

*Biographical Sketch of Benjamin Vaughan
A Good Steward and Beloved Brother*

By
Helen Vaughan Michael



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Introduction to My Vaughan Narratives

. . . Enquire I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of thy fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow. . .

Job, IX: 8 & 9. KJV

In my search for ancestors I have been aggravated by finding that--this record exists here and that record exists there, and that there exists family talk linking the two, but, no paper trail between them can be found. Recent news that in Texas old boxed up paper files are turning to dust means that more written family history could be disappearing. Add these to files that have gone up before in the fire and smoke of homes, churches, courthouses, and government buildings. Most of my family trees have suffered heavily from such losses.

The Vaughans suffered the least. Thanks to my great-great-great grandmother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, one of the branches of my family tree left a fine paper trail to accommodate my talkative kin and my need to write down everything I hear. Sometimes I see a story emerge from what I've heard and what has been written, and most of the time the spoken word and the written word actually match up and form a fact about the Vaughans. Then, the loose ends, when played with, and trailed through American history, can turn into quite a yarn. Being in love with the English language, I spin words into my stories for fun. Loving history, I write to record what facts are still readable, combine them with stories Vaughan chroniclers have told, and in effect, use facts for fun and family. Along the way a photo or relic or letter has turned up here and there to help sort out the fibs from the facts. The final result is--my folks get to take up a page in the annals of their nation's history, which, though un-named, they helped to make. Sometimes, as in the case of James L. Vaughan, they should have been named

The whatifs, the wudduh-cudduh-shudduhs, and the maybes expressed in my stories are products of a blend of curiosity and imagination and are intended to provide interest and provoke my descendants, and others, to keep digging before all they have to dig through is ashes and dust. The views expressed and the questions I raise are my own. Tim Childress provides a repository at his website, <http://www.childresscousins.org>, to preserve my old-fashioned, often flowery, ramblings in case I am on to something. Being deeply motivated by belief in a spiritual world—motivation that might be viewed in some circles as insanity—I always feel one ancestor or another may be reading over my shoulder, saying, "It's about time."

Helen Vaughan Michael
9/20/2013

Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give him his portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing. KJV

What's in a Name?

Early in the American Revolutionary War General George Washington reflected on his own personal passion for the cause of freedom and equality. He confided in his friend, General Nathanael Greene, that he feared the young boys showing up to fight British royalty would not share his sense of patriotic zeal. When Greene pointed out that no one was as patriotic as Washington and that the troops should not be judged by his standards, Washington saw his soldier boys in a different light from that point on. For the day to day sacrifices they made in future campaigns they earned Washington's undying allegiance. Before long he discovered, and was reminded every day for six more years, that the Revolutionary soldier was zealous enough to die for him and his fight for justice against a powerful aristocracy.

Added to the excitement over the money a boy could make for fighting and vanquishing their foe, fifteen year old John Vaughan turned out to be every bit as zealous in their fight against King George as was George Washington. Initiated into the full agony of war at Valley Forge, young John's devotion to the rebel cause and its leaders was immediate and lasting. In later years he named two of his newborn sons after his heroes, a tradition that filled nineteenth century Southern neighborhoods with George Washington and Benjamin Franklin Vaughans.

By the time the snows of Valley Forge melted in April of 1778, the Patriots were well trained and were finally eating their promised ration of beef and bread. About mid month they got some great news to go with their meals. They heard that Ambassador Benjamin Franklin had convinced the French king to help them fight the English king and that their American Revolution had escalated into a World War! Not only would the French help them fight England, but by financing the Continental Army the American soldier could now be housed, clothed, fed, paid, and armed—equal to his enemy. The happy soldiers at Valley Forge celebrated the news so loud and long--parading proudly to the tune of fife and drum, with flags flying and gunfire salutes--the Redcoats, who had captured Philadelphia, heard them and listened in dismay. With a uniform on his back and armed with weapons of war, plus eight and one third dollars a month in his pocket, the French franc dressed up John Vaughan to look and feel like a soldier.



In celebration of the first anniversary of the 1778 French-American Alliance which Franklin had coaxed out of the King of France, the Americans gave a party--the Grand Alliance Ball of 1779. French money had paid, fed and clothed Washington's troops for a year and bought the rebels some time. Later, after five years of fighting, while the British Empire was defeating all other armies, Franklin's French Alliance made it possible for the American Army to be the only one in the whole world to defeat the British. In 1776 Benjamin Franklin had been one of five names on the first draft of the Declaration of Independence; John Vaughan, a boy from Ireland, and a gunnery sergeant at war's end, would never forget, from beginning to end, from whence victory over the hated English had come.

Excerpt, Sergeant John Vaughan, Soldier of the American Revolution, by Helen Vaughan Michael

November 4, 1804, Hawkins County, Tennessee, John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan became parents for the fifth time. Nancy entered their baby's name as Benjamin Vaughan in her journal. Nancy seldom included middle names and initials in her daybook entries, but his father very likely added Franklin to the new baby's name. Although the name of Franklin is not attached to any of Benjamin's records, including his own signature, it is logical to assume that because so many of his siblings' children, and their children, bear the Franklin name, he wore it as well. After all, Ben Franklin had to be a hero to Valley Forge veterans like Sgt. John Vaughan. Having a beloved brother with the famous man's name surely explains why so many of Benjamin Vaughan's siblings attached the Franklin name to his nephews. At the same time it makes, "What's in a name?" an important question in biographical history.

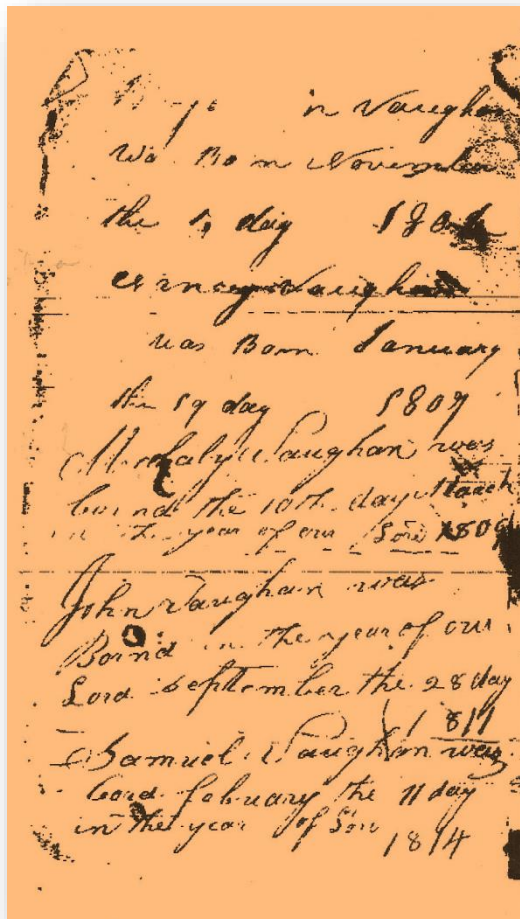
Starting in 1815, Ben's oldest brother, James L., began the tradition by giving his first born the famous name. In 1820 John and Nancy's youngest sibling, a baby boy, was christened George Washington after another Revolutionary War hero. Come 1841, young George, in turn, named his first born, John Franklin, and all the while a few baby Ben Franklins had been turning up in the families of Ben's other brothers and sisters. When John Vaughan's grandsons bore the Franklin name, were his sons and daughters honoring his old war hero--who gave him and his starved and frozen comrades at Valley Forge a chance to win a war, or had that happened in 1804 with the birth of the son of the appreciative Valley Forge veteran?

