

*From Kent, England to an Old Kentucky Home*  
*Ma's Sutton Family*  
*Part One*

*In Memory of Ma, Lunette Chaney Vaughan*  
1878-1957



*Part One of a family narrative written by Helen Vaughan Michael*  
*September 28, 2020*

## A SUTTON DESCENDANT

A while back, when a friend's elderly mother died, she wrote a tribute to the house her mother had made a home, and she let me read it. My friend and I taught language arts to young teenagers at our local public school, and the therapeutic trick of writing one's grief into joy was a mystery understood by us both. After reading her poignant memoir in which she returned to her home place to look back at her youth from the garden gate and from the kitchen doorway and through windows to the bedroom--without ever entering the house, we talked about how our students did not seem to be building up any memories of substance around their homes. Nintendo and shopping malls were the current teenage obsessions of our time.

"It isn't simply that they don't share our values," I lamented. "It's that they are unable to appreciate any values around their own lives."

I was certain that the foundation of a people's soul had to be embroidered into the fabric of a kitchen towel by loving hands or planted in the soil of flower beds by the doorstep or hoed into gardens of fresh vegetables by resourceful, energetic ones. In my eyes, without a packet of flower seeds or reams of muslin fabric and embroidery floss, my students seemed destined to find out just how lost a generation could get.

"I don't have a single student who shows any interest in the flowers in their grandma's flower bed--much less those lilies and roses Shakespeare lined up in his sonnets," I told her sadly. "How can we teach them to appreciate literature and history when all they know is video games and tv? The very air that surrounds them seems artificial. No wonder they complain that life is boring."

No wonder, I could have added, they look for such feelings in drugs.

When I was a child growing up in the midst of the oil fields and dairy farms of North Texas, I built up a storehouse of idyllic memories. Most of these treasures centered on my grandparents and their house, a weathered, but neat little hut nestled on the side of a tree-shaded hill surrounded by pasture. All it needed to fit into a fairy tale was a thatched roof.

Though un-canonized, my grandparents were saints. I called them Ma and Pa. With much respect, they sometimes referred to one another as Old Lady and Old Man, or, as Mrs. Vaughan and Mr. Vaughan. They had grown old together.

Ma's gentle face was worn and wrinkled by time, and her shoulders stooped with burdens she stoically carried. Her long, straight nose with a mole on one side could touch her prominently sculptured chin whenever she removed her false teeth. My childhood fascination with her maneuvering her teeth back into her face led me to trace my fingers repeatedly from nose to jaw while I passed lazy afternoons on her soft, ample lap. Telescoped through memory, I now look at the tableau of a face fit for a Renaissance painting. From a child's perspective, resting in the love she held for a little granddaughter, the radiance of her aged face



sparkled in her cornflower blue eyes and glowed in the warmth of her smile. Appropriately, her hair encircled her face in a halo braided of silver.

My grandmother formed my first ideal of beauty. No beauty aid can be purchased that can recreate the mesmerizing image I keep of her.

*Leonardo's painting of Mary on the lap of St. Anne, --if she were alive today, I'd still be sitting on the "soft, ample lap" of my grandmother.*

In marriage, she made a good match in Pa. My grandfather was a large man who stood straight and tall in spite of the many years he had lived and the many miles he had had to walk with a cane. In his

eighties, Pa still had blonde hair on his head, and a golden moustache complemented the bold features of his unlined face. As a result of a duel in his younger days, he had only one natural eye. It was green, and in place of the one he had lost, he wore a glass eye, and the glass eye was brown. The removal and replacement of this piece of glass created indescribable feelings of admiration in me for my grandfather's obvious courage. Pa, a great storyteller, kept the mysterious circumstances of the duel to himself.

*Lunette Chaney Vaughan, a Sutton descendant,  
with husband, Sam Houston Vaughan, 1952*





## GOURDS AND PAILS AND DIPPERS

Their little house on a shaded hillside was without running water, and there was no electricity. A stonewall well stood just outside the kitchen door, and I often "helped" draw water from its dark, frightening depths to fill up the kitchen water pail and wash basin. A gourd dipper hung from a nail on the well post. Pa picked the gourd green from vines which he had planted and trained to grow on a wire trellis over the well, then, he dried it and shaped it into a dipper with his sharp whittling knife. Along with morning glories that had closed for the day, the vines shaded the well on hot summer afternoons, and visitors came to taste the fresh, cold water dipped out of my grandfather's well.



Coal oil lamps provided light when needed, but my grandparents' finished their chores by the light of day. Fuel was expensive for the old pensioners, and lamps added their warmth to the summer's heat. At dusk, and until the darkness became black, the two of them would visit together, and I sat contentedly at their feet, listening. Their talk of politics--of Texas' new Senator, Lyndon Johnson--sounded as important and exciting as television news bulletins would sound in the future.

Pa bought and built a crystal radio set, and in the darkness we experienced the joy of audio entertainment. One word from Jack Benny could shake Ma's whole body with laughter. The sound of that device--and its buttons--fascinated me just as generations to come would be fascinated by buttons that could further control electricity. At three, I knew how to match the numbers on the radio dial with the numbers on the clock; my fingers, primitive predecessors to the texters and video junkies of the future, with the right turn, could dial in a laugh from my grandma.

In the summer we sat on a breezy, screened-in front porch; in the winter we hovered around the cozy warmth of a woodstove. The same routine waited for us every night, and we went for it eagerly.

The old people treasured the ability to read and to write. They wrote and read letters with pride, and every weekday when their thoughtful landlord brought them ***The Fort Worth Star Telegram***, they read it carefully as if the day-old news from a city sixty miles away somehow affected them. Comic strips, in those pre-Charlie Schultz days, were turned into a fine collection by their young emulator who was herself learning the joy of reading.

My Heidi-like existence is a panoramic memory now of glorious spring days spent in the garden searching for new life; early summer mornings in the cowshed made of logs--watching Pa, balanced on a three-legged stool, milking Old Blue; peaceful autumn afternoons, prowling the fiery woods and golden fields for a glimpse of a fox or a hawk; and cold, grey winter days, building a hideout in the woodpile. All these good times filled up my childhood calendar.

