Hillsboro, California of *acute nephritis*. She was buried in the Coleman Vault at Cypress Lawn Cemetery.

Robert⁷ was murdered in Albania, Europe on 6 April 1924 while travelling with his friend George B. DeLong who was also murdered. Robert's body was brought back to California where it was cremated at Cypress Lawn Cemetery.

Well Known Financier

San Francisco, April 7—Robert Louis Coleman reported to have been killed by Albanian bandits was an outstanding figure in California finance for many years and was the son of Captain Coleman of the famous San Francisco vigilantes of the Argonaut days. George B. DeLong, who also suffered death with Coleman at the hands of the bandits was a former resident of this city but moved to New York several years ago. He had been engaged in the real estate business here.

Coleman was 65 years old and was retired. He left in December for a pleasure trip to Europe with DeLong, joining the latter in New York.

The Springfield Weekly Republican,
Massachusetts, Thursday, April 10 1924

Two Americans Murdered in Albania

ROME, April 7 (By the Associated Press).—Martial law has been proclaimed in Albania, following the murder of two American merchants, waylaid on the Tirana-Scrutari highway, according to advices from Albania quarters today.

The names of the murdered Americans were given out by the American embassy as Robert Lewis Coleman, of San Francisco, and George B. DeLong, of 14 East 52nd Street, New York City.

Lewiston Evening Journal, Maine,
Monday, April 7, 1924

Signature on
1923 Passport Application

Robert and Alice had three children:

- A. Robert⁸ Lewis Coleman Jr. was born 24 March 1896 in San Francisco and died 3 May 1950 at Stanford University Hospital. He married Ruth Welsh in June 1917 about the time he heeded the call of the Nation by offering his services to the American Ambulance Corps.

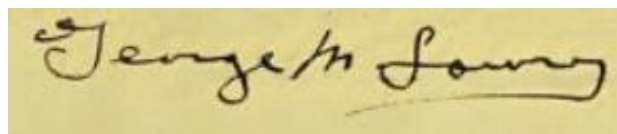
Signature in 1917 on WWI
Draft Registration Card

- B. Caroline⁸ 'Carra' A. Coleman was born 5 July 1897 in San Francisco and died 18 December 1979 in Monterey, California. She married George Maus Lowry. He was born 27 October 1889 in Erie County, Pennsylvania and died 25 September 1981 in Carmel, California. His ashes were scattered at sea.

George graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1911. He retired as Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy. Ensign Lowry received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the U.S. occupation of Vera Cruz in 1914.



*George Maus Lowry
1889–1981*



*George M. Lowry
1914 Emergency Passport Application*

Awards & Citations:



The * President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to **Ensign George Maus Lowry**, United States Navy, for distinguished conduct in battle during the engagements of Vera Cruz, Mexico, 21 & 22 April 1914. Ensign Lowry was in both days' fighting at the head of his company, and was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage. **General Orders:** War Department, General Orders No. 177 (December 4, 1915)

* President Woodrow Wilson

Caroline and George Lowry had two children.

When Rear Admiral Lowry reached the age of seventy the following event took place in US history:

21 August 1959

Hawaii became the 50th state of the United States of America and is located 2,390 miles west of California in the Pacific Ocean. The state encompasses nearly the entire Hawaiian archipelago. At the south-eastern end are the eight main islands including Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the island of Hawaii which is the largest.



- C. Ritchie⁸ Telfair Coleman was born 17 September 1901 in San Francisco and died the following year on 17 March 1902.

William⁶ Tell. Coleman died 22 November 1893 in San Francisco. His passing was reported in the San Francisco and San Rafael newspapers.

San Francisco Morning Call, 23 November 1893: –

COLEMAN—In this city, November 22, 1893.
William T. Coleman. [New York, St. Louis and
Lexington (Ky.) papers please copy.] 1

Nov. 30, 1893—William T. Coleman died Nov. 22 in San Francisco. San Rafael owes much to Mr. Coleman. He was the nestorian of her public enterprises and his popularity here was unbounded. His property interests in and around San Rafael were large. He built the Marin county water works, pushed the incorporation through successfully, and was instrumental in inducing many enterprises to be inaugurated here, notably the S. F. & N. P. railroad and Hotel Rafael. The chapters of his life's history during his residence in California furnish largely to the history of the state, which, without them, would be incomplete.

Marin County Tocsin
25 November 1893

Dec. 14, 1893—The will of the late William T. Coleman disposes of a fortune of \$600,000. The two sons, Robert L. and Carleton, each received \$50,000. The Catholic Orphan asylum near San Rafael and the Protestant Orphan asylum, of San Francisco, both are remembered. Eighty per cent of the income is set aside for the widow, Carrie M. P. Coleman.

Marin County Tocsin
14 December 1893

William's wife, Carrie M. P. Coleman, née Page, died 12 May 1896. The *San Francisco Morning Call*, p. 13, col. 7 carried a notice of her passing the next day. On 13 May the same paper carried an obituary. Shown below is the headline and sketch of the deceased accompanying the obituary.

COLEMAN—In Oakland, May 12, 1896. Carrie M. P. Coleman, widow of the late W. T. Coleman, a native of St. Louis, Mo. [New York and St. Louis papers please copy.]

**SUDDEN DEATH OF
MRS. W. T. COLEMAN.**

Was the Widow of a Noted
Pioneer.

HEART TROUBLE THE CAUSE.

LEAVES MANY FRIENDS AND
RELATIVES.

Was Prominently Identified With
California's Early Social
History.



Mrs Carrie M. Coleman

There are numerous publications dealing with William Tell Coleman. The following two books were referenced:

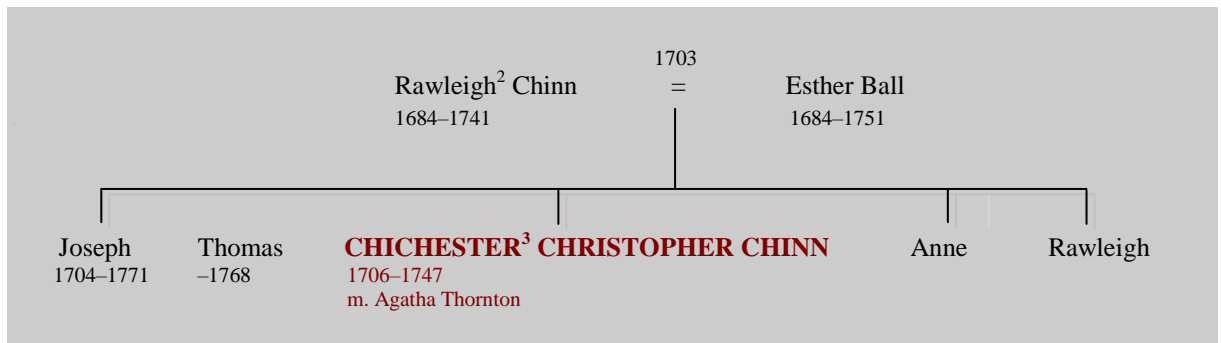
- *History of the Life of William T. Coleman* by Hubert Howe Bancroft, 1891.
- *The Lion of the Vigilantes—William T. Coleman and the Life of Old San Francisco* by James A.B. Scherer, 1939.



End of Coleman Family

3rd generation

CHICHESTER³ CHRISTOPHER CHINN
1706 – 1747
Virginia



CHICHESTER³ CHRISTOPHER CHINN was born about 1706 in Virginia during the reign of Queen Anne of England. He married Agatha Thornton 26 October 1739. She was born 1722 in Virginia and was the daughter of Dr Thomas Thornton (c.1685–1741) and Agatha Curtis (1692–1755). Agatha Thornton Chinn died in 1773.

Chichester and Agatha Thornton Chinn had four children:

1. Richard⁴ Chichester Chinn was born 1739 in Lancaster, Virginia and died 1776 in Carlisle, Kentucky. He married Rhoda Dent in 1765. She was born 1748 in Maryland and died 1800 in Kentucky. They had three children.
2. **Thomas⁴ Thornton Chinn 1740–1773. → See 4th generation**
3. Rawleigh⁴ Chinn was born 1742 and died 1816. He married Judith Glascock on 2 February 1768. He married 2nd to Elizabeth Shearman on 8 February 1797.
4. Agatha⁴ Chinn was born 1744 and died 1823. She married William Kinkead on 7 February 1777.

Chichester³ Christopher Chinn died in Lancaster County, Virginia 12 March 1747.



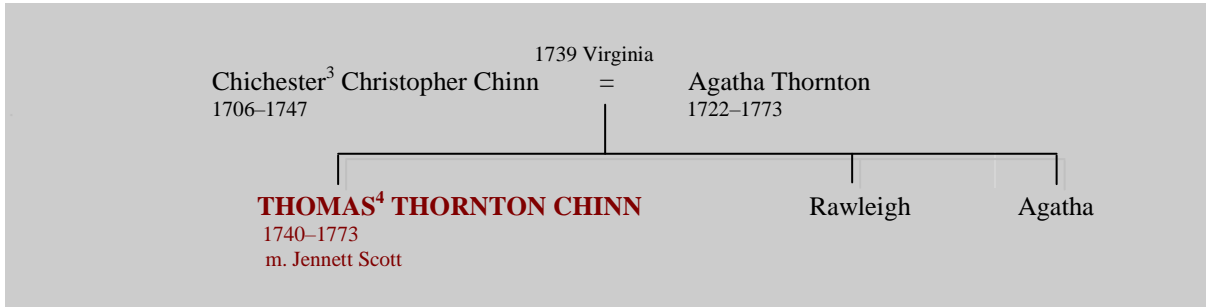
22 November 1718

Blackbeard (Edward Teach), born 1680, the notorious English pirate who operated around the West Indies and the eastern coast of the American colonies, was killed at Ocracoke Inlet off the coast of North Carolina during a bloody battle with an armed contingent sent by Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood and led by Royal Navy Lieutenant Robert Maynard. Maynard returned to Virginia with Blackbeard's severed head hanging from his sloop's bowsprit.



Edward Teach
1680–1718

4th generation

THOMAS⁴ THORNTON CHINN**1740–1773***Virginia*

THOMAS⁴ THORNTON CHINN was born 1740 in Richmond County, Virginia during the reign of George II of Great Britain. He married **Jennett** (sometimes spelt Jennet) **Scott** on the 7 June 1762 in Prince William County, Virginia. Jennett Scott was born in Scotland in 1740 and died 20 July 1790. She was the daughter of Walter Scott (1711–1759) and Janet Inglis (1711–1761). Jennett Scott migrated to America with her two brothers, Robert (1731–1797) and William (1732–1794) around 1759 by which time Thomas Chinn had moved to Prince William County, Virginia with his widowed mother. Jennett's two brothers, Robert and William Scott, both died in Virginia.

Thomas⁴ and Jennett Chinn had four children:

1. Jennett⁵ Chinn was born 10 November 1764 and died 26 January 1827. She married **Enoch Keene Withers** (1760–1813) in 1786. His sister Susannah Withers (1767–1819) married Jennett's brother Senator Chichester Chinn (1771–1814). Jennett and Enoch produced nine children, amongst whom are two requiring mention here.

- A. Alexander⁶ Scott Withers (1792–1865) was the author of *Chronicles of Border Warfare* published in 1831. The book is a history of the settlement of the whites of north-western Virginia and of the Indian wars and massacres in that section of the state. Alexander Scott Withers was born October 12, 1792 near Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia. He was educated at home and in private schools, later attending Washington College and finally studying law at William and Mary.



He married Melinda Fisher on 10 August 1815 and about 1827 moved his growing family to West Virginia, settling near Clarksburg. He devoted much time in researching and writing *Chronicles of Border Warfare*. He served several years as a magistrate near Weston. After the death of his wife in 1853 he made his home with his eldest daughter in Parkersburg. He lived a retired, studious life until his death in 1865 at the age of 73.

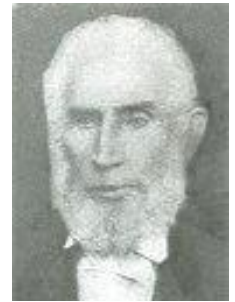


Alexander Scott Withers
1792–1865

- B. Dr Robert⁶ Walter Withers was born 22 February 1795 in Virginia and died 23 October 1881. He married Susan Dabney Alexander. She was born 1795 and died 1860. They had 11 children. He was the author of the document which accompanied the letter from Elizabeth Hereford to Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn (1853–1913).

→ See this chapter, 8th generation.

He was Captain of the 42nd Virginia Infantry in the Jones Brigade battle at Antietam.

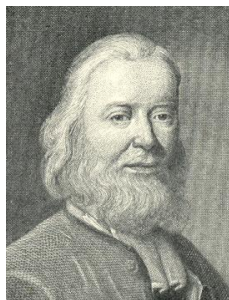
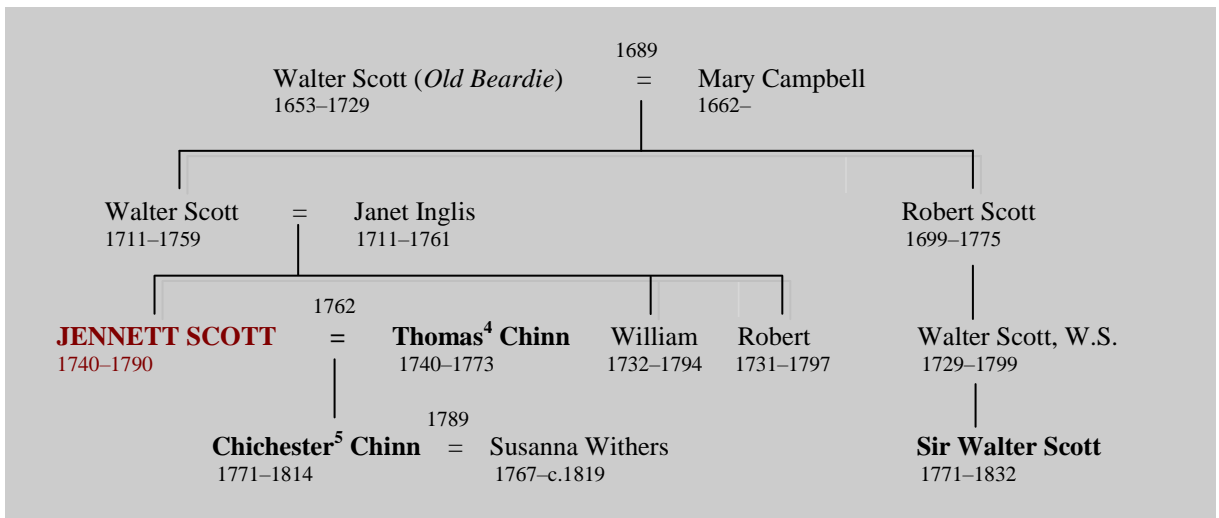


*Dr Robert Walter Withers
1795–1881*

2. Thomas⁵ Scott Chinn was born 23 August 1770 in Virginia and died 1850 in Iowa. He married first Lucinda Stanton about 1787. He married second Nancy Fitch 24 December 1791 and third Susan Smith on 27 April 1823.
3. Chichester⁵ Chinn 1771–1814. → See 5th generation
4. Mary⁵ Inglis Chinn was born 1773 in Virginia and died 1858.

Thomas⁴ Chinn died in Prince William County, Virginia on 7 September 1773 aged 33.

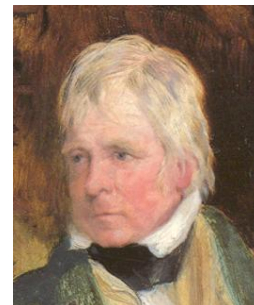
The Scott Connection



*Walter Scott
"Old Beardie"
1653–1729*



*Walter Scott
Writer to the Signet
1729–1799*



*Sir Walter Scott
Poet and Author
1771–1832*

Jennett Scott, Thomas Chinn's wife, has such an illustrious Scottish lineage that it deserves incorporation here. The reader will have to keep alert as her ancestors and relations are littered with the name Walter.

Jennett Scott's father, Walter Scott, born in 1696, was the eldest son of Walter Scott (1653–1729), known affectionately as *Old Beardie*, and his wife Mary Campbell of Silvercraigs. Jennett's father, Walter Scott (1711–1759) married Janet Inglis (1711–1761). He had an elder brother William who at the age of twenty-one was killed in a sword duel. *Old Beardie's* youngest son James went to India and was one of the original settlers of Prince of Wales Island.

Old Beardie's second-born son was Robert Scott (1699–1775), Jennett's uncle, who married Barbara Haliburton (1706–1760) in 1728. Robert Scott and his wife Barbara had a large family. Their eldest son Walter (1729–1799) was well educated and became a lawyer and *Writer to the Signet*. He married Anne Rutherford in 1758 and was the father of **Sir Walter Scott** (1771–1832), the famous poet and author.

Old Beardie was the second son of Walter Scott, 1st Laird of Raeburn, who married Isobel MacDougall. He in turn was the third son of Sir William Scott (1590–1655) who married Agnes 'Muckle-Mouthed Meg' Murray. Sir William was the son of Walter Scott, *Auld Wat* of Harden, (before 1563–1629) who married Mary Scott of Dryhope, the *Flower of Yarrow*.

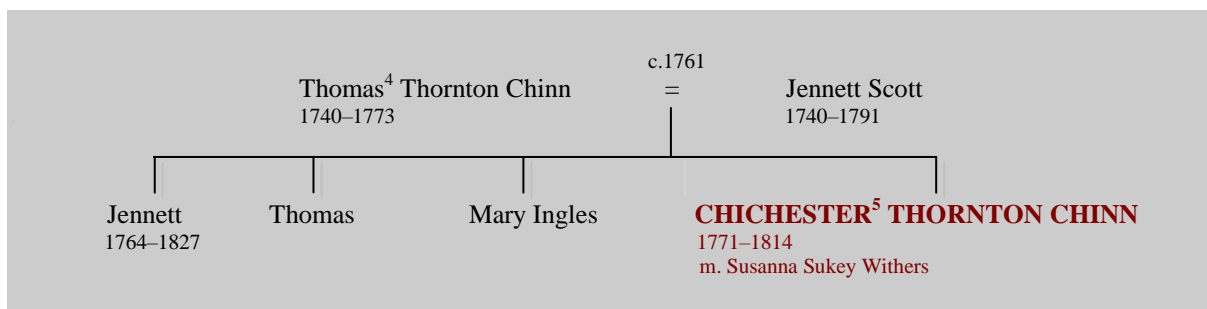


5th generation

SENATOR⁵ CHICHESTER THORNTON CHINN

1771–1814

Virginia to Kentucky



CHICHESTER⁵ THORNTON CHINN was born in Virginia 17 October 1771 during the reign of George III of England and was of Scottish descent through his mother. His maternal great grandfather, Walter Scott, commonly called '*Old Beardie*' was also the great grandfather of Sir Walter Scott, the author. Chichester was a senator from Harrison and Bracken Counties, Kentucky. He represented Bourbon County, Kentucky in the General Assembly in 1799.


Chichester began his education under private tutor in his father's Virginia home, but was sent at an early age to his mother's ancestral home to complete it. He attended school in Kelso and later at the University of Edinburgh with his second cousins Walter (1771–1832) and Thomas Scott. Later on he would receive correspondence from the now Sir Walter Scott

simply addressed: *Chichester Chinn, Esq. F.F.V., Cynthiana, Glen Doakie, America*— ‘Glen Doakie’ because he could never remember Kentucky. The letters ‘F.F.V.’ were to indicate that the Chinns were one of the First Families of Virginia. Unfortunately Sir Walter Scott’s letters to his cousin Chichester were stolen during the Civil War.

Chichester was adopted by his maiden aunts in Scotland. Upon his graduation from the university, they bought him an ensign’s commission in the British Navy. He served in the War between France and England, and was captured. When he was paroled he was returned to Virginia and resigned his commission whereupon his very patriotic aunts disinherited him.

Chichester⁵ married Susanna Sukey Withers on 9 June 1789. She was born in Fauquier County, Virginia on 20 August 1767 and died in Woodville, Mississippi c.1819. She was the daughter of Thomas Withers and the sister of Enock Keene Withers (1760–1813) who married Chichester’s sister Jennett⁵ Chinn.

Chichester and Susanna Chinn moved to Kentucky after their marriage. They had eight children, listed here not necessarily order of birth:

1. **Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn 1791–1852. → See 6th generation**
2. Ethan⁶ Chinn was born about 1792 and died about 1814 in Philadelphia.
3. Jennett⁶ Scott Chinn was born 6 December 1793 in Harrison County, Kentucky and died 21 November 1877. She married Dr. Cato Charles West on 7 September 1810. Cato was born 3 August 1789 in Virginia and died 9 January 1866 in New Orleans. He was the son of the Mississippi Territorial Governor, Colonel Cato Charles West Sr. (1750–1819) and his wife Martha Willis Green (1763–1808). Cato and Jennett produced seven children.
 - A. Thomas⁷ Chinn West was born 1812 in Louisiana and died about 1846 in Mississippi. He married Eliza Connell on 6 March 1834. She was born 1817 in Mississippi and died 28 June 1872 in Louisiana. They had four children.
 - B. William⁷ Howard West was born 1815 and died 16 August 1842.
 - C. Mary⁷ Agatha West was born 1818 and died 14 September 1898.
 - D. Douglas⁷ West was born 1826 in Louisiana and died 24 December 1901. He married Bessie May Conrad on 25 February 1854. In the Civil War he was commissioned an officer in Company I, Louisiana 1st Infantry. Promoted to Full Major. 
 - E. Walter⁷ Scott West was born 22 July 1829 and died 21 September 1853.
 - F. Sarah⁷ Jane West was born January 1831 in Mississippi and died 1870 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She married David Middleton Murdock on 23 October 1845 in Mississippi. They had nine children.
 - G. Susan⁷ J. West was born 1835 and died in New Orleans, Louisiana. She married McWilliam Wright. He was born c.1821 in Ireland and died 17 June 1891 in New Orleans. They had two daughters.
4. Agatha⁶ Ball Chinn was born 1794. She married George Lyttleton Poindexter as his 2nd wife on 13 August 1816 in Clifton Hill, Randolph County, Missouri. George, who became the Governor of Mississippi, was 1st married to Lydia Carter who bore him two children.

Agatha died on 20 September 1822 in Woodville, Wilkinson County, Mississippi. After her death George married Ann Hewes on 15 May 1832 in Willow Springs, Howell County, Missouri.

Mississippi History Now, an online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society, George Poindexter, Second Governor of Mississippi: 1820–1822, by David G. Sansing, Ph.D., history professor emeritus, University of Mississippi:

Poindexter, who was born in Louisa County, Virginia, in 1779, practiced law in Richmond before migrating to Natchez [Mississippi] in 1802. From his successful law practice he launched a long and distinguished political career during which he served as delegate to the territorial assembly, attorney general of the Mississippi Territory, territorial judge, territorial representative to the United States Congress, United States congressman, governor, and United States senator. Poindexter was elected president *pro tempore* of the U.S. Senate in 1834.

At the 1817 Constitutional Convention, Poindexter was chairman of the committee that drafted the constitution and is generally recognised as the 'Father of Mississippi's First Constitution'. He later compiled the *Poindexter Code*, the state's first legal compendium. In 1819, while serving in the U.S. Congress, Poindexter was elected as Mississippi's second governor.

Poindexter's opposition to [President Andrew] Jackson, who was immensely popular in Mississippi, caused his defeat for reappointment to the U.S. Senate in 1835. He left the state an embittered and defeated man. After moving to Lexington, Kentucky, for a short time, Poindexter returned to Jackson [Mississippi] in 1841 and resumed his law practice until his death on September 5, 1853.



George Poindexter
1779–1853

5. Chichester⁶ Thornton Chinn was born 1804 and died 18 February 1874 in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. He married Martha Catherine Ferguson on 23 May 1838 in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. She was the daughter of Robert and Bridget (Bolling) Ferguson. Bridget, born 1820 and died 1854, was the daughter of Christopher and Catherine (Higgins) Bolling. Chichester and Martha had four children.
6. Eliza⁶ Chinn was born in Harrison County, Kentucky in 1807 and died 1876 in Mississippi. She married first John Connell and second Dr Jesse Patrick.
7. Mary⁶ Inglis Chinn was born 1800 and died 1873. She married Thomas West on 3 February 1818.
8. Margaret⁶ Scott Chinn was born in Cynthiana, Kentucky 27 December 1802. She married Brig. General Robert McCausland on 2 May 1820 as his 2nd wife. He was born 20 July 1773 in Ireland and died 11 April 1851 aged 79 in Louisiana.

Margaret died 1 October 1853 of *yellow fever*. Her death was reported in the *Daily Picayune*, p.2, col.6, on 4 October:

DIED

On the 1st inst., of yellow fever, at her residence near Woodville, Miss. **Mrs. M. S. McCAUSLAND**, relict of the late Gen. Robert McCausland



Margaret Scott Chinn
1802–1853

Grace Kennedy of St Francisville, Louisiana, provided the following information on General Robert McCausland:

Robert McCausland was born in County Armagh, Ireland on July 20, 1773. His father, also Robert, was a Scottish-Irish gentleman who was closely related to the noble house of the Earl of Shannon. His mother was Mary Hamilton, a distinguished English lady.

At the age of 18 years, Robert came to America to seek his fortune in the young Republic of the United States. The Indian difficulties having broken out in the Northwest, he volunteered and served under General Anthony Wayne and fought with him through the trying campaign in Ohio and Indiana. U.S. records list him as serving in Adair's Regiment of Kentucky Cavalry.

At the conclusion of hostilities, young Robert McCausland descended the Mississippi River to what is now the state of Louisiana. The wild beauty of the 'Feliciana' country won his heart and he decided that there he would build his home. On June 12, 1798 he filed a claim for 500 arpents of land on 'Rio Feliciana' as Thompson Creek was known in those days and this claim was soon confirmed by Don Manuel Gayoso de Lamos, Spanish Governor of Louisiana.

Robert McCausland died 11 April 1851. He and his wife Margaret had seven children. Margaret died 1 October 1853 during a Yellow Fever epidemic which also took the life of her daughter Eliza.

During the Indian difficulties in the Northwest Robert McCausland volunteered and served under General Anthony Wayne and fought with him through that trying campaign in Ohio and Indiana. At the conclusion of hostilities he descended the Mississippi River to what is now the State of Louisiana. His first wife was Martha Davis whom he married about 1800. Unable to give her husband the family he desired they separated after 15 years.

McCausland was a Brigade commander in 1814 during the Battle of New Orleans in the **War of 1812**.

The McCausland Cemetery in Laurel Hill, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana was the resting place for Robert McCausland, his wife Margaret⁶ Scott Chinn and several of their children and grandchildren.



*Robert McCausland
1773–1851*



*Margaret Scott Chinn
1802–1853*



The plaque reads:
*IN HONOR OF SERVICE
IN THE WAR OF 1812
N.S.
U.S.D.
1812
GEN. ROBERT McCAUSLAND*



Note: N.S. U.S.D. = National Society United States Daughters of 1812, founded in 1892

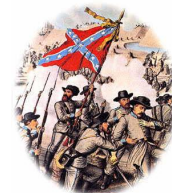
Robert McCausland and his wife Margaret⁶ Scott Chinn had seven children:

- A. Robert⁷ Emmett McCausland was born 9 June 1821 and died 4 March 1890 in New Orleans. He married Mary Louisa Sweeney 29 June 1850. She was born 1831 and died 1875.
- B. Susan⁷ Chinn McCausland was born 19 July 1825 and died 23 December 1837 in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.
- C. Eliza⁷ McCausland was born 28 March 1828 in Louisiana and died 25 October 1853 of *yellow fever*.
- D. Jane⁷ McCausland was born 28 March 1828 in Louisiana and died 26 October 1918 in Houston, Texas. Jane married Cabell⁶ Breckenridge Chinn Sr. on 1 December 1846. He was born 17 November 1823 and died 26 October 1862. Cabell was the son of Judge Richard⁵ Henry Chinn (1795–1847) and his wife Elizabeth Moore Holmes (1798–1846). He was also the brother of Eliza Chinn McHatton Ripley. → See 6th generation, Judge Thomas Withers Chinn.
Jane McCausland and Cabell Chinn had a common ancestor in Raleigh Chinn (1684–1741). → See 2nd generation, this chapter.
- E. Mary⁷ McCausland was born 13 April 1831 and died in childbirth 22 March 1853. She married William H. Sterling on 2 June 1852. He was born about 1827 and died 31 March 1902.

- F. Captain George⁷ McCausland, C.S.A. was born 1837 in Louisiana and killed during Civil War on 17 September 1861. Some records say he was killed by a fellow officer in Virginia. Other records say he died of *pneumonia*. He was attached to Company F, 4th Louisiana Infantry. George was buried in the McCausland Cemetery in Laurel Hill, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.



- G. Marcus⁷ William McCausland was born 16 June 1840 and died 15 January 1874. He married Gertrude Phillips Hebrand. Marcus served with Company D, 1st Louisiana Cavalry Regiment.



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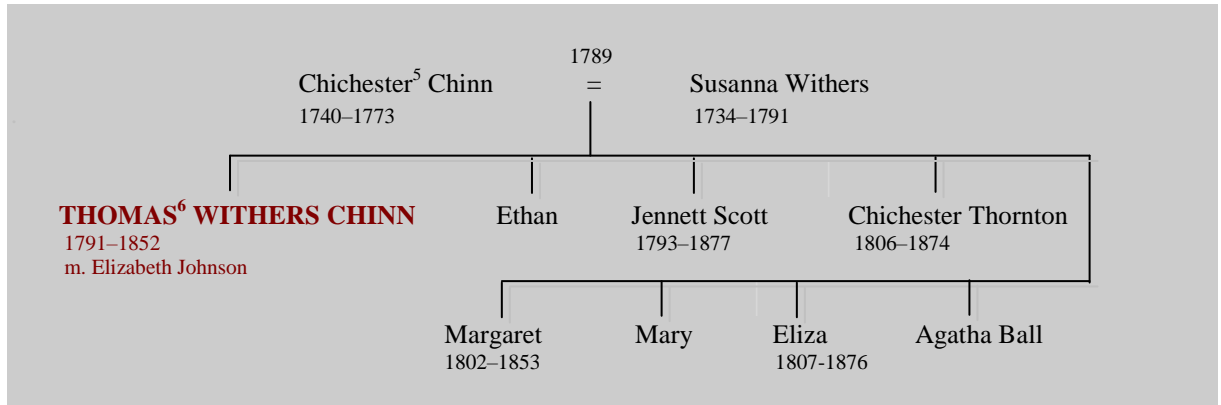
Chichester⁵ Chinn died of *yellow fever* in Frankfort, Kentucky on 7 February 1814 aged 43.



6th generation

JUDGE THOMAS⁶ WITHERS CHINN 1791–1852

Cynthiana, Kentucky to Baton Rouge, Louisiana



*Thomas Withers Chinn
1791–1852*

*Copy of ivorytype portrait
painted in 1839*

THOMAS⁶ WITHERS CHINN was born on 20 November 1791 in Kentucky during the reign of George III of England and George Washington's Presidency. He was a remarkable person and left his mark on Louisiana society in no uncertain terms. So much has been written about him that it is difficult to know which source to draw from in order to provide a short biographical study, and at the same time do justice to this controversial and very talented man.

A man of unusual intelligence, Thomas first studied medicine. After moving to Louisiana he read law and served on the bench prior to being appointed Minister for the Two Sicilies in 1849. His time in Louisiana was split between his public service duties and maintaining a large plantation.