The question of what's in a name is further complicated by there being two Benjamin Vaughans of Hawkins County, both being born within a year of each other. Future descendants would long confuse the two in spite of the fact the two have different residences, different families, and different wives on record. (See page 10) In addition, the second Ben had a middle name, which was Walker, which he used. If, in fact, all this is how it actually happened, John and Nancy's Ben would not be their only child who foolishly never made use of an available middle name.

Growing Up, His Life and Times

Shortly after the Halifax, Virginia marriage of John and Nancy, Virginia's neighboring lands became organized enough to become the State of Tennessee. Immediately the tribal lands of the Cherokee entered the real estate market of the white man. The history of the Revolutionary War suggests that the farm was situated on the former stumping grounds of a Chicamauga band of natives of the Holston River region. The celebrated beauty of the Clinch Mountain area that was on or near the tribal lands of these natives continued to color the landscape of Hawkins County, Tennessee, and for fifty-five years Benjamin called a farm thereon his home. Rumors that a relationship between the Vaughans and the area Cherokee lingered on after the Vaughans moved in and have long been whispered through various Vaughan family trees. In 1804, the year of Benjamin's birth, John Helton--whose Cherokee kin fought and bled for the American cause in the Revolution--made Tennessee his home after the war, and he sold a picturesque piece of the former tribal lands on Clinch Mountain to John Vaughan.

The year John Vaughan finished fighting in the American Revolution, there was no Tennessee yet, but that is where the Vaughan family ended up. Because Sgt. Vaughan had received lands and monetary rewards due him for his military service, Benjamin's father was never a man without substance,



Nancy Callicott Vaughan's Daybook,
Line 1, p. 2

so the family could afford the lovely Hawkins County farm. Helton's land deal came about after William Vaughan, who was related in some way to Benjamin's father, bought some land from William McClean in the new state of Tennessee. It was two hundred and fifty acres on the north side of the Clinch Mountains, nestled down in the splendor of the Clinch River Valley in Hawkins County. Three years later William and Fereby Vaughan sold one hundred acres of the same tract to John Helton. Shortly thereafter, Helton sold this farm to John Vaughan, to one day be inherited, in part, by Benjamin. Almost to the end of his life Benjamin farmed on the original Helton, or Chicamauga, land.

America started out as a nation of farmers, and agricultural development in every state was based on the family farm. Even in the land of slaves, the young sons and daughters, who usually were born in the farmhouses where they lived, were counted on to do a lot of chores. These hard-working stewards of the land started an agricultural system that lasted into mid-twentieth century, up until the time big agri-business took over the growing of things.

Benjamin was the first of his brothers to take to the idea of the family farm. To the Vaughan's credit, they did not enslave others to do their work and may have completely disapproved of the practice.

Ben and his four older siblings--James L., 1795--aft 1861; Beverley, 1797--aft 1858; Mary Polly, 1800--aft 1880; and Rebecca Greaser, 1802--1883--were followed by Nancy, 1807--aft 1881; Mahala, 1809--abt1835; John Jr., 1811--1887; Samuel N., 1814--1863; Martha Jane, 1815--aft 1880; and George Washington, 1820--1901. By 1820, big brothers James L. and Beverley had moved west and started families of their own, and Mary Polly and Rebecca were married--or soon would be--and they too left home. Benjamin didn't marry until he was thirty-one, but in 1830 he may have had a tentament of his own, as he was not listed on the 1830 census with his parents and younger siblings.

In his father's 1841 will, Ben, along with his brothers--Samuel N. and John Jr., inherited a portion of the original acreage--acreage which he already inhabited. He farmed the property with his wife Eve Everheart and their three adult sons until just before the Civil War.

It is not known how old the barn on the original plot is, but it still stands. Huge, hand-hewn timbers which are covered by planking indicate age. A door saved from the original 1800's house is stored in the barn. It is a tobacco barn today.

Photo taken by Vaughan descendants of Samuel N.--from Texas--on a trip made in 1985. Courtesy of father and son: Varney and AJ Vaughan and AJ's wife, Opal Frances.





Perhaps Benjamin helped his father in a tobacco field--there is a small tobacco patch still growing on the old Vaughan property, just off the kitchen. Snuff, tobacco in powdered form—and very addictive, was as commonly used as chewing gum is today; children and adults alike, dipped, so growing a patch of the plants makes sense. Most assuredly Ben helped in a corn field, because then, as now, corn meant a living. *Photo, crop, and barn info, courtesy Mabel Harp, 1997.*

The door from the old house is currently stored in the barn along with drying tobacco that was grown in the nearby plot. It has a hinged lookout door built into it. This property had been in the hands of his brother Samuel for over twenty years by 1860; Benjamin had moved to Texas by the start of the Civil War, but long after the war, local feuding had Tennessee citizenry securing and arming their homes. Perhaps the safety door was added at the time war troubles came to the Tennessee hills, which began not long after Benjamin's departure. *Photo and door info, courtesy Mabel Harp, 1997.*



Back in the early nineteenth century, farming and tending the land had worked out very well for the Hawkins County Vaughans and for their neighbors. The family did well under this system. Growing up in a house that was a home, with a father who provided well for his family—Benjamin was well off. His father always seemed to have enough money--buying and keeping at least two farms in Ben's lifetime, then leaving his property to his heirs and owing no one anything when he died. When he was urged to apply for a veteran's Revolutionary War pension, the old man was heard to say he didn't need it, setting an example for his children on how to be content with a life well-lived. "I have anuff to do me this lifetime," he claimed.