Ma and Pa were poor and had nothing to give me, so they gave me their time. Their time, and their once-upon-a-time—their history. I think when they looked at me, they saw a part of themselves, and it may have made them feel young. I remember one day while working in her garden Ma stopped her hoeing, took me aside, and showed me a spider spinning a web off a corner of the cowshed. We sat together in the early morning sun, Ma in her bonnet, and I with sleep in my eyes, and with dew still on the ground, we watched that spider dancing a web in the sunlight of a new day.





A few days after the bleak conversation with my friend in which I predicted dire consequences for ignoring one's real world in favor of electronic games and material acquisitions, an incident occurred that made me wonder if someone had been listening at my door. At the end of the school day, one of my students tore from her notebook some writing she had done at home and handed it to me. "I wrote this for you," she said shyly.

Her name was Ginger. She lived in the country, and she quickly left the room to catch a school bus that waited for her out on the school ground.

The paper was titled "Maw's House." For me, Ginger had written a poignant memoir on how her grandmother who had recently died had made her house a home with flowers and art and time.



*There is nothing so strong as gentleness—  
There is nothing so gentle as real strength.*

#### *Remembering Lunette Chaney Vaughan*

Her son, Jack Vaughan, 1911-1992, b Gainesville, Texas.  
 Lunette Chaney Vaughan, 1873-1957, b Kentucky.  
 Mary Susan Sutton Chaney, 1851-1899, b Kentucky, Part One.  
 William Sutton, 1822-1900, b Indiana, m Lucretia Skaggs, Part Two  
 John Sutton, 1780-1836, m Rachel Roark, d. Indiana, Part Three  
 Rev James Sutton, 1737-1828 m. Hannah Cox, Part Four.  
 Rev David Sutton 1703-1775 New Jersey, m. Elizabeth Cox, Part Five.  
 Reverend John Sutton, 1674-1750 New Jersey, m. Elizabeth Conger, Part Six.  
 William Sutton b1641, Massachusetts, d1718, N J, m. Damaris Bishop, Part Seven.



## OUR LAST SUTTON, FROM KENTUCKY TO TEXAS, Part 1

My grandmother's mother was a Sutton who was born in the old Kentucky house of William and Lucretia Skaggs Sutton in 1851. They named her Mary Susan. Her Sutton ancestors landed in New England a few years after the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth Rock. Making the tenuous connection to the first Sutton in America, however, has turned out to be a difficult task, so it's best to start the Sutton story with information that is certain and certified. I know some things for sure about this one.

**Mary Susan Sutton**  
1851 – 1899





Mary Susan first got counted on the 1860 Green County, Kentucky census with the Wm Sutton family. She was eight and attended a frontier school along with five of her eight siblings. The Suttons were people who had long valued education.

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in Green in the County of Green State 659  
of Ky enumerated by me, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860. W. A. [unclear] Ass't Marshal  
Post Office Summersville

Dwellings-house, or other place of habitation.	Family numbered in order of habitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.		11	12	13	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Elvira W. Nelson	16	F					Kentucky				
		Mary "	14	F					"				
	Juno	Wm "	13	M					"				
		Geo W	13	M					"				
		Sutton A	11	M					"				
		Edwards A	6	F					"				
		Byrd A	4	F					"				
181	181	Burns Almond	23	M		Farmer	1200	1300	"				
		Elizabeth "	22	F					"				
		Nancy Barnell	70	F	13				Virginia			1	
		Wm "	48	M	13				Kentucky			1	
182	182	Agatha Sarrimus	28	M		Farmer		125	"				
		Nancy "	19	F					"				
		Gila Sarrimus	13	F					"			1	
		Sarah Sarrimus	1	M					"				
183	183	Wm S Sarrimus	30	M		Farmer	900	500	"			1	
		Juno "	27	F					"				
		John B	14	M					"				
		Wm G	10	M					"				
		Mary S	8	F					"				
		Nancy E	5	F					"				
		James B	2	M					"				
		Amelia J	7/2	F					"				
184	184	Wm Sutton	38	M		Farmer	400	500	Indiana				
		Suettia "	50	F					Kentucky			1	
		Rachel "	16	F					"			1	
		John B	14	M					"			1	
		John "	12	M					"			1	
		Reuben "	10	M					"			1	
		Mary I	9	F					"			1	
		Wm S	7	M					"			1	
		Charles "	5	M					"				
		Sally A	3	F					"				
		Nancy S	9/2	F					"				
185	185	Thos S Chaudoin	60	M		Farmer	3000	6500	Virginia				
		Sam Ann "	42	F					Kentucky				
		Suther P	18	M		Farm hand							
		Amundale "	12	F								1	
		Colman S	9	M								1	
186	186	Jos W Chaudoin	50	M		Farmer	900	1700					

No. white males, 20 No. colored males, 1 No. foreign born, 1 No. blind, 0  
No. white females, 18 No. colored females, 1 No. deaf and dumb, 0 No. insane, 0  
6400 10425 No. idiotic, 0 No. pauper, 0 No. convict, 0



Frontier Cabin School, Cold Spring, Denison TX.

## HER OLD KENTUCKY HOME

In 1860 Mary Susan was one of nine Sutton children. Those of age would have been educated in a one room building most likely by a male teacher who might teach “*Readin’, Writin’, and ‘Rithmatic—all to the tune of a hickory stick*” out of a McGuffey’s Reader. On the frontier their schoolhouse would have resembled the structure preserved in Denison, Grayson County, Texas, and pictured here. Earlier pioneers first made a clearing in the woods, then used the trees they fell to build their houses, barns, schools, churches, jails, trading posts, and forts. Kentuckians had been clearing the frontier for schools for some time by the time Mary Susan opened her first McGuffey Reader.

