

Following the Umbilical Line From Rachael Vowles to Her Granddaughter Amanda Ann Norris

The women in our history were often shadows of the men in their lives. Rachael Vowles, however, defied the societal norms that often led to the diminution of the traces that bear witness to their lives. This is her story and the story of her daughter and granddaughter. While they tried to shape their own destiny, they were often shaped by the events that surrounded them.

Generation One: Rachael Vowles

1. **Rachael Vowles**, daughter of Henry Vowles and Priscilla Price, was born on 28 August 1814, in Washington County, Kentucky, where her parents resided at the time of her birth.¹ She died on 23 July 1896 most likely in Nelson County, Kentucky, where she lived most of her life.² Rachael never married, although she had a long-standing relationship with **Stanley Young** who adopted

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¹ For birth date, see *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 November 2016), database with images, Memorial 90819926, Rachel Vowles Young (1814-1896), St. Catherine Cemetery, New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky, gravestone photo by Saradependency. For reference to place of parents' residence at time of her birth, see *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search>) > Search Place: United States, Kentucky, Washington County > Taxation > Tax books 1792-1875 > 1792, 1794-1797, 1799-1809, 1811- 1816 > image 859 (1813, p. 65), image 934 (1814, p. 63), and image 1,014 (1815, p. 70), entries for Henry Vowles. The Washington County birthplace is also consistent with daughter Penelope's marriage record, which showed Marion County, Kentucky, as mother's birthplace. The Washington County location in which Rachael's parents lived at the time of her birth became Marion County in 1834. For boundary change, see John H. Long, editor, "Kentucky: Individual County Chronologies," *The Newberry Library* (http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/KY_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#WASHINGTON : accessed 1 February 2018). For daughter's marriage record, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Bonds, Volume 7: 25-26, John Hardin Norris and Penelope Young, 28 October 1867; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. For parentage, see proof discussion on page 2. Her name is standardized here as Rachael Vowles, which is how she signed her name. Other variants for her surname included Vowels and Vowells, and her first name was often spelled as Rachel. For her signature, see *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search> : accessed 26 August 2017) > Search Place: United States, Minnesota, Waseca > Probate records > Probate case files (estates), ca. 1856-1916 ; indexes ca. 1856-1951 > Probate case files 802-841 (surnames V-Y) (This film is roll 27.) > image 1370, File No. 832, Report of Sale in matter of Miles Hagan Young, Minor.

² For death date, see *Find a Grave*, Memorial 90819926, Rachel Vowles Young (1814-1896), gravestone photo by Saradependency.

her four youngest children.³ Stanley was born 1794-95 in Kentucky to John Young and Elizabeth Singleton, and died between 9 May and 8 June, 1868, in Nelson County, Kentucky.⁴

Proof of Parentage

Henry Vowles and Priscilla Price were married 3 January 1811, in Nelson County, Kentucky.⁵ They remained married until Henry died, which was sometime between 18 June 1826, when he signed an obligatory note, and 3 October 1826, when his personal property was inventoried and appraised.⁶ Rachael was identified as one of Henry's children in lawsuits filed against his estate.⁷ Priscilla Vowles also named her children, including her daughter Rachael, in her will made in April 1843.⁸

Rachael in Her Youth

Rachael's family lived in Washington County, Kentucky, when she was born. By 1817, her father owned at least 486 acres on the waters of the Rolling Fork River.⁹ He acquired 304 acres from his brother-in-law, Reason Price, for \$750 on 23 April 1821, which he mortgaged only a week and a half later to the Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for \$1,000.¹⁰

³ Searched *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 23 October 2017) > Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954 > 004261199, Nelson County Marriage Register, years 1787-1859 and Y surnames for record of Stanley Young-Rachael Vowles marriage. For a reference to her as "Miss Rachel Vowls," see Nelson County, Kentucky, Tax Book, 1852, p. 78, entry for Miss Rachel Vowls; digital image, "Tax books 1847-1857," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008140980?cat=156788>), image 480. Although the Young name was used on Rachael's tombstone, she continued to use her maiden name for legal documents after Stanley's death. See *FamilySearch* > Waseca Co., Minn., Probate case files, 1856-1916, File No. 832, Report of Sale in matter of Miles Hagan Young, Minor. For adoption, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book 14: 219-31, Stanley Young, 1868; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁴ For birth year and place, see 1850 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, population schedule, District No. 1, p. 314 (verso), dwelling 559, family 559, Stanley Young; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 215. For parentage, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book G: 431, John Young; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. Also, Fauquier County, Virginia, Marriage Book 1: 226, John Young-Elizabeth Singleton (1788); County Clerk's Office, Warrenton. Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31.

⁵ Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Returns, Vowles-Price, 1811; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁶ Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Bank of Commonwealth v. Vowles Heirs, 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Will Book D: 298, Inventory and Appraisal of Henry Vowles' personal estate; County Clerk's Office, Springfield. For reference to Priscilla Vowles as wife at death, see Washington County, Kentucky, Will Book D: 318, allotment of dower; County Clerk's Office, Springfield.

⁷ Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, William Buckman vs. Henry Vowles Admr & Others, April 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort.

⁸ Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book 6: 541-2, Priscilla Vowles (1851); County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁹ Washington County, Kentucky, Tax Book, 1819, p. 78, entry for Henry Vowles; digital image, "Tax books 1817, 1819-1830, 1833-1834," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834520?cat=157409>), image 162.

¹⁰ Washington County, Kentucky, Deed Book G: 96-7, Price to Vowles, 1821; County Clerk's Office, Springfield. Washington County, Kentucky, Deed Book G: 78-9, Vowles to Bank of Commonwealth, 1821; County Clerk's Office,

At the time of Rachael's birth, the War of 1812 was in high gear and patriotism was extremely heightened. Dubbed by some as the "Second War of Independence," Congress declared war on Great Britain on 18 June 1812. Although from most historians' viewpoints today the outcome of the war was considered more of a draw, its effect on American pride at the time was significant. It changed up the political parties and propelled a number of men into significant political careers, including the U.S. presidency. It inspired the national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key who was a witness to one of the most significant battles at Baltimore. But perhaps most importantly, "it promoted national self-confidence and encouraged the heady expansionism that lay at the heart of the American foreign policy for the rest of the century."¹¹

The young state of Kentucky where Rachael was born was a significant participant in the war. It is estimated that Kentucky sent five out of every six of its military age men to serve in the war where, it is said, they "made a record and a reputation that was not approached by the troops of any other state in the Union."¹² Although Henry Vowles was a member of the local militia during this time, Rachael's father was, perhaps, not the most exemplary fighting man. In a record of court martial proceedings, Henry Vowles was charged with not attending his regiment muster under Captain William Ray in October [1813]. For this failure, he was fined one dollar.¹³ The older men in Washington County were perhaps a bit more enthusiastic than Henry to join in the fighting. Fueled by hard feelings carried over from their days of fighting Indians, many of the men of Washington County headed to the Canadian border to fight the British and the Indians.¹⁴

Springfield. For relationship, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book 2: 209-210, Will of Richard Price, 1837; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

¹¹ Donald Hickey, "The War of 1812," *PBS* (<http://www.pbs.org/wned/war-of-1812/essays/american-perspective/> : accessed 17 March 2017). "The Star Spangled Banner," *Smithsonian* (<http://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/the-war-of-1812.aspx>).

¹² A. C. Quisenberry, "Kentucky Troops in the War of 1812," *Register of Kentucky State Historical Society*, Vol. 10, No. 30 (September 1912), 50; image copy, *JSTOR* (http://www.jstor.org/stable/23367236?seq=6#page_scan_tab_contents : accessed 17 March 2017).

¹³ Michael L. and Bettie Ann Cook, editors, *Pioneer History of Washington County, Kentucky* (Owensboro: McDowell Publications: 1982), 248, 271. Henry must have served only in the local militia, since there is no record for his service in the War of 1812; *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 17 March 2017 > War of 1812 Service Records > War of 1812 Service Record Index > Kentucky > V, searched all "V" surnames, no listing for Vowles or any variant spelling. *Fold3* > War of 1812 Service Records > Army Register of Enlistments, 1784-1969 > Register of Enlistments > 1798-1815, May > S-W, searched surnames spelled "Vowles," "Vowels" or "Vowells."

¹⁴ Washington County History Book Committee, *Washington County, Kentucky Bicentennial History 1792- 1992* (Paducah: Turner Publishing Company, 1991), 18.

The area where Rachel and her family lived during her childhood and teenage years was in a part of Washington County, Kentucky, that later became Marion County in 1834.¹⁵ It was located near a horseshoe bend in the Rolling Fork River.¹⁶

Rachael's father died when she was 12 years old. At the time of his death, in addition to his land, he possessed a modest personal estate that included two stills, household furniture, farming equipment and a variety of livestock—oxen, cows, hogs, horses and geese.¹⁷ But at the time Henry died, he also owed a lot of people a lot of money. Multiple lawsuits that were initiated against his estate and his heirs showed that he owed at least ten lenders a combined amount in excess of \$2,000. Except for one of the promissory notes that indicated he had “rented” slave labor, the other obligatory notes provided no evidence of the reason for the debt.¹⁸ Perhaps he was an unsuccessful farmer and borrowed the money to stay afloat. Although this is possible, it is not likely the reason for the debt. The land that Henry owned was rich fertile farm land. It was, as one man described, “the best corn land [he] ever had any thing to do with.”¹⁹ Perhaps Henry was a sick man and needed the funds to hire sufficient labor to keep his farm running. Or perhaps he was a gambler. Horseracing was a significant pastime in the area. Although it had been “banned on Main Street,” local plantations provided racetracks to “prove the merits of the thoroughbred horses imported

¹⁵ For formation of Marion County, see *Marion County Genealogy Project*, “Welcome to Marion County,” (<http://kykinfolk.com/marion/> : accessed 23 October 2017). Washington County, Kentucky, Tax Book, 1832, p. 85, entry for Priscilla Vowles; digital image, “Tax books 1817, 1819-1830, 1833-1834,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834520?cat=157409>), image 1,095. Marion County, Kentucky, Tax Book, 1834, p. 42, entry for Priscilla Vowells; digital image, “Tax books 1834-1837, 1840-1851,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLZ-P7TZ?cat=156127>), image 46.

¹⁶ *Map of Marion and Washington counties, Ky : from actual surveys and official records* (Philadelphia : D.G. Beers & Co., 1877); digital image, Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3953m.la000238/> : accessed 12 May 2018).

¹⁷ Washington Co., Ky., Will Book D: 298.

¹⁸ Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Bank of Commonwealth v. Vowles Heirs, 1827. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Washington Beall v. Vowles Admr & Heirs, 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Dony Bealer v. Henry Vowles admr, 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, William Buckman vs. Henry Vowles Admr & Heirs, August 1827. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Thomas Cloyd vs. Henry Vowles Admr & Heirs, March 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Henry Copper vs. Henry Vowles Admr & Heirs, March 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, William Hayden vs. Henry Vowles Admr & Heirs, April 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Henry Moore vs. Henry Vowles Administrator & Heirs, Mar 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Thompson vs. Henry Vowles Administrator & Heirs, March 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort. Washington County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, James Waters vs. Henry Vowles Administrator & Heirs, April 1827; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort.

¹⁹ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court files, Urbin Heavenhill vs Rachel Vowles, for “Deposition of George A. Green,” May 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

from England.”²⁰ Or it’s possible that Henry was just not wise in the management of his money. There could be a number of reasons why Henry borrowed the money. Although the reason—or reasons—for the borrowed funds is unknown, what is known is that, except for \$60, he borrowed all of the money during the last three years of his life.²¹ He was only about 39 years old when he died.²²

After her father died, Rachael and her family continued to live in Washington—and subsequently Marion—County for a number of years. Sometime around 1836, Rachael moved with her mother to Nelson County, Kentucky, where Rachael’s mother’s family lived.²³ The area they moved to was near Bardstown, one of the oldest settlements in Kentucky, which was incorporated in 1788 by an act of the Virginia legislature.²⁴ Pioneers of the town came mostly from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.²⁵ Rachael and her mother lived on a farm containing about 200 acres that was given to Priscilla Vowles by her father, Richard Price, in exchange for Priscilla’s dower land in Marion County.²⁶ Their farm was located in the rolling knobs and hills along Rankins Run south of Bardstown in the village of New Haven.²⁷

²⁰ Washington Co. History Book Comm., *Washington County...History*), 14.

²¹ Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Bank of Commonwealth v. Vowles Heirs, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Beall v. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Bealer v. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Buckman vs. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Cloyd vs. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Copper vs. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Hayden vs. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Moore vs. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Thompson vs. Vowles, 1827. Washington Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Waters vs. Heirs, 1827.

²² For birth, see St. Andrew's Parish, St. Mary's County, Maryland, Parish Records, 1736-1886, p. 31; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9XW-FJH7?i=18&cat=168422> : accessed 15 May 2018).

²³ For when Rachael and her mother Priscilla moved and identification of Priscilla’s father, Richard Price, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court File, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for “Deposition of George W. S. Willett,” 15 May 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown. For residence of Richard Price, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 2: 209-210.

²⁴ Matt Spalding, *Bardstown: Town of Tradition* (1942; reprint, Louisville: Shuman Printing Company, Inc., 1961), 2.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

²⁶ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court File, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, Deposition of George W. S. Willett. See also Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court File, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for “Petition of Urban Heavenhill,” 18 August 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

²⁷ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for “Answer” 15 May 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown. For description of land, see Faye Jenkins Stallings, “Interview of Robert M. McMullin Sr. and notes from local tour with same,” 4 May 2018; research notes, Vowles family papers; privately held by author.

Rachael's Life in Nelson County

Within two years from the time they moved back to her mother's "hometown," Rachael, a 24-year old unmarried woman, had her first child, George Willett Vowles.²⁸ Within another three years, Rachael had a second child, Griffith Vowles.²⁹ In 1846, Rachael had another son, Bryant Vowles.³⁰ She and her sons likely lived with her mother during this time, as they did in 1850.³¹

Sometime before 8 September 1851, Rachael's mother, Priscilla Vowles, passed away.³² In her will, she appointed her friend and former Kentucky Senator and State Representative, Stanley Young, as her executor.³³ After specific bequests to her daughter Julia Ann Drury and the son of her deceased daughter Mariah Craven, Priscilla left to her daughter Rachael an equal share of her estate, both real and personal, to be split with her brothers—Mathew, Thomas, Richard, and Henry.³⁴ But, as seems to be the case with members of the Vowles family, an amicable split couldn't be achieved without involving the Nelson County Circuit Court.