As the family grew and prospered, dwelling on the Hawkins place until around 1832, John bought a second farm for his family on the southern slopes of the Clinch Mountains. Ten years later the aged soldier died there in old Hawkins County, Tennessee on July 14, 1842, ten days past his sixty-sixth Independence Day. He was eighty years old. In December of 1841 when he wrote out his will he evidently owned "anuff" to do his sons a lifetime too.



Left: The Original Vaughan home in which Benjamin Vaughan and all of his Tennessean siblings were born, restored in top photo. Inherited by brother, Samuel in 1842.

WILL OF JOHN VAUGHAN

I, John Vaughan of the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee, do make this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me heretofore made.

Third. I do give and bequeath unto my sons Samuel N. Vaughan and Benjamin Vaughan during their natural lives and then to their lawful heirs forever all my lands on the north side of Clinch Mountain, it being about 110 acres and 10 acres on the south side to copper ridge whereon the said Samuel N. Vaughan now lives, to be equally divided between them according to quality.

Fourth. I do will and direct that the above named Samuel N. and Benjamin Vaughan for and in consideration of the above bequest shall within 12 months after my death jointly pay unto my son John Vaughan \$100.00. And for the performance and execution of this my last will, I do appoint Robert W. Kinkead my Executor. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal. This 27th day of December, 1841.

John his x mark Vaughan (seal)

In presence of: William Carmack, James T. Brice, William E. Carmack

It's very likely that prior to 1842, Benjamin, along with Samuel N., already inhabited the property his father willed him. In 1836, when he was thirty-two, he was registered to vote in Hawkins County in the Presidential Election--following Tennessee's own President Andrew Jackson's eight years in the White House.

Partial Taxpayer list of Ben's neighbors and relatives registered to vote in 1836 Election:

Civil District 4: Beginning at the top of Clinch mountain at Little War Gap thence with the road leading to Lee county line to the ford of the creek below James Collier's, down the creek to the river, up the river to Kyle's ford, across the river and with the road by John Wallen's to a small schoolhouse thence a due course north to the VA state line thence east with said line to the top of Clinch mountain. Election to be held at George Anderson's.

*George ANDERSON; Daniel BLOOMER; James BLOOMER; Thomas BROWN; Peter FIELD; Henry FISHER; Wm FORD; Joseph FISHER; Reuben FORD; Beverly FORD; James FORD; David HICKMAN; heirs of Huyson HORTON; Elijah JOHNSON; John JOHNSON SR; John JOHNSON JR; Andrew JOHNSON; James JOHNSON; Ambrose LAWSON; David LAWSON; John MONK; Shadrick MONK; Dauswell MONK; MUNCYHAM; Susannah MINOR; Enoch PAYNE; Reubein PAYNE; Hiram PAYNE; Dauswell ROGERS; Edward SIZEMORE; Owen SIZEMORE SR; Owen SIZEMORE JR; Soloman SIZEMORE; Ben P. TEMPLETON; **Benjamin VAUGHN; John VAUGHN SR; Samuel VAUGHN; John VAUGHN JR; John VAUGHN.***

It is notable that the seventh president of the United States, Jackson, also a rider on the historical Vaughan carousel, had witnessed from a British jail cell the 1781 Battle of Hobkirk's Hill in which Benjamin's father had a running brawl with the Redcoats over possession of his big gun. Jackson and Continental Artillery Gunner John Vaughan were both teenagers at the time. After the '36 election, the aging President Jackson, who had served two terms, would be returning to his home, the Heritage, in Nashville, but in East Tennessee the patriotism of their Favorite Son held sway over the people up to and throughout the Civil War. Jackson's unwavering loyalty to the United States was mirrored by many of the old artillery man's descendants.

Benjamin had grown up and become a man during President James Monroe's administration, 1817-1825. The era was marked by economic troubles. Excessive speculation in cheaper public lands helped along a financial crisis called the Panic of 1819 that had started, in part, because of years and years of cold, cold weather. As sharply as the chill of endless winters, a two year collapse of the American economy was felt across the whole country—and, the world. It's possible, though, that this state of affairs did not adversely affect the Vaughan farm in Hawkins County, Tennessee, unless that's what fueled the move west that two of Benjamin's brothers made. James L. and Beverley Vaughan moved to the western edge of Tennessee even before his twentieth birthday. While he surely missed his big brothers, Benjamin was staying put. Meanwhile, indications are that his father's farm survived that panic, and others to come, in fine shape.



Left: Tennessee Gentleman, portrait of Jackson, ca. 1831, from *The Hermitage* collection.

Below: Young Jackson was jailed on Hobkirk Hill for refusing to clean Major Coffin's boots. (1876 lithograph)



Below: Rescuing a cannon out of the chaos of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, the American Revolution.



The U.S. had reached 3,500,000 acres in area, and much of it could be had for next to nothing. Since the Panic caused many Americans woeful financial burdens, some men did not have enough money to pay off their loans, and the cheap western lands offered a new start. The financial disaster and depression may have prodded others into a move, but Ben's father did not seem to be a part of the widespread disaster that cut a swathe through the nation. John Vaughan, in fact, may have been buying up land from his less fortunate neighbors. In 1830 his daughter Mahala, married to William Deckard, was living on a farm next to him and her mother, and even after her death in the 1830's her farm stayed in the Vaughan family. In later years Nancy Callicott was to write about "the lands and tenements" Ben's father had provided for his sons. In this boom to bust phase of American economic history that continued to move in cycles during his early years, his parents seem to have prospered.

John Quincy Adams would follow President Monroe, and Andrew Jackson followed Adams. Ben continued to help his father farm during the eight years of the administration of the popular Jackson. Andrew Jackson was born in the Carolina country, but he became a true Tennessean. As a boy during the Revolution he had witnessed the 1780 Battle of Hobkirk's Hill in which Benjamin's father, in the Continental Artillery, had fought, had lost his cannon to the British, and then rushed into the fight of his life to take it back. Fourteen year old Jackson, a prisoner in a British jail up on the hill, witnessed the battle and may have had a vista view of the eighteen year old gunner's heroic struggle.

Elected President in 1828, Jackson served from 1829–1837. An adopted Tennessean, he became Tennessee's most popular politician during the 1820's and 1830's. Many Vaughan sons of the future bore the name of Andrew, or, Andrew Jackson.

All Grown Up

The residence of twenty-six year old Ben in 1830 was Hawkins County, soon to be Hancock County, the same neighborhood in which he would be registered for the next thirty years. However, the 1830 family unit listing Benjamin Vaughan is not one he shares with his future wife, Eve Everheart, and their three sons. The 1830 unit consists of an unknown female Ben's age and two children—a boy and a girl. The female quite possibly is sister Nancy, who, like Ben, was unmarried--and though still in the neighborhood—not counted at her father's dwelling. This Ben is in the right location, and in 1840 the unknown boy and girl are again listed with him, this time along with Eve Everheart Vaughan and their children. There is no unknown adult female listed, but his sister Nancy's Hickman family is right in the middle of a compound of Vaughan, Callicott, Ford, and Church families, seemingly on the same property that had been the Deckard residence ten years earlier.