*McGuffey Readers were a series of graded primers for grade levels 1-6. They were widely used as textbooks in American schools from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, and are still used today in some private schools and in homeschooling.*

*The editor of the Readers was William Holmes McGuffey. He was born September 23, 1800, near Claysville, Pennsylvania, and moved to Coitsville Township, Ohio, with his parents in 1802.[2] McGuffey’s family had emigrated to America from Scotland in 1774, and they*



*had strong opinions on religion and a belief in education. Consequently, education and preaching the Gospel were McGuffey's passions. He had a remarkable ability to memorize and could commit to memory entire books of the Bible.*

*McGuffey became a "roving" teacher at the age of 14, beginning with 48 students in a one-room school in Calcutta, Ohio, and at a seminary in the town of Poland, Ohio. The size of the class was just one of several challenges which the young McGuffey faced. In many one-teacher schools, students' ages varied from six to 21. McGuffey often worked 11 hours a day, six days a week, in a succession of frontier schools, primarily in the state of Kentucky. Students brought their own books, most frequently the Bible, since few textbooks existed. **Wikipedia***

William Sutton, the patriarch of her 1860 home, knew something about roving teachers; many of his ancestors had been frontier preachers and were on hand to help founders of schools such as Harvard, Carlisle Indian School, and Brown, which in the beginning were set up for the purpose of training young men for the ministry.

On her first census, Mary Susan can be found as a nine-year-old living in her old Kentucky home in 1860 Green County, tended to by her mother, Lucretia Skaggs Sutton. Lucretia raised her children in the comfort of a house with plank flooring, a sturdy door, glass windows out of which to look upon the world, and a safe fireplace to cook over and to keep her family warm in winter. Lofts were built in many houses to provide sleeping places for a house full of children. Kids raised in small frontier cabins were grateful for wood floors and dry bedding, and for snake-rail fencing—built out of wood cleared from forest ground, wood which also became a fortress against critters that could riddle a kitchen garden. When kitchens with cook stoves were added, everyone enjoyed the fresh baked bread that came out of the oven, and herbs and spices from the garden filled houses with savory aromas. . . .Recipes for bread and fried chicken from Kentucky kitchens like Lucretia's became famous all over the world in the twentieth century.

*Frontier Cabin Behind  
a Snake Rail Fence*





By 1860, lumber mills were turning the nation's forests into siding, roofing, and trim, so that log cabins began to be covered up by planking, clapboard, and board and batten. The descendants of Mary Susan Sutton lived in the house in this lower photo during the 1940's. Built in 1880's, its logs were later covered, inside and out, by clapboard and planks.



*Top Left: Left of fireplace. Partial stairwell to loft, planked in. Inside, uncovered timbers of house are now visible, but were once covered over with siding and printed floral wallpaper.*

*Top Right: Lunette Chaney Vaughan, with husband, Sam Houston Vaughan. Lunette is the oldest daughter of Mary Susan Sutton Chaney. Behind the couple is a window and clapboard outside wall of the old house. 1945*

*Bottom Left: Outdoor view—one-hundred-year-old log house with clapboard siding. 1980 print*





**Frontier Culture Museum**

Kentucky is a southeastern state bounded by the Ohio River in the north and the Appalachian Mountains in the east. The state's largest city, Louisville, is home to the Kentucky Derby and the state is known as a bluegrass horse culture. It became a state in 1792.



*Wikipedia Photo. Public Domain*

Mary Susan was a child growing up in a pioneer family, while the frontier lay to the west. However, folks were still clearing Kentucky for their farms, using the felled trees to build houses, barns, fences, furniture, general stores, saloons, churches, schools, and jails—until they had built communities in which they could raise their children. In Kentucky, forts

were no longer needed to protect against the native peoples who were, in effect, exterminated by white development and disease. Still, far into the twentieth century Mary Susan's children were able to recall a woman--they believed to be their Indian grandmother—regularly visiting their home, then climbing onto the bare back of an Indian pony and riding off at a gallop.

As a child Mary Susan may have worked at vital jobs in the nation's budding agricultural industry, but children didn't have to give up their childhood to earn their keep, and pioneer families with a lot of kids considered themselves lucky. William and Lucretia were free to do the heavy chores as their small ones fed the chickens and yard birds, gathered eggs, picked berries and beans, and even helped in the fields wherever they could. Working in the fields, they enjoyed the excitement of discovering arrow heads, catching bugs, chasing butterflies, and picking herbs and wildflowers. Mary Susan would join her older sister, Rachel, and help Lucretia with the laundry, cooking, cleaning, sewing, and tending smaller siblings.

Because of kitchen fires, and in part to contend with summer heat, many families built their homes with separate summer kitchens. At least, the kitchens to the oldest of these houses seem to have become attached to the main house at some later time. As she grew older, Mary Susan would have spent a lot of time in the kitchen; whether it was attached to the house or not, it was a busy place.

Not only would the family's meals be prepared and eaten in the kitchen, the food itself was processed in the kitchen. Milk had to be strained and separated before it was turned into buttermilk, yogurt, and cheese, and the cream churned into butter, and then it all had to be stored--if lucky, in a cold springhouse. Meat had to be cured, sliced, chopped, or ground—after it was skinned, scraped, or plucked, before it was baked, boiled, roasted, smothered, stewed, or fried. On a kitchen doorstep the feathers of many a goose got plucked by the nimble fingers of farm girls like Mary Susan, who then saved the precious fluff to stuff into soft beds and pillows. In the wills of their fathers of this era, it was not unusual for feather beds to be handed down as if they were treasures.

Mary Susan may have picked peppers, herbs, and spices from a kitchen garden growing just outside the back door. And after meals, when she was through helping her mother clean up, perhaps there was time to chase fireflies outside in the yard and play games with her other brothers and sisters in the evening twilight.

Her mother and father could read, and saw to it that she and her siblings learned their literary skills. Her Sutton forefathers were leaders in



the Baptist movement of the Great Awakening and had helped start Quaker and Baptist churches and schools from Massachusetts to New Jersey to Indiana. Together the family may have read the Bible and Uncle Tom's Cabin, the two most popular books of the time.



**Attributes of Music**, Anne Vallayer-Coster, 1770 still life painting. Public Domain.

A culture of family music developed in the region where Mary Susan grew up. Kids and their parents composed their own songs and performed them for entertainment. Anything could be turned into an instrument to make musical sounds. A fiddle, banjo, guitar, or harmonica was considered a treasure. A front porch or a barn served well as a stage or dance floor. Much of American music grew from roots planted each evening in Appalachia's bluegrass region of the United States.