The first matter was a dispute initiated by Rachael in March 1852 against her brothers over a slave woman named Harriet. The proceeding was perhaps a bit heated with the brothers claiming fraud on the part of Rachael, and which she vehemently disputed the use of this term. The matter was ultimately heard before a jury of twelve men who decided in Rachael's favor.³⁵

²⁸ For birth, see *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 October 2017 > Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 1913-1916 Film 7016183: All Counties > image 1736, George Willett Vowles, 1916. Although this death certificate identifies parents for George Willett Vowles, the information is inaccurate. For identification of Rachael Vowles as mother, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Administrator of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young for "S. Young & Rachel Vowles Agreement," 27 December 1858; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. For discussion of likely father, see p. 21.

²⁹ For birth, see 1850 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 2, p. 348 (stamped) recto, dwelling 145, family 145, Griffin Vowles in household of Priscilla Vowles; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 215.

³⁰ For birth, see 1900 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, Bardstown, Enumeration District 93, p. 96A, dwelling 321, family 342, Bryant Young; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 546.

³¹ 1850 U.S. census, Nelson Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 348 (stamped) recto, dwell. 145, fam. 145, household of Priscilla Vowles.

³² Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 6: 541-2.

³³ For Young's friendship with Priscilla Vowles, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 6: 541-2. For Young's position as a Kentucky Senator and State Representative, see Lewis Collins and Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky, Vol. II* (Covington: Collins & Co., 1878), 645. See also, *Journal of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Begun and Held in the Town of Frankfort, on Friday the Thirty First Day of December, in the Year of our Lord, 1847, and of the Commonwealth, the Fifty Sixth* (Frankfort: A. G. Hodges, State Printer, 1847), 5.

³⁴ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 6: 541-2.

³⁵ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Order Book FF, pp. 122, 128; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

Then on 18 March 1854, Stanley Young, as the executor of Priscilla's estate, filed a petition in the chancery court naming Priscilla's heirs as defendants in the matter. Stanley worried that he might be held accountable in his fiduciary role as executor if the estate was not equitably divided in the eyes of the heirs. He was likely—and rightly—concerned about being caught in the crossfire between Rachael and her brothers. Besides the financial implications of being charged for his failure to perform his fiduciary duties, he also probably didn't want to face the potential displeasure of Rachael if matters weren't settled according to how she thought they should be. His safest avenue was to involve an independent party so he sought the Court's advice on the proper interpretation of Priscilla's will and distribution of her assets.³⁶

Stanley also felt the need to address his fees, both as Priscilla's executor and as her attorney. A lawsuit against Priscilla by Notty Bealman continued posthumously, and Stanley fought it all the way to the Kentucky appellate court. Much testimony in the form of depositions was given regarding the amount of work that had been required of Stanley in the matter and the appropriateness of his legal fees to be charged against the estate. Also, further complicating the settlement of the estate, Stanley did not feel he could pay out a full settlement of the estate until the litigation with Notty Bealman was concluded.³⁷

One gets a sense from the testimony and pleadings in the matter that the brothers felt Stanley and Rachael were conspiring to cheat them in the settlement of their mother's estate. And perhaps Stanley toyed with them a bit in his deposition taken by the brothers' attorney. When asked if Rachael had received a tract of land from her mother and was it by gift or purchase, Stanley's response was slyly crafted:

Rachel did get of her mother I think a small tract of land [some words crossed out] from her mother I am not able to say whether she obtained the land by gift or purchase but if I have not forgotten the law on this subject I think that all title to land is obtained either by purchase or descent except by stealing ~~which is not~~ which latter mode is never sanctioned

³⁶ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Priscilla Vowles' Executor v. Priscilla Vowles' Devises, for "Petition in Equity," 18 March 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

³⁷ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Priscilla Vowles' Executor v. Priscilla Vowles' Devises, for "Petition in Equity," 18 March 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

by moral law but sometimes still carried out and enforced by munisiple law by the ~~at~~ aid of good witnesses.³⁸

The relationship between Rachael and her brothers was obviously filled with antagonism. Did their feudal attitudes stem solely from the disagreement over their mother's assets? Or could their sister's lifestyle choices and the possible taint cast upon them play a part in their bitter feelings towards her? The contentious relationship between Rachael and her brother Richard was further stirred up by the fact that Richard was married to the daughter of the likely father of Rachael's two oldest children.³⁹

Rachael also became embroiled in a lawsuit with Urban Heavenhill over the land on which she had lived with her mother. On 18 August 1852, Heavenhill sued Rachael claiming he was the owner of three tracts of land that adjoined each other in Nelson County and that Rachael unrightfully held possession of the land and unlawfully kept him from possessing the land. He sought damages for \$100 and recovery of the land.⁴⁰ Urban Heavenhill claimed that he had purchased the land in June 1852 from William Beeler and William R. Price as Executors of the estate of Richard Price, Rachael's grandfather.⁴¹ Rachael was represented in the matter by Stanley Young.⁴² Through a number of depositions and the presentation of documentary evidence, Stanley demonstrated that the land in question was, first of all, not a legitimate part of Richard Price's estate. Evidently, Richard Price acquired the land in question from George W. S. Willett for the purpose of giving his widowed daughter, Priscilla, a place to live back in Nelson County. It was also shown that, in exchange for this land he gave Priscilla, he took her dower land in Marion County and gave it to Priscilla's son, Mathew.⁴³ Evidence was also presented in the matter to show that, for \$100, Priscilla

³⁸ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Priscilla Vowles' Executor v. Priscilla Vowles' Devises, for "Deposition of Stanley Young," 4 February 1856; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

³⁹ "Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-Y69L-NH?i=147&cc=1804888> : accessed 12 May 2018), marriage bond, Richard P. Vowles and Elizabeth Willett (1849); bond signed by George W. S. Willett. For identification of Elizabeth as George's daughter, see also Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 20:214-217, Deed of Trust, George W. S. Willett to James Hancock Trustee (1834); County Clerk's Office, Bardstown, Kentucky. For discussion of parentage of Rachael's two oldest sons, see p. 21.

⁴⁰ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court files, Urbin Heavenhill vs Rachel Vowles, for "Petition in matter of Urban Heavenhill against Rachel Vowles," 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

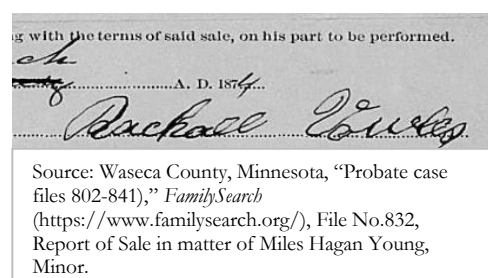
⁴¹ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court files, Urbin Heavenhill vs Rachel Vowles, Petition, 1852. Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court files, Urbin Heavenhill vs Rachel Vowles, for "Deed from Executors William Beeler and William R Price to Urban Heavenhill dated 15 June 1852"; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁴² Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court files, Urbin Heavenhill vs Rachel Vowles, for "Brief of Defendant's Counsel," 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁴³ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for "Deposition of George W. S. Willett," 15 May 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

deeded the land she had received from her father to her daughter, Rachael, shortly after the birth of Rachael's first son in 1838.⁴⁴ On the basis of the testimony of several men in the community and the documentary evidence presented by Stanley, the court ruled in favor of Rachael, and Urban Heavenhill was ordered to give her a clear title through a quit claim deed and to pay her costs in defending the matter.⁴⁵ During the course of this case, which proceeded from 1852 until 1856, Rachael—still unmarried—had two more children, Penelope and Sallie.⁴⁶

By February 1857, Rachael and her children were living with Stanley, and he referred to her as his housekeeper. Stanley, having been born about 1794-95, was about 20 years older than Rachael. A prevailing assumption is that Stanley and Rachael married.⁴⁷ In the 1870 census following Stanley's death, Rachael bears the surname of Young, but Stanley never once mentioned Rachael as his wife in his will or the multiple codicils that were made right up to his death.⁴⁸ Also, in the final estate records for Stanley and in legal documents signed by Rachael after his death, she used her maiden name Vowles.⁴⁹



Whether or not Stanley was the father of any of Rachael's children is unknown, but he clearly had a fondness for them and Rachael since, in his will he penned in 1857, he left his entire estate to them. But if Rachael was intimate with Stanley, she didn't limit her affections solely to him. As noted in Stanley's codicil dated 19 September 1861, Rachael became "the mother of another small responsibility" whom she named Miles Hagan Vowles. If Stanley was the father of this child,

⁴⁴ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for "Copy of deed from Priscilla Vowles to Rachel Vowles dated 10 October 1838," August 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁴⁵ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for "Decree," August 1856; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁴⁶ For the term of the case, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. For birthdate of Penelope Vowles, see Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 3058, registered no. 270 (1915), Mary Penelope Norris; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. For birth of Sallie Vowles, see "Kentucky, Birth Records, 1847-1911," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Sallie Vowles, 1855.

⁴⁷ Dr. Robert Payne Moore, *Vowles/Vowels of Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky* (Bardstown: Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008), 12. Mary Louise Donnelly, *The Willett family of Maryland: colonial peniters, Kentucky pioneers*, (Burke, VA: M. L. Donnelly, 1983), 115.

⁴⁸ 1870 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, population schedule, Precinct No. 7, New Haven P.O., p. 150 (stamped)(verso), dwelling 73, family 76, Rachel Young; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 491. Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31.

⁴⁹ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, J D Elliott, Administrator with Will Annexed of Stanley Young Decd vs. Stanley Young heirs, 1868; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. *FamilySearch* > Waseca Co., Minn., Probate case files, 1856-1916, File No. 832, Report of Sale in matter of Miles Hagan Young, Minor.

he claimed complete ignorance to it when he stated in his codicil that “[i]f this poor little boy had come into this world of wickedness and folly by his own bold intrepid migratory spirit [he] should feel disposed to cast him without a dime. But [he] strongly suspect[ed] that this poor little boy [had] been forced into this world, if not against his will at least without his consent by some untimely and unlawful act of his wayward parents.” After making this provocative statement, Stanley proceeded to bequeath a portion of his estate to this child also.⁵⁰

Rachael’s land ownership

In addition to the approximate 200 acres of land Rachael acquired from her mother, she acquired 215 acres from Elias Hurst about three months before the birth of her first son. This land bordered her mother’s land and that of George W. S. Willett’s.⁵¹ No record has been found identifying where Elias obtained the land he sold to Rachael.⁵² And there is no record of Rachael ever having disposed of the land.⁵³ The land is described as “Beginning at a stone in a drain the south west corner of Priscilla Vowles eighty-eight acres also Corner of George W. S. Willetts land.”⁵⁴ Because Priscilla occupied almost 200 acres that her father gave her at the time of this deed, it isn’t clear where the southwest corner of Priscilla’s 88-acre tract is located. But, curiously, an analysis of how Priscilla’s property was situated next to George Willett’s and the description in the Hurst to Vowles deed would seem to indicate that the property conveyed to Rachael by Elias Hurst lies in or

⁵⁰ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically p. 226.

⁵¹ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 21: 521, Elias Hurst to Rachael Vowles (1838); County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

⁵² Searched for Elias Hurst in Nelson County, Kentucky, Grantee Index, 1785-1875, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown; no results. Searched for Hurst decedents before 1838 in Nelson County, Kentucky, Index to Wills (1785-1960), County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown; no results found. Subject property identified in deed from Hurst to Vowles as being part of “James Armstrong 3758 Acres survey on the North side of the Roling fork bearing date the 5thday of July 1788.” Searched for James Armstrong in Nelson County, Kentucky, Grantor Index, 1785-1875, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown; no results found. Note that the will index contains entries for decedents who died without a will yet left property to be administered. Searched for James Armstrong in Nelson County, Kentucky, Index to Wills (1785-1960), County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown; no results found. Searched *Kentucky Secretary of State* (<http://apps.sos.ky.gov/land/nonmilitary/patentseries/vaandokpatents/Default.aspx> : accessed 21 May 2018), for James Armstrong, Old Kentucky Patent Series. Searched “Kentucky, Land Grants, 1782-1924,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), for James Armstrong; multiple results for James Armstrong, but none for Nelson County or surrounding counties.

⁵³ Searched for Rachael Vowles and Rachael Young in Nelson County, Kentucky, Grantor Index, 1785-1875, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown; no results found related to this piece of property. Also searched Nelson County, Kentucky, Grantor Index to Deeds and Mortgages, 1875-1893; no transfers of property by Rachael Vowles or Young. Rachael left no estate to be administered. See Nelson County, Kentucky, Index to Wills (1785-1960), County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown. As previously noted, the will index contains entries for decedents who died without a will yet left property to be administered. Neither Rachael Vowles nor Rachael Young is listed in the will index.

⁵⁴ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 21:521, Elias Hurst to Rachael Vowles (1838); County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

overlaps with the George Willett land.⁵⁵ Elias Hurst appears on only three known records: as Grantor in the deed conveying land to Rachael, as a witness along with George W. S. Willett to the 1838 unrecorded deed transferring land from Priscilla Vowles to Rachael Vowles, and as the subject of a bastardy case where he claimed to have no assets.⁵⁶ Maybe this was a valid transaction, but analysis hints that it wasn't, and perhaps it was a bit of subterfuge masterminded by George to make Rachael happy since she was about to bear an illegitimate son that was most certainly his.⁵⁷

Kentucky Land for Iowa Land

In December 1858, Rachael struck a deal with Stanley to give him her 180 acres of Nelson County land she had obtained from her mother in exchange for 160 acres he had obtained in Iowa. Stanley had obtained this Iowa land as a military bounty for his service in Corporal Captain McClasky's Company of the Kentucky Militia during the war of 1812. This 160 acres was located in Crawford County, Iowa.⁵⁸ The reason given by Rachael for agreeing to this swap was that she desired "to give land to her two sons George W. Vowles and Griffith Vowles," and they had expressed a preference for the Iowa land instead of the land on the waters of Pottinger Creek.⁵⁹ Stanley executed a deed to Rachael for the Iowa land on 23 July 1862 and she, in turn, executed an agreement with her sons George and Griffith that she was giving them the land "in full of their share or shares of the said Rachel Vowles Estate both Real and personal."⁶⁰ They committed to be responsible for the taxes henceforth and to "settle and improve the said land within one or Two

⁵⁵ Robert M. McMullan Sr., *Trappist Kentucky: Willett's Settlement, Deeds & Maps* (Bardstown: Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2009), 79, 118-119, 233. See also, Faye Jenkins Stallings, "Rachel Vowles," 4 March 2018; DeedMapper file, Vowles family files; in possession of author.

⁵⁶ Nelson Co., Ky., Deed Book 21: 521. Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for "Copy of deed from Priscilla Vowles to Rachel Vowles dated 10 October 1838," August 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. Nelson County, Kentucky, Bastardy Files, Louisa Mills vs. Elias Hurst (1841); County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁵⁷ For discussion of George W. S. Willett as likely father, see p. 21.

⁵⁸ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, "S. Young & Rachel Vowles Agreement," October 1876. Stanley Young (Crawford County, Iowa), patent for military warrant no. 23686; "Land Patent Searches," images, *General Land Office Records* (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx> : accessed 26 March 2018). Stanley Young (Crawford County, Iowa), patent for military warrant no. 52389; "Land Patent Searches," images, *General Land Office Records* (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx> : accessed 26 March 2018).