Benjamin was a late bloomer who did not marry until he was thirty-one. September 6, 1835 he and Eve Everheart of Hawkins County were married by Justice of the Peace, Samuel Wilson. In 1836, Eve and Ben's first children, twin sons, were born. They were named Jacob and John after their grandfathers, Jacob Everheart and John Vaughan. On November 28, 1839, another son, Anderson W. was born.

Eve Everheart was born ca. 1803 on Dodson's Creek in Hawkins County, Tennessee, the daughter of Jacob and Katharine Everheart. In 1844 the widow Katharine died, and she named Eve and Ben Vaughan in her will.

GREENE COUNTY TENNESSEE WILL BOOK , Page 525

Katharine Everheart Will, Dated 9 September 1844

In the Name of God amen. I, Katharine Everheart of Greene County and State of Tennessee, being Sick and weak of body But of Sound mind and Disposing memory for which I thank God and Calling to mind The uncertainty of human Life and being Desirous to be Disposed of all such worldly Substance it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and bequeath the Same in the Manner following: that is to Say I give and bequeath to

Elizabeth Brotherton's and Henry Brotherton's heirs one dollar and to

David Everheart one dollar and to

Eve and Benjamin Vaughan one dollar and to

Nicholas Everheart one dollar and to

Mary and Beverly Ford one Dollar and to

James Everheart one dollar and to

Anna and Leonard Smith one dollar and to

Jacob Everheart one dollar and to

Emanuel Everheart one dollar and I give and bequeath to

Thomas Everheart all the balance of my Stock and house hold furniture and all my property At my death I so hereby apoint Leonard Smith my Executor of This my Last will and Testament thereby revising all former wills by me made in writing whereof I have herinto Set my hand and affixed my seal this 9th day of Sept 1844.

*Sined Sealed in the presancs of George Smith and Henry Smith
Katharine X Everheart*

1840 Hawkins: A side by side look at Ben's father's 1800 to 1832 residences

1832--Hawkins #1: New 1832 Poor Valley home of "John Vaughan, SR." Note: Benjamin W. (Walker) Vaughan lives here.

1800--Hawkins #2: Parent's first home and property. Note Benjamin, John JR, and Samuel Vaughan, heirs of 1800 property. Note: Sister, Nancy Hickman (David)

(No. 4.) SCHE

Names of Heads of Families

Names of Heads of Families	1840	1830	1820	1810
brought forward	229	155	162	
Joseph Leuberg	1			
Anthony Smith		2	1	
William Johnson	1	1		
Mourning Whinstead				
Stephen Johnson		1	1	
Mary Adams		1	1	
Isidore Bentley	2	1		
James Brown				
John Vaughan			1	
Thomas Boston				
Mark Kofi		2	1	
Sarah Ditcher				
John Gilliam	1	1	3	
William Lane	1			
Caleb S. Manley				
William Hentchey				
Benjamin Hentchey				
Benjamin Vaughan	1	1		
Katharine Davis				
Louis Davis	1			
Andrew Galbraith	4	3	1	
Thomas Caldwell				
Elizabeth Wheeler				
William H. Grey	1			
Hardy Reddick	1	1	1	
Daniel Chambers				
Nancy Hazard				
Willie B. Hoarrell	2	2	1	
James M. Hazard				
Jamy M. Hazard	2	2		
	267	176	172	13

Hawkins County - 1840.

(No. 4.) SC

Names of Heads of Families

Names of Heads of Families	1840
brought forward	573
Littleton Kayot	
Peter Lovin	
Daniel Wright	
Edya White	1
Jacob Rice	2
Theroderick Webb	
Michael Shank	2
Polly Shropshire	
Sarah Johnson	
Willie B. Hoarrell	2
George W. Huntsman	
John S. Brown	1
Winstead Cobb	
Elizabeth Milam	1
<u>Benjamin Vaughan</u>	
James Collicot	
James C. Ford	
Ruth Gibbons	1
William Ford	
Beverly Ford	
<u>John Vaughan, jr</u>	2
David Hickman	1
<u>Samuel Vaughan</u>	2
John Collicot	
John Edens	2
William Church	
Pattience Suggs	
Henry Church	1
Peter Fields	2
Josiah Bradley	1
	617

Hawkins County - 1840.

In December of 1850, Benjamin Vaughan's family was still living in the 32nd subdivision of Hancock County near the village of Kyle's Ford. In 1844, the area had become part of the newly created Hancock County. Ben was forty-six years old and his family included his wife Eve, 47, and their children John 14, Jacob 14, and Anderson 12. Their home was the north side property Benjamin inherited from his father in 1842. He and his two brothers, John and Samuel N. had substantially increased their original acreage.

The neighborhood was almost exclusively kinfolk. Nearby neighbors included Eve Everheart Vaughan's nephew, Jacob Brotherton and his family; Eve's sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Beverly C. Ford and their children; two of Ben's brothers' families--first, John, Jr. and Susan Mauk Vaughan, and secondly, Samuel N. and Melvina Church Vaughan, both with prospering farms on their Copper Ridge property. Beverly Ford was Dicey Callicott's son, the nephew of Nancy Callicott. He was the local postmaster, a fine political appointment. Ten years later, one of the twins, Jacob Vaughan, was listed on the census in this neighborhood with his double cousin, William Ford—Beverly and Mary's son. Ben and Eve, the other twin, John, and their youngest son, Anderson, were not on the 1860 Hancock census and, along with Jacob, would soon be relocated in Texas.

A tragedy of Shakespearean proportions was brewing in one home of this community. William N. Berry was the step-son of Eve's sister, Sarah Everheart Berry. In 1850, his family and Ben and Eve's family were next door neighbors. William Berry witnessed the affidavit Benjamin affixed to his mother's pension claim. Twenty years later, post war Hawkins and Hancock counties were bleeding from murderous feuding, and William N. Berry, by then a resident of Hawkins, was charged in the brutal beating death of his wife. His daughters were also charged. Berry was found guilty and was the last man to be hanged in Hawkins County.