For playtime, girls had dolls and may have claimed a favorite spot in the woods, or down by the creek, where they could play house—or even school. Unfortunately, in 1860 political and social events would turn against the children of the South, and Mary Susan's Green County, Kentucky was far enough south that much of her childhood playtime was stolen away by southern planters who called for a war so they could form a Confederacy to replace the Republic of the United States.

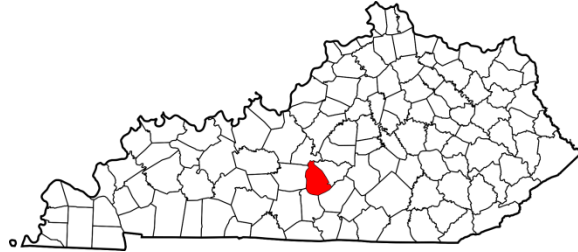
*Facsimile of a doll's head like one on a doll with which the Sutton girls enjoyed playing. Kate, youngest daughter of Mary Sutton Chaney, had such a doll with ceramic China head, arms, and feet attached to a cloth body stuffed with saw dust. In bittersweet memories, I can recall playing with Kate's doll at my grandmother's house until it came apart.*



## CIVIL WAR

*Green County was formed in 1792 . The county is named for [Revolutionary War](#) hero General [Nathanael Greene](#).<sup>[5][6]</sup>.*

***Wikipedia.***



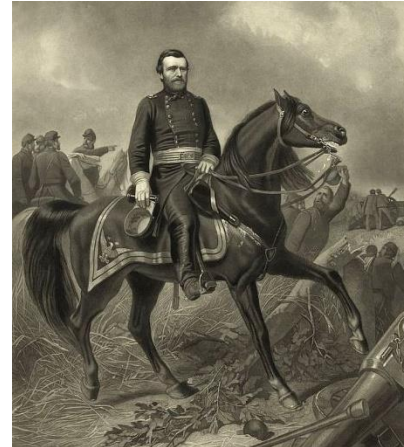
Green County, Kentucky

Whenever an opportunity arose to honor one of the heroes whose determination to build a free republic had led the old veterans to their victory over the British aristocracy in 1783, Kentuckians never lacked a name.

In Green County, Mary Susan grew up in a family where the Cumberland Hills had long sheltered old American Revolutionary war vets who were filled with authentic patriotism. She herself had Skaggs and Sutton patriots in her lineage. Many families had a member named "George Washington." In addition, amongst the older generation, brothers, uncles, and nephews bore the names of Nathanael Greene, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, Francis Marion, and James Madison. It seemed as if a regiment of old soldiers had made their final encampment that stretched from mountainous western North Carolina and Virginia and on through Appalachia of eastern Tennessee. Around these heroes a deep and abiding tribute to the country they had wrought took root and grew throughout their rugged Cumberland stronghold. The ancestors of many Kentuckians hailed from Southern states like Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The patriotism fostered by these old rebels who fought the American Revolution had to hold strong against the upcoming rebellion that was festering in the planters who were degrading life in states to their south.

At the outset of the American Civil War Kentucky attempted to take a neutral position, but it was a border state that quickly became important to the management of the war. The area served as a huge supply depot for Federal forces along the Ohio, Mississippi, and Tennessee river systems.

The Ohio River snaked its waters into a defensible boundary along the entire length of the state. Key was the port at the town of Paducah. Out of fear of invading Rebel forces, the Kentucky legislature petitioned the Union Army for assistance and got it. When a Confederate force invaded the state, a Union force under General Ulysses S. Grant responded by occupying Paducah. When the defeated invaders proposed a cease-fire to Grant while terms of surrender were negotiated, Grant's reply that only "an unconditional and immediate surrender" could be accepted made him a hero forever after who was known as "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. Here began the rise of General U.S. Grant. He was eventually elevated to the head the United States Army where he was able to end the quest of General Robert E. Lee to destroy the nation their forefathers had built more than four score years earlier.



*Pictured Right: Ulysses S. Grant Astride Cincinnati*

Kentucky's citizens disagreed over issues central to the Civil War: invasions and raids, internal violence, sporadic guerrilla warfare, federal-state relations, the ending of slavery, and the return of Confederate veterans. Soldiers in grey uniforms scraped across pro Union farms, towns, and roads and were a familiar sight to children like Mary Susan and her Sutton siblings. Of fortunate births, none of her brothers were old enough to fight for either side. Her father, whose ancestors were Quakers, registered for the U.S. draft late in the war, but he never had to actually go to war.

The pro-Union feelings of most of the citizens stunned the Confederate invaders, but even among the 35,000 Kentuckians who signed up as Confederate soldiers, it didn't take them long to change their minds. As the rebellion went on, fighting Kentuckians began to have objections to Confederate objectives and methods. Many AWOL Rebel soldiers headed for home or for a Union encampment. Shocking AWOL reports appeared in newspapers:

