

Thomas Allen Strain & Sarah (Betty) Elizabeth Rountree Family

Sarah was born about 1849 in Williamson Tennessee to Charles S. Rountree and Ann O. Crutcher. Ann died in 1859 and the children were dispersed to relatives. In 1860, Sarah and her younger sister, Emma, were living with her mother Ann's father, A. P. Crutcher and his mother, Jane, and three Crutcher men in their 20s in Williamson, Tennessee. A. P. Crutcher was a wealthy farmer.

Thomas was born in 1852 to James H. Strain and Ann Eliza M. Steger. He is the second child, older sister Matilda, younger siblings Mary Elizabeth, Henrietta Elizabeth, and Julia Josephine, all 2 years apart.

1861 through 1865 - Civil War Started April with confederates attack on Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

1863 through 1877 - Reconstruction.

In 1870, Thomas Allen was 17 living with his family & 7 siblings, the 3 additions are John William (1861), Annie Lee (1864), & James Edmund (1868), near Decatur, in Morgan County, Alabama Subdivision 37. James H. was a farmer. He is also listed alone in a nearby household. Martha (Mattie) F. made the ninth child in 1877

In 1870 they had a neighbor, Scott L. Rountree and family who lived with Scott's mother-in-law. Sarah undoubtedly visited here or maybe lived here. This is likely how they met. They married Christmas eve, 1874.

In 1880, Scott and family are living in Morgan county Alabama, beat 12. Thomas and Sarah lived nearby with their two daughters; Margaret (Maggie) Lee, 4, and Annie Ophelia, 1. And a white widow Orlena Love 35 with 6 year old daughter Katie. James H. and family are in Somerville, Morgan County, too. Thomas, Henrietta, and Julia are absent. James Edmund 13, and Martha F, 3, show up in the census. Thus Thomas has 8 siblings, 2 brothers and 6 sisters. They live next door to William D Strain and wife Mary F with daughter Martha A, 10.

1880 September 11 Daughter Eliza Born. She died November 1890. Buried in Walnut Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Decatur Alabama.

1881 May 22 Son Charley born. He died 1884 July 9. Buried in Walnut Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Decatur Alabama.

Sarah died May 16, 1883. She is buried in Walnut Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Decatur Alabama. She is reported to be the first person buried in the cemetery.

Thomas's mother, Ann Eliza, died at age 52 May 24, 1884 in Alabama. Her obituary leaves the impression that her children were young, but not so. James Edmund was 14 and Mattie 5. The other 7 were older than 20.

Thomas Allen Strain & Mary Josephine (Josie) Short Family

Mary Josephine (Josie) Short was born in 1862 in Alabama. Notes from Thomas Allen show her birth is 1862. Other sources peg her birth date at June 1, 1862.

In 1880 Josie, 23, was living with her mother Mary A Short 60, 1 older sister, 2 younger brothers and two younger sisters. Her older sister Samantha 25 had a 5 year old daughter. Thomas Short, 25, probably her brother, lived next door with wife, 20, and daughter 1. They were in Watkins, Covington County Alabama.

Thomas married Josie November 14, 1883, 6 months after Sarah's death. They were married at Josie's family home in Morgan County Alabama. So they started with Maggie 7, Annie 4, Eliza 3, and Charley 2. Charley died July 8, 1884. He is buried next to his mother Sarah.

1886 November 25 Thomas Albert was born in Hartselle Alabama.

Eliza died November 1, 1890. She, too, is buried next to her mother Sarah. Her tombstone says she is the daughter of Thom Allen and Mary Josephine Strain. So, maybe Mary adopted her.

Move to Texas

There were Short families in or near Putnam, Callahan County, Texas around 1880. There was a Strain family, Robert Stewart Strain, living in Anson about 1880. He may have been a distant relative, and maybe didn't know Thomas Allen. By 1900 they had moved, eventually to California.

Thomas and Josie moved to Callahan County, Texas with family; probably Putnam, between 1891 and 1893. There was a newspaper article, August 20, 1891 about a revival meeting where James H Strain assisted. There is no mention of Thomas Allen Strain. So, Thomas and family probably moved before this date. James Edmund appears to be the first who moved to Texas. He was in Granbury in early 1890.

Both daughters, Maggie and Annie, moved with them. Eliza was buried in Alabama November 1890, so they likely departed Alabama after this date. James Eugene was born in Texas November 26 1893. They show up in the 1900 census in Putnam. By January 1896 they were in Cisco.

1893 April Cisco nearly decimated by storm.

Thomas Allen's sister, Henrietta Strain Yeager (born 1857), with her husband John D Yeager and sons were in Eastland County in 1890. In 1900 she is shown living in Eastland County with her son James. She is listed as widowed. In 1910 the family is in Haskell, Texas north of Anson Texas. James Henderson Strain, unrelated, lived in Haskell about 1922 with his wife Victoria and their family. So the families might have known each other. In 1920 & 1930 Henrietta is living with her son James in nearby Anson.

Thomas Allen's sister Annie Lee (born 1864) Compton was in Eastland County in 1894. She was still in Alabama in January 1892. Annie died in Eastland County in 1913. Annie's husband, William Noah, continued to live in Eastland County until his death in 1955.