The most concise summary of his life is found in *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography*, Volume I, A to M, published by The Louisiana Historical Society, pp. 175:

CHINN, Thomas Withers, physician, jurist, politician. Born, Cynthiana, Kentucky, November 20, 1791; son of Chichester Chinn, Kentucky senator, 1810–1812. Educated by father; served with Kentucky Volunteers, War of 1812. Entered Western produce trade; removed to Woodville, Miss., ca. 1815; established mercantile business and studied medicine privately. Removed to St. Francisville, La., 1816; sold store, began medical practice. Married Elizabeth Johnson (q.v.), daughter of Isaac Johnson (q.v.), 1817. First Worshipful Master of Felician Lodge No. 31. F. & A.M., 1817; appointed by trustees of St. Francisville to committee to superintend erection of public market house, 1819; studied law privately; appointed first judge of parish of West Feliciana, 1824, from which office he was impeached by Louisiana legislature for misuse of funds and forced to resign, 1826. Incorporator, Baptist Church St. Francisville, 1823; member, first board of trustees, College of Louisiana, Jackson, 1825. Removed to West Baton Rouge Parish, 1827; delegate to Whig convention, 1827; served in

Louisiana legislature, 1833; U.S. Representative, 1839–1841; president, Board of Public Works (State Levee Board); member, constitutional convention, 1844–1845. Appointed *Chargé d’Affaires* to the Two Sicilies by President Zachary Taylor (q.v.), 1849, but resigned for reasons of health. Died, May 22, 1852; interred Cypress Hall Plantation, West Baton Rouge Parish, later reinterred Grosse Tete; cenotaph placed in Magnolia Cemetery, Baton Rouge.

Extracts from *Early Feliciana Politics* by Elrie Robinson, published by St. Francisville Democrat, 1936:

Thomas Withers Chinn was born in Cynthiana, Kentucky, in May 1791, the eldest son of Chichester Thornton Chinn (1771–1813) and Susanna Withers (1767–1819), who had migrated from Virginia. Chichester Chinn was educated in Edinburgh, Scotland. While in Scotland he was closely associated with his cousin, Sir Walter Scott. After returning to his home in Virginia, he married and moved to Kentucky to make his home. Here Thomas Withers Chinn lived with his parents until the outbreak of the second war with England (War of 1812) when he enlisted as a private in the Kentucky Volunteers.

Family traditions have it that he came down the Mississippi River on a raft and took up residence in Feliciana Parish in 1816. Where or when he took up the study of medicine is obscure, but earliest local records establish the fact that he was a practicing physician. When he had established himself here he brought his widowed mother and her children to Feliciana to be near him. He had five sisters: Agatha Ball, who became the wife of Governor Poindexter of Mississippi; Jane [Jennet], who married Cato West of Woodville, Mississippi; Eliza, who married Dr. Jesse Patrick, a Mississippi planter; Mary, who married Thomas West, a Mississippi planter; and Margaret, who married General William McCausland, to whose memory an imposing and expensive monument stands today in the Chinn graveyard a few miles from St. Francisville. There was one brother, Chichester Thornton Chinn.

Thomas Withers Chinn was married to Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of the first Isaac Johnson to settle in these parts, to whom were born a son and a daughter.

Early in his career here Dr. Chinn studied law and began practice in St. Francisville. The Parish of Feliciana was divided in 1824, into East and west Feliciana Parishes and (the now) Judge Chinn was appointed first parish judge of West Feliciana, his conduct of office led to his impeachment before the Legislature in less than two years. It is not known whether Judge Chinn was removed or resigned, but that he resigned is a fair assumption.

The Biographical Directory of the American Congress (1928) states that he removed to West Baton Rouge Parish in the year 1831, but the writer suspects that he removed to that parish shortly after he resigned the office of parish judge in West Feliciana for the records of a statewide Whig convention held in Baton Rouge on November 5, 1827, list Judge Chinn as one of the delegates from West Baton Rouge parish. Judge Chinn was a member of the legislature in 1833, representing West Baton Rouge parish.

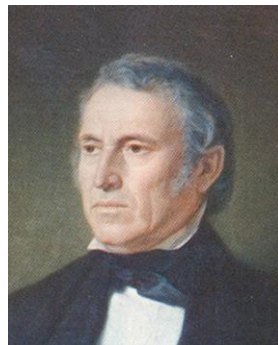
Judge Chinn and Thornton Lawson were opposing candidates to succeed the aging and infirm General Eleazer Ripley for the honor of representing their districts in the lower house of Congress. The Whigs were the political aristocrats of the day and their candidate, Judge Chinn, was elected by a flattering majority carrying not only his home parish of West Baton Rouge, but that of West Feliciana, scene of his earlier political humiliation, and that of East Feliciana, home of his opponent. According to Whig journals of 1838, Judge Chinn's victory was hailed throughout the nation by the party.

Judge Chinn served but one term, not aspiring to another. His single term began on March 4, 1839 and ended on March 3, 1841.

Judge Chinn's crowning achievement came in 1849 when from the hands of his friend and neighbor, President Zachary Taylor, he received the commission of *Chargé d’Affaires* to the two Sicilies. He went to Naples but served only from June to October of that year when he resigned and returned to his plantation in West Baton Rouge.

Entering Magnolia Cemetery, in the city of Baton Rouge, one is immediately aware of an imposing granite tomb, upon which is engraved: "Thomas Withers Chinn, born 20th November, 1791; died 22nd May, 1852".

One would assume that this handsome mausoleum contains the body of Judge Chinn, but that is not the case, as will be seen later.



Zachary Taylor
1784–1850

The author of the above included in her book a biography of Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn by his granddaughter, Tennessee⁸ Robertson (1852–1935) written about 1934. While the foregoing contains information concerning the major events in Judge Chinn's life, Miss Robertson's biography provides so much additional, intimate detail that it is fitting to reproduce extracts here, even though there is some repetition and in some instances dates are at variance with other records.

THOMAS⁶ WITHERS CHINN

A Biography by his Granddaughter Tennessee⁸ Robertson

Chichester⁵ Chinn, son of Thomas⁴ Chinn, was born in Virginia. Chichester began his education under private tutor in his father's home. In his early teens he was sent to Scotland to finish his education, attended school in Kelso and later entered the University of Edinburgh. He entered the British navy as an ensign. During this service he participated in a naval engagement with the French, being taken prisoner. He resigned from the British navy and returned home to Virginia. In 1789 he married Susanna Withers. Soon afterwards he emigrated to Kentucky and established a farm. Their first habitation was a one-room log cabin and in this primitive, pioneer home their first child Thomas Withers Chinn was born on November 22, 1792.

In the course of a few years Chichester improved his farm and built a commodious home upon it. He owned slaves to cultivate the place. Like many pioneers he knew how to use surveyor's instruments and he took part in surveying the line between Virginia and Kentucky and dividing up the three large Virginia counties (that formed the State of Kentucky) into smaller counties.

Chichester Chinn was very prominent in the affairs of Kentucky. He was a member of the Lower House of the Legislature in 1799 and 1800, and a member of the State Senate from 1810 until his death in 1813.

Thomas Withers Chinn was principally educated by his father. When he was sixteen he was placed at a school for boys in Cynthiana, but had to leave after six months to take charge of the management of the farm as his father was frequently absent. In 1810 when Chichester was elected to the Kentucky State Senate the care of the farm devolved upon young Thomas.

Thomas Withers Chinn participated in the **War of 1812** with the Kentucky Volunteers. When he returned from the war he clerked in a store in Cynthiana until his father died in 1813. The care and support of the family now rested entirely upon him.



Having learned something about commercial business while clerking he decided to go into business for himself after his father's death as the care and support of his mother and younger sisters and brothers required more than the Kentucky farm supplied. In 1814 he had a flat-boat built, loaded it with Kentucky produce, employed an experienced flat-boatman to navigate and taking along a negro man he made a trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans, selling his wares along the way. In New Orleans he sold the boat and returned to Kentucky on horseback.

On the way back he stopped in Woodville, Mississippi and visited for a month with his sister [Jennett⁶ Scott] and brother-in-law Cato West. Being very much impressed with the prosperity of cotton planters he conceived the idea of locating in Woodville and establishing a store of general merchandise. Thinking it would be a good idea to sell the Kentucky farm and for the whole family to move to Woodville he decided to lay the matter before his mother when he returned to Kentucky.

On his way through Natchez, Mississippi, he stopped for the night at a hotel kept by Mr. Moses Semple and there met Mrs. Semple's beautiful sister, Elizabeth Johnson. He fell in love with Miss Johnson and lingered at the hotel for a few days.

The next year Mrs. [Susanna] Chichester Chinn sold the two farms and she and her family made their way down the Mississippi to Woodville where they made their home. Thomas Withers Chinn opened his store there and very soon prospered and grew to such an extent that he had to take on a partner. While engaged in this business he studied medicine and began the practice of that profession, leaving the store in the hands of his partner.

In 1817 he married Elizabeth Johnson. The wedding took place at her father's place on Troy Plantation near St. Francisville, Louisiana. Dr. Chinn bought a home in St. Francisville and lived there until 1831. While practicing medicine he read law and became so learned in it that the governor appointed him the first parish judge of West Feliciana parish. In 1825 Judge Chinn bought a plantation in the parish of West Baton Rouge and named it Cypress Hall Plantation. He bought slaves on each plantation and grew cotton and sugar. In 1831 he took up residence on the plantation with his family.

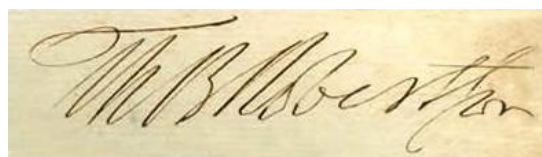
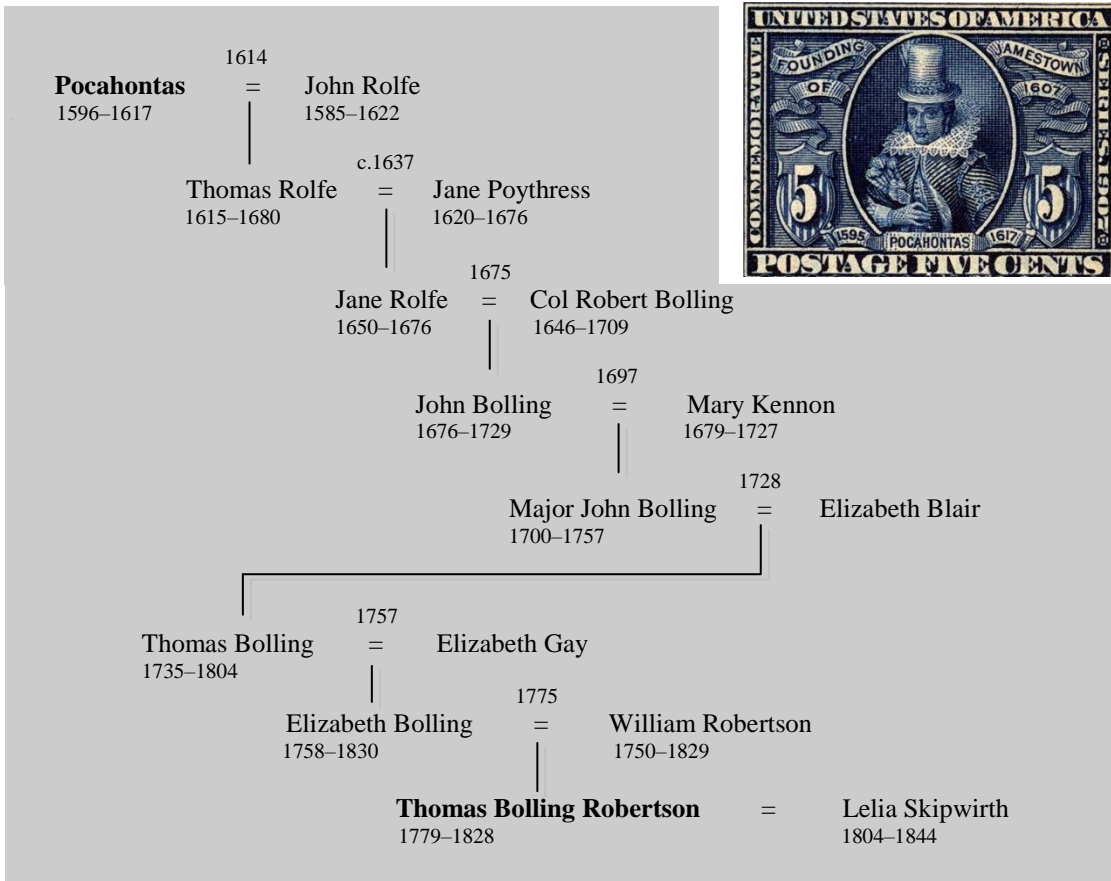
Judge Chinn was great friends with **Governor Thomas Bolling Robertson** and named his son for Governor Robertson— Bolling Robertson Chinn. The Governor was a Virginian and he was of that branch of the Robertsons who are descended from Pocahontas. She was featured on a 5¢ US Postage stamp issued in 1907 as shown below.

When Judge Chinn and his family moved to Cypress Hall Plantation a governess was employed to teach the three children, Mary⁷, Elizabeth⁷ and Bolling⁷. Later the two girls were sent to fashionable schools in Baton Rouge and New Orleans and Bolling was sent to Jefferson College.

Mary Chinn married William Blount Robertson II, (no relation to Governor Robertson) a prominent lawyer, judge and sugar planter. [Note: Their daughter Tennessee⁸ is the author of this biography. Another daughter, Elizabeth⁸, who married John B. Hereford, is the author of the letter to Thomas Withers Chinn Jr. → see 9th generation, this chapter].



Thomas Bolling Robertson
1779-1828



Signature of Thomas Bolling Chinn

In 1839 when Judge Chinn was in Washington City attending a session of Congress, he had a picture of himself painted on ivory for his wife. This *ivorytype* is now in the possession of Judge Chinn's great-grandson, **Felix⁹ S. Hereford** of Dallas Texas.

Judge Chinn was of the Episcopal faith and perhaps had been baptized in infancy according to the custom of the Episcopal Church, but he believed that immersion was the truest form of Baptism. He was immersed in the Mississippi river on the front of Cypress Hall Plantation by Mr. Ranaldson, a Baptist minister from East Feliciana.

In 1849 Judge Chinn was appointed United States Minister to the Two Sicilies by **President Zachary Taylor** and left Baton Rouge in the spring of that year to take up his diplomatic duties in Naples. Upon arriving in Paris, Judge Chinn was taken very ill with inflammatory rheumatism and erysipelas, two maladies from which he had frequently suffered. Being a physician and realizing the seriousness of his condition he decided to return home and resign from the diplomatic service. He never regained his health.

When Judge Chinn became Judge he turned his medical practice over to his wife's brother-in-law, Dr Nathaniel Wells Pope, and never resumed the practice of medicine. Judge and Mrs. Chinn knew **Mr. & Mrs. Audubon** very well and frequently entertained them. John Audubon was the famous American naturalist and painter of wildlife. The Audubons were for some time members of the household of Dr Pope. Judge Chinn and Dr Pope had both married daughters of Isaac Johnson. Audubon was particularly the friend of Dr. Pope who had clerked in Audubon's store in Lexington, Kentucky when a young man. When Audubon arrived in West Feliciana he was a broken merchant and penniless, and Dr. and Mrs. Pope took he and Mrs. [Lucy] Audubon, née Bakewell, into their home and charged them no board. After a while Mrs. Audubon was engaged as governess to the Pope children.

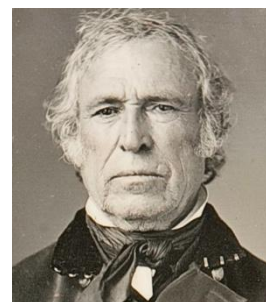


John James Audubon
1785–1851

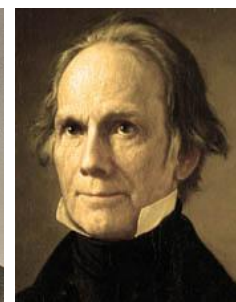
Judge Chinn was the first subscriber to Audubon's works and acquired the first set of "*The Birds of America*" and the "*Quadrupeds of America*". Judge Chinn was a man of refined taste and appreciated Audubon's work.

According to traditions, the Chinns and Taylors were friends through several generations. In Virginia and Kentucky, Thomas Withers Chinn and General Zachary Taylor were close friends, and were very much in each other's company the latter part of their lives. When General Taylor retired from the Army he bought a plantation in East Baton Rouge and had settled down to cotton planting when he was nominated for President.

When Henry Clay was in Louisiana in the 1840s he was the house-guest of Judge Chinn's neighbor. The Judge gave a great dinner party in Henry Clay's honor and there was a great gathering of Whigs from afar and near, including Judge Chinn's friend Zachary Taylor.



Zachary Taylor
1784–1850

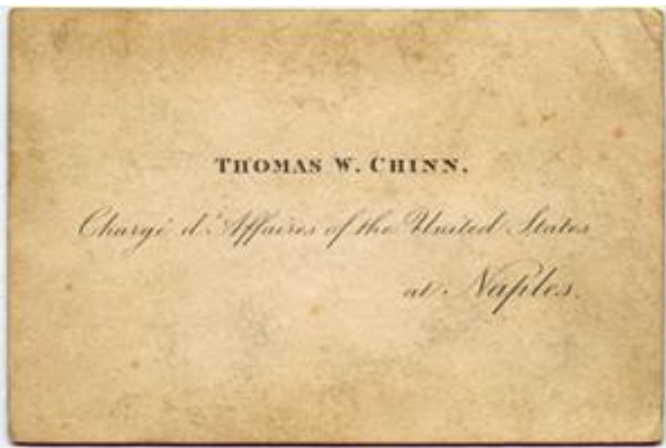


Henry Clay
1777–1852

Judge Chinn was a remarkably handsome man. He had light hair, grey eyes and fair complexion. He was very tall and of graceful bearing. He was a cultured and polished gentleman of engaging manners and affability. He made friends easily and enjoyed the life-long friendship of some of the first men of his time. His integrity was unimpeachable and in his family he was kind and indulgent. He was a humane and ever-thoughtful master of his slaves, for whom he had great compassion.

Judge Chinn was a remarkable financier. He gave his small inheritance to his mother and made every dollar of his fortune himself. At one time he was worth nearly half a million in money, real estate, slaves and other property. He was a member of the Episcopal Church, a Free Mason and an Old Line Whig.

After Judge Chinn's death the Cypress Hall plantation became the inheritance of his only son, Bolling Robertson Chinn. During the Civil War, when the Federal Army invaded West Baton Rouge, Federal soldiers tore Cypress Hall residence almost to pieces to obtain timber to build hospitals for Federal soldiers wounded in the battle of Baton Rouge. The skeleton of the house was set on fire and burned by the Federal soldiers to give light to the Federal gunboats the night they went up the Mississippi river to participate in the Battle of Port Hudson.



Thomas Withers Chinn's official business card denoting his capacity as Chargé d'Affaires of the United States at Naples

Judge Thomas Withers Chinn's signature

oOo

Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn owned a plantation on the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge which he named Cypress Hall Plantation. It is likely he farmed cotton, tea and tobacco. To operate a plantation in Louisiana in those times he would have had numerous slaves like everyone else. Of course, slaves were not peculiar to the South. Many families in the North also had slaves as did a lot of famous people such as Thomas Jefferson. It was not until towards the middle of the 1800s that the movement to abolish slavery gained momentum, a struggle which culminated in the Civil War.

20 August 1619

Slavery commenced in the United States.

The first Africans were brought to America by the Dutch in 1619. Slavery was still a legal institution in all thirteen colonies at the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. While most Northern states had partially abolished slavery at the end of the Revolutionary War the rapid expansion of the cotton industry in the South after the invention of the cotton gin greatly increased the need for slave labour.



20 March 1852

Uncle Tom's Cabin or *Life among the Lowly* was published. It is an anti-slavery novel by American author Harriet Beecher Stowe.

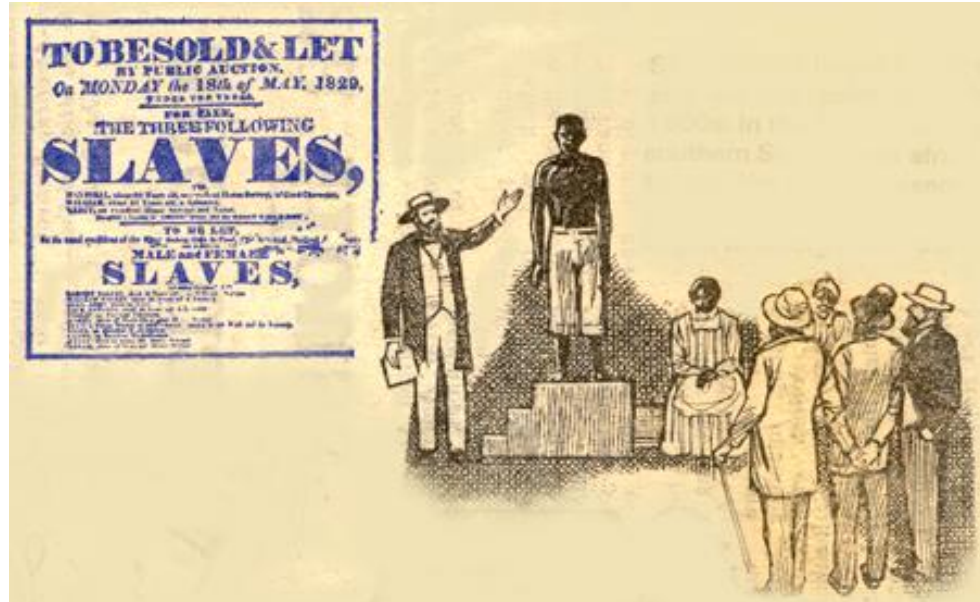
The book was the best-selling novel of the 19th century and is credited with helping fuel the abolitionist cause in the 1850s.



*Harriet Beecher Stowe
1811–1896*

Local historian, Brenda Perkins of Baton Rouge, provided an item of news in the *Baton Rouge Gazette*, 12 December 1829:

ACCIDENT. Two days ago, a Negro man belonging to Judge Chinn in the Parish of West Baton Rouge had one of his hands caught between the rollers of the sugar mill while greasing the wheels. "Very luckily, the horses, being gentle, stopped at the first cry; otherwise the whole arm may have gone through".



Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn married Elizabeth Johnson on 5 March 1817. Born about 1794, Elizabeth was the daughter of Isaac Johnson and his wife Mary née Routh. The Johnson family owned Troy Plantation and that is where Thomas and Elizabeth were wed. Elizabeth Johnson Chinn died 1877.

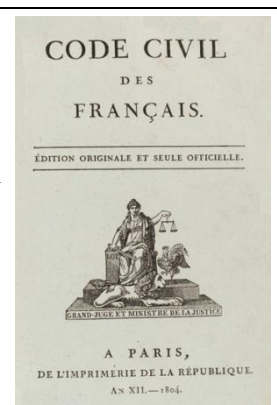
Old Families of Louisiana, by Stanley Clisby Arthur, p.172:

JOHNSON, p.172:

Elizabeth Johnson, born in 1794, fourth daughter of Isaac Johnson and Mary Routh ... married March 5, 1817, Thomas Withers Chinn ... he died at Cypress Hall, May 22, 1852, and his widow died there in 1877.

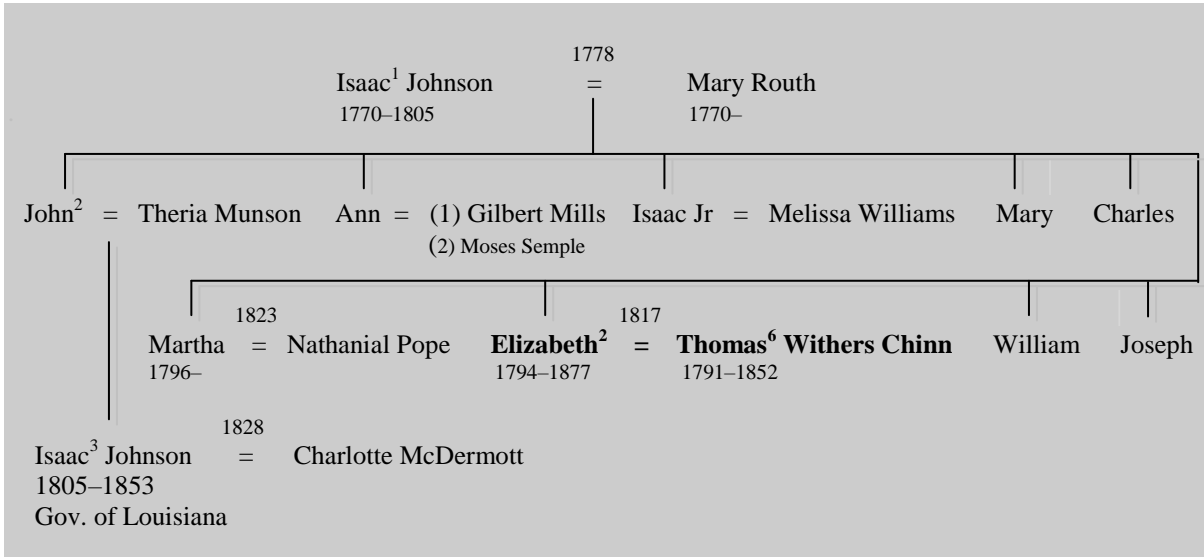
21 March 1804

The Napoleonic Code (*Code Napoléon* or officially *Code civil des Français*) was entered into force and is the French civil code established under Napoleon. The code forbade privileges based on birth, allowed freedom of religion and specified that government jobs must go to the most qualified. The legal system in Louisiana, unlike that of any other state, derives from the Civil Code established by the French Emperor in 1804. Before it became a state in 1812 Louisiana was a French colony.



The Johnson Family

Much of the information on the Johnson family has been extracted from *Old Families of Louisiana* by Stanley C. Arthur and George Campbell Huchet de Kernon, published in 1931.



Isaac¹ Johnson came to West Florida from Liverpool, England about 1776 with five other young men. One of the six immigrants was James Mather, a merchant who had his bride with him. He was to be connected to the Conrad and Duncan families of East Baton Rouge.

→ See 7th generation: **Bolling Robertson Chinn**.

Isaac, who was born in 1755, was the son of John Johnson, an Episcopal minister, and Margaret Hunter, both of Liverpool, England. In 1777 Isaac received a British land grant for 1000 acres about 8 miles southeast of the old Natchez Fort, on a fork of Second Creek.

In 1778 he married Mary Matilda Routh, daughter of Jeremiah Routh and his wife Margaret, who with their large family had settled on Cole's Creek. When Spain acquired West Florida in 1779 he became friends with the governors; indeed two of his sons bear the names of Spanish governors. He was appointed *Alcalde* (in Spanish America the term *Alcalde* was used for the mayor or chief magistrate of a town) of his district by Governor Carlos de Grand Pré. In 1799 he moved to the Feliciana section of Louisiana and was again became *Alcalde* until 1805. Isaac bought a large plantation near St. Francisville which he named Troy Plantation.

Isaac¹ Johnson died 22 June 1805 in West Feliciana, Louisiana, after which his sons John² and Joseph² acquired the property.

Mary Matilda Routh Johnson wa born c.1760 in Virginia and died before 1821 in Louisiana.

Isaac¹ and Mary Routh Johnson had ten children, listed not necessarily in order of birth:

1. John² Hunter Johnson was born in 1778 in the Natchez District, British West Florida, now Louisiana. He was educated by his father. In 1797 he married Thenia Munson. She was born 1778 in New York and died 1825. John had a leading role in the West Florida Rebellion and served as a British officer in Natchez during the English occupation. He later became a lawyer, planter, parish sheriff and judge, finally settling at Fairview Plantation on Bayou Sara. John died in 1819 at Troy Plantation.

John² and Thenia Johnson had ten children. Four are listed here.

- A. Margaret³ Johnson was born 12 March 1799 and died 16 June 1858. She married Judge John Bennett Dawson He was born 17 March 1788 in Tennessee and died 26 June 1845 in Louisiana. They had four children. Besides his judicial position was elected to Congress and in 1934 was an unsuccessful candidate against Edward Douglas White (father of the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court of the same name). John Bennett Dawson's sister, Anna Ruffin Dawson, married Margaret's uncle Charles² Grand Pré Johnson. → See further on.



*John B. Dawson
1788–1845*



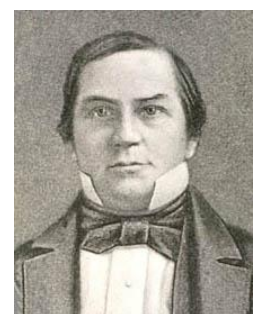
*Robert C. Wickliffe
1819–1895*

Their daughter Annie⁴ Ruffin Dawson, born c.1824 and died 1855. She married Robert Charles Wickliffe . He was born 6 January 1819 and died 18 April 1895. He became governor of Louisiana in 1858. Annie died 18 May 1853 after which Wickliffe married Annie Davis Anderson. She was born 1837 and died 1876.

- B. Isaac³ Johnson, named after his grandfather, was born 1 November 1803 on his father's plantation 'Troy' near St Francisville, Spanish West Florida, now West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. He became the first Democratic chief executive of Louisiana in 1846 and its war governor during the hostilities with Mexico. He read law under his father and his uncle Joseph E. Johnson. In 1828 Isaac established his own law practice.

That same year on 15 January he married Charlotte McDermott. She died in 1847. Johnson was appointed a judge in 1839 in what was, at that time, the 3rd Judicial Court. In 1846 Isaac assumed the office of Governor at age 43, winning office against the Whig candidate William De Buys. However, his tenure was controversial. In the Mexican War he wanted to annex all of Mexico. He later proposed the expansion of slavery to new territories, denouncing the Wilmot Proviso to prohibit slavery in those areas.

By 1848 he had fallen out of favour. The following year the State government moved to its new capital—Baton Rouge. Shortly afterwards Isaac retired from office. His successor appointed him Attorney General for the State of Louisiana.



*Isaac Johnson
1805–1853*

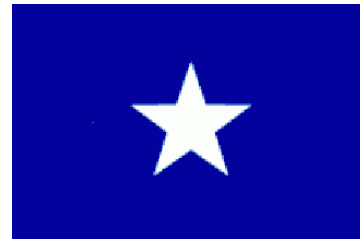
Isaac³ Johnson married a second time to Julia J. Johnson of Kentucky (not related) on 1 October 1850 in Kentucky. She was born 29 December 1819 in Kentucky and died February 1870 in Arkansas. This union produced one son.

Isaac³ Johnson died on 15 March 1853 of a heart attack at the Verandah Hotel in New Orleans and was buried at Troy Plantation. Two of his sons died of *yellow fever* that same year. Isaac³ and Charlotte Johnson had three children.

- C. Joseph³ Eugenius Johnson was born 4 October 1807 in Spanish West Florida, now Louisiana, and died 1838. Joseph became president of the Louisiana senate, a position he resigned when he became stricken with *tuberculosis*.
- D. Charles³ Llewellyn Johnson Sr was born 1 August 1808 and died 1851. He at one time was sheriff of West Feliciana. He married Martha Rachel Cureton, She was born June 1816 and died after 1900. They had seven children.
2. Ann² Waugh Johnson was born c.1780 in Natchez District, British West Florida. She married 1st Gilbert Mills about 1806 and 2nd Moses Semple about 1810.
3. Isaac² Johnson Jr was born 20 November 1779 in Natchez, Mississippi and died 6 June 1826, 1779 in Natchez, Mississippi. He was captain of a line of barges that made regular trips between Bayou Sara and New Orleans. He was noted far and wide for his dare-devil bravery and as major of the Bayou Sara cavalry led the cheering patriots who captured the fort of Baton Rouge in September 1810, shot down the Spanish defenders, hauled the royal ensign of Castile and Leon from the pole and hoisted in its stead a blue banner with a single gleaming white star—the Lone Star Flag of the short-lived West Florida Republic. Isaac married Melissa Williams on 28 October 1808 in East Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was born about 1783 and died 23 June 1870 in Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The West Florida Rebellion and the Bonnie Blue Flag

On 9 January 1861, the Convention of the People of Mississippi adopted an Ordinance of Secession. With the announcement of the Ordinance, a large blue flag bearing a single white star was raised over the capitol building in Jackson. One of the witnesses to this event, an Irish born actor named Harry MaCarthy, was so inspired by the spectacle that he wrote a song entitled The Bonnie Blue Flag, which was destined to be the second most popular patriotic song in the Confederacy.