As for Ben, there is some evidence that he was a religious man. On November 8, 1851, following a revival held in a brush arbor by the pioneer preachers Asa Routh and W. A. Keene, a group met in the neighborhood home of George Anderson and organized the Independence Baptist Church of Hancock County. Ben and Eve were among the thirty-four charter members. Ben's brother, John and his wife, Susan Mauk, and his sister-in-law, Malvina Church Vaughan, were also in attendance. Later a meeting house of large prime logs was built at the foot of Looney's Gap in Clinch Valley on land donated by N. M. Moneyham and his wife. Since Mr. Moneyham was a Methodist and his wife was a Baptist, it was agreed that both denominations would use the building. [Ancestry.com file](#).

After the death of Ben's father, his mother Nancy moved in with his sister Mary Polly Gilliam. The Gilliam farm was six miles south in Hawkins County. In 1858, sixteen years after the death of her soldier husband, Nancy filed for a pension Congress provided for the widows of veterans. May 28, Ben filed and signed a rambling affidavit to help his mother get her pension. A cousin and neighbor, James Ford, was Justice of the Peace. The paper was witnessed by W. Berry.

Below, Left: pioneer preacher Asa Routh. Right: The Independence Baptist Church of Hancock County, 2010.



State of Tennessee
county of Hancock

Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858 formally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, Benjamin Vaughan, aged about 54 years, after being by me duly-sworn according to law both on his oath depose and say that he will be fifty four years of age on the 4th day of November AD 1858 to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief and that he further certifies "that the enclosed record of my father John & Nancy Vaughan is the record which was found among my father's old papers and it has ever since remained to my possession and as to the correctness of which I certify that I can recollect the birth of Samuel, Martha & George W. Vaughan which part of the record I certify from my resolution and from circumstances is correct and that I certify that James, Polly, Beverley, Rebecky Vaughan are all four elder than me, and that the last account I had of James he was in the State of Texas and that the last account I had of Beverly he was in the State of Arkansas and that Polly lives in Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee. Rebecky lives in the State of MO the last account, and that Nancy, Mahaly & John are all three younger than me but I cannot recollect the dates of their births and that Nancy & John lives in this county and that Mahaly is dead and that Samuel resides in the county and that the last account of George is he lived near Nashville Tennessee and that Martha lives in Knox County in the State of Tennessee; and that my father John Vaughan died on the 14 day of July AD 1842 and that at his death he left a will in which I certify he willed to me, John, & Samuel Vaughan the tract of land whereon I now live and where on Samuel now lives," ...that they paid John after the death of their said father \$100. for his part of said tract of land and that his other lands and Tenements was divided amongst the other heirs, "... and that I further certify that I know of no other record of the dates and births of said heirs or any other dates or record of the marriage; if any such record exists private or public I do not know anything of them, and I further certify that after the Act of 1832 I heard my father frequently speak of his claim, that he said that he would not trouble himself about it, that he did not kneed it, and that on several occasions I have heard him in conversation with one Samuel Dollison who is no more and who was a vain, drinking character and who applied for pension, that if he, Dollison, could obtain his pension and could get what was due to him, John Vaughan, that he, Dollison, would have money enough to pay for his drinking and that Dollison never received a pension as I know of."

In witness I do here unto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid,

Benjamin Vaughan

Like his mother and several of his siblings, Benjamin was literate and signed his own name.

1858 Benjamin Vaughan Signature

In spite of his help, Ben's mother died in September of 1858 without receiving any pension money. Two years later, Ben would mysteriously pack up his family and move to Texas, taking leave of the financial security landed in the farm his father left him--the land of his birth, the cradle of his whole life.

He was fifty-six. Many younger men went out west in search of cheap land in the hope of one day owning their own farm, but for some unexplainable reason, Ben, not so young, left the land he owned free and clear and headed for Texas.

In Texas all three of Ben and Eve 's sons appeared on the 1861 Grayson County, Texas Personal Property Tax List, and in addition, Jacob Vaughan—listed in Tennessee with Eve's nephew, William Ford, in 1860--was also listed in 1862, but Benjamin Vaughan's name does not appear until 1863.

Perhaps Ben and Eve Vaughan had moved out of their home by the time the 1860 Hancock census was taken and were on their way to Texas. The date of their arrival is not known, but on July 12, 1862, "Brother Benjamin Vaughan and wife Evy" were received by transfer of letter into the Kentucky Town Baptist Church in Texas. **Ancestry.com file.**

In Kentucky Town and Texas



Texas Ranger, William Crump Callicotte, 1875.

The village of Kentucky Town was established ca 1852 in southeastern Grayson County. Eve's brother James B. Everheart had settled nearby in ca 1846, and her brother Emanuel came from Alabama in 1848 and purchased several tracts of land near the future site of Kentucky Town. In 1860 another brother, Jacob Everheart also settled near Kentucky Town, so Ben Vaughan settled his family in a community with Everheart relatives living nearby. Furthermore, descendants of the Kentuckians who first settled Grayson County and the Vaughans from Tennessee would be marrying each other before the turn of the century.

Benjamin, himself, had many relatives in Texas. His brother, James L., had been there since 1834. In 1860 James L. resided in Live Oak County, way down in South Texas. There are some signs that their elusive brother Beverley may have visited that area. One of their Callicott brethren settled in the wild southwest as a Texas Ranger. **(Pictured, Left)** Later, plenty of their kin and Tennessee neighbors would be arriving in Kentucky Town after the Civil War. The post war road to Grayson County was lined with wagons loaded down with the descendants of Samuel N. and George Washington Vaughan. There were even some Deckards, who quite possibly were his late sister Mahala's extended family, who made it. In the next decade, newspapers were reporting that after William Berry murdered his wife, when the law caught up with him, he was trying to put together a wagon load, hoping to make his escape to Texas—

as outlaws frequently did. Three nieces, and at least seven nephews were involved, one way or another, in tragic murder cases with Lone Star State links. On the other side, Texas Ranger William Crump Callicotte and Deputy U.S. Marshall William C. Everheart of Kentucky Town worked at keeping the peace in Texas.

Ben, landowner and certainly no outlaw, made it to Grayson County. His name appeared on the Grayson County Tax List for 1863 and 1864, with the 1864 Tax List being the last record found for him. When the 1870 Grayson County census was taken, Eve Vaughan, age 66, was living with her son Anderson W. Vaughan in the 3rd District; she died before the 1880 census was taken. Her funeral was preached at the Kentucky Town Baptist Church by the Reverend J. W. Connelly, and she was buried in the Batselle Cemetery near Kentucky Town. It is believed that Benjamin Vaughan was also buried there, but no stone for either of them has ever been found. Using information from the pastor's notes on the funeral preached for Anderson Vaughan, it is known that their son died in 1883 and was also buried in Batsell Cemetery. There are no further records on the twins, John and Jacob. **Ancestry.com file.**

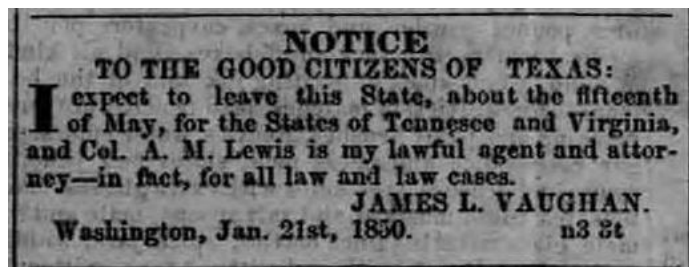


Left: One of area cemeteries linked to Kentucky Town.