Thomas Allen's brother, James Edmund (born 1868), with family was living in Cisco in 1900, too. He located to Granbury early 1890. He married Sarah Hiner, known as Sallie, December 3, 1894. They were living in Granbury, Texas until 1898. They moved to Ft. Worth about 1901 with his family. He died there in 1918. Sallie was still in Ft. Worth in 1940. A son, William was living with her. She died in Austin in 1957 where she was then living.

Thomas Allen's younger sister Julia (born 1859) with husband H C Cobbs and children are in Eastland County in 1900, too.

Thomas Allen's older sister Matilda (born 1851) with husband H C Collins are in Eastland County in 1900, too. She died of pneumonia in 1913 in Anson, Texas. They lived in Anson for 6 years. Anson is not far away.

Thomas Allen's younger brother, John William (born 1861), and family moved to Fort Worth, Texas about 1901. He owned a hardware store there. There are at least 2 living great grandchildren; Lisa Hastings, in California, and Mike Griffis, in White River Junction, Vermont, who are first cousins, my third cousins. Their grandmother, Frances Marion Strain Tyson is John's daughter and only child.

Thomas Allen's youngest sister, 22 year old Mattie Strain, born August 1877 in Alabama, is boarding in Cisco in the home of J C Luce in 1900. She married James M Free about 1902. His parents are living nearby in 1910. She died in 1965 at the age of 87. At the time of her death she is a widow, living in Sylvester, Texas. She was living there at least since 1942 according to John W obituary. Her death certificate was signed by her daughter, Opal Josey of Hamlin, Texas

1893 November 26 James Eugene Born Putnam Texas (from WWII draft registration)

Mary Elizabeth Cobbs, Thomas Allen's younger sister died in 1894. She is buried in Nimrod, Texas. I don't have a record of their move to Texas. She was married in Alabama.

Maggie Lee married Benjamin B Throop June 22 1897 in Callahan County. They were in Cisco when she died on September 6, 1953

Annie O first married L. A. Lewis in July 1897. She married Felton Walker who is also from Eastland County about 1902. They show up in Oklahoma in 1910 with children. The eldest daughter is 8. Annie married her neighbor E. M. Chick November 1, 1910 after Felton's death earlier in the year.

There is a young man named Troy Allen Strain, born in 1898. Thomas Allen noted his birth in his personal notes. His death certificate, 1926, lists Tom Allen Strain as father and Annie Strain as mother. His draft registration, (1917), lists Mrs. E. M. Chick in Cushing Oklahoma as nearest kin. Troy is undoubtedly Annie's son, born when she was 19. James Eugene's daughter Mary confirmed the same to me. She said her father, James Eugene, told her that Troy was his nephew. James signed Troy's death certificate in 1926.

Annie's last name on her tombstone is Ruth. She married Harry Ruth sometime in October, 1920. Annie died in 1968 at the age of 88. She lived in Rising Star, Texas at the time. She is shown as a widow. Her daughter, Alice Baker, signed the death certificate.

Neither Maggie nor Annie show in any census with Thomas and Mary. This suggests that the move to Texas was later than the 1890 census. By 1900 they were married and out of the house.

Thomas Allen recorded Mary Josephine's death in his personal records as April 8, 1895. Cause of death according to James was pneumonia. No death certificate has been discovered.

Little has been found about Mary. Further research is necessary.

Thomas Allen Strain & Beatrice Fleming

1860 Census Beatrice, 10, was living in Newman Coweta County Georgia with parents Jackson Parks and Francis. Born 1850 - 1870 census.

Thomas married Beatrice August 1, 1897 in Logan, Cullman County, Alabama.

Thomas Allen's youngest sister Julia Josephine (Josie) appears in the 1910 census for Eastland County with her husband H. C. Cobbs and children. They moved from Morgan County Alabama where the Strain's had been. They were married in 1878 and lived in the Alabama neighborhood of several Strains, including her father, James H.

The Move to Jackson County

James Strain, age 55, relation unknown, was living in Jackson County in 1860 with his family. His youngest child was 17 at the time and she was born in Tennessee. So they were there less than 17 years.

Thomas Albert and family show up in Jackson County (Lolita) in the 1920 census, March 28. Ida Mae was born in Putnam, so they arrived after her birth. Their remaining girls, Josie, Delonia, and Mable were born here.

Thomas Allen and Beatrice are here in 1920, too.

Julia Strain Cobbs, her husband, H C, and 6 children, the youngest who is 18, are here in 1920, too. Julia "Josie" died in Lolita December 16, 1931.

Beatrice died 8 Jun 1926 (aged 76). She is buried in Vanderbilt nearby in Red Bluff Cemetery.

Thomas Allen was living with James Eugene in Callahan County in 1930. By 1935 he was living in Seadrift with Thomas Albert. He was still there in 1940.

Thomas Allen spent his last years living with James Eugene and his family in San Angelo. He died June 1, 1943 in San Angelo. He is buried in Fairmont Cemetery in San Angelo. Troy Allen is reported to be buried there, too. He is probably in the paupers section.