The first recorded use of a lone star flag dates to 1810. At that time the portion of Louisiana east of the Mississippi River, along with the southern portions of Mississippi and Alabama, made up the Spanish province of West Florida. This area had one been a part of French Louisiana. In 1763, after the French and Indian War, France ceded New Orleans and all of Louisiana west of the river to Spain. That portion of Louisiana east of the river was ceded to Great Britain, which named the region West Florida. West Florida was conquered by Spain during her campaigns as an American ally in the Revolutionary War. When France later re-acquired Louisiana from Spain, there was some dispute about whether or not the transaction included West Florida. Spain refused to relinquish control of the province, and the United States inherited the dispute when they purchased Louisiana from France in 1803.

The inhabitants of West Florida were in large part English speaking people on whom the authoritarian rule of Spain did not wear well. They were disappointed in the failure of the United States to annex the territory, and in 1804 an unsuccessful revolt was lead by the brothers Reuben, Nathan, and Sam Kemper. In the years following the Kemper Rebellion, the English speaking people of West Florida attempted to secure some degree of traditional English liberties within the framework of their Spanish government. This culminated in a convention of the people meeting in 1810 to press for some form of constitutional guarantees. Governor de Lassus pretended to cooperate with the convention while sending to the governor of East Florida for troops to put down this perceived threat to his authority.

Upon learning of the governor's duplicity, the supporters of the convention turned to open rebellion. On Saturday, September 11, 1810, a troop of dragoons under the command of **Major Isaac Johnson** set out for the provincial capitol at Baton Rouge. At the head of the column rode a colour sergeant carrying a blue flag with a single, five-pointed white star. This flag had been made a few days before by **Mrs. Melissa Johnson**. Together with other

republican forces under the command of Colonel Philemon Thomas, these men captured Baton Rouge without loss to themselves, imprisoned Governor Don Carlos de Hault de Lassus, and on September 23, 1810, raised their bonnie blue flag over the fort of Baton Rouge. Three days later, John Rhea, president of the West Florida convention, signed a Declaration of Independence, and the lone star flag became the emblem of a new republic.

The Republic of West Florida was short-lived. When Spanish rule was removed from the country with neither the use of American troops nor risk to itself, the government of the United States was interested in asserting its claim to West Florida. On October 27, 1810, President James Madison issued a proclamation declaring West Florida under the jurisdiction of the governor of the Louisiana Territory. On December 10, 1810, the flag of the United States replaced the Bonnie Blue flag over Baton Rouge, and the Republic of West Florida passed into history.



West Florida around 1810 which then incorporated New Orleans and Baton Rouge

The memory of the West Florida movement lived on in Southern tradition. Twenty-nine years later the Republic of Texas adopted a similar national flag, replacing the white star with a yellow star. Another twenty-two years after that, for a few weeks in 1861, the lone star flag of West Florida would rise again as the unofficial flag of the Republic of Mississippi; and Harry MaCarthy's song would spur it on into the romantic lore of the South. When the song was first played in New Orleans before a mixed audience of Texans and Louisianans, it was received with an outburst of approval that was nearly riotous.

The flag's existence was mostly a factor of Macarthy's song. It was not much used as a secession flag, being far overshadowed by palmetto flags and by lone star flags in colours other than a white star on a blue field. It was never adopted by the Confederate government, although Mississippi did adopt an official flag on January 26, 1861 that incorporated it as a canton. But as a result of Macarthy's song, the Bonnie Blue Flag spread across the Confederate nation and into the hearts of its people.

Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr.

4. Mary² Johnson was born 1785 in Mississippi and died 16 July 1850. She married Aaron Gorham from Connecticut on 29 May 1807. He was a New Orleans contracting carpenter and sugar planter in West Baton Rouge and was rapidly making his fortune when he died of *yellow fever* in 1825. They had two sons:
 - A. John³ Lyon Gorham was born about 1810. He married Helene Elmire leBlanc. John and Elmire had two children.
 - B. Daniel³ B. Gorham was born 23 May 1813 and died 11 March 1855. He became a physician and married Caroline Philips. She was born 20 December 1820 and died 1 January 1888.
5. Charles² *Grand Pré* Johnson was born c.1795 in Mississippi and died 1 November 1854 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On 20 October 1815 he married Anna Ruffin Dawson, the sister of John B. Dawson, who had married Margaret³ Johnson, Charles's niece. Charles was captain of the West Florida Dragoons, the troop that rendered

splendid service to Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. Charles and Anna had two daughters.

After the death of his first wife, Captain Charles² *Grand Pré* Johnson married Eliza Eddington of Liverpool, England on 1 September 1835. She died soon after the birth of their son, Charles³ James Johnson, who was to become a medical doctor. He married Louise Butler McCrindall.

Charles *Grand Pré* Johnson died in West Baton Rouge parish on 1 November 1854.

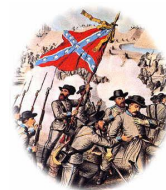
6. Carolina² Matilda Johnson was born 19 January 1792 and died 3 January 1838. She married Benjamin Collins on 27 March 1811. He was a Virginian who became sheriff of the Felicianas. They had five children.
7. Joseph² Eugenius Johnson was born 1780 at Troy Plantation, Louisiana and died December 1828. He married Martha Barrow ‘Patsy’ Lane on 17 March 1808 in Mississippi. During the West Florida Rebellion Joseph was made sheriff of New Feliciana, and in the War of 1812 he was detailed as captain of the home guards because the slaves of Feliciana section became so unruly it required military patrols to keep them in subjection. He served in the Battle of New Orleans.
8. William² *Gayoso* Johnson was born 1802 in Louisiana. He married Eliza Collins Johnson (no relation) on 18 March 1821. She was the daughter of William Garrett Johnson. They had eight children.
9. **Elizabeth² Johnson** was born in 1794 in Mississippi and died 1877 in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On 5 March 1817 she married Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn.
10. Martha² Johnson was born 1 March 1796 on Troy Plantation, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana and died 15 February 1884. She married Dr Nathaniel Wells Pope on 18 February 1823. He was born 23 January 1789 in Kentucky and was the son of John Pope (1761–1837) and Jane Spears (1763–1806). Dr Pope died 2 July 1836 in East Baton Rouge Parish. Martha and Nathaniel Pope had eight children:



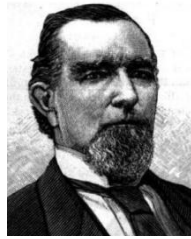
- A. Caroline³ Pope was born 20 October 1823 and died 24 January 1866. She married William Davis Phillips of Baton Rouge. He was born c.1821 and died 19 March 1895. Caroline and William Phillips had six children
- B. Florida³ Pope was born 17 June 1825 in Louisiana and died 30 November 1829.
- C. John³ Johnson Pope was born 16 July 1826.
- D. Nathaniel³ Wells Pope Jr was born 30 October 1827 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and died 13 January 1886. He married Leodocia Robertson on 23 June 1858. She was the daughter of James Erwin Robertson and Ernestine Marie Schlatre. She was born 1 September 1837 and died 1881. Nathaniel Jr. studied law, became a leader in his profession and was elected judge of his district. He held the rank of captain in the Confederate Army. Nathaniel and Leodocia had four children.



Nathaniel W. Pope
1827–1886



- E. Mary³ Jane Pope was born 25 September 1832 and died 1870. She married Edward White Robertson (1823–1887). During the Civil War, he served as Captain of a company which he had raised for the 27th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, Confederate Army.

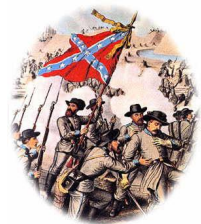


*Edward White Robertson
1823–1887*

Edward was a distinguished member of the bar and served his district in Congress. The old Robertson home is a landmark in Baton Rouge. Mary Jane and Edward Robertson had twelve children.



- F. Ann³ Pope was born 25 September 1832 and died in childhood.
- G. Dr. Marshall³ Pope was born 26 November 1833 in Louisiana and died about 1894. He married Sidney Angela Conrad (See Conrad and Duncan Families – 7th generation: **Bolling Robertson Chinn**). Marshall studied medicine and became a prominent physician and was chief surgeon of the division of Southern Louisiana and West Mississippi, Fourth Louisiana Regiment in the Civil War.



- H. William³ Pope was born 2 August 1836 in Louisiana and died in 1883. He married Leonora Holmes on 20 October 1857 in Mississippi. She was born 17 May 1841 in Mississippi and died 1875 in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Leonora came from a wealthy and aristocratic Natchez family. William became a lawyer, elected judge and served in the Mississippi legislature. He was a captain in the Confederate Army. For many years Judge Pope lived on the Benjamin Holmes plantation near Natchez. After the death of his wife he moved to West Baton Rouge parish.



End of Johnson Family

24 May 1883

The Brooklyn Bridge is opened. Completed in 1883, it connects the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn by spanning the East River. The bridge has a main span of 1,595 feet or 486 metres and was the first steel-wire suspension bridge constructed. It was designed by German immigrant John Augustus Roebling and took 14 years to complete. After an serious accident leaving him incapacitated Roebling placed his son Washington in charge of the project.



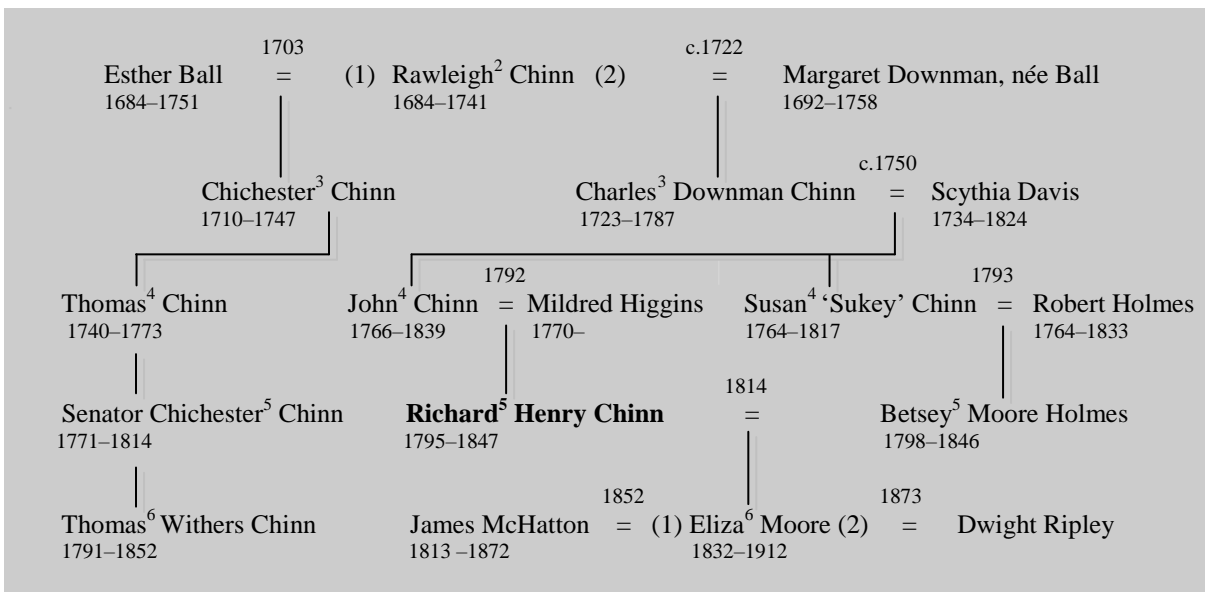
Richard⁵ Henry Chinn

Judge Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn was a cousin of sorts to Richard⁵ Henry Chinn (1795–1847), law partner and close friend of Henry Clay Sr. Richard went onto become a judge like his cousin. Both men were descended from Rawleigh² Chinn (1684–1741), Thomas from Rawleigh's first wife Esther Ball and Richard from his second, Margaret (Ball) Downman, though there is some question as to whether Rawleigh and Margaret were formally married. While Thomas and Richard were about the same age, they were a generation apart, as the diagram below shows. Another descendant of this union was Richard's nephew William⁶ Tell Coleman (1824–1893). He was the son of Richard's sister Scythia⁵ who married Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman.



*Richard Henry Chinn
1795–1847
Painted by Hardin*

Richard⁵ married his first cousin Elizabeth⁵ ‘Betsy’ Moore Holmes on 16 April 1814. She was born 5 May 1798 and died 3 October 1846 in Galveston, Texas. Betsy was the daughter of Robert Holmes (1764–1833) and Susan⁴ ‘Suckey’ Chinn (1764–1817). Betsy's mother and Richard's father, John⁴ Chinn (1766–1839) were the children of Charles³ Downman Chinn and Scythia Davis. → See this chapter: 2nd generation, Rawleigh Chinn.



Richard⁵ Henry Chinn and his wife Betsy had twelve children who were all born in Kentucky. Two warrant mentioning here:

1. Cabell⁶ Breckenridge Chinn Sr was born 17 November 1823 in Lexington, Kentucky and died 26 October 1862 in Louisiana six weeks after his last child was born. He married Jane⁷ McCausland who was born 28 March 1828 and died 26 October 1918. Jane and Cabell had a common ancestor in Raleigh² Chinn (1684–1741). They had eight children.
 → See this chapter: Senator Chichester⁵ Chinn, 5th generation.
 → See also this chapter, 2nd generation.
2. **Eliza⁶ Moore Chinn** was born 1 February 1832 and died 13 July 1912 in Brooklyn, New York. She was buried in Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, Kentucky. Eliza⁶ was named after her mother, Betsey Moore Holmes.



*Eliza Moore Chinn, aged 22
1832–1912
Painted by Moïse*

Later in her life, as Eliza Ripley, she wrote several books about her life in the South, her last, *Social Life in Old New Orleans, Being Recollections of my Girlhood* was published in 1912, the year of her death. Two extracts warrant inclusion here, one being a short account of the author's life, and the other from her chapter entitled *A Monument to Mammies*.

pp. 331-332:

Eliza Moore, tenth of twelve children of Richard Henry and Betsey Holmes Chinn, was born in Lexington, Kentucky on the first day of February, 1832. Three years later Judge Chinn [her father] moved his family to New Orleans, where he continued the practice of law until his death in '47.



*James Alexander McHatton
1813–1872*

On August 24, 1852, Eliza Chinn and James Alexander McHatton were married in Lexington, Kentucky, and for ten years thereafter they lived at Arlington Plantation on the Mississippi, a few miles below Baton Rouge, leaving hastily in '62 upon the appearance of Federal gunboats at their levee.

During the remainder of the war they lived almost continuously in army ambulances, conveying cotton from Louisiana across Texas to Mexico. In February 1865, they went to Cuba, and lived there until the death of Mr. McHatton, owning and operating, with mixed negro and coolie labor, a large sugar plantation—"Desengaño."

James Alexander McHatton

1870 Passport Application

After her return to the United States Mrs Eliza McHatton was married to Dwight Ripley, July 9, 1873, and the remainder of her life was passed in the North. In 1887 Mrs. Ripley published '*From Flag to Flag*'—a narrative of her war-time and Cuban experiences, now out of print.

The reminiscences which make up the present volume have been written at intervals during the last three or four years. The final arrangements for their publication were sanctioned by her the day before she passed away—on July 13, 1912, in the eighty-first year of her age.

ibid., p. 211, *A Monument to Mammies*:

When a child I made frequent visits to my cousin, Judge Chinn's [Thomas Withers] plantation in West Baton Rouge. I believe that hospitable house has long since vanished into the river, with its store of pleasant memories. How I always, when I arrived there, had to run find mammy first thing, and how she folded me in her warm embrace and delighted my ears with, "*How dis chile do grow.*" Every visitor at that grand, hospitable home knew mammy. She always stood back of the judge's chair, and with signals directed the young girls how to wait at table.

She managed after the children grew up, married and settled (some of them settled, Creole fashion, in the home nest too) that whole big and mixed household, where another generation of babies came to claim a portion of her love and care. Nobody thought to go to the judge or his wife for anything. "All applications", to use an office phrase, "made to mammy". She was always ready to point the way or to help one through it.

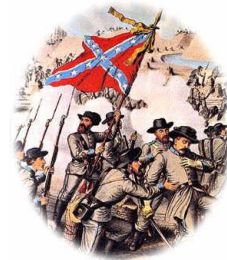
James Alexander McHatton died 3 March 1872 in St Louis, Missouri. His remains were returned to his home state where he was buried at Lexington Cemetery, Kentucky.

Eliza's second husband was Dwight Ripley Jr. They were married 9 July 1873 in Virginia. He was born 8 June 1829 in Norwich, Connecticut and died 17 December 1907 in Brooklyn, New York.

His obituary was printed in the *New York Times* two days later:

Dwight Ripley.

Dwight Ripley died on Tuesday night at the age of 78 years at his home, 24 South Portland Avenue, Brooklyn, after an adventurous career. At 20 he found himself in the goldfields of California. Before the outbreak of the civil war he had married and become an exporter of cotton in Alabama and Mississippi. He fought as a Major in the Confederate Army. His second wife, whom he married at the close of the war, was a noted Southern belle, Eliza Chinn. She was the authoress of several books, in which she described her experiences during the war. Mr. Ripley leaves two daughters and a son. He was prominent in Masonic circles, being a thirty-third degree Mason.



Eliza Ripley *Dwight Ripley*

1874 Passport Applications

A copy of the following Power of Attorney, dated April 1856, Eliza Chinn McHatton gave to her brother Richard H. Chinn (1826–1900), so named after his father and also a lawyer, was provided by Brenda Perkins of Baton Rouge:

Baton Rouge April 19th 1856 / H. V Babin, Sheriff
Recorded 10th July 1857 Saml. Skolfield Recorder

State of Louisiana
Parish of East Baton Rouge

Be it known that on the day of the date hereof and in presence of the witnesses herein-after named and undersigned — before me Samuel Skolfield Recorder in and for the Parish of East Baton Rouge State of Louisiana duly commissioned and qualified personally came and appeared Mistress Eliza Chinn wife of James A. McHatton of this Parish of lawful age and herein duly authorized, aided and assisted by her said husband and the said Mrs McHatton declares that she has made and appointed, and by these Presents does mark, ordain, constitute and appoint Richard H. Chinn of New Orleans in this State to be her true and lawful attorney in fact, special, giving and, by these presents granting unto the said Attorney full power and authority for her and in her name, and for her use and benefit to grant bargain and sell all or any real Estate belonging to the succession of her father, the late Richard H. Chinn deceased, in which she may be interested as an heir of said deceased, to sell and convey all her share and interest in such Real Estate to any purchaser or purchasers for such price and upon such terms and conditions as he the said attorney in his discretion shall think fit, and to receive the price or consideration thereof. — And to the foregoing and purpose the said Attorney is hereby fully empowered to make such deed or deeds of conveyance of said real Estate or interest therein, as will vest a good and valid title thereto, in any purchase or purchases of said real Estate

These done and passed in presence of Henry V. Babin and Oliver P. Skolfield witnesses who sign their names with said appeared and me Recorder at Baton Rouge this Ninth day of July Eighteen hundred and fifty seven

(signed) Eliza McHatton J. A. McHatton – H. V. Babin
O. Perry Skolfield Sam Skolfield Recorder

Recorded 10th July 1857
Sam. Skolfield
Recorder

Eliza Chinn McHatton Ripley died 13 July 1912 in Brooklyn, New York. Her death and funeral notice was reported in the *Lexington Leader* on 14 July:



Eliza Chinn Ripley
1832–1912

MRS. ELIZA CHINN RIPLEY

Mrs. Eliza Chinn Ripley, aged 80 years, died at her home in Brooklyn, N. Y., Saturday morning, July 13. The body will arrive here on the 4:45 C. & O. train Sunday afternoon, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Noyes and Mrs. Annella McHatton Hedges, her daughters and son-in-law.

Besides her two daughters she is survived by one son, Dr. Henry McHatton, of Macon, Ga. Relatives in Lexington are Dr. W. N. Offutt, Mrs. William Rodes, Mrs. E. L. Rogers and Mrs. Mary B. Ford of Georgetown, Ky., all cousins of the deceased.

The funeral services will take place at the Lexington Cemetery chapel Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Burial in the family lot in the Lexington Cemetery.



"Crevasse on Chinn's Plantation, West Baton Rouge, Louisiana,"
as depicted in *Harper's Weekly* in 1866. Courtesy of Fred Benton Collection
(Supplied by Brenda Perkins)

oOo

Brenda Perkins, a local researcher and historian of Baton Rouge, provided the following article from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, dated 12 July 1849:

The Hon. Thomas W. Chinn, of Louisiana, lately appointed *Chargé d'Affaires* of the United States to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, has been in this city for a day or two past, and proposed to leave it to-day on the way to his place of embarkation. Mr. Chinn is accompanied in his mission, as private Secretary, by Mr. Alexander Barrow, the son of the former (and late lamented) Senator from Louisiana of that name, – *National Intelligencer*, July 10.

Perkins also provided the following article from the *Daily Intelligencer*, dated 2 October 1849:

We regret to learn, from the New York papers, that the Hon. Thomas W. Chinn, who left this country a few weeks ago on his way to the post to which he had been appointed of *Chargé d'Affaires* to Naples, has been compelled, by continued ill health, to turn back after getting as far as Paris, and is now in the city of New York. We had hoped that he would have found from the sea-voyage such relief as would have justified his undertaking it. But it seems that we hoped in vain.

oOo

The following article, supplied by local researcher and historian Brenda Perkins, appeared in the *Times-Picayune* on 29 March 1883:

The Court Clerk's Long Nine.

"Thomas W. Chinn, of Louisiana, was a native of Kentucky. When a young man he was employed in the office of a court clerk at Frankfort. The story goes that he was addicted to excessive smoking. At length his boss, the clerk, gave him peremptory orders not to smoke more than three cigars per day. 'Very well,' replied young Chinn, 'it will give me no discomfort to carry out your instructions.' The next morning the clerk found him seated at his table writing with one end of a cigar in his mouth and the other end resting on a shelf hard by. It was not much less than a yard long. Looking on him for a moment with astonishment, mingled with admiration, he said: 'Get up and come along with me—you have entirely too much genius for this room.' What does the reader suppose was done with him? Why, he was taken to the office of an attorney at law and the first volume of Blackstone placed in his hands—the clerk agreeing to pay all expenses until he was admitted to the bar. That being accomplished in due time, he then removed to Louisiana, and settled at Baton Rouge. Subsequently he became a judge. In 1830 he was elected a Representative to Congress as a Whig, and served one term. In 1840 President Taylor appointed him Minister to the Two Sicilies. He was a stout, handsome gentleman, and much esteemed by his associates in Congress. There is no telling what a cigar of extraordinary length may lead to."

The foregoing extract from the Louisville Courier-Journal, recently appearing in the *Picayune*, has called forth the following letter:

"DEVAL P. O., West Baton Rouge, }
March 26, 1883. }

"Editor of the *Picayune*—In your issue of the 23d inst. there appears an anecdote, copied from the Louisville Courier-Journal, headed 'A Court Clerk's Long Nine,' in which my father, T. W. Chinn, gets credit that he does not deserve. Mr. Richard H. Chinn, for many years a prominent lawyer of your city and who no doubt is remembered by many of your old citizens, has always been credited (with what truth I cannot say) as being the hero of the cigar story. My father (as well as Mr. R. H. Chinn) was a native of Kentucky, but a physician by profession, having studied medicine under Dr. Dudley, of Lexington. Subsequently he moved to St. Francisville, in this State. The balance of his career was as represented in the anecdote—for in those days our Parish Judges were not obliged to be lawyers.
B. R. CHINN."

Judge Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn died on 22 May 1852 at his home at Cypress Hall Plantation. He was buried in the Cypress Hall flower garden. He had intended to buy a lot in the Magnolia Cemetery of Baton Rouge and have a family vault built for the interment of himself and family. After his death the lot was bought and a large vault of Scotch granite was erected. This vault contains the remains of Judge Chinn's wife Elizabeth, his daughter Mary and his granddaughters Elizabeth Chinn, Frederica Chinn and Frances C. Robertson.

During the Civil War a friend, Mrs. Charles Henry Dickinson of *Grosse Tete*, Louisiana, near Rosedale, had Judge Chinn's remains moved from Cypress Hall to her place. They are still interred there. Thus the vault in the Magnolia Cemetery is but a cenotaph in memory of Judge Chinn.

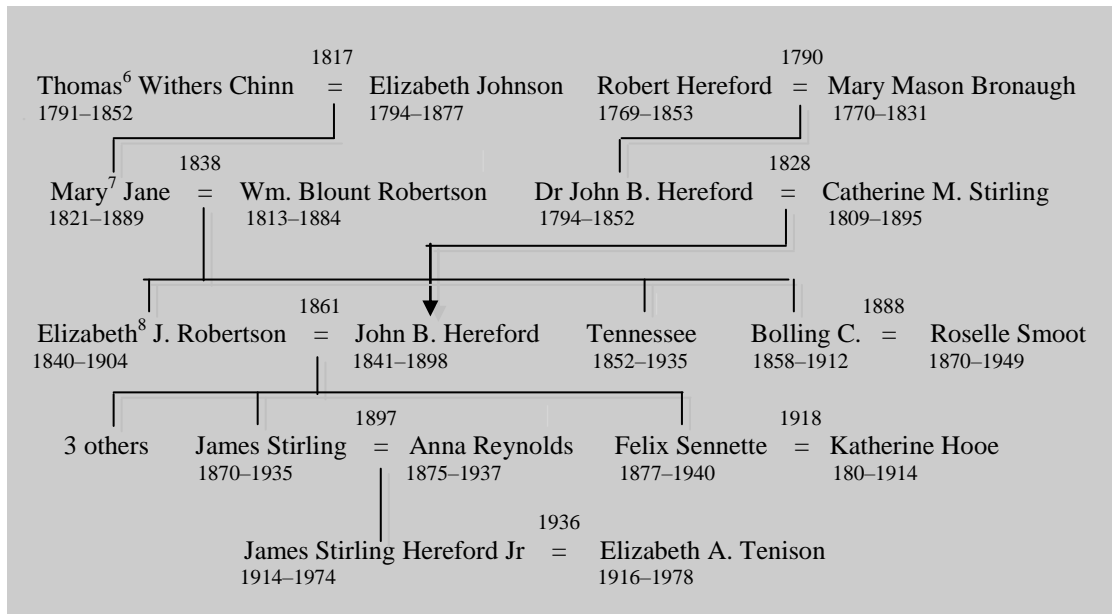
Thomas Withers Chinn's death notice as reported in the *Baton Rouge Gazette* on 29 May 1852 was provided by Brenda Perkins:

DIED.
On the 22 inst., at his residence in West Baton Rouge, after a lingering illness, Judge THOMAS W. CHINN, for many years a resident of the above parish.

Elizabeth Johnson Chinn died about the 12th of February 1877 at Cypress Hall Plantation aged 83. She was buried on 14 February at *Magnolia Cemetery*, Baton Rouge. No death notice has been located.

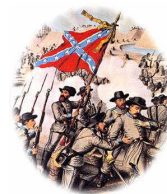
Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn and Elizabeth Johnson had five children:

1. Mary⁷ Jane Chinn was born 8 August 1821 and died 8 January 1889. She married Judge William¹ Blount Robertson on 16 April 1838. He was born 17 December 1813 in Tennessee and died 2 January 1884.



Mary⁷ Jane and Judge William¹ Blount Robertson had thirteen children:

- A. Captain William² Blount Robertson was born 14 May 1839 in Louisiana and died 26 February 1898. In the Civil War he joined the 1st Regiment, Louisiana Heavy Artillery.
- B. Elizabeth² Johnson Robertson was born 31 October 1840 and died 27 November 1904. On 19 March 1862 she married **Major John² Bronaugh Hereford Jr.** He was born in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana on 6 February 1841 and died on 1 April 1898 in Dallas, Texas.



The Hereford Family

John² Bronaugh Hereford Jr was a veteran of the **Confederate States Army**. Elizabeth² Robertson Hereford was a writer of stories and poetry. A copy of her book, *Rebel Rhymes*, is in the Dallas Public Library.



Major John B. Hereford Jr
1841-1898
and
Elizabeth Johnson Robertson
1840-1904

John² Jr. was the son of Dr John¹ Bronaugh Hereford Sr and his wife Catherine Mary, née Stirling. Dr. John¹ was born 11 June 1794 in Virginia and died 10 November 1852 in Louisiana. Catherine Mary Stirling was born 7 June 1809 and died 28 April 1895. She was the daughter of Lewis Stirling and Sarah Turnbull.

John² Jr and Elizabeth² Hereford, along with many of their children and grandchildren are buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas, Texas.



After their marriage Elizabeth² and John² B. Hereford II moved to Dallas, Texas. She was the author of the letter to her cousin, also Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn (1853–1913).

→ See 8th generation, this Chapter.

Elizabeth² and John² B. Hereford Jr. had seven children:

- i. Mary³ Chinn Hereford was born 13 April 1864 and died 9 June 1940. She was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas, Texas.
- ii. John³ Bronaugh Hereford III was born 4 June 1866 in New Orleans and died 17 October 1916 in Dallas, Texas. John married Hattie Ford in 1888. She was born 9 August 1869 in Texas and died 26 May 1958.



*John B. Hereford
1866–1916*

The following is a short biography:

Captain

Co. D, 8th LA Inf. John B. Hereford, Sr was born in New Orleans in 1866. He came to Dallas with his parents, was graduated from Texas A & M in 1887, and in 1888 married Hattie Ford, daughter of Richard W. Ford of Shreveport, Louisiana. He became Special Agent for Guardian Assurance Co. of London in 1891 and in 1894 became Special Agent in Dallas and North Texas for Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Co., and was an organizer and president of the Texas Fire Prevention Association from 1900 to 1904. He was later General Agent in Charge of the Texas Department of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company and had offices in the Wilson Building. John and Hattie had a home in the 3300 block of Oak Lawn Avenue, which has been razed, and later a Dutch Colonial home in Highland Park at the northeast corner of Beverly Dr. and Fairfield across from the Dallas Country Club, since razed and replaced. John died in 1916; Hattie in 1958. John and Hattie had three children. Their two sons died young; their daughter, Josephine, married C. M. Markham, a Dallas insurance agent.

John³ and Hattie Ford Hereford are buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas.



HATTIE F. HEREFORD
1860 — 1938

John³ and Hattie Ford Hereford had three children, two of whom survived to adulthood:

- a. Richard⁴ Ford Hereford was born 30 June 1895 and died 14 August 1898.
- b. John⁴ Robertson Hereford was born 12 February 1897 in Dallas and died 18 October 1918.
- c. Josephine⁴ Mason Hereford was born December 1899 and died 5 May 2001. She attended private schools in Dallas and Sweetbriar Finishing School in Virginia. Before she was 20 she married Hart Gordon Smith, a WWI flying ace who became a barnstormer after the war. He was born 1896 in Iowa and died 14 August 1932.