⁵⁹ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, "S. Young & Rachel Vowles Agreement," October 1876.

⁶⁰ Crawford County, Iowa, Deed Book B: 232, Young to Vowles, 1862; County Recorder's Office, Denison. Crawford County, Iowa, Deed Book B: 233, Vowles to Vowles, 1863; County Recorder's Office, Denison.

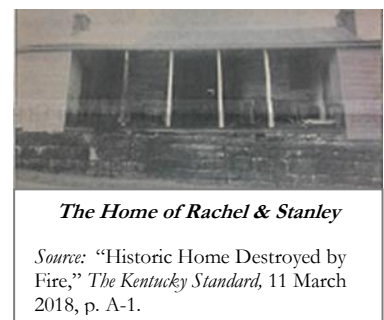
years.”⁶¹ Circumstances—or minds—must have changed because the brothers and their wives later sold the land in December 1873.⁶²

Disposition of Pottinger’s Creek land

A few years after the Iowa land swap, Stanley sold a half-interest in the land he received from Rachael to Henry Watson. However, some complications with the land caused both Stanley and Rachael to execute an agreement with Watson to change the terms of the sale between Stanley and Watson. Upon conducting a survey, there was slightly more acreage than they had agreed to in their terms. But the biggest discrepancy revolved around a 29-acre tract included in the sale. Apparently, as Stanley described it, there was an “interference” in the 29 acres with a deed from G. W. S. Willett in trust to James Hancock.⁶³ Although the 29 acres is not specifically described in the deed of trust, it was obviously subsumed in the land description of Willett’s land he put in trust. This 29-acre tract had been sold by Willett to Richard Price and subsequently transferred to Priscilla Vowles and then to Rachael Vowles.⁶⁴ Curiously, the litigious pair of Rachael and Stanley did not attempt to recover this land from George W. S. Willett and wrote into the agreement with Watson that all parties agreed to acknowledge the 29 acres was lost to them and that there would be no litigation engaged in to recover the 29 acres.⁶⁵

Life in the Young/Vowles Household

Life in Stanley and Rachael’s household was likely not your typical domestic scene. First of all, it is believed that Rachael and Stanley ran a stagecoach stop. The son-in-law of Miles Hagan Young, Rachael’s youngest son, described the house as a log cabin with rock chimneys on each end of the house. He said the house consisted of “six rooms, an attic and a cellar” with a “dog trot [that ran] between the middle of the house.” He also said that stagecoaches would stop there for the night and trade horses, and the “[t]ravelers used the two front rooms on each side of the house for sleeping quarters.” There was also



⁶¹ Crawford Co., Ia., Deed Book B: 233.

⁶² Crawford County, Iowa, Deed Book G: 422, Vowles to Woodards, 1873; County Recorder’s Office, Denison.

⁶³ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Administrator of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young for “Watson Vowles Young Agreement,” October 1876; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

⁶⁴ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for “Deposition of George W. S. Willett,” May 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

⁶⁵ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, “Watson Vowles Young Agreement.”

a large barn near the house where the horses were kept that were used for changing the stagecoaches' horses.⁶⁶ The location of Stanley's property, described as being on both sides of the Bardstown and Green River turnpike road leading to Nashville, would seem to be a prime location for a stagecoach stop, especially for the Louisville to Nashville route.⁶⁷

Besides the likely excitement that existed with the comings and goings of the stagecoach travelers, Rachael and Stanley were well acquainted with prominent individuals in their community as well as political leaders for the state and the country. Stanley was an associate of Benjamin Hardin, considered to be one of the great lawyers of Kentucky, serving with him in local political affairs.⁶⁸ Stanley himself was a practicing lawyer and politician. He served in the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1832 and as a Kentucky Senator from 1835-39.⁶⁹ His political involvement continued locally, likely concluding in the few years before his death when, at a meeting of the Nelson County Democrats in 1864, he was appointed with a number of other men to represent Nelson County at the Democratic Convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky.⁷⁰ In addition, Stanley (referred to as Col. Stanley Young), Wilson Samuels and Dr. Gore were appointed as a committee to draft resolutions expressing the views of the members of this group. This was a tumultuous period during Kentucky's history with the Civil War raging and the state painfully divided on both sides of the hostilities.⁷¹ Stanley and his committee subsequently presented a resolution, unanimously approved, that expressed the desire to remove



⁶⁶ Sarah B. Smith, *Historic Nelson County, It's Towns & People* (Bardstown: Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008), 235-236.

⁶⁷ For description of property location, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 25: 165-6, Young to Vowels (1847); County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. For mention of Louisville to Nashville stage coach route, see J. Winston Coleman, Jr., *Stage-Coach Days in the Bluegrass: Being an Account of Stage-Coach Travel and Tavern Days in Lexington and Central Kentucky, 1800-1900* (Louisville: The Standard Press, 1935), 146.

⁶⁸ "Nelson County," *The Commentator*, 21 November 1827, archived (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 28 March 2018), col. 1-4; citing print edition, p. 1. For biographical sketch of Benjamin Hardin, see Collins, *History of Kentucky, Vol. II*, 646.

⁶⁹ Collins, *History of Kentucky, Vol. II*, 645.

⁷⁰ "Democratic Meeting in Nelson County," *Louisville Daily Democrat*, 16 June 1864, archived, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 1 December 2017, col. 6; citing print edition, p. 1.

⁷¹ Samuel M. Wilson, *History of Kentucky, Vol. II: From 1803 to 1928* (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928), 303-24.

Abraham Lincoln from office, recognize the exorbitant cost of the war to the country, and seek an end to the war through negotiation or a convention.⁷²

Stanley and Rachael's social circle also extended to U.S. Congressmen. Bryant Rust Young, Stanley's brother and Rachael's third son's namesake, was a doctor who served in the United States Congress from 1845-1847 as well as in the State House of Representatives for three terms between 1859 and 1864.⁷³ Although prior to Rachael's association with Stanley, another of Stanley's brothers, William Singleton Young, also a doctor, served in the United States Congress from 1825 until he died in 1827.⁷⁴

Another of Stanley's brothers, St. Clair Young, likely generated a lot of excitement when he came to a tragic ending.⁷⁵ In 1851, St. Clair got into an argument with his son's father-in-law while dining together at a hotel in Corydon, Kentucky, and, in the heat of the argument, St. Clair threw a fork at the man, William Marsh. Marsh responded intensely, drew his revolver and shot St. Clair, killing him instantly. Though Marsh was arrested, he was later acquitted on the grounds of self-defense. The tragedy did not end there. Seven years later, St. Clair's son—and his brother's namesake—Stanley Jr. sought out Marsh and shot his father's killer in the head.⁷⁶ It was said that Stanley Jr. had put his business affairs in order and then sought to hunt down and kill the man who killed his father.⁷⁷ Perhaps this is so, and perhaps this was the reason he gave a Power of Attorney to his uncle Stanley to take care of certain matters for him in 1855.⁷⁸

Stanley's Will and Discourse

Stanley first penned his will in February 1857 and, following his initial litany of bequests, he amended it through five codicils, with the last being written on 9 May 1868.⁷⁹ Not only did Stanley

⁷² "Democratic Meeting in Nelson County," col. 6; citing print edition, p. 1.

⁷³ "Young, Bryan Rust, (1800 - 1882)," *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=Y000030> : accessed 2 December 2017). For relationship to Stanley, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book G: 431.

⁷⁴ "Young, William Singleton, (1790-1827)," *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=Y000057> : accessed 2 December 2017). For relationship to Stanley, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book G: 431.

⁷⁵ For relationship to Stanley, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book G: 431.

⁷⁶ "A Kentucky Tragedy—The Murder of a Father Avenged," *Plattsburgh Republican (New York)*, 5 June 1858, archived (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 2 December 2017), citing print edition, p. 2. "Stanley Young alias "Bill Marion," *Louisville Daily Union Press*, 19 April 1865, archived (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 2 December 2017), col. 2, citing print edition, p. 1.

⁷⁷ "Stanley Young alias "Bill Marion," p. 1, col. 2.

⁷⁸ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 29: 415, Power of Attorney, Stanley Young Jr. to Stanley Young (1855).

⁷⁹ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31.

use his will to make known the disposition of his assets, he also used it as a platform to expound on his philosophical views. Though he was a slave owner, he questioned the prohibition on educating people of color:

I have seen in this country Gentlemen and ladies contributing a portion of their means to be used by pious Missionaries for the education and enlightenment of the rude ignorant and savage nations of this world including even the monstrous and abhorred cannibal and the dysemenation of Christian religion yet for all this in the very midst of a Christian country where innumerable colleges and church buildings are dedicated to the living God 'tis next to impossible to get a white man to teach the colored portion of the Gentile race. [T]hese things among others too tedious to mention strongly incline me to the belief that there is in this wonderful age for new inventions more of mammonism than Christianity in the whole bold intrepid and indomitable heart of splended and magnificent Christiandom[.]⁸⁰

After launching into this diatribe, Stanley goes on somewhat apologetically:

Yet I am not unbeliever in the Christian religion & have the felicity to believe that there are a great number of devout and sincere Christians now living and yet to come after me. I hope to be excused for this digression[.] I am accidentally lead into this reflections and remarks refer only to what I conceive to be cold matter of fact am not preaching at all at all—have a lively consciousness that I am a nonconformist in many important points of the compass—trust that I can make these remarks with becoming humility under the most favourable view of my case I should even regret to be considered a model citizen in the way of morals and religion for I feel deeply and sensibly that if I should ever gain the instemable and imperishable Jewel of immortal felicity that without any merit of my own I shall have to rely alone upon the bountiful mercy of an infinite God and the atoning blood of a crucified redeamor—I feel conscious of a moral and religious fall that when a proved spirit (perhaps too proud spirit—a spirit which only beauty amid the Gods could ever conquer) shall leap forth from its frail and clayey tennament that is must still continue a downward course to Plutos dreary abodes unless through[h] mercy some kind angel pitying humane frailty should arrest it in its downward course and conduct it upwards to the flowery fields of Elysium. If I was worth to pray I would devoutly beseech almighty God to arrest all mankind in such

⁸⁰ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically pp. 222-3.

downward course and conduct them upwards to immortal felicity—bit I feel that the only prayer I am worthy to utter is something like that of the poor Publican “Lord have mercy upon me a sinner.”⁸¹

In the 10th item of his will, he continued, waxing poetically about his burial desires:

If I should die at home I desired to be buried at home, somewhere on my own land where the air (have no idea that I could have the privilege of sniffing the gales) as it floated over me would be pure and unadulterated by stone coal dust and the fine attenuated dust put in motion by manufacturing operations and commercial transactions—where I will be surrounded by the picturesque and varagated beauties of a romantic scenery surrounded by many magestic hills their ~~hills~~ sumits raised high in air far above the limpid streams that flow in these bordering vallies where there is no stagnant pools to impart impurity to the air where the surrounding country is washed and cleansed by rapid little streams that flow swiftly along and wildly precipitate themselves in the Rolling and Beach forks of salt river—where thousands of pure and christal springs are seen at convenient distances apart gushing forth from there pebly sources and rushing down their steep declivities with irregular force and zig zag mobility—Oh how lovely is sweet pure and unadulterated nature. It has been spoken emphatically by a God—Jesus of Nazareth in substance that verily Solomon with all his glory and riches is not equal in beauty and purity to the pure sweet and modest lilly of the Valley—Oh nature Oh sublime and beautify nature—Oh grand and magnificent nature well might frail and imperfect man bow down and worship thee, but for the superior intelligence and wisdom, the imaculate—the adored and ever adorable God that made thee.⁸²

Reading his philosophical musings written in his own will, one can imagine the grand orator Stanley must have been in his law practice and political career. However, his verbosity certainly created confusion in the settlement of his own estate. Because of the various changes he made to his will over the course of eleven years through five added codicils, with some of those changes

⁸¹ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically, p. 223.

⁸² Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically pp. 224-25.

contradicting others, the administrator of his estate felt it necessary to seek the Chancery Court's opinion regarding the proper disposition of Stanley's estate due to the "strange will" left by him.⁸³

In his will, Stanley originally devised a life estate in his property to Rachael, the lands and the house where he lived were to go to Bryant, and any remainder was to go into a trust for the benefit of Rachael's children—Bryant, Penelope and Sallie.⁸⁴ Following the birth of Rachael's youngest child, Miles Hagan Vowles, Stanley changed his will in 1861 and devised the land he had purchased from Rachael and his 40-acre tract to go to Miles. In his codicil dated 11 November 1864, Stanley states that Bryant, Penelope, Sallie and Miles Hagan "are all [his] adopted children." He also acknowledges that the children have been "voluntarily" giving their last name as Young at school and he proceeded to refer to them with the surname of Young also. He also expressed his desire that the land he had previously devised to Miles Hagan should instead go to Bryant and the land that he had "secretly" acquired in Minnesota should go to his "beloved" children, Miles Hagan, Penelope and Sallie, with each of them to receive a specific 160-acre tract in what Stanley referred to as the Winnebago trust lands. He also bequeathed to Miles Hagan the benefit of the land warrant assigned to Stanley by Bazil Smith for 160 acres in Minnesota.⁸⁵

Stanley made a few additional modifications in his directions and appointments in his two final codicils dated 30 December 1865 and 1 September 1866. He also provided, in his poetic style, a bit of commentary about the Civil War and noted that his estate had diminished by \$20,000 as a result of the war.⁸⁶

At the time Stanley died, he owned about 400 acres on Price's Creek that he had purchased between 1834 and 1837.⁸⁷ Stanley still owned a tract of land he had received from Rachael in their swap, and another 40 acres that had been granted to him by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.⁸⁸ He

⁸³ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Administrator of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young for "Petition by J. D. Elliott, Administrator," September 1868; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁸⁴ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31; see p. 219-25.

⁸⁵ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31; see p. 226-28. Note that the land warrant from Basil Smith was actually for land in Iowa. See Stanley Young (Lyon County, Iowa), patent for military warrant no. 24892; "Land Patent Searches," images, *General Land Office Records* (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx> : accessed 26 March 2018).

⁸⁶ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31; see p. 228-31.