*Dec 3, 1863, The New York Times:*

*The mountains are full of Kentucky and Tennessee deserters trying to get home.*

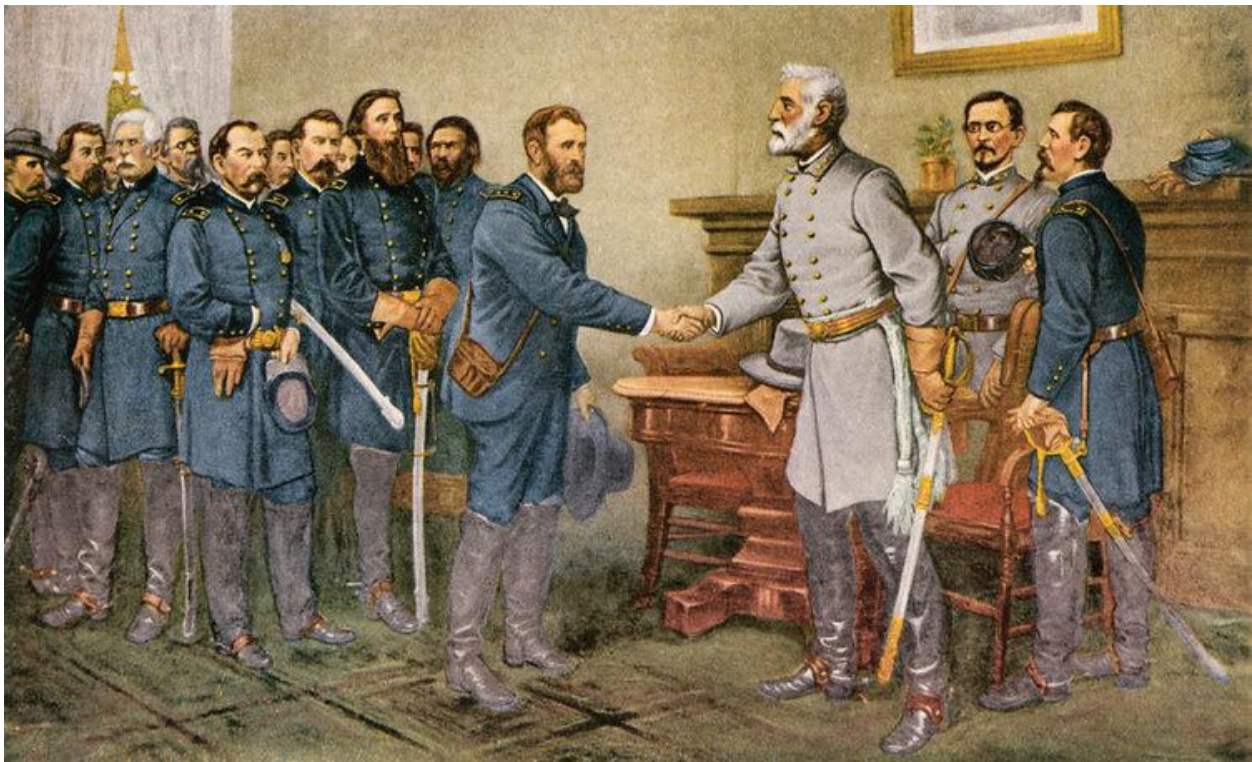
*Oct 20, 1864, Chattanooga Daily Gazette:*

*Our reserves of able-bodied men are exhausted, and two-thirds of those now enlisted in the army, are declared by President Davis as absent without leave.*



When her father signed up for the draft in 1863 the war was nearly over. An estimated 125,000 Kentuckians fought for the Union. Thousands of black Kentuckians, free and escaped slaves, served as Union soldiers. Before the war ended more than half of what was left of the out-gunned, starving, half-naked Confederate army headed for home, a percentage of which lived in Kentucky. The rift was such that returning soldiers of either side might be met with malice by citizens on either side. It was the return of one Kentuckian that started the infamous Hatfield and McCoy feud.

Mary Susan was fourteen when the war ended in 1865. Only if she had been very lucky would her family have missed the carnage the hungry, poorly equipped Confederate soldiers left in their wake as they crossed the farms and raided the villages of her state. Of major importance, three siblings were added to the family from 1861 to 1865, proving that her father William stayed around to take care of his family during the war. A total of five children were born during the decade. That William's personal worth increased significantly from 1860 to 1870 could very well indicate that he was able to help Grant's army in a way other than fighting. It's a fitting scenario since in the beginning his Suttons came from a family of Quakers.



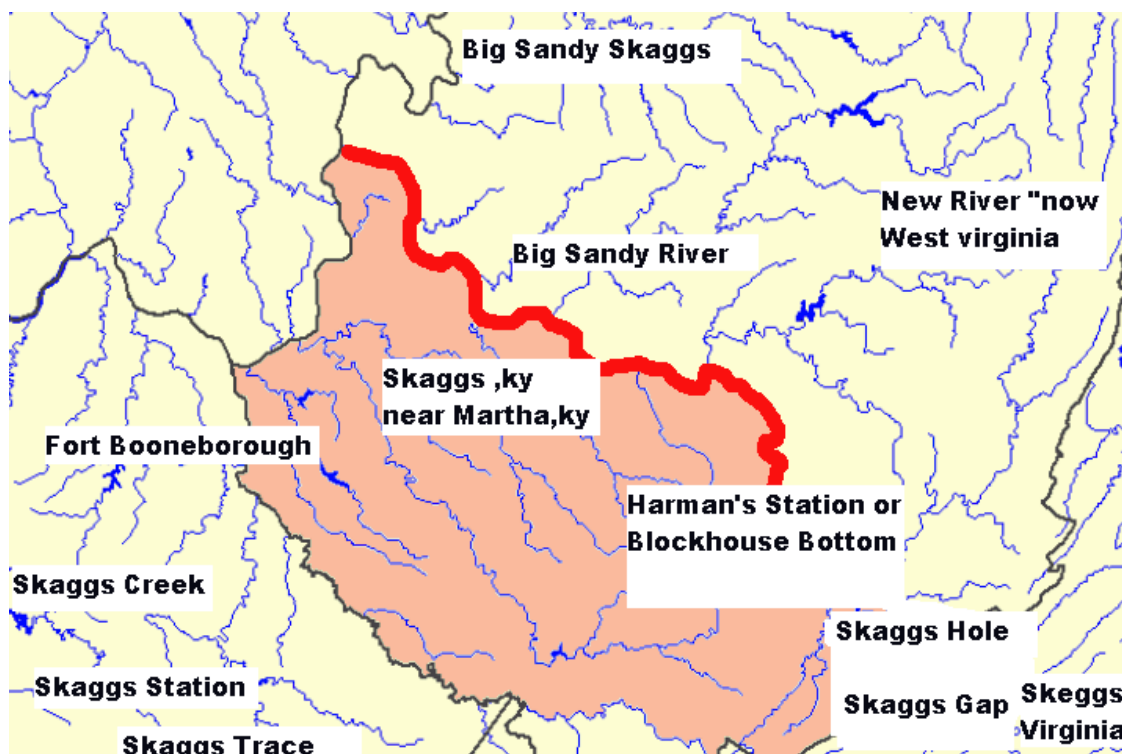
**Grant Accepts Lee's Surrender At Appomattox**

## MARY SUSAN'S MOTHER, LUCRETIA SKAGGS SUTTON



In Kentucky various members of the Skaggs family were notable as contemporaries of Daniel Boone. Their exploits in the state and on the western frontier were well known. They are honored still with historical markers, and many places from western Virginia to western Kentucky pay tribute to the Skaggs name. Their exploration and reputation as Longhunters are a part of the state's history.