Lieut. Hart G. Smith
1896-1932

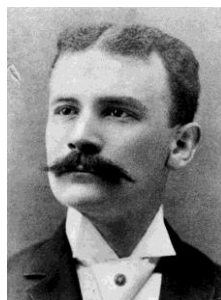
They moved to Michigan, where Josephine complained about the backwoods life in letters home. The 1920 census for Lake County, Michigan showed him to be a farmer. She left Hart after a few months, moved back to Dallas to live with her family and divorced Hart.

Josephine then married Charles McCarroll Markham. He was born 15 April 1891 in Kentucky and died 13 January 1953 in Dallas.

- iii. Anna³ Lobdell Hereford was born 15 April 1868 in Louisiana and died 1935. Anna was first married to Charles Wauchope Gilmour on 6 April 1892. He was born 28 March 1865 in Toronto, Canada and died 16 August 1935.

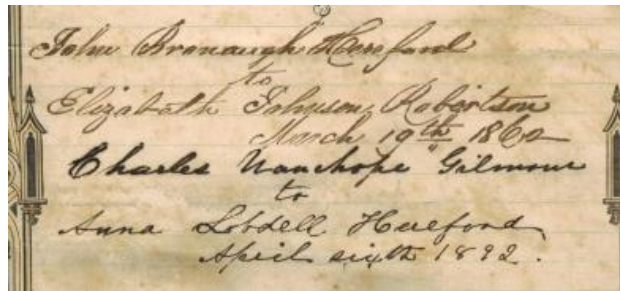


Anna L. Hereford
1868-1935



Charles W. Gilmour
1865-1935

A page from what appears to be a family Bible lists her parents' marriage in 1862 as well as Anna's marriage to Gilmour in 1892.



Anna³ and Charles Gilmour had one son.

- a. Charles⁴ Hereford Gilmour, who was born 10 February 1895 in Atlanta, Georgia and died 14 November 1964. He married Florence Brandon Dodd on 11 April 1934 in Georgia. She was born 26 November 1909 and died 25 May 1985. Both are buried at Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Floyd County, Georgia.



Florence Brandon Dodd
1909–1985



Charles H. Gilmour
1895–1964

Charles Hereford Gilmour

Charles Hereford Gilmour
WWI Draft Registration Card

Charles and Florence Gilmour had one daughter:

- (i) Gloria⁵ Dodd Gilmour was born 1936 in Georgia. She married James Russell Patillo. He was born 1932.

Anna's marriage to Charles Wauchope Gilmour appears to have ended in divorce in 1906. Anna then married Yulee Alison Dyer in 1906 in Birmingham, Alabama. He was born 1879 in Tennessee and died 17 August 1935 in Birmingham, Alabama. This man, with the rather strange name, was a well-known metallurgist with the Sloss-Sheffield Steel & Iron Company in Alabama.

The 1930 census has Anna Dyer living with her son Charles in Cave Spring, Georgia and Yulee living in Birmingham, Alabama which indicates that they had separated.

Anna³ Hereford Dyer died 30 December 1935 in Cave Spring, Floyd County, Georgia and was buried at Myrtle Hill Cemetery.



- iv. James³ Stirling Hereford was born 10 March 1870 and died 31 August 1935 as result of an automobile accident. He married Annie G. Reynolds in 1897. She was born 27 March 1879 and died 6 February 1937. They are both buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas, Texas.



James S. Hereford
1870–1935

The *Dallas Morning News* carried an obituary for James on 1 September 1935, Section II, p.7:

Auto Injuries Fatal To Insurance Man - Funeral rites for James S. Hereford, 65, veteran Dallas insurance man, who died early Saturday at a local hospital of injuries sustained Aug. 21 in an auto accident near Sulphur Springs, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Manford G. Gutzke, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Frank Long, Will Foreman, George Hanway, M.G. Jarreau, Tom Monagan and Hugh Grant.

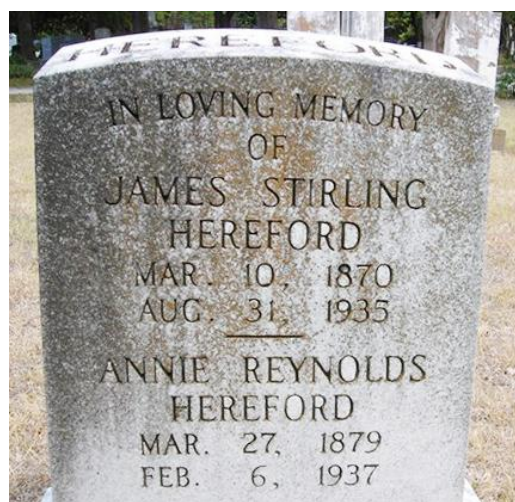
A native of St. Mary's Parish, La., Mr. Hereford came to Dallas sixty years ago. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bronough Hereford. In 1897 he married Miss Annie Reynolds of Dallas.

Mr. Hereford was an elder of the Westminster Presbyterian Church and had been an active member for thirty-eight years. He had been in the insurance business here for forty-five years.

Surviving are his wife; two daughters, Miss Isabel Hereford of Dallas and Mrs. Harry Stadler of Fort Myer, Va; a son, James S. Hereford Jr. of Dallas; two sisters, Miss Mary Hereford of California and Mrs. Anna L. Dyer of Alabama, and a brother Felix S. Hereford of Dallas.

Following Annie's death the *Dallas Morning News* printed an obituary on 7 February 1937, Section IV, p.6:

HEREFORD - Mrs. Annie Reynolds, 58, wife of the late J. S. Hereford and resident of Dallas County forty-five years, died Saturday at a local hospital. Surviving are a son, J. S. Hereford; two daughters, Mrs. J. S. Stadler Jr. and Mrs. Isabelle Hereford; a brother, Frank Reynolds and three sisters, Mrs. George L. Dexter, Mrs. L.R. Cox and Mrs. M.R. Delano, all of Dallas. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dr. Paul F. Bobb and Dr. M.G. Gutzke officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery. Pallbearers: Frank Long, George Cox, Jack Cox, Fred Mills Jr., W.S. Foreman and W.L. Foreman. Arrangements with Bower Funeral Home.



James³ and Annie had three children:

- a. Isabel⁴ Gano Hereford was born 15 January 1899 and died 18 August 1976. She was buried at Greenwood Cemetery.
- b. James⁴ Stirling Hereford Jr was born 7 May 1914 in New York and died 27 March 1974. He was buried at Grove Hill Memorial Park, Dallas.

The *Dallas Morning News* carried a report of his death on 30 March 1974:

James Hereford - Private services for James Sterling Hereford, 59, of 4428 Mockingbird Lane, an independent Dallas insurance broker and the founder of the Hereford Corp., were pending Friday night with Sparkman-Hillcrest Funeral Home. He was found dead Wednesday afternoon at his Lake Tawakoni resort home. Death was apparently induced by a single gunshot wound. Rains County Justice of the peace Weaver Kennemer ruled **the cause of death was suicide**. A native of New York City, Hereford lived most of his life in Dallas. He was a graduate of Southern Methodist University and a member of the Brook Hollow Golf Club.



*James S. Hereford Jr
1914-1974*

James's Death Certificate stated that the cause of death was "Suicide the result of self-inflicted gunshot wounds".

James married Elizabeth Ann 'Dibby' Tenison on 30 October 1936 in Dallas, Texas. She was born 25 January 1916 and died 10 March 1978. She was buried at Grove Hill Memorial Park., Dallas, Texas. The *Dallas Morning News* printed an obituary on 13 March 1978 on p. 73:

HEREFORD - Mrs. Elizabeth Tenison, 2927 Maple, Apt. 302. Survived by daughter, Mrs. Harry K. Webb, Jr.; grandchildren, Camille Webb, Byron Webb, Lizann Webb, all of Dallas. sister, Mrs. Mary McLain Mead, New York City; brother, Edward H. Tenison, Dallas. Services 10 A.M. Tuesday, Sparkman Hillcrest Northwest Hwy. Chapel, Dr. L. McD. Kennedy officiating. Private interment Grove Hill. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.



- c. Mary⁴ Hereford was born 28 January 1906 and died 15 December 1977. She married John Harry Stadler Jr. He was born 10 February 1903 and died 20 April 1970.



*John Harry Stadler
1903-1970
1924 Year Book
West Point Military Academy*

- v. Elizabeth³ Robertson Hereford was born 15 March 1874 and died 10 February 1878. She was buried at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Centerville, Louisiana.
- vi. Felix³ Senette Hereford was born 25 November 1877 in Dallas, Texas. He was named after Felix Senette the husband of his aunt, Leodocia Robertson. → See further on.

Felix Hereford died 18 January 18 January 1940. The *Dallas Morning News* printed a lengthy obituary on 19 January 1940 on p. 7. Note: the name "Senette" has been spelt incorrectly:

F.S. Hereford, Dallas Native, Dies at Home - Felix Sennet (*sic*) Hereford, 62-year-old native of Dallas, special agent for the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, died at his home, 3633 Hanover, Thursday of a three-day heart ailment. Mr. Hereford had been with the insurance company in Dallas for thirty-five years. A member of the class of 1898 at Virginia Military Institute, he was in business in Houston for a number of years after graduation. He was born in Dallas on Cadiz street, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hereford, who moved to Dallas from Louisiana. He was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Katherine Hereford; a daughter, Miss Emily F. Hereford, and a sister, Miss Mary C. Hereford, all of Dallas. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in the chapel of Ed C. Smith & Bro. and burial will be in Hillcrest Memorial Park.

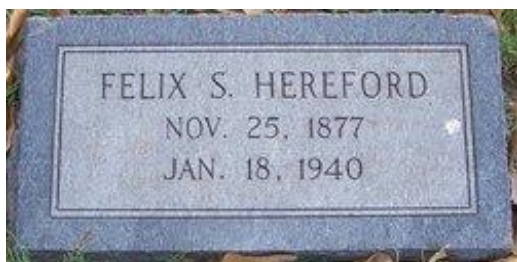
Felix S. Hereford was born in 1877 in Dallas at the Cadiz Street residence. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute as a civil engineer, but entered the insurance business with his father and brother. For 34 years beginning in 1906 he was a Special Agent for the Hartford Fire Insurance Co. In 1918 he married Kate Hooe, who was the sister of Lida Hooe and Dodie Hooe, prominent early teachers and supervisors in the Dallas Public Schools. The Felix Herefords lived at 3918 Bowser in Oak Lawn and were members of the Oak Lawn Methodist Church. They had one child, Emily, who married Russell Surtes, Jr., a Dallas architect. Felix died in 1940; and Kate died in 1978 at the age of 98. They are buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park.

Felix married Katherine Etter Howell on 12 June 1907 in Pope, Arkansas. She was born 20 April 1880 in Arkansas and died giving birth to a son on 18 March 1914 in Dallas, Texas. The son, Felix¹⁰ Senette Hereford Jr. died the same day.



Katherine Howell
1880-1914

Four years later on 16 April 1918 Felix married Katherine Hooe. She was born in 23 August 1880 in Texas and died 5 August 1978. Both Katherine and her husband Felix were buried at Sparkman Hillcrest Memorial Park in Dallas.





Felix Senette Hereford
1877–1940



Katherine Hooe
1880–1978

Felix³ Hereford and his second wife, Katherine Hooe, had one daughter:

- a. Emily⁴ Felice Hereford, born 28 December 1919 in Dallas, Texas and died 1984. She married Edward Russell Surles Jr. on 20 September 1941 at the First Methodist Church in Midland. He was born 10 January 1919 and died 5 October 1989 in Dallas, Texas.



Emily Felice Hereford
1919–1984

*1940 Southern Methodist University
Rotunda Yearbook*



Edward Russell Surles Jr.
1919–1989

Emily⁴ and Edward Surles had three children, all born in Texas:

- (i) William Russell Surles was born 20 March 1944.
- (ii) David Hereford Surles was born 10 November 1946
- (iii) Richard Douglas Surles was born 10 August 1954.

oOo

In 1934 Felix³ Hereford's aunt, Tennessee⁸ Robertson, wrote a biography of her grandfather, Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn, wherein she said the following:

In 1839 when Judge Chinn was in Washington City attending a session of Congress he had a picture of himself painted on ivory for his wife. This *ivorytype* is now in the possession of Judge Chinn's great-grandson **Felix S. Hereford** of Dallas, Texas.

Felix died in 1940, five years after the above biography was written. Just who has the original *ivorytype* now remains unknown.

- vii. Catherine³ Stirling Hereford was born 15 November 1889 and died 23 December 1913. She was never married.

End of the Hereford Family

Continuing with the children of Mary⁷ Jane Chinn and William² Blount Robertson II:

- C. Thomas³ Chinn Robertson was born 13 May 1842 and died 7 June 1866.
- D. Benjamin³ Collins Robertson was born 20 July 1844 and died 1845.
- E. James³ Erwin Robertson was born 1 August 1845 and died 1907.
- F. Leadocia³ Lee Erwin Robertson was born 03 December 1847 on the Gibraltar Plantation, West Baton Rouge, Louisiana and died 5 February 1928. She married Felix Senette on 27 September 1870. He was born 23 October 1842 in Louisiana and died 9 October 1879. Following Felix's death Leadocia married William Crawford Harris on 24 February 1895. He was born January 1841 in Georgia and died 29 October 1903 in Louisiana.
- G. Mary³ Chinn Robertson was born 1 January 1850 and died 23 April 1931. She married Edward Desobry. He was born 1844 and died 2 August 1924.
- H. Tennessee³ Robertson was born 12 October 1852 and died 13 October 1935. She is the author of the biography on her grandfather, Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn, detailed earlier in this section, which was included in the publication *Early Feliciana Politics* by Elrie Robinson. Tennessee never married. The *State Times* carried a lengthy obituary on Monday, 14 October:



*Leadocia Robertson
1847-1920*

MISS T. ROBERTSON PASSES AWAY AT WEST DISE HOME

Funeral Services Here Tuesday for Aged Gentlewoman

Miss Tennessee Robertson, a member of an old and Prominent Louisiana family, passed away at her home in West Baton Rouge Sunday afternoon at 1:20, after a short illness.

Her body is resting at the Rabenhorst Funeral home here, and the funeral will take place from there Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock with services in St. James Episcopal church. Rev. J. S. Ditchburn officiating. She will be laid to rest in the family plot in Magnolia Cemetery.

Miss Robertson had passed her 83rd birthday October 12, and her death occurred the next day.

Surviving are a sister Mrs. K. L. Lavallee⁵⁶¹ of Dallas, Texas, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Miss Robertson's brother, Dr. Alex R. Robertson has died within the year, and a sister Miss Ernestine Robertson with whom she made her home, passed away a month ago. Since her sister's death she had been in declining health, and her strength gradually waned.

Widely known among a host of friends on the West Side as "Miss Tennie", Miss Robertson was admired and beloved. Her father was Judge W. B. Robertson, prominent in the affairs of this portion of Louisiana during an earlier generation, and her mother was Mary Chinn Robertson. Miss Robertson was a gentlewoman representative of an old and cultured family.

A similarly worded obituary appeared on Tuesday, 15 October 1935 in the Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate*. It included the comment that an ancestor of Judge William Blount Robertson was his grandfather, James Robertson (1742–1814), known as the founder of Nashville and called the Father of Tennessee.

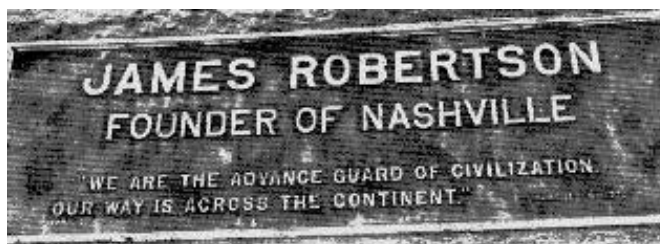
James Robertson was a contemporary and a close friend of William Blount (1749–1800).

William Blount was appointed Governor of the Territory South of the Ohio River (which then included the present state of Tennessee) by President George Washington in 1790. He moved the territorial capital to the newly founded Knoxville, so named after the first Secretary of War, Henry Knox. → See Chapter 9: The Brannan Family

www.wnfoundersmuseum.org/jamesrobertsonhouse.htm

IN OCTOBER, 1770, James Robertson led 10 families from North Carolina over the mountains and into Watauga River valley of present East Tennessee to begin the first settlement of what would become Tennessee in 1796.

By 1772, Robertson instigated writing the Watauga Association articles--the first independent government separate from British rule in America. His work on the articles earned him the appellation of The Father of American Democracy, and his form of government was copied in the 1775 Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, which was the forerunner of the 1776 Declaration of Independence.



James Robertson
1742–1814

In the early spring of 1779, James Robertson and nine men arrived at French Lick in canoes and began exploring the Cumberland River area. After traveling to Illinois, Robertson and his overland party returned to French Lick and crossed the frozen Cumberland on Christmas day. They soon began building Robertson's Station / Fort Nashborough on the bluff, and the bustling outpost was renamed Nashville in 1784.

Both Governor William Blount and Andrew Jackson designated James Robertson, who established first settlements in all three sections of Tennessee, as "The Father of Tennessee."

- I. Ernestine³ Schlater Robertson was born 11 October 1855 and died 4 September 1935. She was buried at Magnolia Cemetery, West Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- J. Bolling³ Chinn Robertson was born 19 June 1858 and died 14 December 1908. He moved to San Francisco where he married Roselle Smoot (1870–1949). Her sister Lillie Bell Smoot married William's cousin Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn (1853–1913). → See this chapter, parts 8 and 9.

- K. Frances³ Conrad Robertson was born 19 December 1860 and died 14 March 1930 in Coupee Parish, Louisiana.
- L. Catherine³ Lyle Robertson (sometimes called Kate or Katie) was born 13 February 1864 and died 6 January 1938 in Dallas, Texas. She married Charles II Dolphus LaVallee on 1 October 1891 in Dallas, Texas.
- M. Dr. Alexander³ Roth Robertson was born 7 August 1867 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and died 28 April 1934. He was buried at Live Oak Cemetery, Harrison County, Mississippi.

The LaVallee Family

The original immigrant was Geoffroy Guillot LaVallée (1614–1665) who arrived in Canada from Chevy, Indre, France in 1649. On 19 October 1651 he married Marie D'Abancourt (1618–1678) in Quebec, Canada. The family stayed in Quebec for another six generations before relocating to the United States.

There were then three successive generations who were named Charles Dolphus LaVallee. To avoid confusion they are identified as follows:

Charles I Dolphus LaVallee	1845–1885
Charles II Dolphus LaVallee	1873–1934
Charles III Dolphus LaVallee	1904–1957

The name Dolphus appears to be a corruption of Adolphus. Family members were inconsistent with the appearance of the family name. It appears variously as LaVallee and Lavallee. Sometimes the penultimate 'e' has an accent.

Charles I Dolphus LaVallee was born 26 December 1845 in Berthier, St Cuthbert, Quebec, Canada and died 20 June 1885 in Denison, Texas. He was the first member of the family to move from Canada to the United States. Charles married Apalonia Abbie Yewman in 1870 in Chicago, Illinois. She was born 21 March 1840 in Rochester, New York and died 11 January 1919 in Texas.



*Charles Dolphus
LaVallee
1846–1885*



*Apalonia Abbie
Yewman
1840–1919*

Charles I Dolphus LaVallee and Apaloma Abbie Yewman had two children:

1. Charles II Dolphus LaVallee was born 16 May 1873 in Minnesota and died 16 February 1934 in Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas. He married Catherine⁸ Lyle Robertson on 1 October 1891. Charles was buried at Fort Smith National Cemetery, Arkansas. He served as a 1st Sgt. in the Spanish American War.

In the 1930 Census Charles (II) was stated to be married to "Peggy". It is not known who she is.



Grove Hill Memorial Park, Dallas, Texas

*Charles D. LaVallee
WWI Draft Registration Card*

Charles II and Catherine Lyle Robertson had six children:

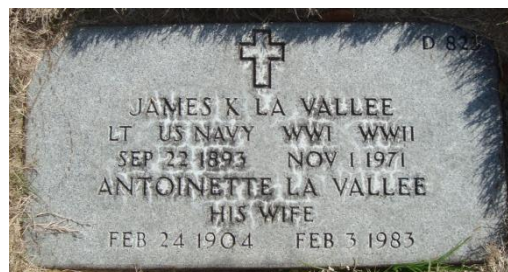
- A. Luena LaVallee was born September 1881 in Indian Territory, Texas. It is thought she died in infancy.
- B. Marie Heloise LaVallee was born 29 September 1882 in Texas and died 11 May 1971. She never married.



Calvary Hill Cemetery & Mausoleum, Dallas, Texas

- C. James Kenneth LaVallee was born 29 September 1893 in Louisiana and died 1 November 1971 in Texas. He married Kathleen O'Brien on 9 October 1918. They were divorced after which James married Antoinette (family name unknown). She was born 24 February 1904 and died 3 February 1983.

James K. LaVallee
WWII Draft Registration card



*James K. LaVallee was buried at the
Houston National Cemetery, Houston, Texas*

- D. William Robertson LaVallee was born 9 November 1900 in Louisiana and died 4 November 1931.

William R. LaVallee
WWI Draft Registration Card

- E. Catherine LaVallee was born 17 September 1902 in Louisiana and died 17 January 1938 of *pneumonia*. She married George (Gus) Cheakas about 1927. He was born 1892 in Greece and died 8 February 1965 in Texas.

Catherine and George Cheakas had two sons:

- i. George Lyle Robertson Cheakas was born 11 June 1929 in Dallas, Texas. He married Betty Jean Adams.
 - ii. William Louis Cheakas was born 6 January 1934 in Texas and died 3 November 1992. He Married Yvonne Frances Elliott.
- F. Charles III Dolphus LaVallee was born 24 August 1904 in Louisiana and died 21 July 1957. He married Delia Corona about 1935. She was born 16 September 1904 in Louisiana and died 13 March 1979.

Delia was the daughter of Oscar Agostino 'Luca' Corona and Rachael Ricca. Luca was born 28 May 1880 in Catania, Sicilia, Italy and died 25 January 1929 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Rachael was born 22 November 1888 in Melville, Louisiana and died 29 May 1973.

Charles and Delia had two children:

- i. William 'Bill' Anthony LaVallee was born 13 June 1937 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- ii. Jude Marie LaVallee was born 5 April 1943 and died 21 November 2012 in Louisiana. Jude suffered from Down Syndrome and spent the last 33 years of her life at the Hammond Development Center (now Evergreen Life Services) in Louisiana.



*Jude Marie LaVallee
1943–2012*

Charles II married again to Virginia Inez Dodson. She is called his widow when she died in 1996. Virginia was born 23 March 1894 in Texas and died 26 October 1996 in Bakersfield, California.



Hillcrest Memorial Park, Lakeview, California



*Virginia Inez Dodson
1894–1996*

Continuing with the last child of Charles I Dolphus and Apalonia LaVallee ...

2. Francis 'Frank' Joseph LaVallee was born 1 August 1881 in Pipestone, Minnesota and died 15 October 1950 in Houston, Texas. He married Inez Jeanette Coffee on 1 March 1900 in Texas. She was born 29 March 1879 in Texas and died 2 January 1969.

*Francis Joseph LaVallee
WWI Draft Registration Card*



Forest Park Cemetery, Houston, Texas

Frank and Inez had nine children, including:

- A. Dolphus Charles ‘Chuck’ LaVallee was born 28 January 1921 in Galveston, Texas and died 10 January 1999 in Houston, Texas. He married Marjorie Catherine Mueller on 11 August 1945. She was born 15 January 1921 in Texas and died 17 September 2015. Both are buried at the Houston National Cemetery.



*Marjorie C. Mueller
1921–2015*

End of LaVallee Family

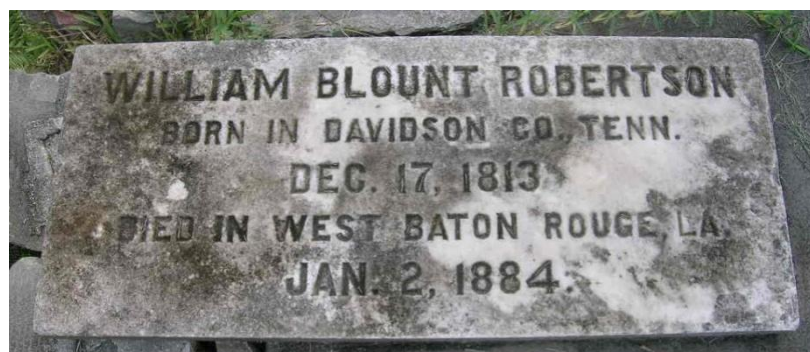
Continuing with the children of Mary⁷ Jane Chinn and Wm.² Blount Robertson:

- M. Alexander³ Routh Robertson was born 7 August 1867 in Louisiana and died 14 March 1933.

Judge William² Blount Robertson died 2 January 1884 and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Baton Rouge. His death was reported the following day in the Baton Rouge *Daily Capitolian-Advocate*, p. 3, col. 2:

DIED

Robertson— At his residence in West Baton Rouge, on Wednesday, January 2, 1884 at 6.30 o'clock p.m. Judge William B. Robertson, aged 70 years and 16 days.



Judge Robertson's tombstone in Magnolia Cemetery, Baton Rouge

Continuing with the children of Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn and Elizabeth Johnson.

2. Elizabeth⁷ Chinn was born in 1823 and died 1863. She married William Walter Lemmon in May 1841. He was a surveyor. Amongst their children was a daughter:
 - A. Elizabeth⁸ Lemmon. She married James Torrence Smith. Elizabeth⁸ and James Smith had two sons:
 - i. David⁹ L. Smith was born 1891. He married Ethel M. Brandon (1894– 1948). David and Ethel Smith had four children:
 - a. Margaret¹⁰ Smith was born 1917.
 - b. Mary¹⁰ Jane Smith was born 1920.
 - c. Helen¹⁰ Smith was born 16 June 1922 and died 28 October 2016. She married Stanford Rayne Jr. and they had two children: Alan¹¹ Christopher Rayne and Robert¹¹ Theodore Rayne who was adopted.
 - ii. Torrence⁹ L. Smith was born 1893.
3. **Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn 1825–1888 → See 7th generation**
4. Susan⁷ Mary Chinn was born 1829.
5. Caroline⁷ Martha Chinn was born 1831.

Extracts from a Baton Rouge newspaper article (date unknown), provided by the late Robert Carson Chinn, clarifies the final burial site of Judge Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn. The article was written by Ernest Gueymard:

WBR planter's final burial place is no longer a mystery

An imposing granite tomb near the entrance of Magnolia Cemetery bears a marker signifying that this is the last resting place of Thomas Withers Chinn, statesman, jurist, soldier and planter. Outside all is in order, but inside there is a serious omission – there is no body of Chinn. Nor was there ever an interment there of the distinguished West Baton Rouge-Feliciana pioneer settler.

Consequently there have been conflicting stories circulating over the decades on the authentic burial site. This mystery has now been cleared up through the research of Mrs. Walter E. Haase of this city (Chinn was her great-grand uncle) and also that of Mr. and Mrs. William Prentiss Obier Jr., owners of *Live Oaks Plantation* along Bayou Grosse Tete near Rosedale. For some years the Obiers have been restoring the property.

One phase was the rebuilding of the old Live Oaks Plantation tomb. Describing the tomb restoration work, Mrs. Obier said that in the rubble of brick and mortar at the tomb site were five iron caskets, four of which are unique because of their shape which is in the form of a body. In one she pointed out was laid the body of Judge Thomas Withers Chinn; in another was buried Mary Hannah Elizabeth Conrad West, a family connection; in the third, Mary's baby; and in the fourth, Fannie, Chinn's daughter who died in childhood. In the fifth casket, of conventional shape, is an unknown body.

So why is the body of Chinn here and not in the Magnolia Cemetery tomb? Mrs. Haase explained that since Magnolia Cemetery was just being established when Judge Chinn died in 1852, he was first buried in the flower garden at his home on Cypress Hall Plantation. The widow expected to move the body later to the Baton Rouge cemetery.

Years after his death when the Mississippi River threatened to overflow, the widow accepted an invitation from a friend, Mrs. Charles Henry Dickinson, then owner of *Live Oaks*, to remove his body and others in the family to their plantation tomb.

Originally there were silver markers on all of the Chinn family iron caskets, but the only one found was that of Mary Conrad West. It has been said that during the Civil War, Union soldiers opened the caskets, seeking jewelry, and discovered the silver markers.

During his last illness Judge Chinn became interested in the proposed Magnolia Cemetery project and planned to buy lots and build a large tomb there, but he died before this could be done. Later the family acquired lots and built the granite tomb, also placing the marker there.

oOo



The granite cenotaph at Magnolia Cemetery in Baton Rouge

The central plaque reads:

SACRED
to the memory of
THOMAS WITHERS CHINN
born 20th Nov. A.D. 1791
died 22nd May A.D. 1852



Thomas Withers Chinn's final resting place at Live Oaks Plantation



The plaque affixed to the tomb commemorating Thomas Withers Chinn's service in the War of 1812



*View of three of the iron caskets.
The body shaped casket on the left contains the remains of Thomas Withers Chinn*



*Two views of Judge Chinn's iron casket.
The picture on the right shows the head which has a hinged flap. This could be lifted and one was able to view the face of the deceased through a pane of glass. The body was preserved internally in an airtight compartment.
However, if the glass is broken, the remains rapidly decompose, as happened to the above casket.*

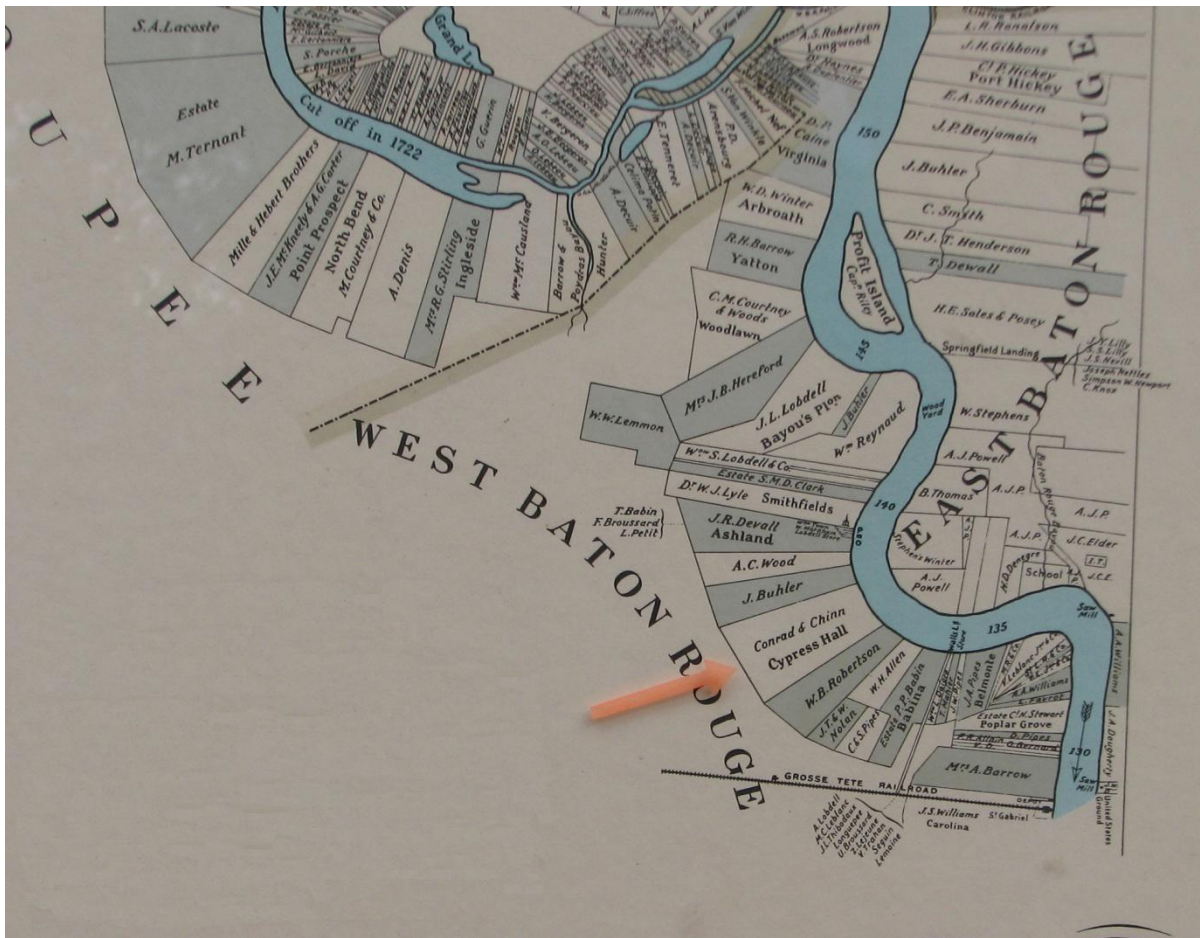
oOo

The following *daguerreotype* photographs are amongst Chinn family memorabilia inherited by the author. The identity of the individuals is unknown.