⁸⁷ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, Petition by J. D. Elliott, Sept. 1868. Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book. 20: 276-7, Blandford & wife to Young, 1834; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book. 21: 364, Dawson & wife to Young, 1837; County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁸⁸ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, Petition by J. D. Elliott, Sept. 1868.

also owned 480 acres of land in Minnesota and a patent right to land in Iowa.⁸⁹ The value of his personal estate was approximately \$1,700.⁹⁰

The settlement of Stanley's estate was complicated for a number of reasons. Not only were there contradictions in his will and the diminishment of his personal estate, but Stanley also had not concluded the administration of the estate of his brother St. Clair Young.⁹¹ Ultimately, there was insufficient personal property to settle all of the debts Stanley owed, including the final distribution of assets to the heirs of St. Clair, and a portion of Stanley's property in Nelson County had to be sold to satisfy all of the obligations.⁹² Although it is not clear from the estate file what each child received, it appears that Bryant received 160 acres of land in Waseca County, Minnesota, which he swapped with James Coy for the 98 acres in Nelson County that had previously belonged to Rachael. This was the land sold by the estate to pay the debts. It was purchased by Richard Peak who in turn sold it to James Coy.⁹³ Penelope inherited 160 acres of Minnesota land also in Waseca County that she also sold to James Coy.⁹⁴ Miles Hagan Young also inherited 160 acres of land in Waseca County, Minnesota, which was sold on his behalf by Rachael since he was still a minor.⁹⁵ He also apparently inherited the Iowa land warrant since he subsequently sold the land.⁹⁶ There is no record in the estate file of the assets received by Sallie.⁹⁷

⁸⁹ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31; see specifically p. 227. Waseca County, Minnesota, Deed Book M: 135, Bryant Young & wife to James Coy (1873); County Recorder's Office, Waseca. Waseca County, Minnesota, Deed Book M: 544, Bryant Young to James Coy (1874); County Recorder's Office, Waseca. Waseca County, Minnesota, Deed Book M: 136, John H. Norris & wife to James Coy (1873); County Recorder's Office, Waseca. Waseca County, Minnesota, Deed Book M: 522, Penelope Norris & husband to James Coy (1874); County Recorder's Office, Waseca. *FamilySearch* > Waseca Co., Minn., Probate case files, 1856-1916, File No. 832, Report of Sale in matter of Miles Hagan Young, Minor. Stanley Young (Lyon Co., Ia.), patent for military warrant no. 24892.

⁹⁰ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Administrator of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young for "2nd Report of M Comr," April 1870; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

⁹¹ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, Petition by J. D. Elliott, Sept. 1868.

⁹² Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, 2nd Report of M Comr, April 1870.

⁹³ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Administrator of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young for "Agreement between James Coy and Richard Peak," May 1873; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. Waseca Co., Minn., Deed Book M: 135. Waseca Co., Minn., Deed Book M: 544.

⁹⁴ Waseca Co., Minn., Deed Book M: 136. Waseca Co., Minn., Deed Book M: 522.

⁹⁵ *FamilySearch* > Waseca Co., Minn., Probate case files, 1856-1916, File No. 832, Report of Sale in matter of Miles Hagan Young, Minor.

⁹⁶ Lyon County, Iowa, Deed Book C: 492, Miles H. Young to Hulver Nelson (1881); County Recorder's Office, Rock Rapids.

⁹⁷ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, J D Elliott, Administrator with Will Annexed of Stanley Young Decd vs Stanley Young heirs, 1868; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

Two Mavericks

Perhaps both Rachael and Stanley were kindred spirits in the sense that they bucked the norms of society. For Stanley, we get a sense of his maverick outlook in the philosophical statements he made in his will, and his specific statement that he was a “nonconformist in many important points of the compass.” With Rachael, it is evidenced in her never marrying and having six illegitimate children in the heart of a solidly Catholic community.

At a point in time when the expected role of a woman was to marry and become a helpmeet—or chattel—to her husband, what led Rachael to reject this role and lead a life that would be deemed by society as outright scandalous?⁹⁸ One theory, perhaps, is that she did not have full faculties—perhaps she was a simpleton and allowed men to take advantage of her. But given Rachael’s frequency at the courthouse—both as a plaintiff and defendant—the fact that the court never deemed it necessary to appoint a guardian on her behalf to represent her interests seems to rule out this theory. The courts did not view her as a simpleton. Perhaps, as a young woman who had just left her home in Washington County and moved to a new home in Nelson County, she fell in love with and was seduced by her married, philandering neighbor. As a result of this romantic affair, she found herself pregnant out of wedlock and ruined her chances for a future marriage. And she lived with those consequences. Or perhaps she intentionally chose the lifestyle—and possible perceived freedom—of a *femme sole* and single mother, influenced by the life of her own mother who became a widow at the age of 34 and chose to rear her children as a single mother rather than marry again.⁹⁹ Because both Rachael and her mother were women with beneficial family and societal connections and moderate wealth and means to care for themselves and their children without the need for a husband, it was a freedom they could afford to choose. Regardless of whether it was choice or circumstances, Rachael clearly defied the societal norms of the day and led what would appear to be a shocking lifestyle in a heavily Catholic-influenced community.

⁹⁸ Norton Juster, *A Woman’s Place: Yesterday’s Women in Rural America* (Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996), 19, 26-7. Victoria E. Bynum, *Unruly Women: The Politics of Social & Sexual Control in the Old South* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1992), 35, 44-5.

⁹⁹ For age in 1850, see 1850 U.S. census, Nelson Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 348 (stamped) recto, dwell. 145, fam. 145, Priscilla Vowels. For death date of husband, see Washington Co., Ky., Will Book D: 298. Approximate age at husband’s death was calculated from this information.

Children of Rachael Vowles

Rachael Vowles was the mother of six children. Her two oldest sons were likely fathered by George W. S. Willett.¹⁰⁰ The biological father(s) of her four youngest children are currently unknown, but they were adopted by Stanley Young and treated as his own.¹⁰¹ Rachael's children were:

- i. GEORGE WILLETT VOWELS born on 12 September 1838 in Nelson County, Kentucky, and died 21 March 1916 in LaRue County, Kentucky. He was buried in New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky. His death certificate shows his father as George Vowles and his mother as Rachel Price, but it's likely the informant was unaware of his illegitimate status or chose to mask it.¹⁰² George married Lucinda B. Elliott on 27 August 1861 in LaRue County, Kentucky.¹⁰³
- ii. GRIFFITH VOWELS born about 1840-41 in Nelson County, Kentucky, died on 29 July 1894 in Union County, Kentucky. Griffith married Susanna Mills on 17 November 1868 in Union County, Kentucky. He served as a Corporal in the Southern Division of the Union Army during the Civil War, Company D, 37th Kentucky Infantry.¹⁰⁴
- iii. BRYANT YOUNG born January 1846 in Nelson County, Kentucky, died 18 May 1911 in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.¹⁰⁵ Bryant married Elizabeth Medcalf on 11 January 1872 in Hardin County, Kentucky.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁰ See discussion on p. 21.

¹⁰¹ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically p. 227.

¹⁰² "Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1963," image, George Willett Vowles.

¹⁰³ "Kentucky, Marriage Records, 1852-1914," database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 September 2016), Vowles-Elliott, 1861.

¹⁰⁴ For birth, see 1850 U.S. census, Nelson Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 348 (stamped) recto, dwell. 145, fam. 145, Griffin Vowles in household of Priscilla Vowles. For marriage, see "Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954," database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 September 2016), Vowles-Mills, 1868. For death and marriage, see *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 4 November 2016) >U.S. Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards > V > Vo > Vowles, Griffith, database with images, and Declaration for Widow's Pension by Susana Vowles, in possession of Don Vowles [address withheld for privacy]. Digital copy of Declaration viewable at "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 November 2017), "Vowles Family Tree," family tree by donvowles, profile for Griffith Vowles (1840-1894).

¹⁰⁵ For birth, see 1900 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, Bardstown, Enumeration District 93, p. 96A, dwelling 321, family 342, Bryant Young; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 546. For death, see "Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1963," database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Bryant Young, 1911. For parentage, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-231.

¹⁰⁶ Hardin County, Kentucky, Marriage Bond and Application, Book D: 303-304, Young-Medcalf.

- + 2. iv. MARY PENELOPE “NELLIE” YOUNG born August 1852 in Nelson County, Kentucky, died 26 January 1915 in Union County, Kentucky.¹⁰⁷ Nellie married John Hardin Norris on 28 October 1867 in New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky.¹⁰⁸
- v. SALLIE YOUNG born 9 March 1855 at Price’s Creek, Nelson County, Kentucky, died 6 April 1946 in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.¹⁰⁹ Sallie married Thomas McCune on 12 October 1885 in Nelson County, Kentucky.¹¹⁰
- vi. MILES HAGAN YOUNG born 7 January 1859 in New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky, died 12 May 1942 in New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky.¹¹¹ Miles married Elizabeth Bryan on 22 October 1885 in Nelson County, Kentucky.¹¹²

A Father for Rachael’s Two Oldest Sons

Rachael is clearly identified as the mother of George W. and Griffith Vowles when she provides for their future with the transfer of the Iowa land she acquired from Stanley.¹¹³ Their father is not so clearly identified.

However, the father of Rachael’s first two children, George and Griffith, was her neighbor and first cousin once removed, George W. S. Willett.¹¹⁴ The following pieces of information point to this conclusion:

¹⁰⁷ Kentucky death certificate, file no. 3058, registered no. 270 (1915), Mary Penelope Norris. For parentage, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-231.

¹⁰⁸ Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Certificate, John Martin Norris-Mary Penelope Young, 1867; image, “Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954,” *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-81GV-9M8P?i=555&wc=QD3Q-WXJ%3A1589734459%3Fcc%3D1804888&cc=1804888> ; accessed 31 January 2018).

¹⁰⁹ For birth, see “Kentucky, Birth Records, 1847-1911,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Sallie Vowles, 1855. For death and parentage, see “Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1963,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Sallie Y. McCue, 1946.

¹¹⁰ “Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 September 2016), McCune-Young.

¹¹¹ “Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1963,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Miles H. Young, 1942.

¹¹² “Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 September 2016), Young-Bryan.

¹¹³ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Adm. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, “S. Young & Rachel Vowles Agreement,” October 1876.

¹¹⁴ See McMullan, *Trappist Kentucky*, p. 79. Rachael’s grandmother was Rachel Willett, wife of Richard Price, and sister to George E. Willett, father of George W. S. Willett. See “George Willett Document,” *Nelson County Genealogist* Vol. 32, No. 1, (August 2015): 5. See also, Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book 2: 209-210, Will of Richard Price, 1837; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown, Kentucky.

- Family lore: A descendant of George Willett claimed that “everyone knew of Grandpa Willett's old sweetheart, Rachel Young. Rachel Young owned a great deal of land near the Willetts, and she ran the stage coach stop. When George Willett got upset with Nancy (his wife) he would go to the stage coach stop and spend his evenings.”¹¹⁵ The fact that Rachael was involved in the operation of a stage coach stop was also supported by statements from her grandson-in-law.¹¹⁶
- Naming pattern: Rachael named her first son directly after his father, even so far as to give his middle name as the surname of his father: George Willett Vowles. The name of the second son, Griffith, follows the name of the father’s brother, Griffith.¹¹⁷
- George’s reputation: George W. S. Willett was a known philanderer. His wife, Nancy, sued him in chancery court in 1834 because he had “taken up” with a woman and was not fulfilling his matrimonial vows to care for her and their five daughters. To protect her and her daughters, Nancy asked the court to establish restraints that kept him from selling off his property and leaving her and her children destitute. The court ruled in her favor and required Willett to put all of his assets in trust—his land, slaves, furniture and farm equipment, livestock, and even his bacon (all 500 pounds of it).¹¹⁸
- Close association: Rachael and George had a close association. He sold the land to Rachael’s grandfather that she and her mother lived on after moving to Nelson County.¹¹⁹ He witnessed a deed and proved it in court on behalf of Rachael.¹²⁰ He testified on her behalf in the suit brought against her by Urban Heavenhill.¹²¹ He was called upon to testify on behalf of Rachael’s eldest son, George Vowles, in a suit he brought against his uncles.¹²² And, resulting from the lawsuit George Vowles initiated, one of his uncles, Mathew Vowles,

¹¹⁵ Donnelly, *The Willett family of Maryland*, 76.

¹¹⁶ Smith, *Historic Nelson County*, 235-236.

¹¹⁷ “Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964,” image, George Willett Vowles. For name of brother, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book B: 304, George Willett, 1811; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹¹⁸ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court File, Nancy Willett v. George W. S. Willett, for “Bill of Plaintiff,” 30 June 1834; Circuit Clerk’s Office, Bardstown. Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 25: 214-217, Deed of Trust from George W. S. Willett to James Hancock, 1834; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹¹⁹ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 20: 193, Deed from George W. S. Willett to Richard Price, 1834; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹²⁰ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 21: 521, Deed from Elias Hurst to Rachel Vowles, 1838; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹²¹ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Urban Heavenhill vs Rachael Vowles, for “Deposition of George W. S. Willett,” 15 May 1854; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹²² Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, George W. Vowles v. Richard Vowles, et al., for “Rachel Vowles, George Willett, Harvey McCune, Henry Bartley, James D Duvall, Wm Knott and Wm Peak,” 7 February 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

signed a note to George for \$50 plus costs, and this note was witnessed by George W. S. Willett.¹²³ Though evidently litigious in nature, Rachael did not pursue an action against George when it was discovered that she had lost 29 acres through interference with the court-mandated deed of trust between George and James Hancock.¹²⁴

- DNA: The Y-DNA results of a direct male descendant of Griffith Vowles shows a genetic distance of 1 from James William Willett based on a 67-marker comparison.¹²⁵ James William Willett is a descendant of William Willett, uncle to George W. S. Willett.¹²⁶

The DNA alone does not prove that George W. S. Willett was the father of Rachael's two oldest sons, George and Griffith, but it does provide evidence that a man with the surname of Willett was the father of Griffith. This point, taken together with the family lore, naming pattern, close association with Rachael, and George's reputation as a known philanderer, speaks to the likelihood that George W. S. Willett was the father of George and Griffith.

¹²³ Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, Priscilla Vowles' Executor v. Priscilla Vowles' Devises, "Promissory Note from Matthew Vowles to George W. Vowles, 4 September 1852; Old Records Room, County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

¹²⁴ Nelson Co., Ky., Circuit Court Files, Admr. of the Estate of Stanley Young v. Heirs of Stanley Young, "Watson Vowles Young Agreement."

¹²⁵ Family Tree DNA Kit#705490 of Donald Vowles, FTDNA.com. For Donald's father, Charles Griffith Vowles, see Don Vowles, "Vowles Family Tree," (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/8406702/family?fpid=-942909460> : accessed 17 March 2018) and "M Beverly Metcalfe Vowles, 83," *Evansville (IN) Courier & Press*, 14 January 2002, online archive (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 18 May 2018). For father of Charles Griffith Vowles, Joseph G. Vowles, see 1940 U.S. census, Vanderburgh County, Indiana, population schedule, Pigeon Township, Evansville, p. 905 (verso), enumeration district (ED) 93-60m sheet 14B, household 313, Joseph G. Vowles; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 1113. For father of Joseph G. Vowles, Griffith Vowles, see Declaration for Widow's Pension by Susana Vowles, in possession of Don Vowles [address withheld for privacy]. The author thanks Don Vowles for permission to use his DNA test results.

