

SECTION X

James Bobbitt (VII - 7), the son of James and Mary (Gunn) Bobbitt was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, on November 21, 1822, and came to Gibson County, Tennessee, with his parents in 1830. James died at age 34 on May 12, 1857 (47, 59), at Dyer, Tennessee, and is buried in Bobbitt cemetery, sometimes called Pleasant Grove cemetery.

James received his education in the schools of Gibson County and was a lifelong member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was one of the group who organized the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Dyer on May 20, 1848 (55, 56). An account of the church organization is given in Section IX.

By occupation James Bobbitt was a planter and was closely associated with his brother, Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt, in farming operations in Gibson County.

James Bobbitt was married twice. His first marriage was to Eliza Ann Province on February 19, 1845. Eliza was born on August 12, 1825, and died on October 22, 1853 (47, 59).

James' second marriage was to Melissa (Hale) Wyatt, the widow of William S. Wyatt. This second marriage was solemnized on February 7, 1854, at Dyer, Tennessee, by the Rev. John M. Grier, the first pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Melissa (Hale) Wyatt was born on September 15, 1822, in Gibson County, Tennessee, and died on June 16, 1857. Melissa was the daughter of Stephen S. Hale and his wife Priscilla (Goodloe) Hale. Priscilla was born in North Carolina on October 30, 1799, and died on August 28, 1879, and is buried near Yorkville in Gibson County. Priscilla was the fifth generation removed from George Goodloe who was born in 1639 in Aspul, Lancashire, England, and came to America about 1666.

For an account of the Goodloe family see SECTION XVIII.

Four children were born to James Bobbitt: three daughters by his first wife, Eliza Ann Province, and a son by his second wife, Melissa (Hale) Wyatt, as follows:

By the first marriage:

1. Mary Ann Bobbitt
Born April 25, 1846
Died ----
2. Susan Jane Bobbitt
Born December 3, 1848
Died August 27, 1911
3. Eliza Rebecca Bobbitt
Born August 28, 1853
Died April 24, 1904

By the second marriage:

4. William James Bobbitt See SECTION XIV
Born December 2, 1854
Died August 7, 1907

William James Bobbitt, the last child named above, is the author's grandfather.

The parents of the above named children, James and Melissa Bobbitt, died within a few weeks of each other in 1857, as previously shown. Following their death the four young children were taken into the home of their uncle, Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt at Dyer (61, 62). See further in SECTION XI.

William James Bobbitt, child No. 4, will be further discussed in Section XIV, and the three daughters in the following paragraphs.

Mary Ann Bobbitt, called Molly, married William E. Orr on February 12, 1865. William was born on July 11, 1839, and died on January 8, 1925, and is buried at Dyer, Tennessee.

Susan Jane Bobbitt married J.P. Snoddy on October 17, 1867. Issue: Essie, born October 29, 1875; Claude, born July 23, 1878, at Dyer and died June 19, 1916, at Trenton, Tennessee; Grace, born July 31, 1887, and Freda Snoddy born on January 16, 1892.

Essie Snoddy married Os L. Biggs of Trenton, Tennessee, in 1891. They had three sons: Lamar, born 1893; Harry, born 1895 and Clarence Biggs born 1898, and who, at the author's last account, lived in Memphis, Tennessee.

Freda Snoddy married Richard Wade in January 1915.

Eliza Rebecca Bobbitt married Dr. James H. Drane on May 1, 1873. Dr. Drane was born on October 15, 1843, and died in 1931, and is buried in Oakwood cemetery at Dyer, Tennessee. Dr. Drane was a prominent physician of Gibson County. Four children were born to Dr. Drane and Eliza (Bobbitt) Drane: Mollie, Annie Lou, John M. and Joelynn.

Mollie Drane married Benjamin Thomas Roberts (60) on July 18, 1912. Their only child, Jim Drane Roberts, was born on September 5, 1914, at Groveton, Texas. Jim Drane Roberts married Mary Josephine Brinkerhoff who was born in Tyler, Texas, on July 14, 1916. Mary Jo Roberts, born October 15, 1946, in McAllen, Texas, and James David Roberts, born on March 7, 1950, in Bryan, Texas, are children of that union. At the author's last account (1963) this family lived in Beaumont, Texas.

Miss Annie Lou Drane was a prominent resident of Dyer, Tennessee. She lived in the old Drane home in a beautiful wooded grove at 108 Lee Street. Miss Annie Lou Drane died in 1970 and is buried at Dyer.