CYPRESS HALL PLANTATION

West Baton Rouge

owned by

JUDGE THOMAS WITHERS CHINN

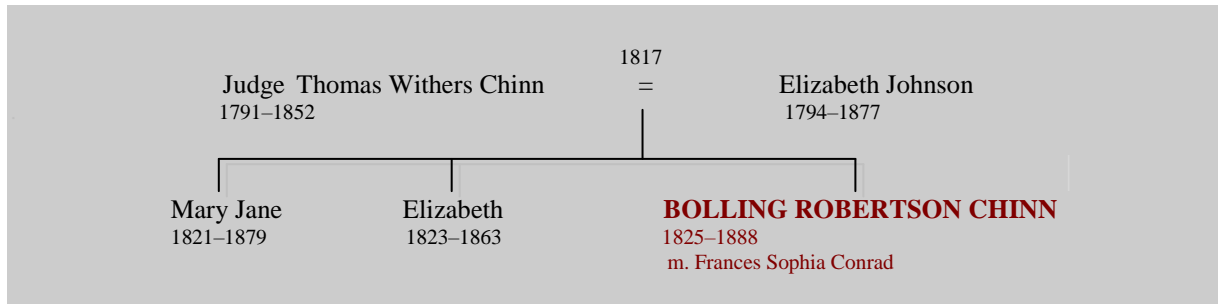
1791–1852



7th generation

MAJOR BOLLING⁷ ROBERTSON CHINN 1825–1888

Baton, Rouge, Louisiana



MAJOR BOLLING⁷ ROBERTSON CHINN was born 23 June 1825 in Baton Rouge, West Feliciana parish, Louisiana and was the only son of Judge Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn (1791–1852), and his wife Elizabeth Johnson (1794–1877). George IV reigned in England and John Monroe was the President of the United States.



*Bolling Robertson Chinn
1825–1888*

On 27 April 1848 he married Frances³ Sophia Conrad (1829–1893), eldest daughter of Frederick² Daniel Conrad and his wife Frances Sophia, née Duncan. Frances Sophia Duncan was the daughter of Colonel Abner L. Duncan (1774–1823) and his second wife Frances Sophia Mather (1788–1831).

21 September 1847

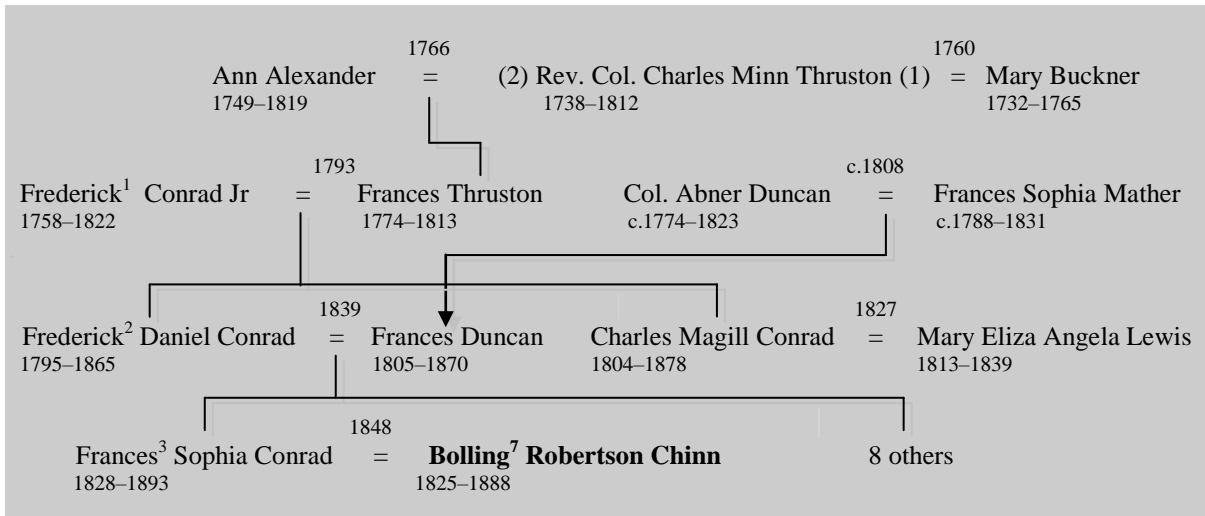
The City of Baton Rouge donated to the state of Louisiana a \$20,000 parcel of land for a state capitol building, taking the seat of the capitol away from the City of New Orleans.

The land donated by the city for the capitol building stands high atop a Baton Rouge bluff facing the Mississippi River, a site that some believe was once marked by the red pole, or 'le baton rouge', which French explorers claimed designated a Native American council meeting site.

The Old Louisiana State Capitol (pictured), a National Historic Landmark, is located in downtown Baton Rouge, next to the Mississippi River.



The Conrad Family



On the 25th April 1793 Frederick¹ D. Conrad Jr. married Frances ‘Sidney’ Thruston. He was born 1758 in Virginia. Frances was born 3 February 1774 and died 24 October 1813. She was the daughter of the Rev. Colonel Charles⁴ Minn Thruston and his second wife Ann Alexander, Frederick¹ died 1822 in Louisiana. His death was reported in the *Weekly Gazette & Comet*, Louisiana on Sunday, 3 October:

DIED

At Amito Springs, on Monday, the 27th inst., **FREDERICK D. CONRAD Jr.** aged 85 years.

Frederick¹ Conrad and Frances Thruston had eight children. Two are detailed here:

1. Frederick² Daniel Conrad was born 1795. He married Frances Sophia Duncan (1805–1870) in 1839 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They were married by the Rev. Father Antoine Blanc at St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Baton Rouge. She was the daughter of Abner L. Duncan (1774–1823) and his second wife Frances Sophia Mather (1788–1831). The Duncan family is discussed further on.

Frederick Daniel Conrad died 20 June 1865. His death was briefly announced in the *Daily Picayune*, p. 4, col. 3 on Tuesday, 4 July 1865 and again on Sunday, 9 July:

On Tuesday, June 20 in this city, after a short illness, **FREDERICK D. CONRAD**, of East Baton Rouge, aged about 69 years.

Frederick² Daniel Conrad and Frances Duncan had ten children:

- A. Frances³ Sophia Conrad was born 1829 and died 27 January 1893. She married **Bolling Robertson Chinn** (1825–1888) the subject of this chapter.
- B. Frederick³ Daniel Conrad Jr was born 1833 and died 27 September 1858.

- C. Abner³ Lawson Duncan Conrad was born 22 November 1838 in Louisiana and died 30 December 1893. He married Mary Woodward Dunn 10 February 1861. She was born 7 January 1843 and died 20 January 1919. Her obituary was reported in the *State Times*, p. 3, col. 2 on 21 January:

Venerable Lady of Prominent Family Passes Away

Mrs. Mary Woodward Dunn widow of the late A. L. D. Conrad, died in this city Monday afternoon at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. J. Bailey, of North Boulevard, and will be buried from there this (Tuesday) afternoon at 3 : 30 o'clock.

With the death of Mrs. Conrad there passes from this community a member of one of the oldest and most distinguished families of the state. In ante-bellum days, both families were prominently identified with the social and business life of the parish, and their homes the gathering place of the elite and fashionables of that date. At one time Mr. Conrad, husband of the deceased, was postmaster of Baton Rouge. At the time of her death, Mrs. Conrad was 78 years old.

Three children, one son, Mr. Fred⁴ Conrad, and two daughters, Mrs Mary⁴ Bell Loret and Mrs. Frances⁴ Bailey, wife of Secretary of State James J. Bailey, and a number of grandchildren are left to mourn her death. Funeral services will be held at St. James Episcopal church.

- D. Ripley³ Holmes Conrad was born 27 December 1841 and died 26 September 1862 during the Civil War. He was buried at St. Joseph's Churchyard in Baton Rouge.
See: <http://www.battleofraymond.org/hughes.htm>
- E. Sarah³ A. Conrad was born c.1841 in Louisiana and died 1876 in Texas. She married James Stephen Terral. He was born 1832 in Mississippi and died 1884 in Texas. They had seven children.
- F. Sidney³ Angela Conrad was born 1842 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and died 12 June 1881. She married Dr. Marshall Pope. He was born 26 November 1833 in Louisiana. (See Johnson Family – 6th generation: Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn). Marshall studied medicine and became a prominent physician and was chief surgeon of the division of Southern Louisiana and West Mississippi, Fourth Louisiana Regiment in the Civil War
- G. Henrietta³ C. Conrad was born 22 February 1844. She married Dr Thomas J. Buffington as his second wife on 24 April 1877. Henrietta died two and a half years later on 17 September 1879 aged 35. Her death was reported in the *Louisiana Capitolian* on the 29th September:



BUFFINGTON—In this city, on Wednesday, September 17th, 1879, at 6 o'clock A. M., Mrs. H. C. Conrad—wife of Dr. T. J. Buffington—aged 35 years.

- H. George³ Mather Conrad was born 17 March 1845 in Louisiana and died 18 January 1917. He married Marie Aline Moise 24 April 1878. She was born 4 January 1857 in Louisiana and died 5 October 1906.

Marie Aline Moise Conrad died 5 October 1906. Her death was reported in *The Daily State* the next day:

She was buried in Lafayette Cemetery Number 1.



MRS. MARIE ALINE MOISE.
The numerous friends of the Conrad and Moise families will sincerely regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Marie Aline Moise the charming wife of Mr. G. Mather Conrad which occurred in New Orleans on Friday, October 5 at 6 o'clock. Mrs. Conrad was a resident of Baton Rouge for several years during her girlhood and has a number of old friends in town.

George³ and Marie Aline Moise Conrad had five children:

- i. George⁴ Mather Conrad Jr was born 13 August 1879 in Louisiana. He married Pearle Keyes Hooper, née Saunders on 30 July 1913 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pearle had previously married Andrew John Hooper on 12 Aug. 1903. He was born 29 March 1878 in Tennessee and died 16 April 1931 in Los Angeles. They had a son Andrew John Hooper Jr (1907–1969).

Pearl was born 29 June 1880 in Alabama and died 11 July 1862 in Santa Barbara, California.

George Mather Conrad died on Wednesday, 8 May 1957 in Santa Barbara, California. His death was reported in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, p. B-8, col. 7 on the 10th May:

George Mather Conrad
WWI Draft Registration Card

George M.
Conrad

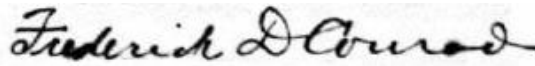
Arrangements have been made to take the body of George Mather Conrad, who died suddenly Wednesday night, back to New Orleans. He had come here three days previously to make his home. Funeral services will be held in New Orleans at 2 p.m. Sunday in Trinity Episcopal Church, with entombment to follow in Saunders Tomb of Metairie Cemetery, according to Welch and Ryce.

Mr. Conrad, who suffered from heart disease, was vice president of the Chase Bag Co. in New Orleans, retiring in 1947. He and Mrs. Conrad had moved here to be near her son, A. J. Hooper of Montecito.

Born Aug. 13, 1879, in East Baton Rouge, La., Mr. Conrad is survived by his wife, Pearle Saunders Conrad, the stepson here, and two sisters, Mrs. F. L. Gilmore, Phoenix, and Miss Aline Conrad, missionary to the Ute Indians near Phoenix. There are three grandchildren, Lt. John L. Hooper, Marine Corps, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Miss Kathryn Hooper, student at Santa Barbara College, and Mrs. R. V. Whitty, Pittsburgh, Pa.

- ii. Edwin⁴ Warren Moise Conrad was born 1 June 1881 and died 22 January 1936 in Florida. He married Caro Davis on 29 December 1909. She was born 1 October 1881 and died 10 November 1953.

- iii. Frederick⁴ Daniel Conrad was born 1 September 1883 and died 2 June 1924. He married Effie May Martinez.



U.S. 1920 Passport Application

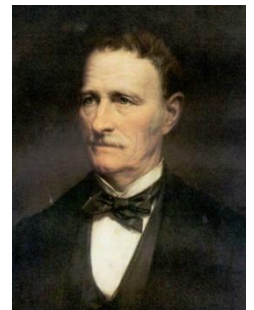
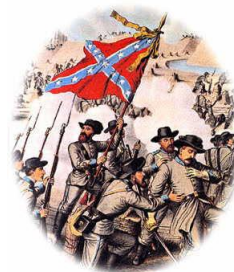
- iv. Louise⁴ Hubert Conrad was born 6 November 1890 in New Orleans, Louisiana and died 12 October 1962 in Phoenix, Arizona. She married Felix Leake Gilmore. He was born 21 September 1882 in Louisiana and died 20 January 1952 in Phoenix, Arizona.
- v. Marie Aline⁴ Moise Conrad was born 12 May 1893.
- I. William³ P. Conrad was born about 1847 in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana and died 8 January 1917. He was not married but is on record as having a relationship with two coloured women, a negro named Mary Etta Babin and a mulatto named Matilda Cruse. There were children from both relationships.
- J. Hannah³ Eliza Conrad was born 1854. She died Saturday, 21 February, 1920. Her death was reported in the *Times Picayune*, P. 3, col. 1 the following day:

CONRAD — On Saturday, Feb. 21, 1920, at 8.20 o'clock p.m., at the residence of her niece, Mrs. George C. Schoenberger, **HANNAH ELIZA**, daughter of the late F. D. Conrad and Frances S. Duncan. The relatives and friends are respectively invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 8 o'clock p.m.
Baton Rouge papers please copy.

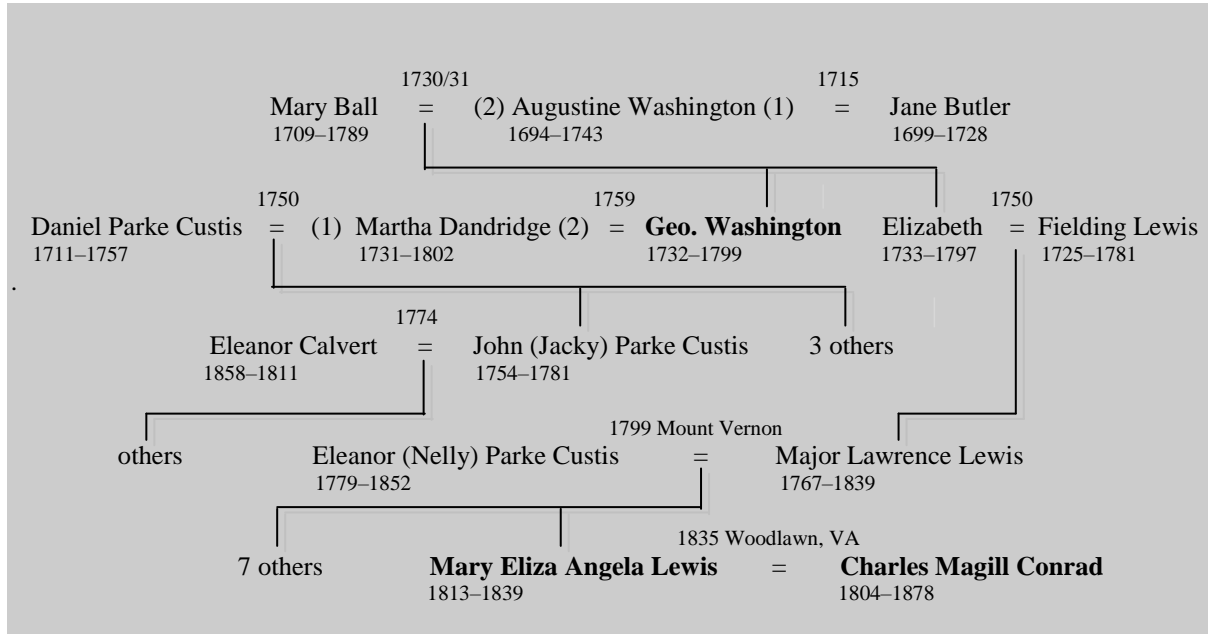
2. Charles² Magill Conrad was born 24 December 1804 in Winchester, Virginia and died 11 February 1878 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was a member of the famous New Orleans law firm of Slidell, Conrad and Benjamin and was Secretary for War during President Millard Fillmore's administration (1850–1853). He was appointed Confederate States Minister to Germany by President Jefferson Davis.

Charles² Conrad had studied law in the office of Abner L. Duncan of New Orleans, the father-in-law of his older brother Frederick². It was during this period that he fought a duel in which he killed his opponent. In 1828 he was admitted to the Bar and began his law practice in New Orleans. On 30 July 1835 Charles married **Mary Eliza Angela Lewis** of Virginia. She was born 1 April 1813 and died 21 September 1839.

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Magill_Conrad



*Charles Magill Conrad
1804–1878
Oil on canvas 1873
By Daniel Huntington*



Mary Eliza Angela Lewis was the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington and her first husband Daniel Parke Custis. Martha and Daniel had four children, two of whom died in infancy. Their only son, John ‘Jacky’ Parke Custis (1754–1781) married Eleanor Calvert (1758–1811) in 1774. They in turn produced numerous children including Eleanor ‘Nelly’ Parke Custis (1779–1852). Nelly married Major Lawrence Lewis, the son of George Washington's sister, Elizabeth (1733–1787), known as Betty, and her husband Fielding Lewis. Mary Eliza Angela Lewis was their daughter, the youngest of eight children.

The Parke Custis and Lewis families are chronicled in David L Ribblett's *Nelly Custis, Child of Mount Vernon*, a biography of Eleanor Parke Custis. See also Chapter 3, John Saunders (1752–1790) which mentions Arch Hall in Alexandria, the winter home of Nelly Custis and her husband Lawrence Lewis and St. Paul's Church, Alexandria, where their daughter Mary Eliza Angela Lewis married Charles² Magill Conrad in 1835.

Nelly Parke Custis spent her formative years at Mount Vernon where she established a close relationship with her step-grandfather, George Washington. During the War of Independence Jacky Parke Custis, his wife Eleanor and their four young children went to live at Mount Vernon. In 1781 Jacky died and two years later his widow married Dr. David Stuart. By this time Martha Washington had witnessed the deaths of all her children. Nelly's early schooling was not unlike that of most girls of the Virginia gentry. However, her ability to read put her in the minority of Virginia females, only 30% of whom were literate during the latter half of the 18th century. Her grandmother Martha taught her how to run a large household and instructed her in the arts of embroidery and knitting and devoted part of every day to religious study and prayer. A strong emotional bond of dependence grew between the two that Nelly never had a chance to cultivate with her own mother.



Nelly Custis Lewis
Portrait by Gilbert Stuart
c.1805

Mary Eliza Angela Lewis Conrad died 21 September 1839. Her obituary was published in the *New Orleans Commercial Bulletin*, p. 2, col. 4 on Monday, 7 October 1839:

OBITUARY

"Non omnis inoriar"

Died on 21st ult., at Pass Christian, of congestive fever, after a short and violent illness of three days, **Mrs. M. E. ANGELA**, consort of Charles M. Conrad, Esq., of this city. Having retired from the dangers of a city residence, to pass the summer months in a retreat celebrated for its salubrity, this exemplary lady, possessed of endowments which won the affections of all who knew her, has been suddenly cut down by the angel of death.

While we deplore the baffled foresight of man, which devises plans of safety in vain, instances of mortality like this make us pause on the threshold of those hopes and ties on which human happiness is built.

Mrs. Conrad was the daughter of Lawrence Lewis, Esq., of Va., and the great grand niece of General Washington. Full of dignity, gentleness and grace, with a ripe and cultivated intellect, there was blended in her spirit of benevolence and meekness, truly Christian, which embraced every object within its reach, and was heightened by the charms of her ancestral virtues.

Never was the domestic circle more highly honoured and adorned than by this accomplished lady. Few have ever been blessed in a greater degree with those innate qualities of goodness, so perfectly undisguised, and free from all artifice and effort, which bespeak a once the character of their possessor, and command the spontaneous homage of the heart.

In paying this humble tribute to departed worth, by one who was no stranger, no partialities of friendship can add embellishment to truth. When so much excellence is prematurely reclaimed by the grave, it is for us to grieve for the loss of such an example, which constantly diffused around it in the sunshine of peace, and the graces of refinement.

There are others more nearly connected and more deeply afflicted, and a large number of relatives and friends, both here and abroad, will long mourn over this heart-felt bereavement. With them, would we mingle our sympathies and our tears, and dwell, with them upon those enduring attributes of perfection, which ennoble the fleeting hours of existence, and which, surviving in our memories, often defy the oblivious power of the tomb.

Peace be to her mouldering ashes, whether they repose beneath the venerable shades of Mount Vernon, in the time-hallowed cemetery of her fore-fathers, or find their last resting place in the verdant valley of the West.



Mary Eliza Angela Lewis Conrad was buried at Mount Vernon alongside the tomb of George Washington. Her monument is pictured at left. The epitaph read as follows:

SACRED
 To the Memory of
 M^{rs} M. E. A. CONRAD
 Wife of
 Ch^s M. Conrad
 of New Orleans
 Daughter of Lau^c & Eleanor P. Lewis
 and Grand niece of
 GEN^l GEORGE WASHINGTON
 Born April 1st 1813
 at Woodlawn, Fairfax C^o Va
 and died Sept 21st 1839
 at Pass Christian Missⁱ
 in the 27th Year of her age

After the Civil War Charles Magill Conrad resumed his law practice and suffered a seizure while testifying in federal circuit court in New Orleans, He died a few days later on 11 February 1878.

He was originally entombed at Girod Street Cemetery. This cemetery no longer exists and he was re-entombed in 1957 at Hope Mausoleum. His death was reported in the *Daily Picayune*, p. 4, col. 3, on Tuesday 12 February 1878:

CONRAD — On Monday, February 11, 1878 at half past 12 o'clock, **CHARLES MAGILL CONRAD**, in the 74th year of his age, a native of Virginia, but for over 60 years a resident of this city.

His funeral will take place from the residence of W. B. Krumbhaar corner of second and Coliseum streets, on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. the 12th at half past 3 o'clock. His friends and the friends of his son, C. A. Conrad, are respectively invited to attend.

Charles² Magill Conrad and Mary Eliza Angela Lewis had three children:

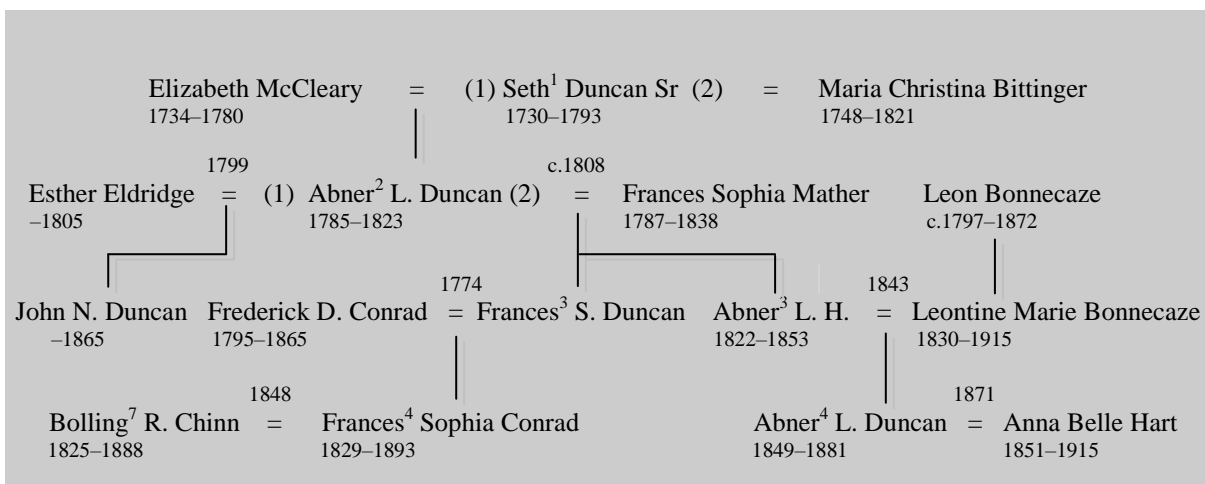
- A. Angela³ Lewis Conrad who was born 17 March 1836 and died 25 March 1837.
- B. Charles³ Angelo Lewis Conrad who was born 14 August 1837 and died 23 September 1892 in New Orleans. In the Civil War he was with Company G, Louisiana 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment.
- C. Lawrence³ Lewis Conrad who was born 3 July 1839 in Mississippi and died 7 August 1889. He married Sallie Howard Worthington. She was born 26 April 1842 in Maryland and died 2 June 1917.



The other children of Frederick¹ and Frances Thruston Conrad were: Ann², Elizabeth², Frank², Alfred² and two daughters, whose names are unknown.

The Duncan Family

The Duncan family are said to be descended from Sir Henry Percy, known as Harry Hotspur, Duke of Northumberland. See: www.nndb.com/people/687/000097396/. To date this alleged connection has not been authenticated.



The founding father of the Duncan family in America of interest here was Seth¹ Duncan *'The Elder'*. He was born in Scotland in 1730 and later went to Donegal County, Ireland. Seth was the son of James Duncan. Seth died 3 August 1793 in Abbotstown, Pennsylvania.

Seth Duncan migrated to America with several of his brothers about 1750 and settled initially in Octorara, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He then moved to Abbottstown in York County. Seth served as a private in the Revolution and in 1785 was a member of the militia of York County.



Seth's first wife was Elizabeth McCleary. She was born 1734 and died 1780. They had numerous children. His great, great granddaughter was the notorious dancer **Isadora⁵ Duncan**. → See further on.

Children of Seth¹ Duncan and Elizabeth McCleary:

1. General William² Duncan was born 14 October 1772 in Abbottstown, Pennsylvania and died 16 February 1864. He was a distinguished officer in the **War of 1812**. William was married three times. First to Mary (Polly) Moulder (1765–1818) on 31 October 1792. After she died he married her sister Sarah (1789–1832). Both were daughters of William Moulder.



In 1841, nine years after Sarah died, William married Mrs Anna Claypool Slaughter, née Peale, widow of the Rev. Dr. William Slaughter (1770–1829), a Baptist clergyman, and daughter of the artist James Peale (1749–1831) and Mary Chambers Claypoole (1753–1828).

James Peale was best known for his miniature and still life paintings. Anna was also a talented painter, and like her father, specialized in portrait miniatures. She was born 6 March 1791 in Philadelphia and died 25 December 1878.



James Peale
1749–1831



Anna Claypoole Peale
1791–1878

General William Duncan and his first wife Mary (Polly) Moulder had several children, one being:

- A. Joseph³ Moulder Duncan was born 1802 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and died 1843. He married Harriett Bioren. She was born in December 1803 and died 22 January 1822. Amongst their children was a son:
- i. Joseph⁴ Charles Duncan was born 1819 in Philadelphia and died 14 October 1898 in Cornwall, England. He married first Elizabeth Hill in 1846. After she died he married Mary Isadora Grey (1849–1922) on 26 June 1869. She was the daughter of state senator Thomas Grey.

Joseph and Mary Duncan had four children, one of which was:

- a. (Angela) **Isadora⁵ Duncan**. She was born 27 May 1877 in San Francisco, California.

Isadora⁵ Duncan was born in San Francisco on 27 May 1877, the youngest child of Joseph Charles Duncan and Mary Isadora Grey. She lived in Europe and the Soviet Union from the age of 22 until her death at age 50.

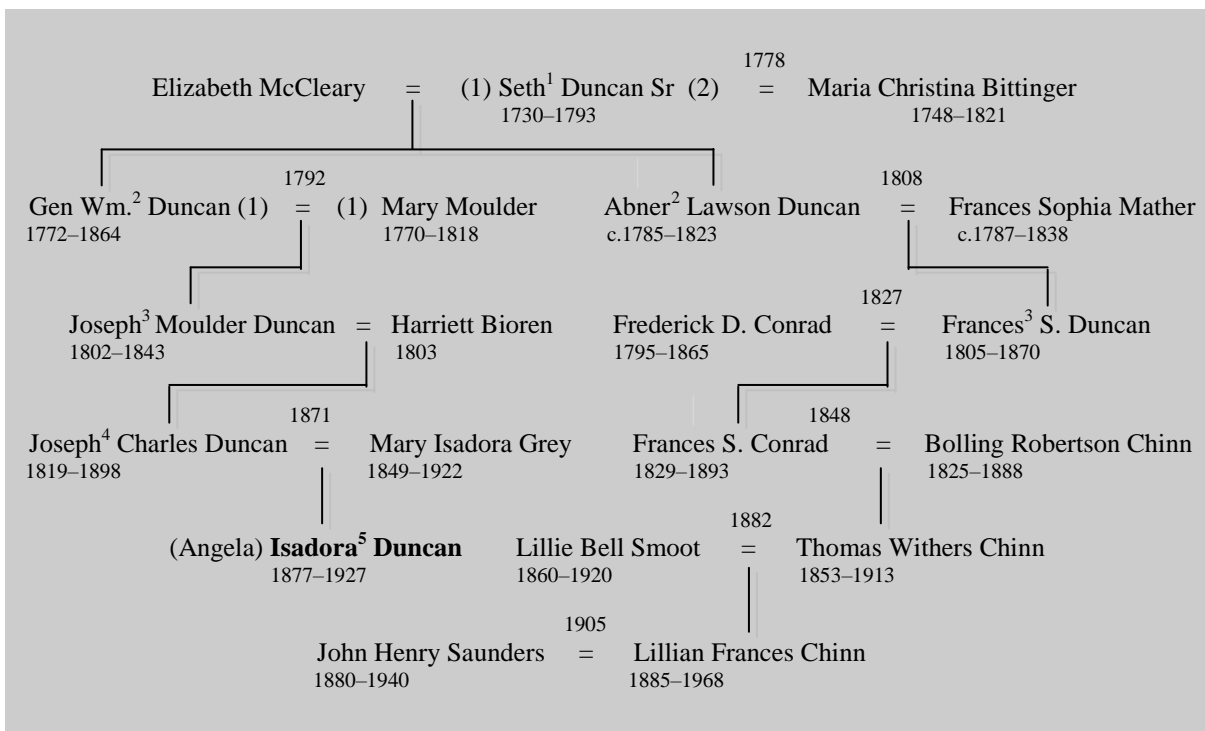
Considered the creator of modern dance Isadora was acclaimed throughout Europe. Both in her professional and private life she flouted mores and morality. She was bisexual and bore two children, both out of wedlock.