¹²⁶ James William Willett was the grandson of James Horace Willett and great-grandson of James W. Willett. For this relationship, see Jim Willett (jim_willett@outlook.com) to Faye Stallings, email, 26 April 2018, "Re: Y-DNA Match," Willett File, privately held by author. Also, for identification of James W. Willett as father of James Horace Willett, see Iowa State Department of Health, delayed birth certificate no. 115906, (1942), James Horace Willett; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018) > Iowa, Delayed Birth Records, 1856-1940 > 115001 – 120000 > image 912. For the identification of William Willett as father of James W. Willett, see *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 May 2018) > Iowa, Death Records, 1920-1940 > 1940 > Marshall-Polk > image 47, death certificate, James W. Willett (1940). For the identification of Richard Willett as father of William Willett, see *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 May 2018) > Kentucky, Wills and Probate Records, 1774-1989 > Meade > Will Book, Vol A-B, 1824-1889 > image 239, will of Richard Willett (1837). For the identification of William Willett as father of Richard Willett, see "Kentucky Probate Records, 1727-1990," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1875188> : accessed 27 April 2018) > Nelson, Will records, 1811-1817, Vol. C. > image 330, William Willett, will, 1814. For the identification of George W. S. Willett's father, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book B: 304-5, will of George Willett (1811); County Clerk's Office, Bardstown. For sibling relationship of William Willett (Jr.) and George Willett, see *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018) > Maryland, Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1777 > All Counties > Wills, vol 39, 1773-1775 > images 28-29, Will of William Willett Senior. The author thanks Jim Willett for permission to use his DNA test results.

Generation Two: Mary Penelope Young

2. **Mary Penelope Young**, biological daughter of Rachael Vowles and the adopted daughter of Stanley Young, was born August 1852 in Nelson County, Kentucky, died 26 January 1915 in Union County, Kentucky.¹²⁷ Penelope married **John Hardin Norris** on 28 October 1867 in New Haven, Nelson County, Kentucky with the “consent of the bride’s parents.”¹²⁸ John Hardin Norris was born in 1843-44, the son of John Norris and Sarah Coy.¹²⁹ He died around 1885 in Daviess County, Kentucky.¹³⁰

Proof of Parentage

Penelope is identified as the daughter of Rachael Vowles in the will of Stanley Young.¹³¹ Rachael Vowles is also identified as Penelope’s mother on her death certificate.¹³² The biological father of Penelope is currently unknown. Using DNA to identify a potential biological father has been difficult because of the endogamy that existed in the rural community in which Penelope was born. Stanley Young adopted Penelope as his daughter as stated in his will.¹³³ Penelope’s son also identified Stanley Young as her father on his mother’s death certificate.¹³⁴

¹²⁷ Kentucky death certificate, file no. 3058, registered no. 270 (1915), Mary Penelope Norris. For parentage, see Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-231; see specifically p. 227. *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) Memorial# 90959731, Mary N. Norris, St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, memorial by Pam H, photo by Linda Y.

¹²⁸ Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Bonds, Volume 7: 25-26, John Hardin Norris and Penelope Young, 28 October 1867; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹²⁹ Nelson Co., Ky., Marriage Bonds, Volume 7: 25-26. 1850 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, population schedule, District No. 2, page 340 recto (stamped), dwelling 38, family 38, household of John Norris; citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 215. Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 38: 380, John H. Norris and wife to Martha Ann Norris (1868); County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown. For maiden name of wife of John Norris, see Hardin County, Kentucky, Register of Minister Returns, p. 178, first line (unnumbered), entry for John Norris-Sarah Coy (1827); database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 April 2018) > Kentucky, County Marriage Records, 1783-1965 > Hardin > 1793-1862, image 214.

¹³⁰ Mary Regina (Alvey) Wedding and family, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute” (MS, Morganfield, Kentucky, 1934-2009), 56; privately held by author. Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1885, Curdsville Precinct, p. 17, entry for Hardin Norris; FHL microfilm 0,008,557. Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1886, searched Curdsville Precinct, all surnames beginning with N; FHL microfilm 0,008,618. Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1887, searched Curdsville Precinct, Book 7, all surnames beginning with N; FHL microfilm 0,162,905.

¹³¹ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-231; see specifically p. 227.

¹³² Kentucky death certificate, file no. 3058, registered no. 270 (1915), Mary Penelope Norris.

¹³³ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-231; see specifically p. 227.

¹³⁴ Kentucky death certificate, file no. 3058, registered no. 270 (1915), Mary Penelope Norris.

Penelope's Childhood

Penelope's childhood was likely an interesting one, being raised in a household with a politically active, poetically verbose lawyer and an independent, unmarried mother.¹³⁵ What was it like for her to grow up in such an uncommon household with an unmarried woman as her mother? Did their standing in the community shield her from disgrace?

As would be expected, she likely helped her mother with chores around the house, which may have been more than in a normal household if they provided food and bedding to stagecoach travelers passing through.¹³⁶ Penelope certainly attended school, but whether it was a common school or one of the many private or parochial schools that existed in the area is unknown.¹³⁷ It's possible that she attended the school nearby at the Abbey of Gethsemani.¹³⁸ It was while attending school that Penelope and her sister Sallie adopted the use of the Young surname.¹³⁹

Penelope would have been about 10 years old when the War Between the States broke out.¹⁴⁰ Kentucky, despite its Southern sentiment and interest of land-holding farmers, was reluctant to withdraw from the Union. In the beginning, there was a general sense of neutrality, although the two main political groups argued it for different reasons. But the neutrality position did not hold. By August 1861, the men holding political office maintained more of a pro-Union position. However, in November 1861, a pro-Confederate group met in Logan County and established a rival government.¹⁴¹ That December the Confederate Kentucky was admitted to the Confederacy.¹⁴² Just as the Kentucky government was torn between the two sides in the conflict, so were families. Nowhere was this more true than in the border states like Kentucky. Fathers fought sons, brothers fought brothers, and thousands died in the deadliest conflict on American soil.¹⁴³

¹³⁵ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31.

¹³⁶ Smith, *Historic Nelson County*, 235-236.

¹³⁷ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31.

¹³⁸ For existence of school at the time Penelope was a child, see McMullan, *Trappist Kentucky*, 17, 23. For proximity of school to residence of Penelope, see Faye Jenkins Stallings, "Interview of Robert M. McMullin Sr. and notes from local tour with same," 4 May 2018; research notes, Vowles family papers; privately held by author.

¹³⁹ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically p. 227.

¹⁴⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, population schedule, District No. 2, Poplar Neck Post Office, p. 27 (penned), dwelling 178, family 163, Penelope Vowles in household of Stanley Young; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 389.

¹⁴¹ Wilson, *History of Kentucky, Vol. II*, 303-24.

¹⁴² Garry E. Adelman & Mary Bays Woodside, "A House Divided: Civil War Kentucky," *Civil War Trust* (<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/articles/house-divided> : accessed 5 May 2018).

¹⁴³ "Brother Against Brother," display, Old Bardstown Village and Civil War Museum, Bardstown, Kentucky. This museum, visited on 5 May 2018, had a special display describing the divisive impact of the Civil War on families. See

Nelson County was right in the thick of things. With its well-established roads and railroads, it was perfectly positioned to move people and supplies.¹⁴⁴ At different times throughout the war, both Union and Confederate troops were encamped in the areas surrounding New Haven where Penelope lived with her parents and siblings. They, like many others in the area, probably had their produce and livestock taken, causing them personal hardship just to keep themselves from starving.¹⁴⁵ They may have been even more subjected to the effects of these two armies traversing the area around them since their home was located on the Bardstown and Green River turnpike that led to Nashville.¹⁴⁶ In the fall of 1862, tens of thousands of troops came through their area and ultimately, the two armies met in the bloodiest battle in Kentucky about 42 miles away.¹⁴⁷ On 8 October 1862, the Confederate army caught up to the Union troops in Perryville, and over 10,000 casualties were suffered. Though the Confederate army won this victory, they retreated to Tennessee, and the Union army maintained control of the area and of Kentucky.¹⁴⁸

Following the battle of Perryville, the residents of the area were still affected by guerilla warfare, especially the raids by General John Hunt Morgan as he attacked Union troops still encamped in the area around New Haven.¹⁴⁹ One of Gen. Morgan's excursions, the burning of the bridge over the Beech Fork, caused Stanley to add another codicil to his will changing his executor to someone on the south side of the river since the destruction of the bridge made travelling between the north and south sides of the river "inaccessible and in time of high water virtually impractical."¹⁵⁰ The residents of the area were also subjected to tight-fisted Union control until well after the war. Martial law was not lifted in Kentucky until September 1865.¹⁵¹ The citizens of the state were outraged at the treatment they received at the hands of the military government. Because

also, Smith, *Historic Nelson County*, 40. Dixie Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1999), 65, 97. "Civil War Facts," *Civil War Trust* (<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/articles/civil-war-facts> : accessed 5 May 2018).

¹⁴⁴ Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 7-8.

¹⁴⁵ Smith, *Historic Nelson County*, 43.

¹⁴⁶ Nelson Co., Ky., Deed Book 25: 165-6.

¹⁴⁷ Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 66. For distance, see Google Maps, Quarry Loop, New Haven, Kentucky, to Perryfield Battlefield Historic Site, Kentucky.

¹⁴⁸ Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 66.

¹⁴⁹ Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 69-84.

¹⁵⁰ Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 85. Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31.

¹⁵¹ Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 8.

of this treatment that they received at the hands of the Union army, it is said that “Kentucky didn’t secede until after the war.”¹⁵²

Penelope’s Marriage and Family Life

Though suffering significant economic impact as a result of the war, life went on for the Young family.¹⁵³ In a few years after the war, Penelope married a young man in her community, John Hardin Norris, on 28 October 1867 “with the consent of the bride’s parents,” which was acknowledged by her brother Bryant. They were married by Rev. Paulinus, a Catholic priest with the Trappist Monastery in New Haven.¹⁵⁴ Penelope likely converted to Catholicism a few months prior to her marriage.¹⁵⁵ Two of her siblings, Bryant and Miles, also converted to Catholicism in 1885.¹⁵⁶

According to her marriage bond in 1867, Penelope was 18 years old, placing her date of birth in 1848-49.¹⁵⁷ However, when she died, Penelope was identified as being born in August 1852.¹⁵⁸ This year of birth is consistent with the information provided to the census taker the first time she

¹⁵² Hibbs, *Nelson County: A Portrait of the Civil War*, 8. For further discussion of military rule in Kentucky, see Wilson, *History of Kentucky, Vol. II*, 358-9.

¹⁵³ Nelson Co., Ky., Will Book 14: 219-31. See specifically p. 229 for discussion of decrease in estate value.

¹⁵⁴ Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Certificate, John Martin Norris-Mary Penelope Young, 1867; digital image, “Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-81GV-9M8P?i=555&cc=1804888> : accessed 31 January 2018); citing FHL microfilm 005,289,551. For identification of Rev. Paulinus, see *The Metropolitan Catholic Almanac and Laity’s Directory for the Year of Our Lord 1850* (Baltimore: Fielding Lucas Jr., 1849), p. 157. For the proximity of John’s brother, George Norris, and Rachael Young, see *An Atlas of Nelson & Spencer Cos., Kentucky* (Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1882), 26. For relationship of John Hardin Norris to George Norris, see Nelson County, Kentucky, Circuit Court Files, George W. Norris and wife vs. Sarah Norris, et al., 1879; Old Records Room, County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹⁵⁵ Lawrence Morey (br.lawrence.morey@hotmail.com) to Faye Stallings, email, 10 July 2018, “Archives Request,” held privately by author. Br. Morey noted that the Abbey of Gethsemani holds a record indicating “Nella Young” received her first communion on 20 June 1867. However, there was no record of baptism at the Abbey. Requests for a copy of the first communion record have gone unanswered. Also searched for record of baptism for Mary Penelope Young or Nellie Young in Dolores and Danny Bohn, *Kentucky Catholic Baptisms*, CD-ROM, unpaginated, searchable document; self-published, revised 27 November 2017.

¹⁵⁶ Dolores and Danny Bohn, *Kentucky Catholic Baptisms*, CD-ROM, unpaginated, searchable document, entries for Francis B. Young and Miles Hagan Young, under “Young, Stanislaus “Stanley” & Rachel Vowels”; self-published, revised 27 November 2017. Secretary of baptismal parish, St. Catherine’s, 413 N. First Street, New Haven, KY 40051, confirmed information for Francis B. Young, but noted that it was against the church’s policy to provide a copy of the record or to allow a personal viewing of the record. See Katherine Mattingly, New Haven, Kentucky, parishoffice@saintcatherineschool.com, to Faye Stallings, email, 21 November 2017, “Family History Request for Information,” privately held author. Basilica St. Joseph Proto Cathedral, where Miles Hagan Young was baptized, declined to provide verification of the baptismal event for Miles, pointing to the availability of the *Kentucky Catholic Baptisms* CD. See Ashley Lawrence (alawrence@stjochurch.com) to Faye Stallings, email, 10 July 2018, “Copy of baptism record,” privately held by author.

¹⁵⁷ Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Bonds, Volume 7:25-26, John Hardin Norris and Penelope Young, 28 October 1867; County Clerk’s Office, Bardstown.

¹⁵⁸ Kentucky death certificate, file no. 3058, registered no. 270 (1915), Mary Penelope Norris.

was enumerated and three later census reports.¹⁵⁹ Also, if Penelope's age shown on her marriage bond were true, she would've appeared on the 1850 census with her mother and the rest of her siblings then living, and she did not.¹⁶⁰ Based on this, it appears that Penelope lied about her age when she married, which would be consistent with the family lore that Penelope was underage when she married her husband.¹⁶¹

After they were married, John Hardin and Penelope continued living in Nelson County. Hardin (as he was most commonly known) worked as a farmer, but did not own his own land.¹⁶² He most likely either rented a farm or worked the land of his family or Penelope's. Not long after they were married, Hardin bought assets at the estate sale of his deceased father-in-law that helped establish their household. The assets included a trundle bed, dining table and three split bottom chairs, livestock and farming equipment.¹⁶³

Their first known child, Amanda Ann Norris, was born in October 1870.¹⁶⁴ Sometime before July 1872, Hardin and Penelope moved a short distance westward to Daviess County, Kentucky.¹⁶⁵ Between 1872 and 1882, they had three more known children, Mary Regina, John Hardin and James Miles Norris. Their last child, Mary Rebecca, was born in February 1885.¹⁶⁶ It is quite likely that Penelope had a number of miscarriages or children die young. She may have had as many 14 children, but only these five are known to have survived beyond infancy.¹⁶⁷

Around the time of the birth of their last child, Hardin died, probably unexpectedly. Family lore says that he died when Amanda was 13 years old from congestive heart failure, which would've

¹⁵⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Nelson Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 27 (penned), dwelling 178, family 163, Penelope Vowels. 1880 U.S. census, Daviess County, Kentucky, population schedule, Curdsville District #7, enumeration district 176, p. 48, dwelling 371, family 372, Mary Norris; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 411. 1900 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Uniontown District No. 2, p. 8A, dwelling 132, family 137, Lillie Norris; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 553. 1910 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Magisterial District No. 2 Part of, sheet no. 7A, dwelling 4, family 4, Nellie Norris; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 504.