John M. Drane married Lillie Wilson in July 1912, and lived at Newbern, Tennessee. A son, John M. Drane, Jr. was born in April, 1913.

Miss Joelynn Drane was born on September 15, 1895, at Dyer and died on July 29, 1957. She is buried in Oakwood cemetery at Dyer, Tennessee.

SECTION XI

Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt (VII - 9), a son of James and Mary (Gunn) Bobbitt, was born on November 6, 1828 (46, 65), in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and came to Gibson County, Tennessee, with his parents in 1830. B.F. Bobbitt died on July 2, 1899 (46), and is buried in Bobbitt cemetery at Dyer, Tennessee.

The settlement that was later the town of Dyer was first known as Bobbittville (63) but with the coming of the railroad in 1858 the town was designated Dyer Station; a name that was chosen to promote its location as a shipping point for neighboring Dyer County. In 1899 the town was incorporated as Dyer, Tennessee. Originally the town was laid off on lands of Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt. It was about the year 1858 that B.F. Bobbitt and his brother-in-law, James L. Berry, erected the first store building on what was then the Bobbitt farm (64). A postoffice was opened at Dyer on January 8, 1860, in the Berry & Bobbitt General Merchandise Store with B.F. Bobbitt as the first Postmaster.

Mr. Bobbitt and Mr. Berry continued to farm and to operate the general store until the start of the Civil War when both of these gentlemen volunteered in the 47th Tennessee Infantry, Confederate States of America. They saw action in numerous engagements including the great battle at Shilo. Not only were they involved in Tennessee campaigns but saw service in other southern states as well. Mr. Bobbitt was captured at Kennesaw Mountain and was taken to a prisoner of war camp at Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Berry was wounded at the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia (66).

After the war and during the reconstruction the farming operations at Dyer were resumed. Strawberries were the principal money crop and the Blakemore berries were the main variety raised but each fifth row was planted in Mitchells, an early variety used for pollenization. Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt was widely known as an authority on strawberries and was often visited by nationally known growers and buyers.

Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt was financially associated with the Fruit box factory at Dyer. In 1891 he invented an apparatus for making strawberry baskets that greatly facilitated their manufacture and produced an improved basket for packing and shipping the fresh berries. On November 24, 1891, he was granted patent No. 463714 on the invention. B.F. Bobbitt eventually sold his patent rights, but misfortune was in the offing. With the sale money apparently secure in his brick residence a fire occurred that destroyed the home and consumed the sale money (63).

On Saturday, June 3, 1899, the first municipal election was held at Dyer, and Mr. Bobbitt was one of the election judges (66). The next day Mr. Bobbitt suffered a heart attack and after a brief illness he died on July 2, 1899 (46), and is buried in Bobbitt cemetery at Dyer.

Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt was married twice. His first marriage was on February 13, 1850, to Martha Ann Dinwiddie (65). She was the daughter of J. and M. Dinwiddie. Martha was born on December 7, 1831 and died on December 22, 1850 (46, 65). A daughter, Mary E. Bobbitt, was born to that union on December 4, 1850, but died in infancy on February 8, 1851 (46, 65).

Mr. Bobbitt's second marriage was to Mary Elizabeth Berry on December 27, 1854 (65) at Dyer, Tennessee. Mary was born in Middle Tennessee on October 30, 1834 (46, 65), the daughter of John Campbell Berry and Nancy (Ramsey) Berry and the sister of James L. Berry, William Campbell Berry and Miss Tennessee Berry of Dyer. Elizabeth (Berry) Bobbitt died at Dyer on November 6, 1903, and is buried in Bobbitt cemetery. No children were born to this second marriage.

It is indicative of the kind and generous nature and the splendid character of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt that they reared six children of relatives who were orphaned by the death of parents. Four of those children were the children of Mr. Bobbitt's brother, James Bobbitt, who were taken after both James and his wife died in 1857 (See Section X). These children were: Mary Ann Bobbitt, Susan

Jane Bobbitt, Eliza Bebecca Bobbitt and William James Bobbitt (61, 62, 66). The latter is the grandfather of Allen Wade Mount, Sr., the author of this family history.

Some years later, about the year 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Bobbitt took the two children of John Whitney Norton and his wife Tennessee (Berry) Norton to rear after the death of Mrs. Norton. Tennessee Berry was the sister of Mrs. B.F. Bobbitt. These two children were Tennie Norton and her younger brother Norman Campbell Norton. Norman was in poor health and died at the age of nine years.