Isadora's fondness for flowing scarves was the cause of her death on 14 September 1927 in a freak automobile accident in Nice, France when the large silk scarf draped around her neck became entangled around one of the vehicle's open-spoked wheels and rear axle, breaking her neck.



Isadora Duncan
1877–1927

Isadora Duncan
1915 Passport Application



Continuing with the children of Seth¹ and Elizabeth McCleary Duncan:

2. Hannah² (or Anna) Duncan was born 1765 in Philadelphia. She married John Nicholson (1758–1800) who was a partner of Robert Morris (1734–1806), a Revolutionary financier and one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence. John died in the debtor's prison in Philadelphia in 1800.
3. Seth² Duncan Jr was a Captain in the Revolution.
4. Matthew² Duncan was born 1758 and died 1807.
5. James² Duncan.
6. Martha² Duncan was born 1765 in Pennsylvania and died 1849. She married the Hon. William Moulder on 23 June 1791. He was the brother of the sisters Mary and Sarah Moulder, both of whom married General William Duncan. The Hon. William Duncan died in 1835.
7. John² Duncan was born 1766.
8. **Abner² Lawson Duncan** was born 1774 and died 1823. → See below

After Seth's first wife died he married Christiana Bittinger with whom he had three children:

John² Duncan, born c.1780.

Mary² Duncan, born c.1786.

Adam² Seth Enos Duncan, born 1789 and died 1840. He married Mary Mark.

8. Abner² Lawson Duncan, the youngest of Seth¹ and Elizabeth Duncan's children, was the father of Frances³ Sophia who married Frederick² D. Conrad. He was born 1774 in Pennsylvania and died 27 December 1823 in New Orleans.

Abner's death was reported in the *Louisiana Gazette*, p. 2, col. 3, the same day:

Died this morning at 2.o'clock, **ABNER LAWSON DUNCAN**, Esq.,
Counsellor at Law.

The friends of the deceased and those of his afflicted family, as well as his Masonic Brethren are respectively invited to attend his Funeral on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, from his late residence at the corner of Royal and Bienville streets.

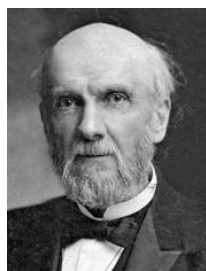
Abner had several siblings, including a sister Hannah who married John Nicholson. Abner migrated first to the state of Kentucky. After a short while he pushed further south, arriving at the port of Natchez, Mississippi in the closing years of the 18th century where he was admitted to the Bar. In 1801 he became Attorney General of the Territory. By 1802 he was made District Attorney for Adams County which at the time covered a vast area.

In June 1799 he married his first wife, Esther Eldridge, in Natchez, Mississippi. She died about 1805. Abner then moved to New Orleans where he established a successful practice. Abner² and Esther had one son:

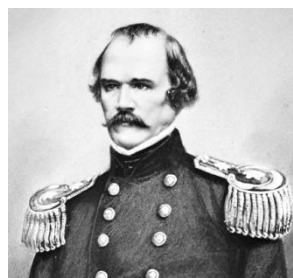
A. John³ Nicholas Duncan was born about 1800 in Adams County, Mississippi and died 20 June 1865. He married Mary Jones about 1830. She died in 1864 in Virginia. They had one daughter:

- i. Rosa⁴ Elizabeth Duncan was born 3 December 1831 and died 19 October 1885. On 7 July 1853 she married William Preston Johnson who was born in Louisville, Kentucky on 5 January 1831 and died 1899.

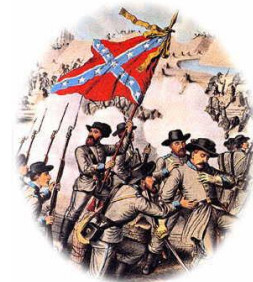
William was the eldest son of Albert Sidney Johnson (1803–1862) and Henrietta Preston. Considered by Confederate President Jefferson Davis to be the finest general officer in the Confederacy before the emergence of Robert E. Lee, General Johnson was killed early in the Civil War at the Battle of Shiloh. Johnson was the highest ranking officer, Union or Confederate, killed during the entire war.



William Preston Johnson
1831–1899



Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson
1803–1862

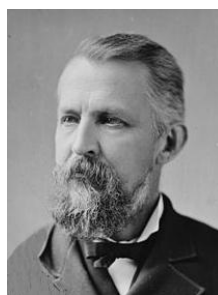


Rosa⁴ and William Preston Johnson had eight children including:

- a. Henrietta⁵ Preston Johnson. She was born 19 April 1856 in Kentucky and died 1900 in Virginia. She married Henry St. George Tucker III in 1877. He was born 5 April 1853 and died 23 July 1932. He was descended from a distinguished family of jurists and lawyers and was the grandson of Henry St. George Tucker (1780–1848) who was Professor of Law at the *University of Virginia* from 1841 to 1845. One of his graduating students of 1843 was John⁷ Henry Saunders (1821–1885). → See Chapter 8: James Douglass Saunders.



Henry St George
Tucker III
1853–1932



John Randolph
Tucker
1823–1897



Henry St George
Tucker
1780–1848

Henry St. George Tucker III was born 5 April 1853 and was the son of John Randolph Tucker and Laura Holmes Powell. He attended school in Richmond and Middleburg, Virginia and graduated from Washington & Lee Law School in 1876. In 1889 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (1889–1897). From 1897 to 1902 he was professor of constitutional law at Washington & Lee and then

became dean of the law school at Columbia University, now George Washington University. He returned as a Member of the House of Representatives and remained there until his death on 23 July 1932. He is buried in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lexington, Virginia.

Following the death of Esther, Abner² married Frances Sophia Mather about 1804 in New Orleans. She was born 1788 and died 19 July 1831 in Pennsylvania. She the daughter of James Mather, born about 1850, who came to America in 1776 from England with Isaac¹ Johnson (→ See the Johnson Family—this chapter, 6th generation: Judge Thomas Withers Chinn).

In 1807 he was appointed mayor of New Orleans by William Charles Cole Claiborne, governor of the Louisiana Territory, and served until 1812. He died 8 October 1821.

Abner² L. Duncan and his 2nd wife Frances Sophia Mather had four children:

- A. Frances³ Sophia Duncan was born 1809. She married Frederick² Daniel Conrad on 4 September 1827. They were the parents of Frances⁴ Sophia Conrad who married Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn. Abner² Duncan presented to his daughter as a wedding present a large plantation home near Baton Rouge called *'The Cottage'*.

The grand house, which was featured in the 1957 film *Band of Angels* starring Clark Gable and Yvonne De Carlo, was destroyed by fire in February 1960.



The Cottage Plantation

Photo courtesy of *The Advocate*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

-
- B. Hannah³ Duncan who died before 1823.
- C. Eliza³ A. Duncan was born April 1815 and died 13 August 1833.
- D. Abner³ Lawson Hamilton Duncan was born 1822 in East Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He married Léontine Marie Bonnacaze on the 1st of November 1843. She was the daughter of Leon Bonnacaze and his wife Caroline, née Mahier.

Abner³ L. H. Duncan died Friday, 25 March 1853. The *Daily Comet* carried an obituary the following day:

Death of A. L. H. Duncan

Abner L. H. Duncan died at his residence, on Laurel street, at two o'clock yesterday evening. Mr. Duncan has resided in this place from his boyhood to the present hour, and now it becomes our painful duty to record his death. From his kindness of heart, and social feelings, he endeared himself to all who knew him, and he leaves a large circle of warm friends and affectionate relatives to mourn his loss.

It is but a few days ago that we saw him at his post, in the State Legislature—of which he was a member, then all buoyant with hope and bright anticipation, and now in the early dawn of his career of usefulness, he is suddenly taken from among us. What a lesson is this! The best of us stand upon a slipper platform, that may in one moment suddenly give way, and we make an eternal exit from the bustling world—a bare breath chills the warm blood, and the loving and the loved, the old and the young congeal into the stiffness of death.

The funeral will take place at half past three o'clock this evening from his residence.

Abner's wife, Léontine Marie Bonnacaze Duncan died 22 March 1915. A lengthy obituary appeared in the *State Times*, p. 5, col. 2 on Monday, 22 March 1915:

Death of Mrs L. M. Duncan

At 2 o'clock on Monday morning, the lady whose name heads this notice breathed her last, after an illness of several months.

It is seldom we are called to record a death, which had caused in our community, such a wide-spread and deep impression of sorrow and grief as that produced by the decease of this estimable lady.

She had reached the age of 90 years, surrounded with the esteem and the love of our entire population.

She was a woman of culture and education, possessing those qualities of heart which captivate the friendship of all with whom they are thrown in contact. She spoke English and French fluently.

In the elations of life, the virtues that constitute the devoted wife, fond mother, affectionate friend and true Christian, were in her truly exemplified.

Born Léontine Bonnacaze, she was one of the last survivors of this old aristocratic family, who have played an important part in the history of Louisiana for centuries. She is survived by one son, Leon Duncan, a niece, Mrs Julia Reedy and the following grand-children, Mrs Joe Young, Mrs Fred Odom, Mrs J. F. Gray, Miss Blanche Duncan, Joe Duncan, C. J. Reddy, of this city, Henry Reynaud of Texas and Willie Reynaud of Arkansas, and several great-grand-children.

The funeral will take place from her late residence, 457 Laurel street, Monday afternoon. Interment in Catholic Cemetery.

Abner³ L. H. Duncan and his wife Leontine had four children:

- i. Blanche⁴ Duncan was born 1844 and died prior to 1860.
- ii. Hannah⁴ E. Duncan was born 24 August 1846 and died Tuesday, 10 July 1852.
- iii. Abner⁴ Lawson Hamilton Duncan was born 17 February 1849 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and died 19 October 1880. He married Anna Belle Hart on the 6th December 1871. They had three children:
 - a. Abner⁵ Lawson Duncan was born 1873.
 - b. Joseph⁵ Hart Duncan was born 14 August 1876 and died 1 April 1958. He was not married.
 - c. Mary⁵ Blanche Duncan was born about 1880 and died 2 January 1958. She was not married. A notice of her death and funeral arrangements was placed in the *State Times*, p. 4-A, col. 1 on Friday, 3 January:

DUNCAN. MISS MARIE BLANCHE

Died at 10:45 p.m. Thursday at her home, Magnolia Mound Plantation. She was a native of East Baton Rouge Parish and the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Duncan. She was the granddaughter of the late Capt. and Mrs. S. M. Hart. The body will be at the Rabenhorst Funeral Home with religious services there at 3 p.m. Friday. Burial will be in Magnolia cemetery. Survivors include her brother Joseph H. Duncan, and several cousins, among them Mrs. John T. Anderson of Baton Rouge. Pallbearers will be Robert Hart II, Albert Hart, Hart Dunbar, Claude Reynaud, James J. Bailey and John T. Anderson. She was a member of the Garden Club, the Round Table Club, the TB League and a number of charity organizations.

- iv. Leon⁴ Bonnacaze Duncan was born 10 July 1853 and died 12 June 1918. It is thought that he was never married.

oOo

The Thruston Family

The marriage of Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn to Frances³ Sophia Conrad introduced a relationship to the Thruston Family. Frances's great-grandfather was the Rev. Charles⁴ Mynn Thruston (1738–1812). He was but one of many members of the Thruston family who became important political and military leaders in United States history. A more detailed description on this family can be found *on-line* and in various literary works. What follows is a very general outline of the family.

The first member of the Thruston family to arrive in America was Dr Edward¹ Thruston. He was born 30 January 1638 in Bristol, England and died 1698 in Martin's Hundred, James City County, Virginia Colony. Edward was the son of John 'Chamberlain of Bristol' Thruston (1606–1675) and Thomasine Rich 'Ritch' Warren, widow of John Warren. She was born 1604 and died 1647.

Dr. Edward¹ Thruston married Ann Loving on 28 October 1666 in Virginia. She was born 1644 in Jamestown, Virginia. At some point Edward and Ann returned to England where Ann died on 13 December 1670 in Somerset, England. After Ann died he married Susanna Perry on 3 September 1671. Amongst Edward and Susanna's children was a son:

A. Edward² Thruston Jr. was born 5 February 1679 in Somerset, England and died 1762 in Norfolk County, Virginia. He married Elizabeth Housden on 31 August 1706. They had eight children. One warrants mention here.

i. Col. John³ Thruston was born 24 Oct. 1709 in Norfolk County, Virginia and died 21 March 1812. He married Sarah Haynes, née Mynn, widow of Herbert Haynes, on 6 December 1737. She was born 15 September 1716 and died 12 May 1786. They had several children, one being:

a. Rev. Col. Charles⁴ Mynn Thruston, born 6 November 1738 and died June 1812 in Le Teche, Louisiana. In 1776 he organized a company and marched to join (George) Washington in New Jersey. Charles was first married to Mary Buckner, who was born 1732 and died 18 August 1765. They had three children.



(i) John⁵ Thruston, born 15 October 1762, died 19 February 1802. He married his 1st cousin Elizabeth Thruston Whiting, the daughter of Col. Thomas Whiting and Elizabeth Thruston. Elizabeth was the daughter of the Rev. Col. Charles⁴ Mynn Thruston and his second wife Ann Alexander.

(ii) Buckner⁵ Thruston, born 9 February 1764. He married Janette January on 17 March 1795.

(iii) Charles⁵ Mynn Thruston, born 3 August 1765, died 11 December 1800. He married Frances Eleanor Clark on 20 January 1796. She was the daughter of John Clark and Ann Rogers and the sister of William Clark (1770–1838) who, with Meriwether Lewis, set out from St. Louis, Missouri on 14 May 1804 and reached the Pacific Ocean via Columbia River Valley on 17 November 1805.



William Clark
1770–1838

Rev. Col. Charles⁴ Mynn Thruston married second Ann Alexander on 2 February 1766, a year after his first wife died. They had nine children.

Returning to Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn ...

The following article about an incident in a bar-room involving Bowlin (*sic*) R. Chinn appeared in the *Southern Sentinel* of the 6th of June 1857:

Unfortunate and Bloody Affray.—We are pained to perceive by the Baton Rouge papers that a terrible affair occurred in that city on Tuesday evening last, in the bar-room of the Hatney House. It appears that LAFAYETTE CALDWELL of West Baton Rouge met there BOWLIN R. CHINN, a wealthy planter of the same parish, and after a word or two between them, the former drew a revolver and fired, the ball entering the groin of Mr. JOHN TOY,—CALDWELL fired again at CHINN immediately afterwards, this time hitting him in the abdomen, the ball lodging in the spine; Both wounds were pronounced mortal. Mr. CALDWELL surrendered himself to the Sheriff—he was an aid of the Governor, and a planter, we believe, of West Baton Rouge.

Since the above was in type, we learn that Mr. TOY died on Wednesday night, and that Mr. CHINN died the following morning. Truly, truly, a melancholy affair! All the parties have families.

P. S. Mr. CHINN's death is contradicted; he is reported to be getting better. This we learn as we go to press on Friday evening.

Bolling Chinn took control of Cypress Hall Plantation on the Mississippi River in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the death of his father in 1852. During the Civil War the plantation was burnt to the ground to light the way for Yankee gunboats coming up the Mississippi. Bolling had served with distinction during the war. Under General H. W. Allen's brigade, the then Captain Chinn marched from Camp Moore to Baton Rouge and participated with his company in the battle of the 5th of August, receiving a flesh wound in the leg early in the action. After recovering from his wound he returned to his command at Port Hudson and remained with it, commanding the battalion most of the time before, and during the siege.

At the surrender of Port Hudson he was sent with the other officers to Northern prisons, where he remained until exchanged near the close of the war. Upon his return he was promoted to the rank of major. However, when the final surrender took place and he returned to his home in West Baton Rouge, he found ruin and desolation where once had been peace and prosperity. Nothing daunted, he began with determined purpose to retrieve his lost fortune and managed his plantation in a successful manner until 1885, when he removed to East Baton Rouge, where he remained up until the time of his death. In 1866 he was elected to the legislature, being the first representative from his parish after the war. He was a typical

southerner, a distinguished member of the school of courtly and polished gentleman. His wife was a woman of the highest refinement, culture and education. She was reared in luxury, being the eldest daughter of wealthy parents. Mrs. Chinn (Frances Sophia Conrad) was married early in life and at her husband's side also enjoyed all that wealth could procure, but when the Civil War was inaugurated and he went forth to battle she took her little children and throughout the struggle lived in a rough pine-wood cabin in the woods, surrounded by dangers, deserted by her servants, sometimes scarcely knowing where her next meal would come from.



Frances Sophia Chinn's visiting card

Records of *Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Commands* supplied by Eleanor (Mrs Robert C.) Chinn, source unknown:

Chinn, B.R., Capt. Co. C. 9th Battn. La. Infy. En: (date missing). Roll for Sept. and Oct., 1862, Present. Federal Rolls of Prisoners of War. Captured Port Hudson, La., on board Steamer Zephyr, July 13th, 1863. Transfd. To Fort Columbus, N.Y. Harbor, Oct. 10th, 1863. Recd at Johnson's Island, Ohio, Oct 13th, 1863. Transfd. To Fort Delaware, Del., June 23rd, 1864. Paroled at Fort Delaware, Oct. 6th, 1864. Forwd. To Pt. Lookout, Md. Recd. At Coxe's Wharf, James River, Va., Oct 15th 1864, and exchanged.

Hanging Rock Rebel, Lt. John Blue's War in West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, edited by Dan Oates and published by Burd Street Press, 1994, details the memoirs of Lt. Blue's Civil War experiences. When he was captured, Lt. Blue was transferred to the Federal POW camp at Point Lookout on Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, where he shared quarters with Major Bolling Chinn.

Lt. Blue wrote his memoirs some 35 years after the end of the Civil War and while some of the detail concerning Bolling Chinn appears inaccurate, he does flesh out a little of the character and personality of the man.

p. 270

Ten men were quartered in each tent. In our tent were **Maj. Chinn**, of Louisiana, Capt. Wheeler, Capt Bullock, of Tennessee ... and myself. Capt. [sic] Chinn, if I remember right, was captured at Port Hudson. By the terms of capitulation the field officers were allowed to retain all their private baggage. The Major had two large trunks, one containing his wardrobe and bedding; the bedding consisted of a single hair mattress, pillow, sheets, blankets, &c. The Major was wealthy at the commencement of the war. He owned a fine sugar plantation, owned over five hundred slaves. He said he had built a fine house two years before the war on a bluff near the Mississippi river, above Baton Rouge, that cost him \$25,000. Major Chinn raised and equipped a battalion of 500 men at his own expense, and marched them to Port Hudson, Louisiana. On the fall of Vicksburg, Port Hudson was surrendered, conditionally, the field officers being allowed the above named privileges of carrying with them their private baggage. These officers were sent to Johnson's Island, where I met Major Chinn for the first time. He

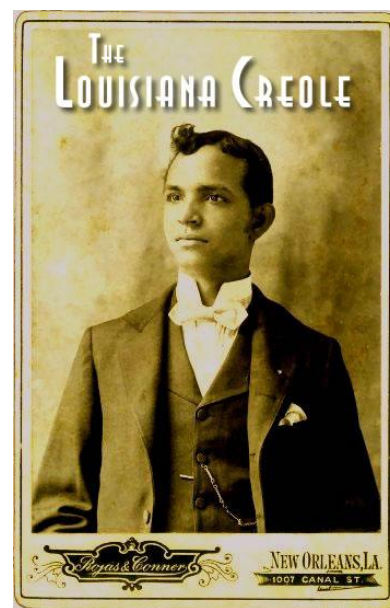
seemed to take a great liking for me from our first meeting. When we moved into our new quarters the Major insisted that I must take up my abode in the same tent that he did. A few days after we had moved from the Hospital (at Point Lookout, Maryland) the Major received the unwelcome news through a prisoner and a neighbor of his, recently captured, that his elegant house had been burned, and that **his wife and daughter, an only child**, were living in a negro cabin on the farm and cared for by some of her aged Slaves, who refused to leave them. **The Major was made up of American, French and Creole; the language used was of about the same complexion.** When this unwelcome news reached the Major his language was far more emphatic than elegant The officer in command had ordered the house set on fire to give them light to work by. For several days it seemed as though the Major would lose his mind. One morning he (Major Chinn) called me to where he lay and said, “this is sad news for me; I care nothing for my house and slaves, but the thought of what my wife and daughter may have to endure, is almost more than I can bear. They, who have from early infancy had every known wish gratified, may be in want of bread.”

Lt. Blue's recollections of Major Chinn are somewhat inaccurate. Bolling Chinn had numerous children including at least five daughters and two sons, several born prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. His ethnic background was English-Scottish, not French, although growing up in the Baton Rouge-New Orleans area, he probably spoke passable French which might have influenced his American accent, particularly to the ear of a Virginian.

Louisiana Creoles

The term Creole can have many interpretations, depending on where you live and to some extent your point of view. Beginning in the 1760s the term Creole was increasingly used to distinguish between Anglo settlers (such as the Chinns and Bolling's mother's family, the Johnsons) living in Louisiana – *les Américains* – and local French-speaking colonists – Creoles, who could be people of any race or mixture thereof sharing a French or Spanish background.

In the United States the word Creole usually refers to any race or mixture thereof who are descended from settlers in colonial French Louisiana before it became part of the USA in 1803 with the Louisiana Purchase. Some people from other parts of the USA have mistakenly assumed the term to refer only to people of mixed racial descent, but this is not the traditional Louisiana usage. It is now accepted that Creole is a broad cultural group of people of all races who share a French or Spanish background. Louisianans who refer to themselves as Creole are most commonly from historically Francophone communities with some ancestors who came to Louisiana either directly from France or via the French colonies in the Caribbean. Those descended from the Acadians of French Canada are more likely to identify themselves as Cajun than Creole.



oOo

Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn and his wife Frances Sophia produced numerous children. The records are a little conflicting and they are listed according to the information to hand. It is thought that some died either in infancy or early childhood.

1. Frances⁸ Sophia Chinn, born 1849, died 4 September 1857 of *yellow fever*.
2. Elizabeth⁸ Chinn, born 17 March 1851. She is thought to have died in California.
3. **Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn 1853–1913 → See 8th generation**

4. Mary⁸ Chinn born, 14 September 1855. She does not appear on the 1860 Census and perhaps died in infancy or as a young child.
5. Mittie⁸ Chinn, born 1856; died 31 January 1860 (Ref: Catholic Church records).
6. Frederica⁸ Conrad Chinn was born July 1858. She was never married and died 11 September 1889. Her death was noted in *The Advocate* on 13 September 1889:

Died

CHINN — In this city, Wednesday, September 11th, 1889, at 5.15 o'clock P. M., **FREDERICA CONRAD CHINN**, daughter of the late Bowling Chinn aged 31 years and 2 months.



Frederica Conrad Chinn
1858–1889

Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn, now living in San Francisco, was advised of his sister's death by a telegram from W. R. Conrad.

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assumed to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be proved against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of time paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within a reasonable time after receiving the message.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

1273
6570m
6510p

Number _____ SENT BY _____ RECD BY _____

Received at **SAN FRANCISCO, CALA.** M. Standard Time. **Sept 11 88**

Dated **Baton Rouge La 11**

To **Thomas W Chinn**
621 Bush St Fran

Your sister Fredrika died this evening half past five

W R Conrad

7. Angela⁸ Robertson Chinn, born 1861. She does not appear on the 1870 Census and presumably died as an infant or in early childhood.
8. Florence⁸ Angela Chinn, born 1862. She never married and died 20 September 1944. her death was reported in the *Times Picayune*, p. 2, col. 7, the next day:

CHINN — On Wednesday evening, September 20, 1944, at 7:15 o'clock, **FLORENCE SOPHIA CHINN**, daughter of the late Frances Conrad and Bowling R. Chinn
 Funeral will take place Thursday morning, September 21, 1944, at 9:45 o'clock, from the house of Bultman, St. Charles Avenue at Louisiana avenue. Requiem mass at St. Alphonsus Church, Constance and Josephine streets.
 Body will be taken to Baton Rouge, La., for interment.

Note: Death notice should read Florence **Angela** Chinn

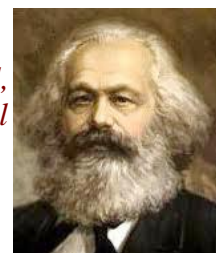
9. Sophia⁸ Leonia Chinn was born 27 November 1866 and died 25 march 1938 in New Orleans. She does not appear on the 1870 Census even though the Catholic Church records state she was baptized 15 Sept 1870.
10. Ella⁸ Sophia Chinn was born 1867 and never married. She died 25 March 1938.



Ella Sophia Chinn
1867–1938

14 September 1867

Karl Marx publishes the first of three volumes of *Das Kapital*, *Kritik der politischen Ökonomie* (*Capital: Critique of Political Economy*). Marx proposes that the motivating force of capitalism is the exploitation of labour, whose unpaid work is the ultimate source of surplus value which is claimed by the owner of the means of production. The owner is protected by the ruling regime through property rights.



Karl Marx
1818–1883

Ella⁸ Sophia Chinn's death was reported in the *Morning Advocate*, Baton Rouge, the next day:

Rites Set Today For Miss Chinn

The body of Miss Ella Chinn, member of a long-prominent Louisiana family, will arrive from New Orleans this morning at 11:30 o'clock at the Y. & M. V. station. The funeral will be held from the station, with burial in the Magnolia cemetery.

Miss Chinn, formerly of West Baton Rouge, died early Friday in New Orleans, where she had been residing for the past few years.

Miss Chinn was the daughter of the late Maj. Bolling Robertson Chinn, well known sugar planter on the West Side, and of the late Frances Conrad Chinn. She was born at Cypress hall plantation in a home which replaced the famous antebellum home fired by the Yankees to light the way for the gunboats up the Mississippi river. It was here Miss Chinn received her early education from private tutors.

Her grandfather, the late Thomas Withers Chinn served as congressman from Louisiana and in 1849 he was appointed United States minister to the Kingdom of the two Sicilies. In private life he was a sugar planter.

Miss Chinn was the great-granddaughter of Abner Lawson Duncan, aid to General Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. She was a member of the Catholic Women's club and of Chapter No. 72, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

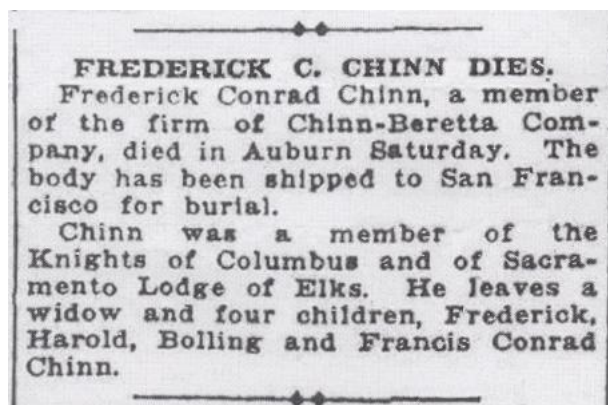
She leaves one sister, Miss Florence "Jerry" Chinn, with whom she made her home in New Orleans, and one niece and three nephews, who live in California. She has many connections here.

11. **Frederick⁸ Conrad Chinn** was born 2 November 1870 in Louisiana. In 1887 he went to California and settled in San Francisco (his brother Thomas Withers had been there since 1876) and was engaged in business there until 1897. That same year he moved to Sacramento where he organized the Chinn-Beretta Optical Company. Frederick was a graduate of the Chicago College of Ophthalmology and in January 1899 he became one of the organizers and the first president of the California Association of Opticians.



*Frederick Conrad Chinn and his wife Rose with their three sons,
Frederick Harold, Bolling Robertson and Francis Conrad.
c.1912*

Frederick⁸ Conrad Chinn died on Saturday, 10 May 1919 in Sacramento, California. His death was announced in the *Sacramento Bee*, p.2, col.7 the following Monday.



<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ca/state1/biographies/fcchinn.html> This website from the *Sacramento County History and Genealogy* provides a biography capsule about Frederick C. Chinn written about 1904 while he was still alive.

Frederick Conrad Chinn, of Sacramento, is a man who entered upon a special business career with large ideas and ambitions for the future. Now at the age of thirty-four years he has what is probably the largest optical business in the United States, having retail stores in several California cities, and daily extending his trade into new sections. Mr. Chinn unites with professional zeal the executive and organizing ability of a captain of industry, and has built up in an incredibly short time an enterprise which is well known in business circles throughout the country, and of which he is president and general manager. Like so many others who have won prominence, he started with all his capital in brains and energy, not in money, and has progressed by self-achievement.

Not only has Mr. Chinn built up his business to a point of secure financial prosperity, but he has rendered incalculable benefit to the optical profession in general, especially in California, and, indeed, by initiating an excellent precedent, setting the pace for other states of the Union to follow up. This achievement for which Mr. Chinn is mainly responsible was the establishment, by legislative enactment, of the state board of optometry, during the session of 1903, and in July of the same year Governor (George Cooper) Pardee appointed Mr. Chinn secretary of that board for a term of four years. California is the second state to adopt a similar provision, and practically the same measure has been defeated thirteen times in other states, thrice in New York alone, the same influences being arrayed against the proposal as are brought against any wholesale reform demanding higher qualifications for a certain class. The board of optometry in California regulates the practice of optometry, and by requiring an examination before the board of all applicants desiring to become opticians places opticians on the same plane as physicians and dentists and recognizes them as professional men. This law was the result of the agitation of the State Optical Society, which was practically organized by Mr. Chinn and of which he was elected first president in 1899. The society gave Mr. Chinn charge of the matter of pressing the measure before the legislature, and in face of considerable opposition he obtained its passage. This law is a protection to the public, and guarantees that only competent men may examine and treat that most delicate of all human organisms, the eye. No one may practice the profession of optician in California until he has passed an examination before the state board.

Mr. Chinn was born in West Baton Rouge parish, Louisiana, November 2, 1870. His father, Bolling Robertson Chinn, was also a native of Louisiana, and of an old American family of Revolutionary stock, and with English and Welsh progenitors. He was a sugar planter in Louisiana and was a Mexican war veteran, and in the Civil war was a colonel of the Fourth Louisiana Infantry of the Confederate army. He died in 1888. His wife was Frances Conrad, a native of Louisiana and of German ancestors who had settled in this country before the Revolutionary war, in which they took part. Two or three of her brothers were soldiers in the Confederate army. She survived her husband until 1892. One son of these parents, Thomas

W., is in the fruit business at Red Bluff, California, and the three daughters, Misses E. J., F. A. and E. S., reside in Sacramento.


Mr. Chinn was educated in the public schools of Louisiana and at the Louisiana State University. At the age of sixteen he came to San Francisco and went into the optical business. In 1897 he came to Sacramento and established his enterprise at 526 K street, and a year later established another store at 456 Thirteenth street, in Oakland; two years later one of his stores was opened at 991 Market street, San Francisco, followed a year later by the establishment of one at 407 East Main street, Stockton. He now has the largest retail business in this line in the United States. The business is incorporated under the name of Chinn-Beretta Company, I. A. Beretta being secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Chinn has taken an active part in the affairs of the Republican party, and his fraternal relations are with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was married in San Francisco, in February, 1892, to Miss Rose McKenna, a native of New York and of Scotch-Irish descent. Her father, John J. McKenna, is a retired merchant of New York city. Mr. and Mrs. Chinn have three sons, Frederick Harold, Bolling Robertson and Francis Conrad.

This article appeared in the *San Francisco Call* on 24 June 1903:

Governor's Choice of
Officials Is En-
dorsed.