¹⁶⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Nelson Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 348 (stamped) recto, dwell. 145, fam. 145, household of Priscilla Vowels.

¹⁶¹ Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 56.

¹⁶² 1870 U.S. census, Nelson County, Kentucky, population schedule, Precinct No. 7, New Haven P.O., p. 147 (stamped) (recto), dwelling 27, family 27, Hardin Norris; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 491.

¹⁶³ Nelson County, Kentucky, Will Book 14: 378-381, Sale of personal estate of Stanley Young, decd (1868); County Clerk's Office, Bardstown.

¹⁶⁴ Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Health, death certificate, no. 50-3714 (1950), Amanda Ann Alvey: Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort.

¹⁶⁵ Daviess County, Kentucky, 1872 Tax List, p. 42 entry for Hardin Norris; FHL microfilm 0,007,949.

¹⁶⁶ St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro, Kentucky), "Baptism, 1870-1887," p. 86, Sarah Regina Norris, 1873; p. 266, John Hardin Norris, 1880; p. 302, James M. Norris, 1883; and p. 332, Mary Rebecca Norris, 1885; parish office, Owensboro.

¹⁶⁷ For number of children born to Nellie, see 1900 U.S. census, Union Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 8A, dwelling 132, family 137, Lillie Norris.

been around 1883-84. It's more likely that he died sometime in 1885 since that is around the time of his last child's birth and that is the last year he is recorded paying taxes.¹⁶⁸ At the time of his death, he still apparently owned no property, so there was no estate administration proceedings.¹⁶⁹ He was most likely buried in the cemetery of the same church where his children were baptized.¹⁷⁰

Sometime after the death of her husband, Penelope made the decision to move somewhere where she would have the support of family while raising her five children. According to the family stories, her "half-brother" Griffith Vowels helped to move her and her family to Union County in a covered wagon.¹⁷¹

Penelope's Life in Union County

On 20 June 1888, Mary E. Yates and her husband, William R. Yates, sold to Penelope Norris two and a half acres in Union County, Kentucky, for \$300. The land was described as being "on the Road leading from the William T Cissell farm to the Aaron Clements School house, and adjoins the Wm T Cissell and Aaron Clements land."¹⁷² In 1900, she lived within two households of her

¹⁶⁸ Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 56. For last child's birth, see St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro), "Baptism, 1870-1887," p. 332. Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1885, Curdsville Precinct, p. 17, entry for Hardin Norris; FHL microfilm 0,008,557. Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1886, searched Curdsville Precinct, all surnames beginning with N; FHL microfilm 0,008,618. Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1887, searched Curdsville Precinct, Book 7, all surnames beginning with N; FHL microfilm 0,162,905.

¹⁶⁹ For information regarding his property status, see Daviess Co., Ky., Tax List 1885, Curdsville Precinct, p. 17. Also searched Daviess County, Kentucky, Administrator Bonds Book 7 (1877-1882), Book 8 (1883-1888), Book 9 (1888-1893); Order Book N (1884-1886); General Index for Wills, A-Z, (June 12, 1815-December 31, 1989); County Clerk's Office, Owensboro.

¹⁷⁰ The actual location of John Hardin Norris's grave is unknown. Author walked the St. Alphonsus cemetery on 27 June 2017. According to Susan O'Brien, secretary at the church, the cemetery records have been lost. Death register began July 1885. Albert J. Davis noted the following about the cemetery in his publication: "This cemetery is undoubtedly the worst one I have ever tried to copy, due to the fact many of the stones are worn off and the engravings are illegible. Many stones are half under the ground and others are broken into small pieces. I was told by people at the church that a former Catholic priest had hauled loads of the stones to the landfill so this is much history that has disappeared from the scene." No grave for Norris was noted in the inventory of the cemetery. See Albert J. Davis, compiler, *Daviess County, Ky Cemeteries, Volume 1* (N.p.: n.p., n.d.), 60-85b. This book was located at the Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St, Owensboro, KY.

¹⁷¹ Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 31.

¹⁷² Union County, Kentucky, Deeds, Book 39: 244-45, Mrs. Mary E. Yates and husband to Mary Penelope Norris, deed, 1 August 1888; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

brother Griffith's widow, Susanna Vowels.¹⁷³ Sadly, her brother died in 1894 about six years after Penelope moved to Union County to be near him.¹⁷⁴

Although no occupation is noted for Penelope in 1900 and 1910, she probably earned a meager living by growing a small crop on her two and a half acres. She also had two grown sons, John Hardin and James Miles, who lived with her and probably helped to provide support as farm laborers on her land and possibly working for other farmers in the area.¹⁷⁵

Penelope died in 1915. Following her death, her heirs sold her two and a half acres, which was generally described in the deed as the property "known as the Penelope Norris place," to William L. Kagey and his wife, Minnie O. Kagey, for \$500, including a note for \$300. Penelope was laid to rest in the St. Agnes Cemetery in Uniontown, Kentucky.

Her Children

Mary Penelope Vowles and John Hardin Norris had five known children:

- + 3. i. AMANDA ANN NORRIS born 9 Oct 1870 in Nelson County, Kentucky, died 19 January 1950 in Union County, Kentucky, at age 79.¹⁷⁶ Amanda married Thomas Harve Alvey on 31 October 1893 at St. Agnes Church, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.¹⁷⁷
- ii. MARY REGINA NORRIS born about 15 May 1872 in Daviess County, Kentucky, died 21 August 1934 at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.¹⁷⁸ She married Charles E. Thompson on 17 November 1893 in Gallatin

¹⁷³ 1900 U.S. census, Union Co., Ky., pop. sched., sheet 8A, dwelling 132, family 137, Lillie Norris. 1900 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Uniontown District No. 2, sheet 8B, dwelling 134, family 139, Susana Vowles; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 553.

¹⁷⁴ Declaration for Widow's Pension by Susana Vowles, in possession of Don Vowles [address withheld for privacy]. Digital copy viewable at "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 November 2017), "Vowles Family Tree," family tree by donvowles, profile for Griffith Vowles (1840-1894).

¹⁷⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Union Co., Ky., pop. sched., sheet 8A, dwelling 132, family 137, Lillie Norris. 1910 U.S. census, Union Co., Ky., pop. sched., sheet no. 7A, dwelling 4, family 4, Nellie Norris.

¹⁷⁶ For birth, death and parentage, see Kentucky death certificate, no. 50-3714 (1950), Amanda Ann Alvey. For age and parentage, see also 1880 U.S. census, Daviess Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 48, dwelling 371, family 372, Amanda Norris.

¹⁷⁷ Union County, Kentucky, Marriage Bond Book M: 130, Thomas Harvey Alvey and Amanda Ann Norris, 1893, recorded bond and license (with original signatures) and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. St. Agnes Catholic Church (Uniontown, Kentucky), Certificate of Baptism with marriage notations, Thomas Harvey Alvey (1893 marriage); issued 15 June 1989, citing no book or page number; privately held by author. Based on personal interview with Kathy Humphrey, parish secretary, on 29 June 2017, the St. Agnes Church in Uniontown, Kentucky, restricts access to the original records and they will not provide photocopies of the registers.

¹⁷⁸ For birth and parentage, see St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro, Kentucky), "Baptism, 1870-1887," p. 86, Sarah Regina Norris, 1873; parish office, Owensboro, Kentucky. 1880 U.S. census, Daviess Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 48,

County, Illinois.¹⁷⁹ She married her second husband, Martin Aubrey Drury on 4 February 1930 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸⁰

- iii. JOHN HARDIN NORRIS born 11 April 1880 in Daviess County, Kentucky, died 2 November 1956 in Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸¹ He married Mary Virginia Smith on 19 February 1912 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸²
- iv. JAMES MILES NORRIS born 11 December 1882 in Daviess County, Kentucky, died 20 September 1960 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸³ He apparently never married.¹⁸⁴

dwelling 371, family 372, Mary Norris. For birth, death and parentage, see *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 September 2016) > Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011 > Certificate > 1934 > 8 > image 2,922, Mary Regina Drury. Her death certificate incorrectly shows her father as James Norris. The informant on the death certificate was Regina's daughter who never knew her grandfather. The given name of James and John could easily be confused. For parentage information, see also Union County, Kentucky, Marriage Bond Book 13:31, M. A. Drury and Mary Regina Thompson, 1930, recorded bond (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

¹⁷⁹ Gallatin County, Illinois, Marriage License, Thompson-Norris, 17 Nov 1893; County Clerk's Office, Shawneetown. See also 1900 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Magisterial District #1, p. 18A, enumeration district no. 75, sheet no. 18, dwelling 327, family 332, Charles and Regina Thompson; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 553.

¹⁸⁰ Union County, Kentucky, Marriage Bond Book 13:31, M. A. Drury and Mary Regina Thompson, recorded bond (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. 1930 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Magisterial District 2, Uniontown Precinct, p. 73 (recto), enumeration district 113-4, sheet 14A, dwelling 264, family 274, Aubrey Drury; NARA microfilm publication T626, Roll 779. *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 September 2016) > Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011 > Certificate > 1934 > 08 > image 2,922, Mary Regina Drury.

¹⁸¹ For birth and parentage, see St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro, Kentucky), "Baptism, 1870-1887," p. 266, John Hardin Norris, 1880; parish office, Owensboro, Kentucky. 1880 U.S. census, Daviess Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 48, dwelling 371, family 372, John Norris. For death and parentage, see *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) > Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1965 > Death Certificates, 1911-1965 > 1956 > Film 7049275: Certificates 025001-027763 > image 1703, John H. Norris.

¹⁸² Union County, Kentucky, Marriage Bond Book T: 158-159, John Hardin Norris and Virginia Mary Smith, 1912, recorded bond and license (with original signatures), record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

¹⁸³ For birth and parentage, see St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro, Kentucky), "Baptism, 1870-1887," p. 302, James M. Norris, 1883; parish office, Owensboro, Kentucky. For birth, death and parentage, see also Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 > 1960 > Film 7057296: Certificates 020001-022500 > image 833, James Miles Norris.

¹⁸⁴ For marital status, see 1930 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Magisterial District 2, Uniontown Precinct, p. 13B, dwelling 257, family 267, James M. Norris; NARA microfilm publication T626, Roll 779. Also, Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 > 1960 > Film 7057296: Certificates 020001-022500 > image 833, James Miles Norris.

- v. MARY REBECCA “MOLLY” NORRIS born on 13 February 1885 in Daviess County, Kentucky, died 15 December 1967 in Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸⁵ She also apparently never married.¹⁸⁶

Generation Three: Amanda Ann Norris

3. **Amanda Ann Norris** was born on 9 October 1870 in Nelson County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of John Hardin Norris and Mary Penelope Young.¹⁸⁷ She died on 19 January 1950 in Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸⁸ She married **Thomas Harve Alvey** on 31 October 1893 at St. Agnes Church, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.¹⁸⁹ Thomas Harve Alvey was born 1 April 1874 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, the son of John Richard Alvey and Mary Melvina Edwards.¹⁹⁰

Amanda's Childhood

When Amanda was just a toddler, her parents moved to Daviess County, Kentucky.¹⁹¹ Her dad continued his occupation of farming.¹⁹² Daviess County, located in western Kentucky along the Ohio River, contained every variety of soil the state had to offer, from the extremely rich black soil in the bottom lands along the river to the less desirous soils of the west. The most popular crops

¹⁸⁵ Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 116 67-3045, registrar's no. 131 (1967), Mary Rebecca Norris, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. For birth and parentage, see also St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro, Kentucky), “Baptism, 1870-1887,” p. 332, Mary Rebecca Norris, 1885; parish office, Owensboro, Kentucky. For date of birth and death, see also *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) Memorial# 91113407, Mary R. “Molly” Norris, St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, memorial by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey, photo by Linda Y.

¹⁸⁶ For marital status, see also 1930 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Magisterial District 2, Uniontown Precinct, p. 13B, dwelling 257, family 267, Mary R. Norris in household of James M. Norris; NARA microfilm publication T626, Roll 779. Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 116 67-3045, registrar's no. 131 (1967), Mary Rebecca Norris, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort.

¹⁸⁷ For parentage, see Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Health, death certificate, no. 50-3714, Amanda Ann Alvey (1950): Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort.

¹⁸⁸ For birth and death, see Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Health, death certificate, no. 50-3714, Amanda Ann Alvey (1950); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort.

¹⁸⁹ Union Co., Ky., Marriage Bond Book M: 130. See also, St. Agnes Catholic Church (Uniontown), Certificate of Baptism with marriage notations, Thomas Harve Alvey, issued 15 June 1989.

¹⁹⁰ St. Agnes Catholic Church (Uniontown), Certificate of Baptism with marriage notations, Thomas Harve Alvey, issued 15 June 1989. See also, Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 51-1468, Thomas Harvey Alvey (1951); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort.

¹⁹¹ Daviess County, Kentucky, Tax List 1869-1872, p. 42 in section “Below Hartford Road,” entries arranged alphabetically by first letter of surname, entry for Hardin Norris; FHL microfilm 7,949.

¹⁹² 1880 U.S. census, Daviess Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 48, dwelling 371, family 372, John Norris.

produced in the area were corn and tobacco, although wheat, rye, oats and barley were also produced.¹⁹³

The area where Amanda and her family were enumerated in 1880 was the southwest corner of the county, known as Curdsville. The area was located on the Green River and would have been rich in fertile river-bottom land. In 1876, the town of Curdsville housed “three large tobacco houses, two taverns, several stores, church, blacksmith shop, and other establishments in a town of its size,” which at the time had a population of around 300.¹⁹⁴ The area was “settled almost entirely by Catholics.”¹⁹⁵ The first Catholic church—St. Alphonsus—was built there in 1854, and it was the church where Amanda’s siblings were baptized.¹⁹⁶

Growing up, Amanda worked very hard, especially after the death of her father. As the oldest child, she was hired out to help support the family. She went to work for various families, performing chores such as milking cows, feeding chickens, washing clothes on a wash board, ironing, mending and sewing, and cleaning house. She also helped tend to babies and children. One family she worked for included a man who had just lost his wife and had six children to raise. Amanda would have been around 15 or 16 years old while she helped care for this family. She was surprised when the man asked her to marry him. Her response to the proposal was disappointing—and possibly insulting—to the man when she told him “she wanted a young man to marry, not an old man with six growing children.”¹⁹⁷

Her mother had to work very hard to keep the family together. Amanda’s contribution to this effort was weekly wages of \$2.50. It was one of her greatest pleasures when there was enough money left over to buy ten yards of calico to make a new dress.¹⁹⁸

When she was around 17 or 18, Amanda crossed the Green River in a wagon with her mother, her siblings and her Uncle Griffith to start a new life in Union County, Kentucky.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹³ *An Illustrated historical atlas map of Daviess County, Ky*, (1876; reprint, Utica, Kentucky: McDowell Publishing, 1984), 17.