Tennie Norton was born in Gibson County, Tennessee, on May 12, 1883, and died in May 1964. Tennie married Harry Marvin Douglas of Clarkton, Missouri, on September 11, 1904, and is the mother of Mary Elizabeth Douglas who was born on October 23, 1907, and Naomi June Douglas who was born on November 6, 1913. Both of these girls were born in Clarkton, Missouri. Mary Elizabeth Douglas married William Otis Cummings on October 9, 1925, and now lives in Flint, Michigan. Naomi June Douglas married Frederick F. Kintner on November 3, 1934, and now resides in Battle Creek, Michigan (63, 67).

Tinnie Norton was teaching school in a distant town when she heard that Mary Elizabeth (Berry) Bobbitt had suffered a stroke. She returned to Dyer immediately and was with Mrs. Bobbitt when she died on November 6, 1903.

By Mrs. Bobbitt's last will and testament she left the desidue of Benjamin Franklin Bobbitt's estate to Miss Tennie Norton (63), the youngest and at the time the only one remaining unmarried among the children that she had reared with such love and devotion.

SECTION XII

James Robert Bobbitt (IX - 2), a son of John William Bobbitt and Mary Jane (Province) Bobbitt, was born at Dyer, Gibson County, Tennessee, on December 14, 1848, and died at Dyer on January 6, 1929 (40,58).

James Robert Bobbitt married Mary Suzanne Orr on January 19, 1870. Mary was born at Dyer on February 12, 1853, and died at Dyer on Jan. 12, 1941 (40).

James was a farmer and cultivated some 35 to 40 acres of rich Gibson county land that he inherited from his father. He loved the soil and took great pride in his fruit and garden crops. James had many friends and among them he was widely known simply as Jim Bobbitt. He had a fine sense of humor and always enjoyed a good joke.

James Robert Bobbitt was a very intelligent man, was widely read and always enjoyed good music. He was a man who was always intensely interested in the welfare of his country.

As a diversion Mr. Bobbitt enjoyed camping out in the open. Often, after the crops were "laid by", he would take the family in the covered wagon and drive some forty miles to Reelfoot lake for an outing. In politics James was a Prohibitionist and a Democrat and in his religion he was a devout Presbyterian and was an Elder in the Presbyterian church at Dyer (58).

Nine children were born to James Robert Bobbitt and his wife Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt (68), as follows:

1. Lela Lillian Bobbitt
Born October 21, 1870
Died December 1911
2. Eula Lee Bobbitt
Born July 27, 1872
Died September 12, 1947
3. John Harvey Bobbitt
Born December 11, 1874
4. James Miles Bobbitt
Born 1876

5. Mary Frances Bobbitt
Born December 18, 1878
6. Ina Bobbitt See SECTION XIII
Born January 29, 1881
7. Annie Elizabeth Bobbitt
Born May 1883
Died 1891
8. Jessie Bobbitt
Born September 17, 1885
Died March 4, 1963
9. Emma Suzanne Bobbitt
Born March 7, 1889

A further account of Ina Bobbitt, No. 6 above, will be found in Section XIII, as indicated. An account of the other children of James Robert Bobbitt and his wife Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt is given in the following paragraphs:

Lela Lillian Bobbitt, the 1st child, was born on October 21, 1870, at Dyer, Tennessee. On July 15, 1891, she married Rev. Joseph H. Curry, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister at Dyer. Three children were born to that union: Stanford Burney Curry, born June 1892, in Trenton, Tenn.; Ralph Neal Curry, born March 14, 1895, in Carthage, Missouri, and Lillian Curry, born February 12, 1898, in Russellville, Arkansas (58,68).

Eula Lee Bobbitt, the 2nd child, was born at Dyer on July 27, 1872, and died on September 12, 1947 (69). Eula Lee Bobbitt was married in 1890 at Dyer, Tennessee, to Luther LeRoy Robinson (58). Mr. Robinson was born on December 24, 1869, and died on April 1, 1952 (69), and is buried in Oakwood cemetery at Dyer. Six children were born to Luther LeRoy Robinson and Eula Lee (Bobbitt) Robinson, as follows: Floyd Bennett Robinson; George Bobbitt Robinson; Annie Dale Robinson; Luther LeRoy Robinson, Jr.; Mildred Robinson, and Mary Robinson. Mary Robinson died in infancy.