SACRAMENTO, June 23.—Governor Pardee's selection of F. C. Chinn of this city as a member of the State Board of Examiners in Optometry has given much satisfaction here. Mr. Chinn is an optician of wide experience. He has been engaged in the work of his profession for fifteen years in this city and in San Francisco. He was the organizer and first president of the California Optical Society, the organization which gave origin and strength to the optometry bill in the Legislature. He had charge of the bill during its consideration by the lawmakers.



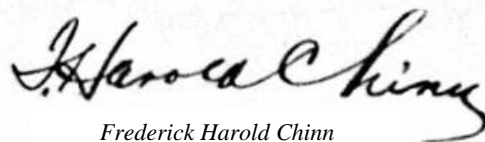
F. C. CHINN

Frederick⁸ Conrad Chinn married Rose McKenna on 22 February 1893 in San Francisco. She was born 1872 in New York and died 1934. They had three sons:

- A. Frederick⁹ Harold Chinn was born 7 February 1893 in San Francisco and died 22 December 1950. He married Vera Irene Williams about 1925. She was born 19 September 1899 and died 2 February 1988.



Rose McKenna
1872–1934



Frederick Harold Chinn
WWI Draft Registration Card

Frederick⁹ Harold Chinn and Vera Irene Williams had two daughters:

- i. Beverly¹⁰ Chinn was born 24 April 1922. She married Captain Eugene Johnston Fretz on 4 March 1944 at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Sacramento. He was born 10 January 1918 in Mare Island, California and died 27 January 2005 at Fort Mohave, Arizona.

The following article appeared in the *Santa Ana Register* on 12 August 1940:



- ii. Patricia¹⁰ Chinn was born 14 October 1927. She married Robert Houston Taylor on Saturday, 14 June 1947 at St Mathew's Catholic Church in San Mateo. He was born 24 February 1925 in Michigan and died 28 March 2011 in San Diego, California. Robert was buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.

- B. Bolling⁹ Robertson Chinn was born 22 July 1896 in Sacramento, California and died 3 January 1986 in San Joaquin, California.



Bolling R. Chinn
WWII Draft Registration Card

Bolling first married to Tillane Malpied on 27 April 1917. She was born 1897. They had two children:

- i. Mary¹⁰ Rose Chinn was born 1920.
- ii. Robert¹⁰ Conrad Chinn was born 11 June 1924 and died 17 June 1949.

When Tillane died in 1932, Bolling married Dora Frances Potter on 21 September 1934. She was born 23 December 1901. Bolling⁹ and Dora had two children:

- i. Constance¹⁰ Anne Chinn was born 1 July 1935. She married Robert J. Hanson on 1 August 1965. He was born 20 March 1924 and died 26 May 1975.
- ii. Thomas¹⁰ Patrick Chinn was born 23 October 1938 in San Joaquin, California. He married first Agnes McBriar. She was born in 1936. Thomas and Agnes had four children:
 - a. Margaret¹¹ Mary Chinn, born 1966.
 - b. Thomas¹¹ Patrick Chinn, born 1967.
 - c. Anne¹¹ Marie Chinn, born 1971.
 - d. Christina¹¹ Frances Chinn, born 1974.

After his divorce from Agnes, Thomas¹⁰ married Tena Buettner Howard. She was born in 1949. Thomas and Tena had two children:

- a. Brian¹¹ Christopher Howard Chinn¹¹, born 1972.
- b. Jennifer¹¹ Leigh Howard Chinn¹¹, born 1975.

9 August 1974

Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, resigned in the face of almost certain impeachment and removal from office following bitter public debate over the Watergate scandals. He was the first President in American history to resign. After his resignation he was issued a pardon by his successor, Gerald Ford.

Nixon was born 9 January 1913 in Yerba Linda, California and died 22 April 1994 in New Jersey.

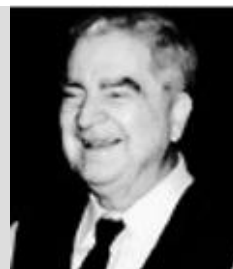


Richard M. Nixon
 1913–1994

Thomas¹⁰ Patrick Chinn died 21 July 2009 in Nevada. His obituary was published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on 24 July:

Thomas Patrick Chinn Sr.

Longtime Nevada resident, Thomas Patrick Chinn Sr., went to his eternal rest on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer. Born and raised in Stockton, CA. He is the son of the late Bolling Robertson Chinn and Dora Frances Chinn, brother of the late Robert Conrad Chinn and Constance Anne Hanson.



1938–2009

He is survived by his beloved wife, Tena Chinn; his sister, Maryrose Dozier-Boscoe; his four children, Margaret Chinn, Thomas Chinn Jr., Anne Casey, and Christina Collinsworth; two stepchildren, Brian Howard and Jennifer Tucciarone; his two nephews, Lance Dozier and John Hanson; his two nieces, Sally Creedon and Jane DeVecchio; and his 10 grandchildren.

He was educated at St. Agnes parochial school, which later became Annunciation, and he graduated from St. Mary's High School in Stockton, CA. Tom was an accomplished skier during high school, and he was hired as a ski instructor at Dodge Ridge on weekends and special holidays. After High School, Tom studied and graduated from the Jesuit University USF in San Francisco where he further developed his interest in his religion, and he later became a deacon in the Catholic Church. He had a successful career in both the advertising and the automotive industries. He loved and followed auto racing throughout his life. Tom was a devoted family man and loved them very much. He and his wife enjoyed traveling, and spending time with those close to him. Tom will always be remembered as an engaging storyteller, and for having a wonderful gift for making friends wherever the road took him. Tom will be dearly missed by his family and the many friends.

A Funeral Mass is scheduled for 11 a.m., Monday, July 27, 2009 at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Reno. Walton Sparks Funeral Home was entrusted with arrangements.

- C. Francis⁹ Conrad Chinn was born 18 March 1902 and died 30 July 1956 in San Francisco. Francis was an optician. He married first Bernice Malter and second Grace Stokes. Neither marriage produced any children.

oOo

The marriage of Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn to Frances Sophia Conrad and the birth and baptism of some of their children are recorded in the Baton Rouge Catholic Church records. The Chinn family were always thought to be either Episcopalian or Baptists. It is likely that the Conrad's were Roman Catholics which would explain why the children were baptised in the Catholic Church. Three of his children are recorded as being baptised on the same day, several years after their birth. This is unusual, as in those times, given the prevalence of infant mortality, babies were normally baptised very soon after birth.

Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholic Church Records, Volume 7, 1848–1852, pp. 123-134:

CHINN

Bolling Robertson (Thomas W, Chinn and Elizabeth JOHNSON)

m. 27 April 1848 Frances Sophia CONRAD (Frederick Daniel Conrad and Frances Sophia DUNKEN).

CONRAD

Frances Sophia (Frederick Daniel Conrad and Frances Sophia DUNKEN)

m. 27 April 1848 **Bolling Robertson CHINN** (Thomas W. Chinn and Elizabeth Johnson).

ibid., Volume 8, 1853-1857, pp. 142-154:

CHINN

Elizabeth (Bolling Robertson Chinn and Frances Sophia CONRAD)

bn. 17 March 1851; bt. 4 Sept. 1853.

Frances Sophia (Bolling Robertson Chinn and Frances Sophia CONRAD)

bn. 21 June 1849; bt. 4 Sept. 1853.

Mary (B.R. Chinn and F. Sophie CONRAD of West Baton Rouge Parish)

bn. Omitted; bt. 14 Sept 1855 in New Orleans – 4th district;

bt. 15 March 1857 in Assumption Parish by Rev. R.P.M. Girard.

Thomas Withers (Bolling Robertson Chinn and Frances Sophia Conrad)

bn. 6 July 1853; bt. 4 Sept. 1853.

CONRAD

Frederick Conrad, age 48 years, bur. 29 March 1853.

ibid., Volume 9, 1858-1862, p. 127:

CHINN

Angela Robertson (Bolling Robertson Chinn and Françoise Sophie Conrad)

bn. 21 Sept. 1861; bt. 24 Jan. 1862.

Mittie, age 4 years (Bolling R. Chinn and Frances L. (?) CHINN)

bur. 1 Feb. 1860; d. yesterday.

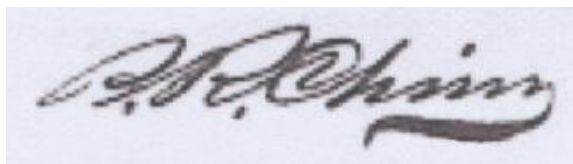
ibid., Volume 11, 1868-1870, p. 121:

CHINN

Sophia Leonia (C.H.B.Pi. Chinn and F.S. Conrad)

bn. 27 Nov. 1866; bt. 15 Sept. 1870.

While the Louisiana Chinns may have been Episcopalian or Baptists, Bolling's marriage into the Conrad family appears to have introduced Catholicism. Those who went to live in California chose different faiths. Lillian Frances Chinn, Bolling Chinn's granddaughter, was a very spiritual person. She was for most of her adult life a Christian Scientist, much given to reading her Bible and other mental and physical self-help literature based on spiritual healing. The eventual beliefs of her father, Thomas Withers Chinn, are unknown, though from the records above we know he was baptised a Catholic. However, when he married Lillie Bell Smoot, the service was conducted in a Presbyterian church.



Signature of Bolling Robertson Chinn, April 1848

Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn died 23 April 1888 and is buried at Magnolia Cemetery in Baton Rouge. He was just 64 years old. The *Daily Capitolian-Advocate*, Baton Rouge, carried a lengthy obituary on 24 April 1888 followed by a burial notice the following day:

DEATH OF MAJ. B. R. CHINN.

Maj. B. R. Chinn died at 12:30 this morning at his residence, in the the ninth ward, after an illness of several weeks. It appears that during a visit to New Orleans he was attacked by chills and fever, which was followed by a severe case of jaundice. From these attacks he never recovered. He was about 62 years old. Before the late war Maj. Chinn was a prosperous planter in the parish of West Baton Rouge. In 1862 he raised a company of infantry, of which he was elected captain, and joined his company with those of Capts. Tom Bynum and T. J. Buffington, for the purpose of organizing a legion. This project fell through when these three companies and another known as the Beaver Creek Rifles were organized into a Battalion of infantry under the command of Major Tom Bynum. With this command, which was placed in Gen. H. W. Allen's brigade, Capt. Chinn marched from Camp Moore to Baton Rouge and participated with his company in the battle of the 5th of August, receiving a flesh wound in the leg early in the action. After recovering from his wound he returned to his command at Port Hudson and remained with it, commanding the battallion most of the time before, and during the siege. At the surrender of Port Hudson he was sent with the other officers to Northern

the other officers to Northern prisons, where he remained until exchanged near the close of the war. Upon his return he was promoted to the rank of major and took steps to get his old command together, a part of which had been sent to Mobile and placed in the artillery service and two other companies had been mounted and attached to a cavalry regiment under Col. Dan Gober. Before he succeeded in getting his men together and reorganizing his battalion, the final surrender took place and he returned to his home in West Baton Rouge, where, like his fellow-parishioners who had served the South, he found ruin and destruction all around, but with a courage and manhood that well became one who had served his country well and faithfully, he set to work to rebuild the fortune that the results of the war had swept away. With varying fortune he struggled along until about four or five years ago when he moved his family to this parish where he has resided ever since. As an officer he was strict, but kind and just, as a citizen he was upright and honorable, and as husband and father he filled the true measure of domestic life. He leaves a wife and several children and a large circle of relatives and personal friends. Among the latter none will regret more than his old comrades in arms to hear of his death. *Requiescat in pace.*

The remains of Maj. Bolling R. Chinn were followed to their last resting place in Magnolia Cemetery, last evening, by a large concourse of relatives and friends.

Brenda Perkins of Baton Rouge provided the following article from the the *Times-Picayune* which published a copy of an obituary printed in the *West Baton Rouge Sugar Planter* on the 5th of May 1888:

Bolling Robertson Chinn

We copy from the *West Baton Rouge Sugar Planter* the following deserved tribute to a highly esteemed citizen of that parish, who departed this life at his home on 24th ult:

Bolling Robertson Chinn was born in West Feliciana on the 23d of June, 1825. His parents removed to this parish in 1827. In 1848 he married Miss Frances S. Conrad, daughter of Mr. F. D. Conrad, of East Baton Rouge. Major Chinn was a volunteer in the Mexican war, through which he served with distinction. Upon the breaking out of the civil war he organized in this parish the Lemmon Guards, of which he was made captain. In the battle of Baton Rouge, in which he was wounded, Major Chinn, in charge of Bynum's Brigade, displayed a degree of bravery and coolness, under the most trying circumstances, that elicited the warm admiration of his comrades.

He was taken prisoner at the surrender of Port Hudson and sent to Johnston's Island, where he remained almost until Lee's surrender. Upon being exchanged he was immediately promoted to the rank of major and made every effort to get his old command together but before he could do so peace was declared. Major Chinn then returned to his old home in this parish, where he found ruin and desolation where once had been peace and prosperity. Nothing daunted, he set to work with a vim to retrieve his lost fortune, and pursued the occupation of a planter on his old home place until 1885, when he removed to East Baton Rouge, where he remained up to the time of his death. He was elected to the Legislature in 1866, being the first representative from this parish after the war and before Radical rule.

Patriotic and loyal in his devotion to his native state, firm and courageous in any cause he espoused, he never faltered in the discharge of his duty, however trying the ordeal. A recent instance will serve as an illustration of his devotion to duty, even in the face of the shadow of death. On the occasion of the late general election, although then dangerously ill and unable to stand alone, he insisted upon being placed in a buggy and driven to the polls, where, not being able to get out, the ballot-box was brought to him in order that he might deposit his last vote for the Democratic ticket – the party he loved so well and served so faithfully.

Major Bolling R. Chinn was a typical Southerner – a distinguished member of the school of courtly and polished gentleman that is, alas! so rapidly passing away. Brave, charitable and generous to a fault; kind and indulgent as a husband and father; conscientious in the performance of all his duties as a citizen, he embodied within himself those admirable traits and virtues that go to make up the highest type of man. He leaves a wife, six children and a large circle of friends and relative to mourn his loss. May the sod be ever green on his grave!

The father of the deceased, Hon. Thomas Withers Chinn, was a native of Kentucky. He emigrated to Louisiana at an early day, and subsequently was elected to Congress, representing this State with honor from 1839 to 1841, and was subsequently appointed United States minister to the kingdom of the Four Sicilies. He was the personal friend of (Henry) Clay, (Senator Daniel) Webster and President Taylor, and stood among the first of the Whig statesmen of his day. His son was a worthy descendant of such distinguished stock.

15 December 1890

Sitting Bull, born 1831, known as Tatanka Lyotake, the great Sioux Chief and holy man, was shot dead by Indian Police at the Standing Rock reservation in South Dakota. His refusal to follow an 1875 order to bring his people to the Sioux reservation directly led to the famous *Battle of the Little Bighorn*, during which the Sioux and Cheyenne wiped out five troops of Custer's 7th Cavalry.



Sitting Bull
1831–1890



The tombstone of B. R. Chinn, Major, 9th La. Batt. Inf., C.S.A at Magnolia Cemetery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

oOo

Civil War medal awarded to Bolling Robertson Chinn.



Side 1:
SOUTHERN CROSS OF HONOR
1865
1861
DEO VINDICE



Side 2:
B.R.CHINN
MAJOR · 9 LA · INF ·
UNITED DAUGHTERS
CONFEDERACY
TO THE U.C.V.

Brenda Perkins of Baton Rouge supplied the following information:

The 1861-1865 Southern Cross of Honor was a military decoration meant to honor the men for their valor in the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America. Due to shortages of metals in the south, the majority were never minted. The names of these soldiers were recorded and preserved. In 1898 members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy decided to produce the original medal.

This Southern Cross of Honor has a deep rich aged bronze patina. It is marked Whitehead & Hoag Co. Newark, N.J. in tiny letters. The pin-back which screws onto the fixture on the back of the bar is also marked Whitehead & Hoag Co. This pin-back is missing on the above medal

Design: Face: Cross with a Confederate Battle Flag surrounded by a laurel wreath. The four arms of the cross are inscribed: Southern Cross of Honor. Reverse: In center a laurel wreath encircling the inscription "DEO VINDICE" 1861, 1865. The four arms of the cross are inscribed United Daughters of the Confederacy. To the U.C.V.

The medal measures approximately 1 3/8" x 1 3/8" and is suspended from a plain bar.

oOo

Frances³ Sophia Conrad Chinn died 27 January 1893. An obituary was published in *The Advocate* two days later. Her funeral was held at the Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, confirming that the Conrad family were Roman Catholics. It also accounts for Bolling and Frances Chinn's children being baptized in the Catholic Church. Frances was also buried at *Magnolia Cemetery* in Baton Rouge.



A telegram from W. P. Conrad, a relation, advising of her death was sent to her son Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn who was living in San Francisco.

Form No. 168.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

W 50 CH FB H 3 PD

RECEIVED at San Francisco, Cal. M. Standard Time. JAN 23 1893 189

Dated

To

BATON ROUGE LA 23

THOMAS W CHINN

THE VENDOME 725 PINE ST SAN FRANCISCO

YOUR MOTHER DIED LAST NIGHT WILL WRITE SOON

ANSWER

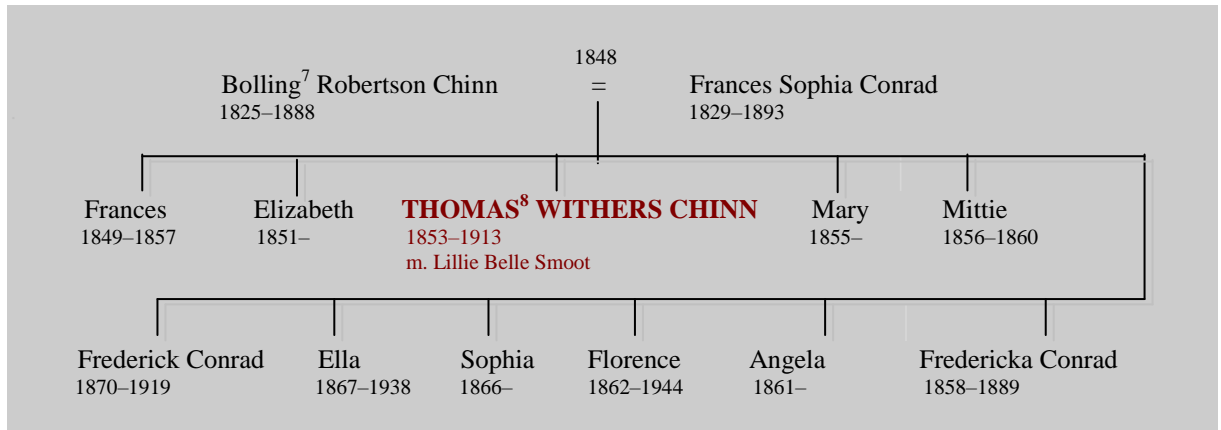
W P CONRAD

9-08 AM

oOo

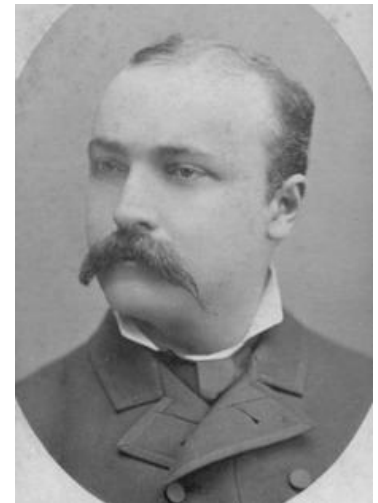


The silver card carrying case belonging to Frances Sophia (Conrad) Chinn, Bolling Robertson Chinn's wife.

8th generation**THOMAS⁸ WITHERS CHINN**
1853–1913*Baton Rouge, Louisiana to San Francisco, California*

THOMAS⁸ WITHERS CHINN arrived in San Francisco in May of 1876 from Louisiana. He was twenty-three years old. Named after his illustrious grandfather, he was born 6 July 1853 in West Baton Rouge where his family had operated a substantial plantation before the Civil War. A brother, Frederick Conrad Chinn, also went to California and established the optical firm of F. C. Chinn in Sacramento. There were numerous unmarried sisters who remained in the Baton Rouge-New Orleans area.

Another relation, Thomas's first cousin, Bolling⁸ Chinn Robertson also moved to San Francisco and married Roselle Smoot (1870–1949), the sister of Thomas's future wife. Bolling was the son of Mary⁷ Jane Chinn (1821–1889) and Judge William Blount Robertson (1813–1884).



Thomas Withers Chinn
1853–1913

During his time in California Thomas kept several scrapbooks which he filled with all manner of newspaper cuttings, telegrams, and anything to do with family members who managed to get their name in the paper, mostly the social columns. This was of great assistance in identifying a number of people connected with the family. Amongst the items was a simple philosophy written by Thomas:

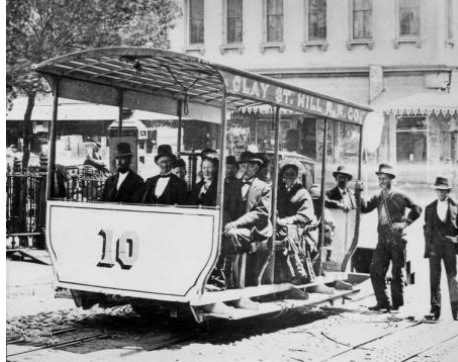
Retribution

*Sooner or later more or less
And time has no forgetfulness
Nature will pay us what we earn
The good will and evil shall return
To bless or curse or curse or bless
For time has no forgetfulness*

2 August 1873

The First Cable Car, designed and built by Andrew Smith Hallidie, was tested at 4 o'clock in the morning, August 2nd, 1873, on Clay Street, in San Francisco.

Hallidie felt that the problem of transportation in San Francisco, due to the incredibly steep hills, could best be solved by the use of Street cars pulled by a cable running underground at a constant speed. His design incorporated a novel grip mechanism that enabled the operator to engage or release the cable at will, and it is a tribute to his remarkable ingenuity that this system is still unning today.



Clay Street Hill Railroad was the sole cable car company for 4 years. A former horsecar company, Sutter Street Railroad, developed its own version of Hallidie's patented system and began cable service in 1877, followed by California Street Cable Railroad in 1878, Geary Street, Park & Ocean Railroad in 1880, Presidio & Ferries Railroad in 1882, Market Street Cable Railway in 1883 and Ferries & Cliff House Railway in 1888.

Hallidie's system was almost totally destroyed by the earthquake and fire of 1906. However, much of it was rebuilt, and there are still two separate lines operating – the California and the Powell Street routes.

On Thursday, 26 January 1882 Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn married Lillie⁹ Belle Smoot at St John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

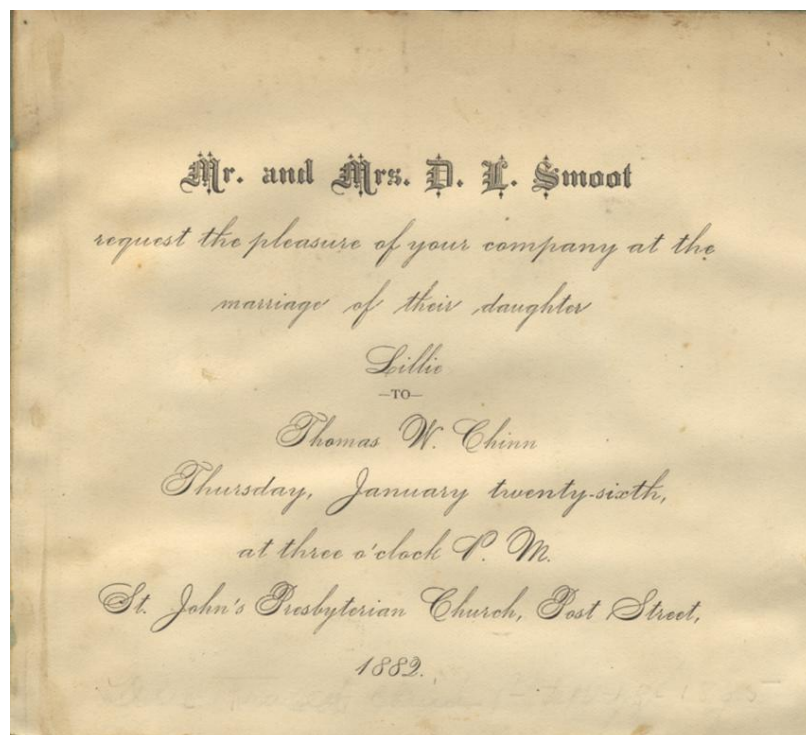
Lillie was the adopted daughter of Colonel David⁸ L. Smoot (1835–1900) and his wife Laura, née Richards (1837–1902). She was born between 1860 and 1866 in Alexandria, Virginia.

→ A full account of Lillie and the Smoot family is outlined in Chapter 12: Lillian Frances Chinn (1885–1968).

The Smoot family was quite prominent in San Francisco—David Smoot was the city's District Attorney in 1879—so it is not surprising that a full description of this wedding was given coverage in the city's newspapers. Thomas had kept one of the wedding invitations and newspaper cuttings of the marriage in his scrap book.



*Lillie Belle Smoot
c.1866–1920*



The invitation for the wedding of
Thomas Withers Chinn and Lillie Bell Smoot

THE CHINN-SMOOT WEDDING.

Last Thursday afternoon the nuptials of Mr. Thomas Chinn and Miss Lillie Smoot took place at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Post street, Rev. Dr. Scott, pastor of the Church, officiating. The bridegroom is grain clerk with Wm. T. Coleman & Co., the well-known shipping firm, and the bride is daughter of the late District Attorney, Hon. D. L. Smoot.

The wedding was conducted without ostentation, although quite a number of friends of both of the families assembled to witness the ceremony. At three o'clock the bridal procession entered the Church, and marched down the aisle to the altar, while the organ breathed the sweet strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

The order of the procession was as follows: First, the four ushers, Messrs. R. B. Huie, M. P. Minor, R. S. Heath, J. M. Pettigrew. Following these were the bridesmaids and groomsmen, offices which were filled by Mr. E. W. Coleman and Miss Hattie Smoot, Dr. L. Warsham and Miss Virginia Smoot, Mr. W. E. Rountree and Miss Bessie Huie, Mr. W. C. Graves and Miss Julia James. Next came the bride and bridegroom, and after them the parents of the bride.

After the ceremony the bridal party and friends proceeded to Mr. and Mrs. Smoot's residence, No. 2290 Clay street, where congratulations were received from 4 p. m. until midnight. The banqueting board was generously spread, and the happy couple were toasted with many a propitious and happy sentiment. During the evening there was dancing, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Among those present were the following named: Mr. C. C. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Clay, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Foster, Mrs. A. C. Duun, Mrs. Stephenson, Mr. J. P. Meux, Mr. S. P. Tuglie, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Wheat, Mr. F. A. Berlin, Mr. R. E. Starr, Mr. E. L. Compton, Mr. Creighton, Mr. Chase, Mr. George Price, Mr. Wallace Price, Miss Ada Price, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Hutton, Mr. Julian Smith, Miss Maggie McPherson, Dr. Madill.

CHINN-SMOOT.

On Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock a quiet and pretty wedding was solemnized at St. John's Presbyterian Church on Post street by Rev. Dr. Scott, the contracting parties being Thomas W. Chinn, with William T. Coleman & Co., and Miss Lillie, daughter of ex-District Attorney and Mrs. D. L. Smoot. The bridal party entered the church in the following manner: First came the four ushers, R. B. Huie, M. J. Minor, R. S. Heath and J. M. Pettigrew. These were followed by the bridesmaids and groomsmen, E. W. Coleman and Miss Hattie Smoot; Dr. L. Warsham and Miss Virginia Smoot; W. E. Rountree and Miss Bessie Huie; W. C. Graves and Miss Julia James. Next came the observed of all observers, the soon-to-be bride, leaning upon the arm of her future husband. Following were Mr. and Mrs. Smoot, who completed the procession. Immediately after the ceremony the bridal party returned to the Smoot residence, No. 2320 Clay street, where a repast was partaken of.

The bride wore a short costume of café au lait brocade combined with silk of the same shade, ornamented with bunches of orange flowers.

Mrs. Smoot was in a long train dress of black satin, finished with point lace.

Miss Hattie Smoot wore a dress of café au lait, the same as her sister, with Marguerites.

Miss Virginia Smoot's toilet was the same, slightly varied by a garniture of pink roses.

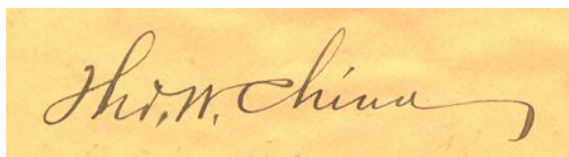
Miss Bessie Huie was attired in a costume of wine-colored satin and plush, with Spanish lace and crushed roses.

Miss Julia James wore brown moire and plush, ornamented with pink chrysanthemums.

The groomsmen and ushers wore Prince Albert suits, with ties and gloves to correspond with the shade of the bride's dress.

At the time of his marriage Thomas was employed by William T. Coleman & Co. Thomas and William Tell Coleman (1824–1893) were related. Coleman’s father, Napoleon Bonaparte Coleman (1799–1833) had married Synthia Davis Chinn (1806–1832), the great, granddaughter of the Raleigh Chinn (1684–1741) and his second wife Margaret Downman. → See this chapter: 2nd generation, **The Coleman Family**. William Tell Coleman was a very prominent identity in San Francisco who also had substantial investments in San Rafael real estate and was a contemporary of John Henry Saunders (1821–1885). → See Chapter 6.

Around 1897 Thomas⁸ and Lillie divorced and soon after she married Jackson T. Pendegast in Arizona. He was possibly the son of William Wirt Pendegast, a prominent attorney. Census records indicate Thomas⁸ Chinn remarried about 1908. His new wife was Grace Nutting, daughter of Calvin Nutting of Louisiana.



Signature of Thomas Withers Chinn, c.1886

oOo

In 1888 Thomas received a letter from a Mary W. Rhodes. She was obviously an old friend of Thomas's father, Bolling Chinn, from Civil War days. Her letter is quite moving and worthy of inclusion here:

666 Haight St.
San Francisco
April 11th 1888

Mr. Chinn

My dear Sir

I very much fear that I annoyed you by calling at your office during business hours, but you will remember it was the only way in which I could hope to see you, & that it was your father I hoped to meet. I was so much impressed by his sad face, his dignified bearing that the memory of my interview with him is as vivid as if it was of yesterday. Will you do me the favor, as I do not know his address, to send him the accompanying Photograph. General Lee’s Autograph is copied from the back of his picture given to me by himself in June 1865 in Richmond. I am sure your father will remember me. Say to him that I tried to see him again but the death of Capt. Peyton had caused some excitement and I was so anxious to succeed in carrying out the object of my visit, to M. Lookout, which was to find how many of my son’s Reg’t 11th N.C. were there to be of some service to them—I found 40. Among them the soldier who buried my boy & brother officers during the night of the fatal 1st of July at Gettysburg. I had some stormy interviews with Gen’l Martson (*sic*) who was from my native town of New Hampshire but succeeded beyond my hopes. Say to him further that I am nearing my 80th year—that from the day of my son’s death till April 1866, I devoted myself to his suffering comrades. Two sons, all I had, dead in the southern Army. The eldest—22—fell at Gettysburg, the younger one enlisted the army at 18 & remained 4 years—returning home with ruined health—dying of consumption in ’74. We had no property in the South, but it was our home & my boys were born in Galveston, Texas. Forgive me for imposing upon your time so far.