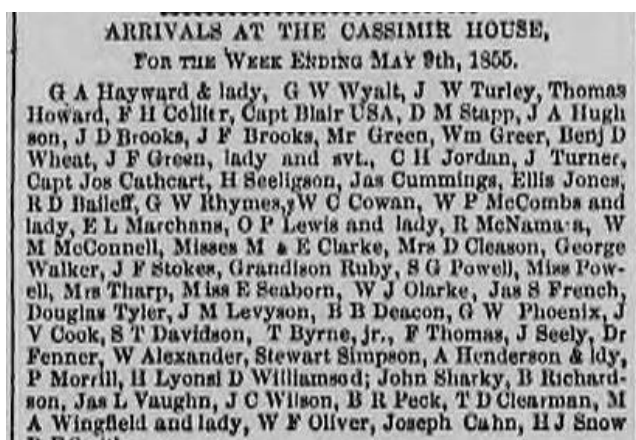
... Five of the eleven offspring of John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan lived out their lives in the Hawkins County area where nine of them were born. Mary Polly, Nancy, Mahala, John Jr., and Samuel N. lived and died within a six mile radius of their original Hawkins home. When the Western migration washed over mid 19th century America, the others, and many of their offspring, were swept away with the rest of the rovers to claim cheaper lands, or to seek refuge from the coming war. Up into Illinois and down to Texas, Vaughan progeny followed, and, sometimes, led the current.

Benjamin could not have been looking for anything cheaper since he owned a farm—free and clear. The mysterious exodus he made, with his family in tow, left precious few clues. One explanation may lie with his brother James L. Vaughan in Texas. When Ben took his family to Texas in 1860, he knew his brother was already settled there. In 1858 he wrote, “The last account I had of James he was in the State of Texas.”

(Below, right: Lone Star and Southern Watch Tower, Washington, Texas; VOL. 20, Sat, Apr 20, 1850)



The two men left subtle reminders that they were fond of each other in the beginning and that they stayed in contact with one another till the end. As mentioned earlier, in 1815 when Benjamin was nine, James L. named his first son, Benjamin Franklin. In the 1850's, after his long absence and a glorious military career in Texas, James L. returned home, perhaps more than once. In 1850 he posted a notice in his local paper in Washington County, Texas, stating his intention to return to Tennessee, and then again his name is on an 1855 hotel ledger for travelers who frequently sailed the Gulf of Mexico route to New Orleans and took riverboats up the Mississippi to Tennessee.



Left: Arrivals at The Cassmir House, Matagorda Bay, including James L. Vaughan, May 1855.)

Besides the mention he got from Benjamin, attached to Nancy's 1858 pension claim, affidavits indicate he arrived safely for at least one visit. George Anderson swore that "...from his acquaintance and from his, the same James', appearance he must now be about 63 years of age." John M. Charles wrote, "James was always said to be the eldest and from my acquaintance with him he must from his appearance now be the rise of 60 years of age."

Right: Travel Ad for Western Texas Stage Company mapping out route to Matagorda Bay that would include James L. Vaughan's residence in Washington County

FACILITIES FOR TRAVEL IN WESTERN TEXAS.

Persons visiting Western Texas, or who are desirous of doing so, are hereby informed that the Coaches of the Western Texas Stage Company, leave the Cassimir House, opposite Powder Horn Wharf, on Matagorda Bay, every day on the arrival of the steamships from New Orleans, and every other day of the week, (Saturday excepted). Running to

SAN ANTONIO,	AUSTIN,	SEGUIN,
WACO,	BELTON.	BRAUNFELS,
SAN MARCOS,	GONZALES,	LOCKHART,
YORKTOWN,	VICTORIA,	PORT LAVACCA,

and Western Texas in general. Affording the business traveler great despatch, and emigrants every facility for exploring this delightful region.

Returning from the interior, the Coaches of this Company run in close connection with the steamships, which take their departure for New Orleans from Powder Horn Wharf.

An Agent of the Company ever ready to answer questions and receive money will be found at the Cassimir House, Lower Indianola. B. A. RISHER,
For Western Texas Stage Company.

After seeing James L. in person, Nancy's witnesses guessed, correctly, that he was sixty plus years. During his visit, he took the opportunity to talk to Ben about Texas. After their mother's death, Ben went to Texas, seemingly following in the well-traveled footsteps of his big brother.

Many years later, other tenuous links, which should not be lost in the lethargy we often find dragged around in tedious historical details, are records in which the name of Orr is listed. An 1870 Grayson County census naming Ben's son, Anderson, as having a W. G. Orr in his household is connected to both brothers by a twentieth century letter from Freddie Todd. Freddie is the grandson of Benjamin Franklin, James L.'s son, and Benjamin's namesake, and his letter asks about an Orr who once lived with a Vaughan family in Texas.

The Todd Letter: *I need some info on a Vaughan that I don't have. I am trying to help a Mr. Alton Orr from Texas locate some of his relatives....*

Vaughan Pioneer Group Files

The 1870 US Census: abt Eva Vaughn, 66, B 1804, TN; Home 1870: Precinct 4, Grayson, Tx. Kentucky Town; A. W. Vaughn 30; Eva Vaughn 66; W G Orr 29, b GA.

If what's in a name matters, . . . by his second wife James L. had another son, Elijah, who named his son Anderson, and early in the twentieth century Elijah's Anderson was also in Grayson County for a while. Anderson Vaughan, born about 1874 in Missouri was living in Precinct 1, Sherman, Ward 5, in April 20, 1910. Interestingly enough, Freddie Todd's letter concerned Elijah and Benjamin Franklin's kinship as half brothers. Ever so slightly, these two brothers—or half brothers—with their dad, are linked by a few words in Freddie Todd's letter. Their Uncle Benjamin's family of Kentucky Town, Texas, knew a mystery man named W. G. Orr; he was listed with Benjamin's widow and son on the 1870 census. . . . The Orr name in Texas is sufficiently unique to allow the suspicion that W. G. and Alton were related, and further study shows that they probably were.