The Skaggs Longhunters began permanently settling in Kentucky in 1789. From Pitman's Creek in Barren County, to Bowling Green in Warren County, and in Green County—the Skaggs families took root and thrived. When William Sutton married Lucretia, the mother of Mary Susan, she was a sixteen-year-old Skaggs girl. Her father was Moses Skaggs who was a son of Charles Skaggs, the Longhunter.



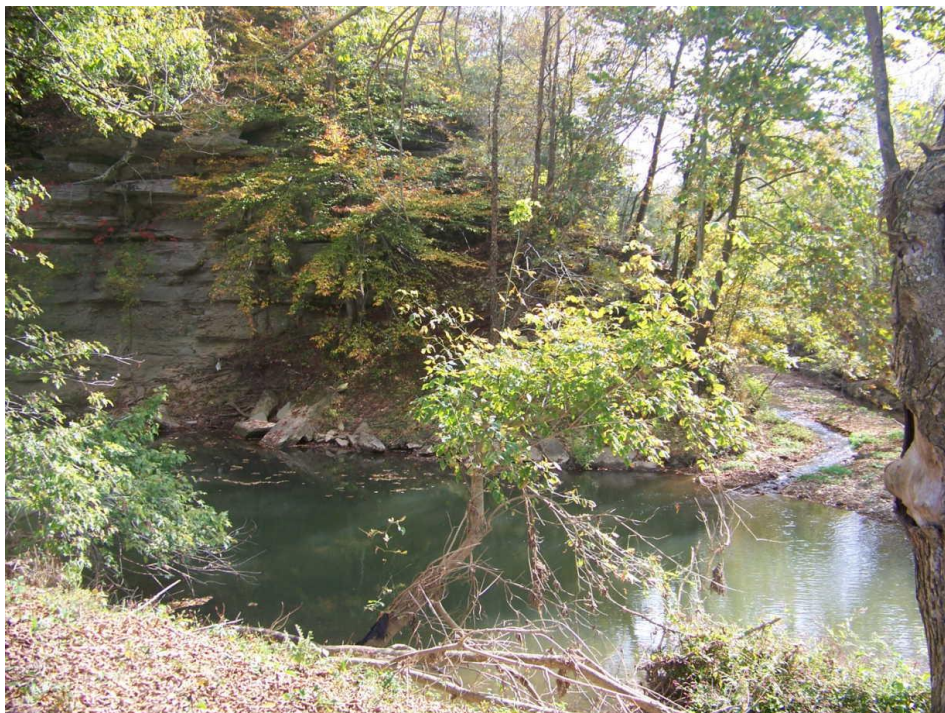


The Longhunter, who was born in 1730, died in 1815, and he is buried in the Henry Skaggs Cemetery in Hiseville of Barren County.

I. Skaggs Creek, south of Glasgow, Barren, Kentucky.



II. Skaggs Creek, south of Glasgow, Barren, Kentucky.





### 1860 Census for William Sutton Family

1860 Value of Real estate= 400. 300 =Value of personal estate. Total worth 700

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Sect 1st No 100 in the County of Gen State 659  
of Ky enumerated by me, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860. W. A. Harlow Ass't Marshal  
Post Office Summersville

Dwelling house— numbered in the order of visitation.	Family numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year, and whether read & write the common read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, lame, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Virginia M. Adams	16	f					Kentucky				
		Americus	12	m									
154	154	Wm Sutton	38	m		Farming	400	300	Indiana				
		Suellen	30	f					Kentucky				
		Rachel J	16	f					"				
		Just B	9	m					"				
		John	12	m					"				
		Richard	10	m					"				
		Mary J	7	f					"				
		Mrs S	7	f					"				
		Charles	3	m					"				
		Sally J	3	f					"				
		Nancy S	2	f					"				

### 1870 Census for William Sutton Family

1870 Value of personal estate= 500. 934 = Value of Real estate. Total worth=1434

142	142	William Sutton	47	m		Farming	500	934	Indiana				
		Lucy	45	f		Keeps house			Kentucky				
		Rachel J	24	f		Helps			"				
		Richard	21	m		Farming			"				
		Mary J	19	f		Helps			"				
		John S	15	m		Farming			"				
		Charles	13	m		Helps			"				
		Sally	12	f		at school			"				
		John	10	m		at school			"				
		John	9	m		at school			"				
		Emily J	7	f					"				
		Betty J	5	f					"				
		Edward	3	m					"				
		Elizabeth	1	f					"				

# 1870 Census for the Sutton Family

Page No. 28 } Figures numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be added in respect to births. Figures numbered 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be governed (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Upper Bush creek District 16, in the County of Grant, State of Kentucky, enumerated by me on the 23 day of August, 1870.