Yours very truly
Mary W. Rhodes

Together with an autographed photo of himself, General Robert E. Lee had included a note to Mrs. Rhodes which read:

Lexington Va. 15th March '66

My Dear Mrs. Rhodes,

I learn with great regret from your Letter to Mrs. Lee that you have been unexpectedly called to California. I hope the journey may improve your health—and that new scenes & new cares, for wherever you go; you will always feel the cares which benevolence & religion inspire in the human heart; may restore your strength. I shall never forget your kindness to the distressed and the care of the sick, the wounded & the prisoners, will perpetually ascend to heaven in your behalf. May the Great god who never turns a deaf ear to the cries of his people, guard & direct you and yours.

With great esteem

Your Obt Srvt

R. E. Lee

Mrs. Mary W. Rhodes

Mrs. Rhodes appears to have arranged for a photographic studio in San Francisco to make copies of her personalised photograph of Robert E. Lee and his letter to give to Thomas Chinn's father, Major Bolling Robertson Chinn, who had served in the Confederate Army. This gesture must have been some sort of memento of shared experiences. Her letter to Thomas Withers Chinn would infer that he was not overly courteous to an elderly lady who had come to see his father.

This letter to Thomas does not fit the circumstances prevailing at the time. Mrs Rhodes says 'and that it was your father I hoped to meet'. But his father, Bolling Chinn, was then on his deathbed in Louisiana and died 23 April, twelve days after the date on the letter. Certainly there was no way he would have been visiting his son in San Francisco.

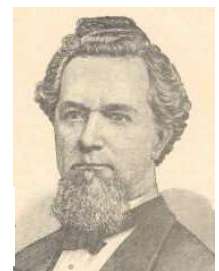
Who was Mary W. Rhodes?

Mary Woodman Rhodes was born 13 October 1808 in New Hampshire. Historical records state that she was the daughter of Dr. Eliphalet (or John) Kimball (1769–1843) and Elizabeth Cushing Porter (1777–1839).

In 1828 Mary Kimball married Sherman Driggs. He was born 14 October 1804 and died 5 November 1833 aged just 29. It appears he and Mary went to live in Trinidad where Sherman practiced as a pharmacist. Their two daughters were both born in Trinidad – Mary Eliza Driggs in 1830 and Joanna Magdalena Driggs in 1833.

Five years later, on the 9th of April 1838, Mary married Elisha Averitt Rhodes in Houston, Texas. He was born 7 February, 1791 in Indian Woods, North Carolina. Averitt served for a time as master in equity and was clerk of court for the county from 1819 to 1833 and in the period 1950–1951. He was U.S. consul to the Republic of Texas in Galveston from 7 July 1838 to 14 Oct. 1842. With a change in administrations in Washington D.C., Rhodes was acting consul and then consul for a period after 1843, until Texas was annexed to the United States on 29 Dec. 1845.

Elisha Rhodes was first married to Ann Maria Jacocks in 1820 in Bertie, North Carolina. She was born 25 November 1803 in Bertie, North Carolina and died 15 January 1828 after producing five children, including William Henry Leonidas Rhodes (1822–1876) who married his step-sister Mary Eliza Driggs about 1848.



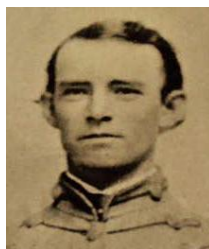
William Henry L. Rhodes
1822–1876

Mary and Elisha Rhodes had three sons, all born in Galveston:

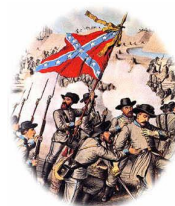
1. Cullen Capehart Rhodes was born 15 May 1839 and died 21 September 1850 aged just eleven years.

2. Lieutenant Edward Averitt Rhodes was born 15 June 1841. During the Civil War he was a member of the 11th North Carolina Regiment. He was killed on 1 July 1864 during the early stages of the battle at Gettysburg.

Edward A. Rhodes
1841–1864



3. Robert Stockton Rhodes was born 17 May 1845. During the Civil War he was a member of the 5th Regiment, North Carolina Cavalry. He was captured at Petersburg and imprisoned at Ft. Delaware. This left him in poor health and he died of consumption in 1874 in Stockton, California.



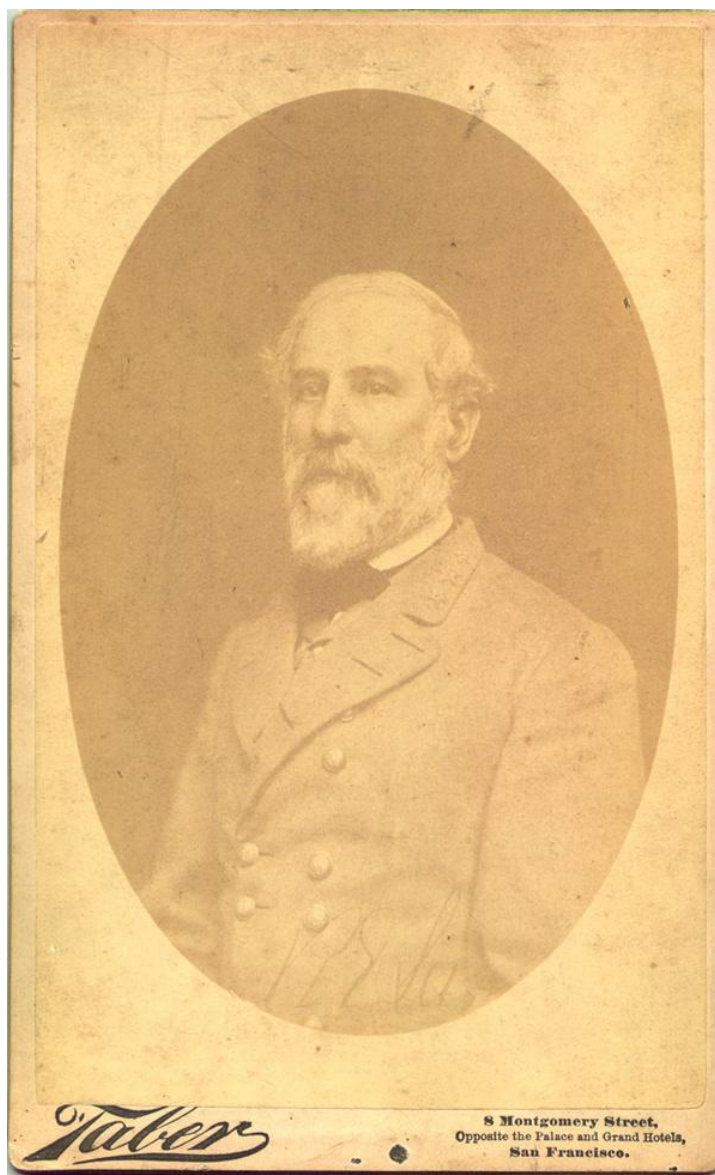
At the end of his service in Texas, Elisha Rhodes returned with his family to Bertie County, North Carolina where he was again clerk of the court. In the same year he suffered a stroke and was left virtually helpless. The family then moved to California where Mary ran a store, kept boarders and farmed. Elisha died 24 May 1858 aged 67 in Windsor Ranch, Stockton, California, where he was buried. They were members of the Episcopal Church.

Mary Rhodes, even though a native of New Hampshire, was loyal to the South. From her home in California she organized a relief association to aid sick and suffering Confederate soldiers in Northern prisons, mortgaged her farm for this purpose, and managed to confer with both Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis in this cause. She received a letter of appreciation from General Robert E. Lee for her work.

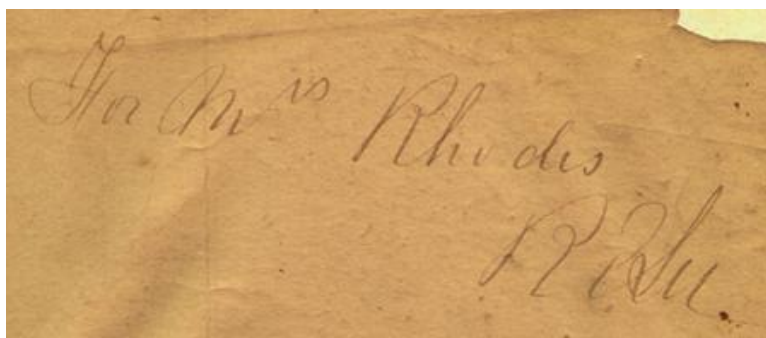
Mary Woodman Rhodes died 1893 in Stockton, California and was buried at Stockton Rural Cemetery, San Joaquin County.



Mary W. Rhodes
Signature on letter to Thomas W. Chinn
in 1888



The autographed photograph of General Robert E. Lee given to Thomas Withers Chinn by Mrs. Rhodes



Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn and his wife Lillie Belle née Smoot only had one child. They were married about 16 years so there may have been other children who did not survive infancy.

1. **Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn 1885–1968** → **See Chapter 12**

Married 1st John Henry Saunders (1880–1940) 18 January 1905 ... divorced 9 March 1924.

Married 2nd Harry Innes Borden (1889–1967) 22 January 1927 ... divorced 30 September 1948.

News of the birth of baby Lillian on 18 November 1885 quickly reached Thomas's family in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, This prompted a letter from Thomas's mother, Francis S. Chinn, née Conrad, a few days later.

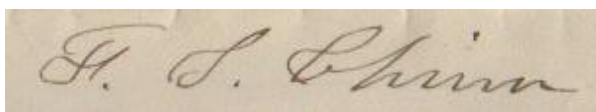
Baton Rouge Nov 21st. 1885

T. W. Chinn
San Francisco

My Dear Children

I Congratulate you both upon your great happiness. You can never know what a Jubilee your telegram created. How GrandPa and Uncle Willie shouted until they found me in the yard. GrandPa holding the telegram high over his head calling me GrandMa. All the household following trying to find out what it was but he said I must know first. Yesterday was my birthday & your Pa said I should have all the family in town to dine here. I said no – I was not well & I don't like old folks birthday dinners, but as soon as we heard of the Grand Daughter we said we would have a dinner to celebrate hers. Bessie ran over to Hannah's with it, & Ella then took it to Aunt Lee's. Willie said he would do some of the telling so he went down to Dr. R's so by 4, O'clock we sat down to a well crowded table. Baby's health was first eaten and then drank then Papa's and mama's Jim Robertson says I must tell you that he did his share of both. The conviviality did not break up until Eleven last night, which prevented my immediate congratulations. Kiss dear Lillie & the baby for me & for all of us – write soon and tell us what kind of baby she is whether blonde or brunette. Get Lille to describe her as I know you would not otherwise be explicit enough. The children worried your God daughter a great deal by telling her her nose was out of joint – but I consoled her by telling her that I was certain when she was brought out here in the spring that our confidence in her was so great that she would have almost entire charge of it. The telegram is for the present in the Bible where it remains until Papa writes us word what name is given the precious little lady & the date of her birth. Kiss her over & over again for all of us – tell Lillie that as soon as she is able I will expect a full account of her from herself. God Bless all of you my dear children. Grandma feels very proud of her first Grand Child. I will answer your questions in your last letter soon & send you the memorandum asked for. Good bye again, Your

Affectionate Mother
F. S. Chinn



*Frances S. Chinn's signature on above letter
to her son and daughter-in law*

In February 1900 Thomas received a letter from his cousin Elizabeth² J. Hereford of Dallas, Texas wherein she alludes to his domestic situation at the time, and in particular his daughter Fran who was then just fourteen.

Dallas
Feb 20th 1900

My dear Tom,

Enclosed you will find as requested the genealogy of the Chinns traced to 'Scott of Harden' who was also the ancestor of Sir Walter Scott.

I cannot give any information in regard to family crests, but I am sure you have one through the Duncan's from the Mothers, who are descended from Harry Hotspur – Duke of Northumberland. Jerry can possibly give you information in regard to the Conrads.

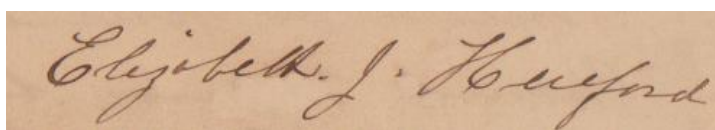
You know your great uncle Charles Conrad married a Miss Lewis, the grand daughter of Martha Washington. Mrs. Conrad is buried at Mount Vernon, by the side of George Washington and his wife.

I am glad you have your daughter where you can see more of her - You certainly are the best and only protector and I hope will be able to impress on her the old southern ideas of life and its responsibilities, and the sanctity of marriage which seems to have become a by word and a jest in the new order of things.

Tell me the family news when you write—It seems you have left the south. Catherine leaves in the morning for Mexico where she goes with quite a large party of young people.

I have been forced to stay in my room nearly all winter but feel better now. We have had a very mild winter, or I could not have lived through it - and hope the warm weather of Spring will restore me to health.

Mamie joins in love to you and Frances — Praying for your prosperity and happiness I am -
Your aff. cousin
Elizabeth J. Hereford



Elizabeth's signature on her letter to her cousin Thomas W. Chinn in 1900

Accompanying this letter was a document hand-written in pencil by Robert Walter Withers (1795–1881) outlining the Chinn's connection to the Scott family. Withers was related to the Chinns through the marriage of his aunt, Susannah Withers (1767–1819) to Chichester⁵ Chinn (1771–1814), Lillian⁹ Frances Chinn's great, great grandfather. Robert Walter Withers was the brother of Alexander Scott Withers (1792–1865), the author of *Chronicles of Border Warfare*. → See this chapter: Thomas Chinn – 4th Generation.

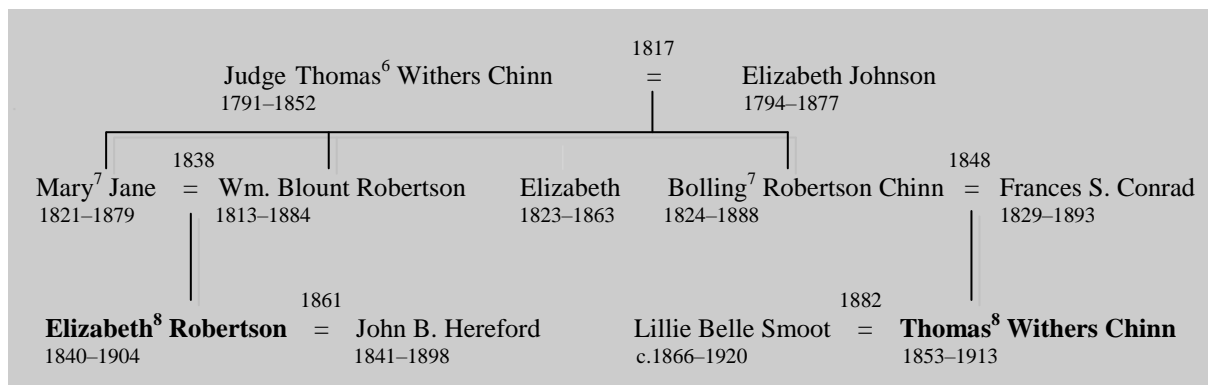
Walter Scott, commonly known as "Beardie", was the grandson of Walter Scott known as "Auld Wat of Harden". Walter Scott (Old Beardie) left three sons—Walter, Robert and William, the eldest of whom had a family, of which two sons, William and Robert, accompanied by their sister, Jennet, came over to America. The two brothers never married, the sister Jennet married Thomas Chinn and left four children: Jennet, Chichester, Thomas and Mary Inglis. Jennet married Enock K. Withers of Fanquier, and left nine children. Chichester married Susan Withers and settled in Kentucky where he died as a member of the Senate.

Thomas, the second son, married and removed to Kentucky where he left a numerous family. The second son of Beardie, Robert, was the grandfather of Sir Walter Scott and his eldest son, Walter, was my mother's great grandfather.

Written by Robt. Walter Withers
3rd son of E.K. & Jennet Withers

Note: Mary⁵ Inglis Chinn never married and lived to be quite old (upwards of 80). Chichester⁵ was my great grandfather, the father of Thomas⁶ Withers Chinn, who was the father of Bolling⁷, Mary⁷ and Elizabeth⁷.

Elizabeth² Hereford, née Robertson, wife of John B. Hereford of Dallas, Texas, was Thomas Chinn's first cousin. Her mother was Mary⁷ Jane Chinn, the sister of Bolling⁷ Robertson Chinn, Thomas's father. Mary⁷ Jane Chinn had married Judge William² Blount Robertson. → See this chapter: Thomas Withers⁶ Chinn – 6th Generation.



oOo

On 26 November 1902 the *Red Bluff News*, p. 1, col. 3, in Tahama County reported the following incident:

ASSAILED BY AN UNKNOWN MAN

T. W. Chinn Struck in the Face by a Footpad, on a Dark Street

His Assailant Ran Away in the Darkness When He Found His intended Victim Had Not Been Rendered Unconscious

While walking along the west side of the railroad stock corrals about 8.30 o'clock Monday night, T. W. Chinn, bookkeeper at the Porter Broker's Company packing house, was assaulted by a footpad. Mr. Chinn was going to the packing house from the depot just after the arrival of the evening train and was walking along with his head down, never thinking of any danger, when almost before he realized that anyone was near him he received a blow from, he thinks, a man's fist. The blow was a hard one and he fell to his knees. He was dazed for a moment only and quickly got on his feet. He started for the fellow, who when he found he had not knocked his victim out, took to his heels and ran away.

Mr. Chinn continued on to his packing house and he there discovered that his lip was bleeding freely and becoming badly swollen. He thinks that his assailant expected to floor him with one unexpected blow and then to rob him.

oOo

Thomas and Lillie Belle Chinn divorced sometime around 1897. Lillie then married Jackson T. Pendegast on 18 May 1898 in Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona Territory. The Marriage Certificate supplied by the Mohave County Superior Court (Marriage Book, Volume 1, page 129) also records Lillie's daughter, L.F. Chinn, then 13, as one of the two witnesses.

~ **Marriage License** ~

Territory of Arizona }
County of Mohave }

These presents are to authorize and License any Judge of any Court of Record, Justice of the Peace, or Minister of the Gospel of any denomination, to solemnize within Said County the marriage of **J. T. Pendegast**, native of California aged 30 years, resident of Kingman, County of Mohave and **Lillie B. Chinn**, native of Virginia, aged 30 years, resident of Kingman County of Mohave of Arizona Territory.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and affixed my official Seal at Kingman in Said Mohave County this 18th day of May 1898.

J. Logan, Clerk of the Probate
Court of Said Mohave County

~ **Marriage Certificate** ~

Territory of Arizona }
County of Mohave }

I hereby Certify that I believe the facts Stated in the above Licence to be true, and upon due enquiry there appears to be [no] legal impediment to the Marriage of Said **J. T. Pendegast** and **Lillie B. Chinn** and that Said parties were joined in Marriage by me on the 18th day of May 1898 in Kingman Said Mohave County and that Wm. B. Hosley a resident of County of Mohave Tery. of Arizona, and LF. Chinn a resident of Kingman County of Mohave, Tery. of Arizona were present as witnesses of Said Ceremony

Wm. B. Hosley
L. F. Chinn
Kingman

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto
Set my hand this 18th day of May 1898
J. Logan, Probate Judge of Said Mohave County

The family stayed on in Arizona as they appear on the June 1900 Census, by then living in Tod Basin, Mohave County. This Census gives Jackson Pendegast's date of birth as August 1868 and Lillie's as July 1868.

This contradicts the birth date on Lillie's death certificate which states July 1860. Later documents and census records show a variety of birth dates. The Informant on her death certificate was her daughter Lillian Frances. A stickler for detail, Lillian Frances 'Fran', now married to John Saunders, would have been seem unlikely to incorrectly state her mother's year of birth.

We do not know when the family moved back to San Francisco. We also do not know how much time little Lillian Frances Chinn spent with her father. The letter to him from Elizabeth² Hereford dated February 20, 1900, detailed earlier in this section, indicates that his daughter was living close by at that time.

For both parties it was a second marriage. Lillie, of course had been married to Thomas Withers Chinn. We do not know who Jackson's first wife was.

Thomas also appears to have moved out of the San Francisco area for a few years, returning in 1907. In early 1908 he became engaged to Grace Frances Nutting. This was announced in the *Daily State*, Baton Rouge on Saturday, 15 February 1908:

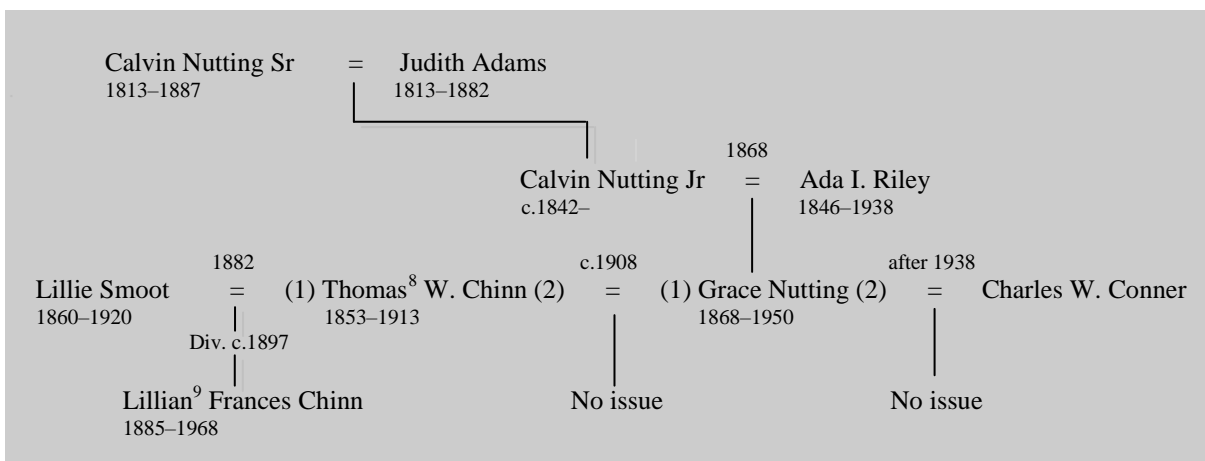
The following from the San Francisco Chronicle of recent date will be of interest to a number of Mr. Chinn's friends here who remember this genial and popular gentleman, who was a great favorite in East and West Baton Rouge before he decided to seek his fortune in the "Golden West."— The engagement of Miss Grace Frances Nutting and Mr. Thomas W. Chinn which has just been announced, will be followed by their marriage on March 3. Mr. Chinn is a prominent optician and is well known in this city, Sacramento and Oakland. Miss Nutting is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Nutting and is well known for her accomplishments in music, having an attractive soprano voice, and is very popular in society.

The author of this announcement has confused Thomas W. Chinn with his younger brother, Frederick Conrad Chinn, who was the optometrist in Sacramento and San Francisco.

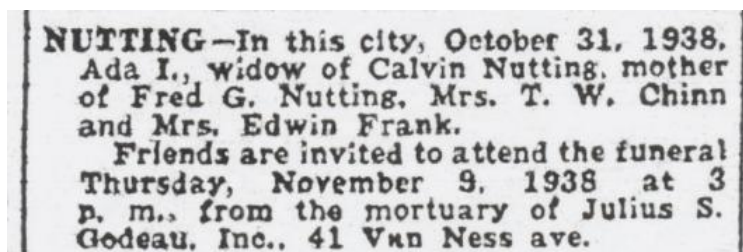
On 3 March 1908 Thomas married Grace Frances Nutting. Their intention to marry was printed in the *San Francisco Call* under Marriage Licenses on 27 February 1908. Thomas was aged 55 and Grace was 40. The numbers 21 and 18 after their names are a mystery.

Thomas W. Chinn, 21, 1821 Fillmore st.,
and Grace F. Nutting, 18, 1300 Page st.

Grace was born 15 September 1868 and was the daughter of Calvin and Ada I. (Riley) Nutting of San Francisco.



Long after Thomas Withers Chinn died in 1913, Grace married Charles W. Conner. This event must have taken place after 31 October 1938 when Grace's mother Ada died at the advanced age of 90, for the death notice in the *San Francisco Chronicle* described Grace, now aged 70, as Mrs Thomas W. Chinn:



The 1880 Census for San Francisco listed Calvin Nutting, age 38, iron merchant, as Head of the Household and Ada, age 33, as his wife. The children are Gracie, age 11, George, age 5 and Ada May, age 3. Hazen Riley, age 60 is nominated as Father-in-Law and there is a Katie Goodhue mentioned who was probably household help or a nanny to the children.

Jim Faulkinbury, a professional researcher in Sacramento, provided some background information on the Nutting family from a article in *The Bay of San Francisco—A History*, Vol. II, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1892, pp. 166–167:

Calvin Nutting, Sr., deceased, was entitled not only to the honors of a California pioneer of 1849, but he also won the greater distinction of being a pioneer manufacturer, and hence also was one of the literal builders of this grand commonwealth and its great metropolis. Descended from one of the early New England families, and the son of Ephraim Nutting, he was born in Groton, Massachusetts, May 18, 1813. Possessing a natural taste and aptitude for mechanics, he became an apprentice to the blacksmithing trade, which his constructive talent and industry rapidly mastered in all its details, and he pursued his chosen vocation for a number of years in his native State.

January 27, 1849, he embarked on the *Marietta* for Chagres on the way to California. On reaching the isthmus he was detained thirty-four days waiting for transportation, at the end of which time he procured passage to San Francisco on the bark *Equator*, arriving at his destination June 16. In July, 1850, he entered into co-partnership with Mr. Edwards, under the firm style Nutting & Edwards, to carry on blacksmithing and general wrought-iron work. In 1853 this partnership dissolved. In 1854 Mr. Nutting took another partner, the firm becoming Nutting & Zottman. At the expiration of two years he purchased Mr. Zottman's interest and continued the business alone until 1868, when Calvin Nutting, Jr., became associated with his father, under the firm name of Calvin Nutting & Son, as proprietors and managers of the Pioneer Iron Works.

Mr. Nutting was married in the city of Boston, to Miss Judith Adams, a native of New Hampshire. They had six children,—three sons and three daughters. In July, 1887, Mr. Nutting passed away, and thus ended a useful and honorable life of seventy-four years. He was an active and highly esteemed member of the Society of California Pioneers, and was enthusiastic in his devotion to its interests.

Calvin Nutting, Jr., was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1842, and in 1853 came to California. He has been a resident of San Francisco, therefore, over thirty-seven years. After learning his trade with his father, he gradually assumed the responsibilities of the business until in 1884 he became sole proprietor and manager of the Pioneer Iron Works; and his successful conduct of the manufactory proves him a worthy successor to his respected sire.

This pioneer establishment has changed its location only twice in a quarter of a century, and has occupied its present commodious quarters, erected and owned by the firm at 235 and 237 Main street, for the past nine years. The line of manufacture is exclusively of wrought iron and steel work, being chiefly house or architectural iron work of all kinds. Among the specialties are steel-lined bank vaults, prison cells, fire-proof iron doors, iron fencing, etc. The manufacture of patent metallic tubular wheelbarrows is also a feature of the works.

January 1, 1868, Calvin Nutting, Jr., married Miss Ada J. Riley, a native of Dover, New Hampshire.

The *Daily Sacramento Bee* reported the marriage on 3 January 1868:

NUTTING/RILEY – In San Francisco, Jan 1st, Calvin NUTTING Jr., to Ada I., daughter of Hazen E. RILEY.

Grace Chinn–Conner, née Nutting, died 7 April 1950 aged 81 in Imola, California. She was interred at the Woodlawn Memorial Park in San Mateo. An announcement of her death was not found in the San Francisco newspapers.

Thomas⁸ Withers Chinn died **23 June 1913** in Bartlett Springs, California. The cause of death was *chronic valvular disease and mitral regurgitation over three years with contributory diabetes*. He was just short of 60 years old. The "Informant" on the Death Certificate is Mrs. Grace Chinn. No record of divorce has been found for either Thomas or his first wife Lillie Belle (née Smoot) whose second marriage was to Jackson T. Pendegast.

The *San Francisco Examiner* carried an announcement of his death on 25 June 1913:

CHINN—At Bartlett Springs, Cal., June 23. Thomas W. Chinn, beloved husband of Grace Nutting Chinn, beloved father of Mrs. John H. Saunders, brother of F. C. Chinn of Sacramento, Cal.; Ella B. and Florence A. Chinn of New Orleans, La., and son-in-law of Calvin Nutting, a native of Louisiana. (Sacramento and Louisiana papers please copy.)
 * * Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services to-morrow (Thursday), at 10:30 o'clock a. m., at the chapel of the Truman Undertaking Company, 1919 Mission street, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets.

When news of his passing reached Louisiana Thomas's death was also reported in the *State Times-Morning Advocate*, Baton Rouge, on 2 July 1913:

Thos. W. Chinn, a native of West Baton Rouge, and a resident of San Francisco for many years, died June 23. at Bartlett Springs, Cal. He was well known in this state, and was related to the Robertson, Conrad and Pope families of this section. Thomas Withers Chinn was the oldest son of the late Major Bolling Robertson Chinn, and Francis Sophie Conrad, he leaves a widow, one child, a married daughter, a brother, F. Conrad Chinn, all residing in California, and two sisters, Misses Florence Terry and Ella Chinn of New Orleans. Mr. Chinn was well known as a young man in the society of East and West Baton Rouge and has a number of friends in his former home who will regret to hear of his death.



Thomas Withers Chinn
1853–1913

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD
COUNTY OF LAKE
 LAKEPORT, CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
 DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE OF DEATH State Index No. _____
 LOCAL REGISTERED NO. 36

PLACE OF DEATH
 COUNTY OF _____
 TOWN OF Bartlett Springs
 OR
 CITY OF _____

(No. _____ ST. _____ WARD _____)
 (If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

(If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE, give facts called for under "Special Information.") Full Name Thomas Withers Chinn

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE At Place of Death <u>one week</u> years _____ months _____ In California <u>39</u> years _____ months _____ SEX <u>Male</u> COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u> DATE OF BIRTH <u>July 6, 1853</u> (Month) (Day) (Year) AGE <u>59</u> years <u>11</u> months <u>13</u> days SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Married</u> BIRTHPLACE <u>Bat Rouge La</u> (State or Country) OCCUPATION <u>Merchant</u> NAME OF FATHER <u>B. W. Chinn</u> BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER _____ (State or Country) MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Francis Conrad</u> BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER _____ (State or Country)	DATE OF DEATH <u>June 23, 1913</u> (Month) (Day) (Year) I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from <u>June 23, 1913, to June 23, 1913;</u> that I last saw him alive on <u>June 23, 1913;</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>1:35 P.M.</u> The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Chronic valvular disease</u> <u>Mitral regurgitation</u> <u>over three years</u> (duration) _____ days. Contributory <u>diabetes</u> (duration) _____ days. (Signed) <u>R. H. Hunt</u> , M.D. <u>June 23, 1913.</u> (Address) <u>Bartlett Springs</u> SPECIAL INFORMATION ONLY FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS Former or Usual Residence _____ How long at Place of Death? _____ Days. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? _____ PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>San Francisco</u> DATE OF BURIAL _____ UNDERTAKER <u>A. W. Russell</u> ADDRESS <u>Lakeport</u> FILED <u>June 23, 1913</u> <u>A. W. Russell</u> FILED <u>June 24, 1913</u> <u>J. W. Beck</u> Registrar or Deputy.
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF (INFORMANT) <u>Mrs Grace Chinn</u> (Address) <u>San Francisco</u>	

15201

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
 COUNTY OF LAKE } SS
 CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS
 DATE ISSUED **APR 08 1996**

This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the office of the LAKE COUNTY ASSESSOR - RECORDER.
 This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying seal and signature of County Assessor - Recorder.

DAN L. IRWIN
 LAKE COUNTY ASSESSOR - RECORDER

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE

Death Certificate issued for Thomas Withers Chinn who died 23 June 1913



END
of
Chapter Eleven
The Chinn Family