If tied by these tiny threads of mutual history, which weave together the names of Vaughan progeny with that of a stranger in 1870 Kentucky Town, it may be a slight hint that Ben and James L. stayed in touch till the very end. If so, perhaps, indeed, Ben's big brother had something to do with his leaving Tennessee.

Another reason for leaving may have been the rumors of war. Many Eastern Tennesseans in counties where the families of Revolutionary War veterans lived stayed loyal to the United States. During the Civil War their Tennessee became a hotbed of incivility where friend turned against friend and kin against kin, if not, brother against brother. Benjamin, a religious man, simply may not have raised his sons just to send them off to war; in fact, very few of their Vaughan cousins fought in the war. In 1861 the twins were twenty-five; Anderson was twenty-two. Maybe their grandfather's tour of duty in the American Revolution meant something to their father. More than a few old soldiers had settled on the Chicamauga



lands, and the Hancock area of Eastern Tennessee was badly split over the idea of leaving their treasured Union for a very un-united Confederacy.

**Left: Tintype of East Tennessean troops loyal to the United States
Co. D, 2nd Tennessee Regiment USA.**

Coincidentally, Grayson County, far from the front, stood in an area of Texas where support for the United States was strong. Benjamin and Eve Everhart Vaughan took their family of three war age sons into a part of Texas that sympathized with the Union. Additionally, Ben's brother-in-law served the Union: James Everhart served on the staff of General Ulysses S. Grant.

Perhaps Benjamin Vaughan was simply a man of vision, and saw the trouble headed for his Tennessee farm and family. At the end of the

TERRORIZED BY OUTLAWS.—An order for 164 Winchester rifles and 1,000 cartridges was received at Gate City, Va., Saturday night from citizens living in Scott county. The order was accompanied by the statement that the guns were to be used for the protection of the many families in that vicinity who have been threatened with violence by the unscrupulous "Jim" Wright band of outlaws. The band has committed many murders in the mountainous section embracing Scott, Lee, Dickenson, and the border Kentucky counties. The story sent out from Kentucky over a week ago that a sheriff's posse had killed Wright and two members of his gang is not believed by the citizens of Scott county, and the people of Scott and Lee counties are said to be in mortal terror of the outlaws. They have been warned that the band is on the warpath and has sworn to kill every man who assisted in the effort to bring them to justice. John Templeton, one of the leaders, is known to have been seriously wounded. He was shot two weeks ago in Lee county.

Civil War, back in his old neighborhood, his former neighbors kept fighting each other and didn't stop for a long, long time. Members of his siblings' families were active in feuds that were tragic leftovers from Tennessee battlegrounds. There were reasons to buy a gun and to add a lookout door to one's home. Into the twentieth century, from Southern Virginia to Hancock County, citizens were arming themselves and looking for ways to secure their hearth and homes against bushwhackers and former friends alike. The 1870's murderer, William Berry, was Ben's wife's step-nephew; in 1890, her true nephew, Thomas Berry, a Confederate Colonel, was murdered. Both men had signed affidavits for the pension claim of Ben's mother. John Templeton, a 1902 outlaw, had been another witness for Nancy Callicott Vaughan; his uncle--Jim Wright--gang leader, was from Hawkins/Hancock County, and four of Ben's nephews became members of this feuding gang. The newspapers of the time seldom failed to report how all involved in these tragedies were from respectable families while at the same time mentioning a feud of one kind or another. Instead of buying a Winchester and building a better door, perhaps, being a man moved by the spirit, Benjamin saw what was coming, gave up his beloved farm, and got out.

The End

Benjamin Vaughan Timeline

Benjamin Vaughan

Birth 4 Nov 1804 in Hawkins Co, TN, Daybook

Parents John Vaughan (1762-1842) Nancy Callicott (1777-1858)

1804 4 Nov Birth Hawkins Co, TN, Daybook. Age of Benjamin Vaughan, TN, Hancock: . . . on this 28 day of May AD 1858 formally appeared . . . Benjamin Vaughan aged about 54 years. Affidavit .

1804 Dec Naming Benjamin, Hawkins Co, TN, Possible explanation of why so many of his nephews were named Franklin.

1830 Age: 26 Residence Hawkins, TN. This family unit is not Benjamin Vaughan and Eve Everheart's, but This Ben is in the right location. Additional Research needed.* p.131 Census

1834 6 Sep Age: 29 Marriage to Eve Everheart Hawkins, TN. Note discrepancy in dates.

TN State Marriages, 1780-2002 Hawkins Co, TN, Married by Samuel Wilson, JP, 6 Sep 1835. Form 6, page 29. TN State Marriages TN State Marriages, 1780-2002, about Eve Everheart; Spouse: Benjamin Vaughan; 6 Sep 1834, Hawkins Co

Spouse & Children

Eve Everheart (1803-1875)

Jacob Vaughan 1836, John Vaughan 1836, Anderson W. Vaughan 1839-1875.

Parents: Jacob Everheart, 1777-1838/Catherine Elizabeth Beal, 1778-1844

Siblings: Sarah: m. Thomas Berry of Hawkins, 1799; Elizabeth Betsy, Hawkins 1804-1876; Nicholas 1806 – 1854;

David 1806 – 1855; Mary: m. Beverley Ford of NC, 1812 – 1877; James B 1813 – 1854; Anna Elizabeth 1815; Jacob E 1816, TX; Emanuel 1818 – 1892, TX; Thomas.

1836 Birth of twins: Jacob Vaughan (1836-) John Vaughan (1836-) Named for parents' fathers

1839 Birth of Anderson W. Vaughan (1839-1875)

1840 Age: 36, Census. Residence Hawkins Co, TN, Benjamin Vaughan and family. Unknown girl and boy from 1830 are still with him. Benjamin W. Vaughan is on southside page.

1850 Age: 46 Residence Subdivision 32, Hancock, TN Benjamin Vaughan 45 and Eve Vaughan 47; Jacob Vaughan 14; John Vaughan 14; Anderson Vaughan

1850 Census

1851 Age: 47 Religion Hancock Co, TN, Met in home of George Anderson and organized Independence Baptist Church.

1858 28 May Age: 53 Signature

Hancock Co, TN, Signed an affidavit for his mother, pension application. A cousin James Ford is JP. Also signed by W. Berry.