¹⁹⁴ *An Illustrated historical atlas map of Daviess County, Ky*, (1876; reprint, Utica, Kentucky: McDowell Publishing, 1984), 21.

¹⁹⁵ *History of Daviess County, Kentucky* (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883), 55.

¹⁹⁶ *An Illustrated historical atlas map of Daviess County, Ky*, (1876; reprint, Utica, Kentucky: McDowell Publishing, 1984), 21. For record of baptisms, see St. Alphonsus Church (Owensboro), “Baptism, 1870-1887,” pp. 86, 266, 302 and 332.

¹⁹⁷ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 31-2.

¹⁹⁸ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 32.

¹⁹⁹ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 31.

Her Marriage and Family Life

In 1893, Amanda married the young man she had hoped for. In fact, he was only nineteen, almost four years younger than she was, when they were married.²⁰⁰ She and Thomas Harve Alvey were married at the St. Agnes Church in Uniontown, Kentucky, on the 31st of October, by Father Theophus Kelleners of Holland, in the presence of Francis Lilly Schneider, Elisabeth Yates and others.²⁰¹

Harve and Amanda started their family and lived their life along the Ohio River in Uniontown, Kentucky.²⁰² Over a period of years, from 1896 through 1934, Harve acquired fertile, river bottom farm land in Uniontown amounting to about 439 acres.²⁰³ Harve was a hard-working man and considered a “well-to-do” farmer.²⁰⁴ He raised wheat, corn, hay and tobacco, and the livestock he raised included cattle, hogs, horses and mules.²⁰⁵

Farming was a community affair, especially when it came time to harvest the wheat. When it was time to harvest, the wheat would be cut using a binder that was pulled by two mules. The binder also bound the wheat into bundles, and the men would follow along behind and stack the wheat into shocks. Once the wheat dried standing in their shocks



Source: Melissa Sandfort, *Agwired* (<http://agwired.com/2011/02/07/its-wheat-i-know-its-shocking/>; accessed 14 April 2018), blog dated 7 February 2011.

²⁰⁰ St. Agnes Catholic Church (Uniontown), Certificate of Baptism with marriage notations, Thomas Harve Alvey, issued 15 June 1899. Union Co., Ky., Marriage Bond Book M: 130. For Amanda's birth, see Kentucky death certificate, no. 50-3714 (1950), Amanda Ann Alvey.

²⁰¹ Union Co., Ky., Marriage Bond Book M: 130. For origin of the priest, see 1900 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Uniontown, p. 77A (stamped), dwelling 100, family 108, Theophus Kelleners; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 553.

²⁰² Wedding, “A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute,” 7.

²⁰³ Union County, Kentucky, Commissioners Deed Book 2: 182-183, Mary M. Alvey et al to T. Harve Alvey, 1896; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 58: 588-589, Bank of Union County to T. H. Alvey, 1904; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 71: 481, George B. Beaven and wife to T. H. Alvey, 1914; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 72: 28, James Alvey to T. H. Alvey, 1915; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 81: 526-527, James Mackey and wife to T. H. Alvey, 1921; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 85: 264-65, Susan Newton and husband to T. H. Alvey, 1923; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 95: 386-387, Jas. W. Pfeffer and wife to T. H. Alvey and H. A. Alvey, 1930; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 98: 158-159, H. A. Alvey and wife to T. H. Alvey, 1933; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

²⁰⁴ Wedding, “A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute,” 17.

²⁰⁵ Wedding, “A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute,” 9, 11-12, 89.

in the field, they would be hauled to the barn. At the end of summer, the threshing machine was hauled from farm to farm, and it was used to separate the wheat kernel from the stem. This was an exciting time and the women would gather together to prepare a “wheat-threshing dinner.”²⁰⁶

Another crop the family grew was tobacco. Growing tobacco was an arduous task. Typically, in January they would make a plant bed, sow the tobacco seeds and cover it with a thin canvas to keep the frost from killing the tobacco seedlings. When the plants were big enough to transplant, they would set them in fields. The children that were old enough to help would walk along barefoot in the sometimes muddy fields, carrying buckets filled with the tobacco plants, and they would place them spread out on the ground. The men would follow along behind, using a peg to make holes in the ground, setting the plants. Then, as the plants grew, there was the continuous effort of hoeing the weeds around the plants, looking for tobacco worms to pick off and squeeze to death, and pulling off the sucker shoots sprouting at the top. They usually cut the tobacco plants down in August, and the men would hang them from scaffolding in the barn rafters so the leaves could cure. Once cured, they’d strip the leaves from the stalk, usually in early winter. The bundles of stripped tobacco leaves were then hauled to a nearby warehouse and sold to the highest bidder by an auctioneer.²⁰⁷

Work was never ending and nothing was ever wasted during this time. Even the straw from the wheat was saved. The straw was typically put to use filling “ticks” that were used as mattresses. For sleeping comfort, Amanda would also make goose feather ticks to place on top of the straw ticks. The geese were caught in early spring and their feathers were plucked to fill the ticks.²⁰⁸

The table in Amanda’s kitchen was always full of food. They ate well from the large kitchen garden that she raised. They also ate well from the animals they raised—chickens, geese, turkeys, hogs and cattle. Eggs from both the chickens and the geese were part of their diet. The children, as soon as they were big enough, would help with the variety of chores involved in maintaining this well-endowed table. They fed the poultry and collected the eggs. They shelled corn for chicken feed, but also ground it for corn meal. They helped plant the garden, hoe the weeds and harvest the

²⁰⁶ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 9-10. For more on the wheat threshing process, see Richard Rumph, “Threshing on the Farm,” *University of Southern Indiana*, 21 April 2008, (<https://www.usi.edu/ihp/articles/IHP%20Threshing%20on%20the%20farm.pdf> : accessed 14 April 2018).

²⁰⁷ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 12-13.

²⁰⁸ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 11.

bounty from it. And they helped pick wild blackberries in the hot July summers so Amanda could preserve the blackberry jam they loved.²⁰⁹

Facing Adversity at Every Turn

Adversity is a part of life, and Harve and Amanda had their share certainly, as did many who lived during the same time period as they. They faced war, sickness, financial strife, and natural disaster, and overcame the tribulations while instilling upon their children a feeling of peace and love. Likely, the most devastating thing they faced was the loss of three of their children.

World War I

Only one of their children, Hanley Augustus Alvey, was called to serve during World War I. Amanda was deeply saddened to see her son go off to war, but fortune had it that he was never sent overseas to fight. He served his time as a Private in the U.S. Army, Medical Department, at General Hospital #41—also known as Debarkation Hospital No. 2—in Staten Island, New York. It was one of many hospitals where the sick and wounded from overseas were hospitalized.²¹⁰

Influenza Epidemic of 1918

As bad as the World War was on the nation and the loss of life experienced, the flu epidemic of 1918 was even worse. Millions of lives were lost to an illness that struck quickly, filled the lungs with fluid and suffocated the affected.²¹¹ Amanda was not afflicted with the flu nor was her oldest daughter, but she found herself working tirelessly to care for everyone else in the family who was affected. Aiding her in the care of her family was also a niece who had lost her father to the flu. While everyone was suffering and fighting to recover from the deadly illness, there was still the farm that needed to be tended to. With the help of a neighbor man, Amanda's oldest daughter cared for the livestock, feeding them, and cutting a hole in the ice covered pond to water them. Ultimately

²⁰⁹ Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 8, 14, 16.

²¹⁰ Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 17. *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 April 2018) > U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963 > 1954-1956 > Aaberg, Inslie M - Anastasiow, Nick A > image 3592, Hanley Augustus Alvey. See Frank W. Weed, editor, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War, Volume V, Military Hospitals in the United States* (Washington: U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office, 1923), 795-797; U.S. Army Medical Department, Office of Medical History (<http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/wwi/MilitaryHospitalsintheUS/chapter33.htm> : accessed 21 April 2018).

²¹¹ "The Deadly Virus: The Influenza Epidemic of 1918," *National Archives and Records Administration* (<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic/>).

everyone recovered, and life continued as it had before on the farm, until the next adversity reared its ugly head.²¹²

The Great Depression

Following the stock market crash of 1929 and the widespread failure of banks throughout the country, the nation left the “roaring twenties” behind and entered the 1930’s in a dire situation. By 1932, over 20% of the U.S population was unemployed.²¹³ The impact on the agricultural economy in Union County was significant. Crop prices hit rock bottom. Farmers could not pay the mortgages on their farms and they struggled to save them.²¹⁴ It was right during the beginning of this time that Harve and Amanda, together with their oldest son and his wife, bought an additional 116-acre farm, which was most likely financed through Farmer’s Bank.²¹⁵ In 1933, Harve bought out his son’s interest.²¹⁶ But the struggle continued, and in May 1934, Harve and Amanda mortgaged most of their property for \$2,000 to keep the farms afloat. They managed to grind their way through the hard times and paid off the mortgage in September 1939.²¹⁷

The Flood of 1937

Already greatly impacted by the depression crushing the country, the flood of 1937 “almost wiped Uniontown off the map.” Fortunately, most were able to evacuate before the town was submerged under twenty feet of water.²¹⁸ This was a flood of epic proportions, and affected the entire Ohio River valley, which was nearly 1,000 miles long.²¹⁹ It has been calculated that “about 165 billion tons...of ice, snow, sleet and rain” were dumped on the Ohio River valley in January 1937.²²⁰ Dubbed the “worst river flood in American history,” it paralyzed the entire area along the Ohio

²¹² Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 14.

²¹³ “Great Depression,” *The History Channel* (<https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression>).

²¹⁴ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 14. Sam Moore, “U.S. Farmers During the Great Depression,” *Farm Collector* (<https://www.farmcollector.com/farm-life/u-s-farmers-during-great-depression> : accessed 12 June 2018).

²¹⁵ Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 95: 386-387, Jas. W. Pfeffer and wife to T. H. Alvey and H. A. Alvey, 1930; County Clerk’s Office, Morganfield. Notation in margin indicates the original deed was sent to Farmer’s Bank on 7 December 1930.

²¹⁶ Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 98: 158-159, H. A. Alvey and wife to T. H. Alvey, 1933; County Clerk’s Office, Morganfield.

²¹⁷ Union County, Kentucky, Mortgage Book 77: 46-51, T. H. Alvey and wife to Land Bank Commissioner, 1934; County Clerk’s Office. Union County, Kentucky, Deed Book 104: 365-66, Release of Mortgage, Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation to T.H. Alvey and wife, 1939; County Clerk’s Office, Morganfield.

²¹⁸ *Union County Past and Present: Compiled by Workers of the Kentucky Writer’s Project of the Work Projects Administration* (Louisville: Schumann Printing Company, 1941), 165.

²¹⁹ David Welky, *The Thousand-Year Flood: The Ohio-Mississippi Disaster of 1937* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2011), xi, 7.

²²⁰ Welky, *The Thousand-Year Flood*, 59.

River.²²¹ Although not entirely obliterated as were many towns along the river, their community in Uniontown sustained enormous damage.²²² Amanda and her family were spared from the floods entering their home, but they were like an island with the flood waters completely surrounding them.²²³ It was just one more challenge to be overcome.

Loss of Children

Amanda experienced perhaps more than her share of the heart-wrenching sorrows that can befall a mother. Her second child, a little boy—John Richard, named after his grandfather—died within a couple of weeks after he was born.²²⁴ She lost another son, William Hanley, when he was eight years old. While playing at school, he apparently fell down a hill and suffered a severe head trauma.²²⁵ According to his death certificate, he died from meningitis, which may mean that he suffered a skull fracture that resulted in an infection.²²⁶ The pair of worn leather boots, shirt and pants Amanda kept in her closet in a box tied with twine were emblematic of the loss and sadness she surely felt.²²⁷

She lost one more son in her lifetime. Maurice was not a young child though; he was a grown man of 32. Although he still lived at home, helping his father with the farm, he was courting a young woman and looking forward to starting his own family. The day it happened, his mother saw him kneel beside his bed to say his prayers before he walked off into the fields. When time came for the noonday meal, Harve and two of his other sons came in to eat, but Maurice did not return. Night fell and still he did not return home. By morning, Amanda and Harve were frantic, knowing something was not right. The neighbors joined in to search the area for him, combing the river

²²¹ Welky, *The Thousand-Year Flood*, xi.

²²² Ibid. *Union County Past and Present*, 166.

²²³ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 80.

²²⁴ Mary Regina Alvey, Morganfield, Kentucky, interview by Faye Stallings (undated); notes privately held by author, Alvey family file. Regina was a sibling of John Richard and though not yet born at the time of his birth, was informed about him by her mother. See also, Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 20. For his namesake, see also, Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 51-1468, Thomas Harvey Alvey (1951); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. For confirmation of a deceased child, see 1900 U.S. census, Union County, Kentucky, population schedule, Uniontown District No. 2, p. 6B, dwelling 106, family 110, Annie Alvey, NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 553.

²²⁵ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 21.

²²⁶ Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Health, Certificate No. 8379, William Hanley Alvey (1915); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) > Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 > 1912-1915 > Film 7016173: All Counties > image 1778, transcribed as William Hareley Alvey. For meningitis from brain injuries, see “Traumatic brain injury,” *Mayo Clinic* (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/traumatic-brain-injury/symptoms-causes/syc-20378557> : accessed 15 April 2018).

²²⁷ Wedding, “A Mother’s Journal—A Family’s Tribute,” 21.

bottoms on both sides of the Ohio, but he was not found.²²⁸ Six years after his disappearance, his parents still held out hope that he would one day return home alive and well.²²⁹ But he never returned. Amanda died never knowing what happened to her son. If the rumors are true that came about after her death, the mystery of not knowing may have been less torturous than what may have occurred. According to a friend of the family, Maurice was walking across the farm when he came unsuspectingly upon two men distilling. They were startled, thinking it was the law, and they hit Maurice in the head before they realized it was him. One of the men was Miles, Amanda's brother. Apparently, the blow to the head killed Maurice, and they hid his body in an old abandoned well. One of the two men confessed on his death bed.²³⁰ Such a tragedy for all involved.

Although Amanda may have experienced much loss and tragedy in her life, she was a strong woman who taught her children the importance of work. She taught her daughters to be good wives and mothers. She raised ten children and helped raise some of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a beautiful, tall slender woman with jet black hair and deep brown eyes that were almost black.²³¹

Amanda Ann Norris and Thomas Harve Alvey had eleven children:

- i. HANLEY AUGUSTUS ALVEY born 27 August 1895 in Union County, Kentucky, died 14 November 1954 in Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, at age 59.²³² He

²²⁸ "No trace found of man missing 9 days," *Union County Advocate*, 27 February 1930, p. 1, col. 1. "Parents offer reward \$100 for missing son," *Union County Advocate*, 6 March 1930, p. 1, col. 1. Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 18-19.