Post Office: Altitude J. Utman, Asst Marshal

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18	20	
			4	5	6		8	9		11	12							19	20
<small>                     1. Name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.                      2. Sex.                      3. Age.                      4. Color.                      5. Marital status.                      6. Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.                      7. Value of Real Estate.                      8. Value of Personal Estate.                      9. Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.                      10. Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.                      11. Whether Civilian or Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      12. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      13. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      14. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      15. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      16. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      17. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      18. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      19. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                      20. Whether Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Merchant Seaman.                 </small>																			
1		Thos. E.	14	m	w	Helps idem			Kentucky										
2		Louisa	13	f	w				"										
3		Geo W	11	m	w				"										
4		Mary J	9	f	w				"										
5		Wesley	5	m	w				"										
6		Geo V	3	m	w				"										
7		Julia G	1	f	w				"										
8	189	Shaggy W H	35	m	w	Farming		115	"										
9		Martina	28	f	w	Keeps House			"										
10		Mary H	6	f	w				"										
11		Wm H	3	m	w				"										
12	190	Henrymore W L	115	m	w	Farming	500	941	"										
13		Jane	39	f	w	Keeps House			"										
14		Wm G	20	m	w	Farming			"										
15		Mary E	17	f	w				"										
16		Nancy B	14	f	w				"										
17		Geo H	12	m	w				"										
18		Amicus	10	m	w				"										
19		Nancy	48	f	w				N Carolina										
20	191	Leopold Wm	37	m	w	Farming	100	150	Kentucky										
21		Elizabeth	25	f	w	Keeps House			"										
22		Mary J	11	f	w	at school			"										
23		Nancy J	9	f	w	at school			"										
24		Adeline J	6	f	w	at school			"										
25		John W	4	m	w				"										
26		Virgy H	1	f	w				"										
27	192	Sutton William	47	m	w	Farming	500	934	Indiana										
28		Lucy	48	f	w	Keeps House			Kentucky										
29		Rachel J	24	f	w	Helps			"										
30		Abner	21	m	w	Farming			"										
31		Mary J	19	f	w	Helps			"										
32		Geo L	18	m	w	Farming			"										
33		Clary	18	f	w	Keeps			"										
34		Sally	12	f	w	at school			"										
35		Edwin	10	m	w	at school			"										
36		Lucia	9	f	w	at school			"										
37		Emily G	7	f	w				"										
38		Esther J	5	f	w				"										
39		Edward	3	m	w				"										
40		Eliza G	1	f	w				"										

No. of dwellings. 4. No. of other families. 20. No. of other buildings. 1400 2073

## William Sulton, 1870

in the 1870 United States Census

Age in 1870: 47

Birth Year: abt 1823

Birthplace: Indiana

Dwelling Number: 192

Hme: Upper Brush Creek, Green, Ky

Post Office: Allendale

**Occupation: Farmer**

**Personal Estate Value: 934**

**Real Estate Value: 500**

Inferred Spouse: Lucy Sulton

Name	Age
<b>William Sulton</b>	<b>47</b>
Lucy Sulton	45
Rachel J Sulton	24
Rheuben Sulton	21
<b>Mary S Sulton</b>	<b>19</b>
Wm L Sulton	18
Charles Sulton	15
Sally Sulton	12
Ellen Sulton	10
Celia Sulton	9
Emily C Sulton	7
Betty A Sulton	5
Edward Sulton	3
Eliza F Sulton	1/12

1870 Value of personal estate= **500 / 934** =

Value of Real estate. Total worth=1434

---

1860

Wm Sutton	38
Lucretia Sutton	30
Rachel J Sutton	16
Jas B Sutton	14
John Sutton	12
Ruben Sutton	10
<b>Mary S Sutton</b>	<b>9</b>
Wm L Sutton	7
Charles Sutton	5
Sally A Sutton	3
Nancy Ellen Sutton	8/12

1860 Value of Real estate= **400.**

Value of personal estate= **300.**

Total worth = 700

## Mary S Sulton, 1870

in the 1870 United States Census

Age in 1870: 19

Birthplace: Kentucky

Hme: Upper Brush Creek, Green, Ky

Race: White

Gender: Female

Birth Year: abt 1851

Dwelling Number: 192

Post Office: Allendale

Occupation: Helps

Cannot Write: Y

Inferred Father:	William Sulton
Inferred Mother:	Lucy Sulton
William Sulton	47
Lucy Sulton	45
Rachel J Sulton	24
Rheuben Sulton	21
<b>Mary S Sulton</b>	<b>19</b>
Wm L Sulton	18
Charles Sulton	15
Sally Sulton	12
Ellen Sulton	10
Celia Sulton	9
Emily C Sulton	7
Betty A Sulton	5
Edward Sulton	3
Eliza F Sulton	1/12

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1870

<b>William Sulton</b>	<b>47</b>
Lucy Sulton	45
Rachel J Sulton	24
Rheuben Sulton	21
<b>Mary S Sulton</b>	<b>19</b>
Wm L Sulton	18
Charles Sulton	15
Sally Sulton	12
Ellen Sulton	10
*Celia Sulton	9
*Emily C Sulton	7
*Betty A Sulton	5
Edward Sulton	3
Eliza F Sulton	1/12
*War babies	

## 1880 CENSUS FOR MARY SUSAN SUTTON CHANEY FAMILY

Kentucky, along with North Carolina, boasted the best educational systems in the South. Among the Suttons, by 1880 almost everybody is reading, but, according to the census, not all can write. This may be an error. As an adult, Mary Susan could write, and she wrote letters to her children, all of whom were literate adults.

At nineteen she still lived at home, but within two years she met and married Josephus Chaney. Although no document exists, it is said that Mary Susan Sutton married Josephus Chaney in Greensburg, Green County, Kentucky, on October 17, 1872, when she was 21 years old. The couple began their married life in Greensburg, and they were there with three children when the census taker arrived in 1880.

### *1880 United States Federal Census for Kentucky*

*Name: Mary Chaney*

*Age: 30*

*Birth Date: Abt 1850*

*Birthplace: Kentucky*

*Home in 1880: Greensburg, Green, Kentucky, USA*

*Dwelling Number: 1*

*Marital status: Married*

*Spouse's Name: Cephas Chaney*

*Father's Birthplace: Kentucky*

*Mother's Birthplace: Kentucky*

*Occupation: Keeps House*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>
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<i>Cephas Chaney</i>	<i>34</i>
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<b><i>Mary Chaney</i></b>	<b><i>30</i></b>
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<i>Susan Chaney</i>	<i>7</i>
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<i>Willis Chaney</i>	<i>5</i>
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<i>Josphene Chaney</i>	<i>2</i>
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NOTE: The following can be calculated from future records and actual family members.

Cephas Chaney 34 = Josephus

Mary Chaney 30 = Mary Susan Sutton Chaney

Susan Chaney 7 = Lunette

Willis Chaney 5 = James Willis

Josphene Chaney 2 = Lear J

### Detail of Cephas Chaney family in 1880 Green, Kentucky

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	Color—White, W.; Indian, I.	Sex—Male, M.; Female, F.	Age at last birth, or year given birth	If born within the year		Single, /	Married, /	Widowed, /	Divorced, /	Married during C.	Number of months during the Cen-		Blind, /	Deaf and Dumb, /	Idiotic, /	Insan., /	Maimed, Crippled, or otherwise disabled	Attended school within year	Cannot read, /	Cannot write, /	
Chaney Cephas	W	M	34				1			Farmer	✓										
Mary	W	F	30		wife		1			Keeps house											
Susan	W	F	7		daughter		1			At Home											
Willis	W	M	5		Son		1			do											
Josephine	W	F	2		daughter		1			do											

The year of 1880 is the last census in which Mary Susan Sutton Chaney appears. Only through the documents of her children and husband is the rest of her life known. A headstone, over one-hundred-and-twenty years old signifies her early death in Texas.