1860 Age: 56 Departure

Hancock Co, TN, Left farm in 1860

1860 Age: 56 Departure and Civil War, Hancock Co, TN, Left farm in 1860

1862 Age: 58 Residence Kentuckytown, Grayson Co, TX . Civil War and TX kin.

1862 Church Membership. July 12, 1862, received into the Ky Twn Bapt Church, From, "Ky Twn and Its Bapt Church" by Joe W. Chumbley Stories

1862 Residence for Benjamin Franklin Vaughan

1863 Tax List at Ky Twn, Tx. 1861 Grayson Co Tx Personal Property Tax List, Benjamin appears 1863

1864 Age: 60 Death After 1864 in Grayson Co, TX,

1870 US Census abt Eva Vaughan , 66, B 1804, TN; Hme 1870: Prct 4, Grayson, Tx. Kentucky Town; A W Vaughan 30; Eva Vaughan 66; W G Orr 29, b GA, link w/JLV Stories

1865 aft Burial

Kentucky Town, Grayson, TX Eve Everheart Vaughan was buried in the Batselle Cemetery near Kentucky Town, Grayson, TX. Ben Vaughan may also be buried there, but stones for them have not been found.

1875 est. Burial for Eve

Kentucky Town, Grayson, TX Eve Everheart Vaughan was buried in the Batselle Cemetery near Kentucky Town, Grayson, TX.

Sources

Sergeant John Vaughan, Soldier of the American Revolution, 2011, by Helen Vaughan

Daybook, page 2, Nancy Callicott Vaughan

<http://vaughan-vaughn.org/verna/1989/89-pg81.htm>. 2 Benjamin Vaughans, Hawkins Co., TN 1805; from Ancestry Family Connections, 27 Apr 2012, Copied and Edited by Helen Vaughan Michael.

Vaughanpioneers Files

(Photo taken by VAUGHAN descendants of Samuel N. --from Texas--on a trip they made in 1985.) Courtesy of father and son: Varney and AJ Vaughan and AJ's wife, Opal Frances.

1830 United States Census

Photo and barn info, courtesy Mabel Harp,1997

Photo and barn info, courtesy Mabel Harp,1997

Affidavit: 1858 Pension Claim of Nancy Callicott Vaughan.

WILL OF JOHN VAUGHAN, Page 474 Dated: Dec. 27, 1841, Proven: Aug. Term

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vaughanpioneers/Vaughan.html>. editor: Eddy Davis.

1830 census. p131.

Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002 Hawkins County, Tennessee, USA Married by Samuel Wilson, JP, 6 Sep 1835. Form 6, page 29. TN State Marriages. Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002.

File: Catharine Everheart will. 1844 Will of Catharine Everheart, GREENE COUNTY TENNESSEE WILL BOOK, Page 525.

Ancestry.com files.

Photo of 1858 Signature, Affidavit: 1858 Pension Claim of Nancy Callicott Vaughan(2).

From "Kentucky Town and Its Baptist Church" by Joe W. Chumbley, 1975. D. Armstrong Co., Houston, TX.

<http://trees.ancestry.com/pt/EditStory.aspx?tid=307240&pid=-796214544&pg=0>

Anderson Vaughn; Birth: unknown; Death: 1883; Info from pastors notes on the funeral. Burial: Batsell; Grayson County Texas, USA; Created by: mystic75074; Record added: Jul 01, 2008; Find A Grave Memorial# 2795997.

Affidavits: 1858 Pension Claim of Nancy Callicott Vaughan.

Lone Star and Southern Watch Tower, Washington, Texas, 20 Vol., Saturday, April 20, 1851

The Indianola Bulletin, May 10, 1855—Cassmir House Guest List

Ad for the Western Stage Company: Stage route and schedule

The Freddie Todd Letter, VPG File

1870 US Census:

1870 United States Federal Census

about A W Vaughn

Name: A W Vaughn

Age in 1870: 30

Birth Year: abt 1840

Birthplace: Tennessee

Home in 1870: Precinct 4, Grayson, Texas

Race: White

Gender: Male

Post Office: Kentucky Town

Value of real estate: View image

Household Members: Name Age

A W Vaughn 30

Eva Vaughn 66

W G Orr 29

Revolutionary War Logo

Childress Cousins Newsclip, Thomas Berry Murder.

Childress Cousins Newsclip, June 2, 1902, *Terrorized by Outlaws*

<http://www.childresscousins.org> for further detail of sources

Notes

NOTES:

Children of Benjamin Walker and Martha (Martheir) Simmons Vaughan were:

Lucinda, b. 1829, m. David D. Anderson (Derrick).

Samuel S., b. ca 1832, m. Sarah

Benjamin W., b. ca 1834.

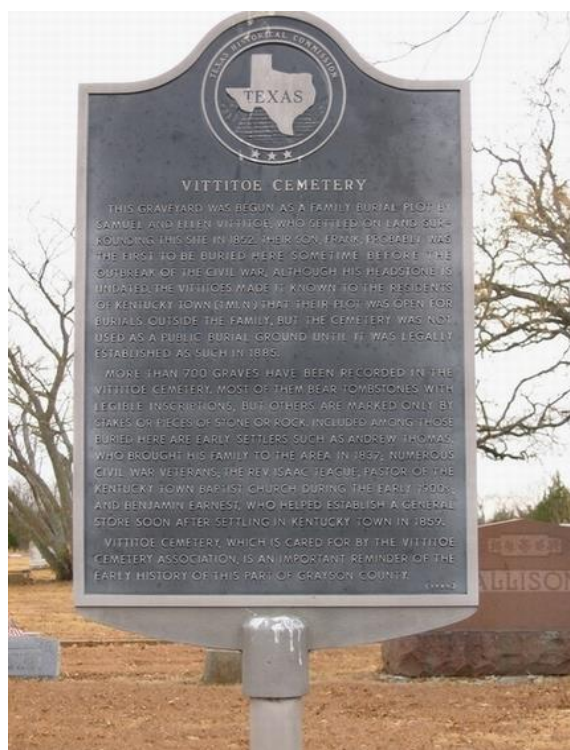
Robert Arnout, b. 1841.

Martha, b. ca 1843, m. Jordon H. Fletcher(?).

1870: Precinct 4, Grayson, TX; Kentucky Town; Members: A W Vaughan 30; Eva Vaughan 66; W G Orr 29

1870 Name: Walter G Orr; Age in 1870: 26; abt 1844; GA; Home in 1870: Jefferson, Marion, TX; Post Office: Jefferson; Members: John P Orr 45; Walter G Orr 26

1880 Name: Walter G. Orr; Age: 39; abt 1841 B: Georgia; Home in 1880: Precinct 6, Fannin, TX; (Head Married Spouse: A. V. Orr; Father's B: Georgia; Mother's B: Georgia; 1870; Name: W G Orr; Age in 1870: 29; Birth Year: abt 1841; Birthplace: Georgia.



Historical Marker: One of several area cemeteries linked to Kentucky Town.

X