²²⁹ "Parents believe son missing six years may return," undated clipping, *Union County Advocate*; Wedding-Alvey family papers, privately held by Geraldine Wedding Duckworth Scott, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Morganfield, Kentucky. Inherited in 2009 by Mrs. Scott from her mother, Regina Alvey Wedding, sister of Maurice Alvey, Uniontown, Kentucky.

²³⁰ Melissa Beaven, Morganfield, Kentucky [EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], to Faye Stallings, email, 16 February 2018, "Morris Alvey," Alvey family folder; privately held by Faye Stallings. Melissa worked at the radio station in Union County and she worked with a man who was a member of the family of one of the two men. He told her the story of Maurice.

²³¹ Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 15, 75, 78.

²³² For birth, death and parentage, see Commonwealth of Kentucky, State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 54-23020, Hanley A Alvey (1954), Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 April 2018) > Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 > 1954 > Film 7043811: Certificates 022501-025000 > image 544. For birth and death, see also *Find a Grave*, (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Memorial# 39917417, Hanley A. Alvey (St. Ann Cemetery, Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky), database with images, gravestone photo by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey. For birth information and full name, see also *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 April 2018) > U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 > Kentucky > Union County > Draft Card A > image 46, Hanley Augustus Alvey. Although the draft card is filled out with the middle name spelled "Augustus," the handwriting is different than the signature indicating someone else completed the information on the card and the signature on the card spells the middle name "Augustus."

married Belva Philomena Alvey on 28 February 1922 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²³³ During World War I, Hanley served as a private in the Medical Department of the U.S. Army.²³⁴ In 1942, he worked for the Works Progress Administration in Madisonville, Kentucky.²³⁵

- ii. JOHN RICHARD ALVEY born about 1896 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, died when he was two weeks old in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²³⁶
- iii. THOMAS MAURICE ALVEY born 13 December 1897 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, disappeared on 18 February 1930.²³⁷ His date of death is presumed to be 18 February 1930.²³⁸
- iv. MARY GORDIA ALVEY born 12 October 1900 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, died 10 January 1996 in Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky.²³⁹ She

²³³ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 5: 59, Handley Alvey and Philomena Alvey, recorded bond, (with original signatures); County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. For Philomena's first given name of Belva, see *Ancestry* > U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963 > 1954-1956 > Aaberg, Insle M - Anastasiow, Nick A > image 3592, Hanley Augustus Alvey.

²³⁴ *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 April 2018) > U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963 > 1954-1956 > Aaberg, Insle M - Anastasiow, Nick A > image 3592, Hanley Augustus Alvey.

²³⁵ *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 April 2018) > U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 > Kentucky > Alli – Anderson > image 450-451, Hanley Augustine Alvey.

²³⁶ Mary Regina Alvey, Morganfield, Kentucky, interview by Faye Stallings (undated); notes privately held by author, Alvey family file. See also, Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 20. A search for a baptism record did not reveal one; see Kathy Humphrey, St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, Kentucky (khumphrey@owens.twcbc.com) to Faye Stallings, email, 14 August 2017, "Alvey Ancestry," Alvey family folder; privately held by author. For confirmation of a deceased child, see 1900 U.S. census, Union Co., Ky., pop. sched., p. 6B, dwelling 106, family 110, Annie Alvey.

²³⁷ Kathy Humphrey, St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, Kentucky (khumphrey@owens.twcbc.com) to Faye Stallings, email, 14 August 2017, "Alvey Ancestry," Alvey family folder; privately held by author. See also, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 April 2018) > U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 > Kentucky > Union County > Draft Card A > image 65, Thomas Maurice Alvey. Wedding, "A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute," 19. "No trace found of man missing 9 days," *Union County Advocate*, 27 February 1930, p. 1, col. 1. "Parents offer reward \$100 for missing son," *Union County Advocate*, 6 March 1930, p. 1, col. 1. "Parents believe son missing six years may return," undated clipping, *Union County Advocate*; Wedding-Alvey family papers, privately held by Geraldine Wedding Duckworth Scott, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Morganfield, Kentucky.

²³⁸ Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, "Death Certificate Not Found," Request ID 2524570, 20 July 2017, Thomas Morris Alvey (1926-1936), Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. Searched for petition to declare person dead in Union County, Kentucky, District Court Civil Docket, 1930-1940, Morganfield, Kentucky. Date of death is presumed to be same date as date of disappearance. See "No trace found of man missing 9 days," *Union County Advocate*, 27 February 1930, p. 1, col. 1. "Parents offer reward \$100 for missing son," *Union County Advocate*, 6 March 1930, p. 1, col. 1.

²³⁹ For birth and parentage information, Mary G. Alvey, SS no. 406-70-4754, Application for Social Security Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland. For death, see "Mary Alvey," *Union County (Kentucky) Advocate*, 17 January 1996, p. 6, col. 4. See also, *Find a Grave*, (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Memorial# 39905574, Mary G. Alvey (St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky), database with images, gravestone photo by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey.

married Herbert Eugene Alvey on 19 October 1920 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴⁰

- v. JOSEPH EDWIN ALVEY born about 24 February 1902 in Union County, Kentucky, died on 29 January 1984 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴¹ He married Dorothy Bradford on 17 February 1931 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴²
- vi. JOSEPH EARL ALVEY born 5 May 1904 in Union County, Kentucky, died 26 August 1948 in Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴³ He married Carrie Collins on 3 November 1932 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴⁴
- vii. AGNES PEARL ALVEY born 5 May 1904 in Union County, Kentucky, died 27 August 1997 in Union County, Kentucky.²⁴⁵ She was married to Joseph Orville Drury on 21 January 1936 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴⁶

²⁴⁰ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 4: 6, Herbert E Alvey and Mary Gordie Alvey, recorded bond, (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. See also, *Find A Grave*, (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) Memorial# 39905574, Mary G. Alvey (St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky), database with images, gravestone photo by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey. Gravestone is engraved with the incorrect marriage year of 1921.

²⁴¹ For birth and parentage, see Joseph Edwin Alvey, SS no. 404-22-5281, Application for Social Security Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland. For parentage and death information, see "Joseph Edwin Alvey," *Union County (Kentucky) Advocate*, 1 February 1984, p. B8, col. 1.

²⁴² Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 14: 6, Edwin Alvey and Dorothy Bradford, recorded bond, (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

²⁴³ For birth, death and parentage, see *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) > Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 > 1948 > Film 7029558: All Counties > image 1607, J. Earl Alvey. See also, *Find A Grave*, (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Memorial# 39905597, J. Earl Alvey (St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky), database with images, gravestone photo by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey.

²⁴⁴ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 15: 65, J. Earl Alvey and Carrie Collins, recorded bond, (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield. See also, *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Memorial# 39905597, J. Earl Alvey (St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky), database with images, gravestone photo by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey.

²⁴⁵ For birth and parentage information, see Agnes Pearl Drury, SS no. 404-26-1401, 21 April 1971, Application for Social Security Number (Form SSA-9638), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland. The Social Security Number shown in the application was that of her husband's since she was filing a claim for his Social Security benefits. See Social Security Administration to Faye Stallings, 13 July 2017, Reference S2RB415/25, privately held by author. For death date and place, see "Agnes Pearl Drury," *Union County (Kentucky) Advocate*, 21 July 2004, p. A8, col. 1. See also, *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Memorial# 39905550, Agnes P. Drury (St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky), database with images memorial by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey, photo by Linda Y.

²⁴⁶ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 18: 84, Joseph Orville Drury and Agnes Pearl Alvey, recorded bond (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

- viii. WILLIAM HARLEY ALVEY born 5 August 1906 in Union County, Kentucky, died of meningitis at the early age of eight on 28 March 1915 in Union County, Kentucky.²⁴⁷
- ix. AGATHA CATHERINE ALVEY born 7 September 1908 in Union County, Kentucky, died 11 April 1995.²⁴⁸ She married Francis Joseph French on 12 January 1931 at the St. Agnes Church in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁴⁹
- x. ANNA MARGUERITE ALVEY born 12 September 1910 in Union County, Kentucky, died 16 July 2004 in Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky.²⁵⁰ She married William Herman Alvey on 18 November 1930 in Union County, Kentucky.²⁵¹
- xi. MARY REGINA “BABY” ALVEY born 16 May 1913 in Union County, Kentucky, died 17 June 2009 in Union County, Kentucky.²⁵² She married Henry Eugene Wedding on 21 January 1936 in Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky.²⁵³ She had a double wedding with her sister, Agnes Pearl.²⁵⁴

²⁴⁷ For birth, death and parentage, see Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Health, Certificate No. 8379, William Harley Alvey, 1915; database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2016) > Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1964 > Death Certificates, 1911-1964 > 1912-1915 > Film 7016173: All Counties > image 1778, transcribed as William Hareley Alvey.

²⁴⁸ Agatha Catherine French, SS no. 400-94-6529, 8 October 1973, Application for Social Security Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland. Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 116 95 11501, registrar's no. 009806 (1995), Agatha Catherine French, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. *Find a Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 August 2016), Memorial# 39905547, Agatha Catherine (Alvey) French (St. Agnes Cemetery, Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky), database with images, memorial by Bob & Ann (DiMeglio) Alvey, photo by Linda Y. “Catherine French,” *Henderson (Kentucky) Gleaner*, 12 April 1995, p. A8.

²⁴⁹ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 13: 116, Francis Joseph French and Agatha Catherine Alvey, recorded bond, (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

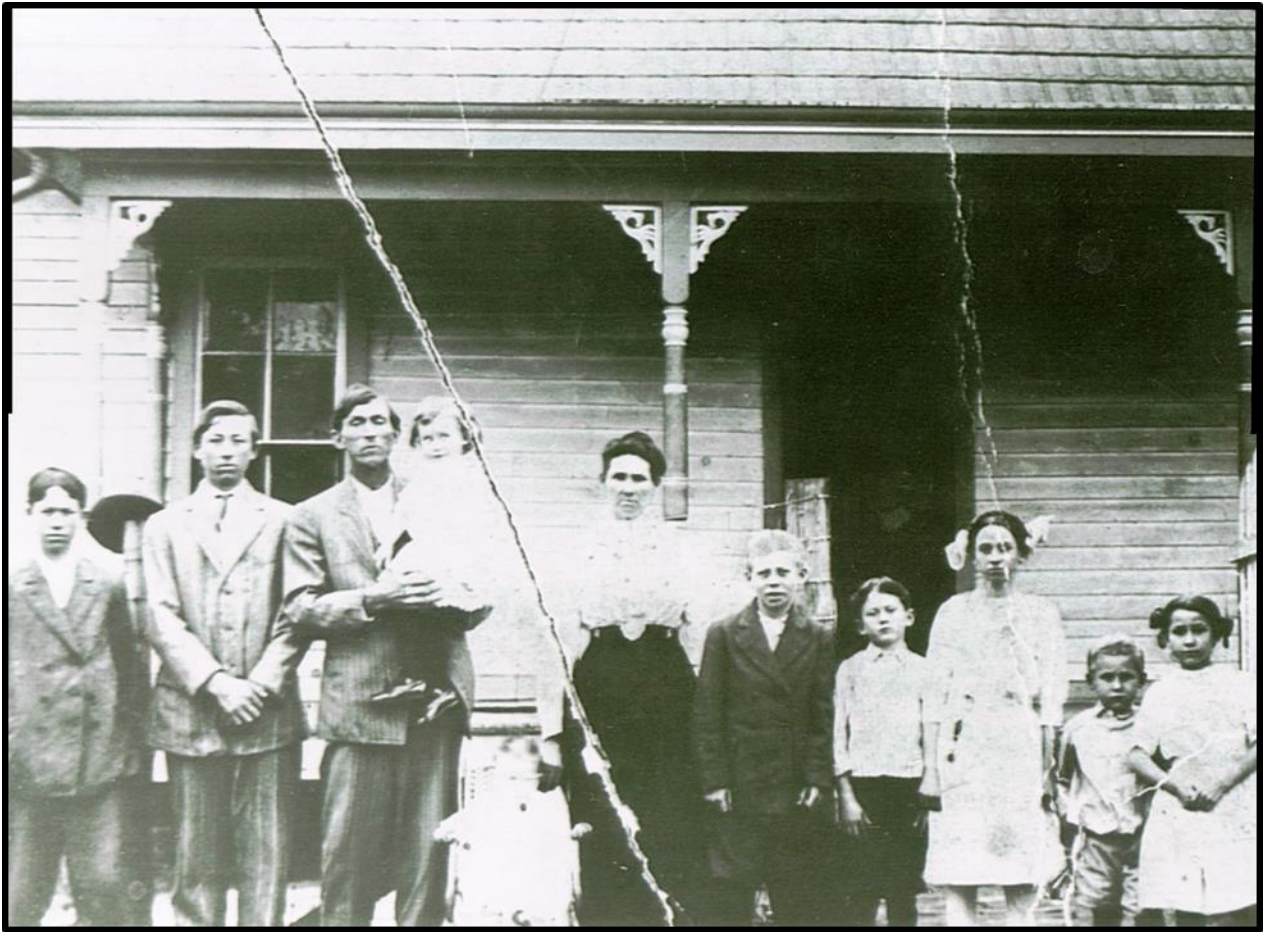
²⁵⁰ For birth, death and parentage, see Marguerite Alvey, SS no. 406-58-7560, 6 September 1960, Application for Social Security Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland. “Marguerite Alvey,” *Union County (Kentucky) Advocate*, 21 July 2004, p. A8, col. 1.

²⁵¹ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage License and Bond Book 13: 103, Herman Alvey and Marguerite Alvey, recorded bond, (with original signatures); County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

²⁵² Kathy Humphrey, St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, Kentucky (khumphrey@owens.twcbc.com) to Faye Stallings, email, 14 August 2017, “Alvey Ancestry,” Alvey family folder; privately held by Stallings. Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Health, death certificate, certificate no. 5274338, Mary Regina Wedding (2009), Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. For death information, see also “Mary Regina Wedding,” *The Gleaner (Henderson, Kentucky)*, 18 June 2009, p. A2, col. 1.

²⁵³ Union County, Kentucky, White Marriage Bond Book 18: 83, Eugene Wedding and Regina Alvey, recorded bond (with original signatures), register of marriage and record of marriage certificate; County Clerk's Office, Morganfield.

²⁵⁴ Wedding, “A Mother's Journal—A Family's Tribute,” 5, 7.



Pictured left to right: Maurice Alvey, Hanley Alvey, Thomas Harve Alvey, Catherine Alvey, Marguerite Alvey, Amanda Ann (Norris) Alvey, Edwin "Top" Alvey, Earl Alvey, Gordia Alvey, Harley Alvey and Pearl Alvey.²⁵⁵

²⁵⁵ Alvey Family photograph, ca. 1911; privately held by author. Faye received a reproduced copy of the photograph from her mother, Norma Wedding Jenkins, daughter of Mary Regina (Alvey) Wedding.