After the births of Lunette, James Willis, and Lear, Mary Susan became the mother of John Peter in 1880, Benjamin Obadiha in 1885, Effie Mildred in 1886, and Kate in 1890. According to their records all of her children were born in Kentucky, but according to their memories, at some point the Chaney family packed up and moved a few miles west/southwest to Bowling Green in Warren County. After the birth of Kate, the Chaney family moved to Texas, Mary Susan bringing the children by train after Josephus forged ahead and searched out a place called Kentucky Town.

Josephus Chaney,  
c.1912





**Kentucky Town Historical Marker**  
Photo courtesy Mike Price, Sept 2009

**Historical Marker Inscription:**  
*Kentucky Town*  
*When first settled in 1830s was known as Annaliza. Renamed by Kentucky emigrants in 1858. Unique layout gave town protection against Indian attacks. On freight and stage routes. "Sacred Harp," a robust frontier gospel style of singing and composition, began here. During Civil War was Quantrill gang rendezvous.*

### History in a Pecan Shell

*First settlers appeared in 1837 although nothing resembling a community started until the late 1840s when a wagon train arrived from Kentucky.*

*The community began 1851 with not one but two stores and a mill. A town was platted by Dr. Josiah L. Heiston in late 1852 and although he attempted to name the town after his daughter (Ann Eliza), the matter was settled by the public who insisted on calling the place Kentuckians' Town or Kentucky Town. The name was popular in 1854 when the post office was granted. After approval by the post office the name became official.*

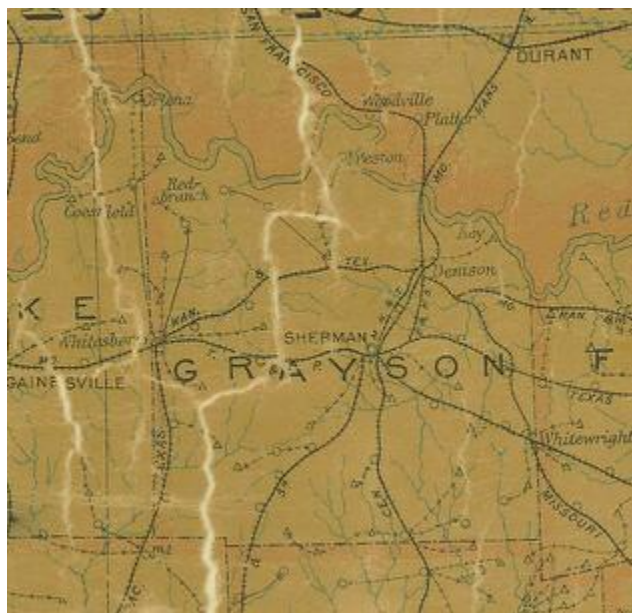
*The town had all the pre-railroad advantages of being on stage and freight routes coming from the ports of Shreveport and Jefferson, but that wasn't to last. From a population only in double digits, Kentucky grew rapidly, in 1855 reporting thriving businesses numbering as high as twenty, three physicians and a church and two schools.*

*The guerilla William (Bloody Bill) Quantrill and his men used the region around Kentucky Town as a hideout during the Civil War. In the 1870s, the town was dealt the death-blow of being bypassed by the (Texas and Pacific) railroad. Later, when the Katy (Missouri, Kansas and Texas) railroad entered Texas from the north, the town missed its second chance at a railroad.*

*By 1883 all that was left of the town was the store / post office. The post office managed to stay open until the mid 1920s. Today a church, cemetery, and a few scattered houses are all that is left."*

**GOOGLE**





Grayson County 1907 postal map  
 From Texas state map #2090  
 Courtesy Texas General Land Office



Grayson County 1920s map  
 From Texas state map #10749  
 Courtesy Texas General Land Office



1940s map showing Kentucky Town



Detail: Kentucky Town, under "N"



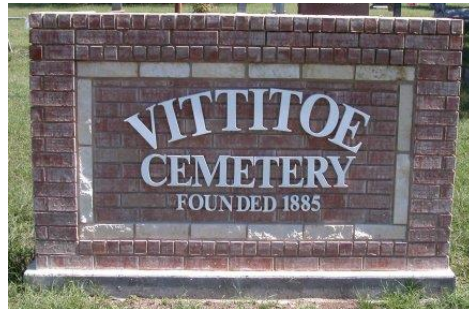
As has been said, although the last census in which Mary Susan Sutton Chaney appears is in 1880 Green County, her children, many years later, would remember Bowling Green as their home. After living there for up to ten years, Josephus Chaney packed up his brood and moved to a place called Kentucky Town, Grayson County, Texas, located in northeast Texas, not far from the banks of the Red River.

There young Lunette met and married Sam Houston Vaughan and began their family. All of the Chaney-Sutton offspring raised their families in the area, except for the baby of the family—young Kate. In 1896 Kate died, and before the turn of the century the Chaney had lost a wife and a daughter. Mary Susan Sutton Chaney died and is buried, along with her daughter, in Vittitoe Cemetery, a graveyard that was earlier established by the Vittitoe family. When Joseph Chaney died in 1913, he was buried there near his wife and his daughter.

Dead at forty-eight, Mary Susan Sutton Chaney was the last of this family's Sutton line. Her entire history would lie in a family plot of an old cemetery and get printed out on a couple of census lists were it not for family mementos, pictures, and memories. In spite of descending from well-known ancestors, her story is brief and for the most part, unremarkable. Her legacy lies mainly in the outstanding gentlefolk she raised who were her gracious and charitable Sutton-Chaney daughters and sons, all of whom I met, except for the one I knew only through a dainty little antique doll.







**THE END, PART I**