Floyd Bennett Robinson married Mertie Cooper. One child, William Bennett Robinson, was born to that union (70).

George Bobbitt Robinson who is in the retail lumber and hardware business at Dyer, married Lucille Davidson on December 14, 1916. Three

children were born to George and Lucille (Davidson) Robinson: Louise who married Wilfred Bond; Lucian Davidson Robinson who married 1st, Sarah Westbrook and 2nd Bettie Boyd Miller; and George Bobbitt Robinson, Jr. who married Norma Dean Thornton (71).

Annie Dale Robinson married Charles Eugene Landrum. Two children were born to that union: Charles, Jr. and Harold Bobbitt Landrum. Both of these children now (1963) live in Santa Barbara, Calif. (70).

Luther LeRoy Robinson, Jr. was born on January 31, 1900. On May 29, 1920, he married Miss Estelle Troy of Newbern, Tennessee. Luther LeRoy Robinson, Jr. is the owner, editor and publisher of the Tri-City Reporter, the newspaper at Dyer, Tennessee. Three children were born to Luther and Estelle (Troy) Robinson, Jr. as follows: Eloise who married William Thomas Barkley of Dyer; Dixie Elaine who married Charles Ray Baird; and Luther LeRoy Robinson, III, who married Joyce Ann Beckton (70). Three children were born to Luther and Joyce (Beckton) Robinson, III: Elicia Dawn, Howard Dane and Leigh Anne Robinson. As of this writing (1972) these three children are eighteen, fourteen and thirteen years of age, respectively, according to their grandfather.

Mildred Robinson married Robert DeMent of Dyer. No children were born to that union. Robert DeMent was associated with the Dyer newspaper, The Tri-City Reporter, before his death in June 1968.

John Harvey Bobbitt, the third child of James Robert Bobbitt and Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt, was born at Dyer on December 11, 1874. He died at Dyer at a rather young age.

James Miles Bobbitt, child No. 4, was born at Dyer in 1876, and died as a young man.

Mary Frances Bobbitt, the fifth child of James Robert Bobbitt and Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt, was born at Dyer, Tennessee, on December 18, 1878. Mary married Mark Ransom Hudson of Dyer. Eight children were born to that union, as follows (72):

Joy Virginia Hudson, born July 3, 1904, married William Cole of Jackson, Tennessee.

Ina May Hudson, born February 23, 1906, married Hubert Nelson. Ina and her sister Joy were both killed in an automobile accident near Trenton, Tennessee, in 1962 (58).

Ray Reginal Hudson, born May 31, 1908, lives in Jackson, Tennessee.

Martha Louise Hudson, born February 1, 1910, married Bill Hodby and lives in Scottsdale, Kentucky (58).

John Robert Hudson, born March 8, 1912, and lives in Greenville, Kentucky.

Mark Ransom Hudson, Jr. was born on July 8, 1914. He graduated from West Point Military Academy and was killed in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II with the rank of Major.

Ralph Bobbitt Hudson, born October 10, 1916, married Margaret Debow. He died on September 29, 1963, in Paris, Arkansas, where he had resided for several years. He was a graduate of the Dyer High School and the University of Tennessee. He was a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter at Dyer. He resigned as Alderman of Dyer when he moved to Paris, Arkansas. Besides his wife he is survived by four children: Nancy, Bob, Don, and Mark Hudson, all of Paris, Arkansas (74).

Mary Frances Hudson, the last child of Mark Ransom Hudson and Mary Frances (Bobbitt) Hudson, was born at Dyer, Tennessee, on June 25, 1920. Mary married Harry H. Hurt and makes her home in Atlanta, Georgia (72).

Mary Frances (Bobbitt) Hudson, the mother of the eight children named above, maintains a residence at Dyer but now (1969) makes her home with her daughter, Mary Frances (Hudson) Hurt, in Atlanta, Georgia (72).

Jessie Bobbitt, the eighth child of James Robert Bobbitt and Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt, was born on September 17, 1885, and died on March 4, 1963. Jessie married Joseph Cornelius Raines in December 1907 (58).

Emma Suzanne Bobbitt, the ninth and last child of James Robert Bobbitt and Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt, was born at Dyer, Tennessee, on March 7, 1888. Emma married Albert Len Michael in Logansport, Ind.

on March 27, 1920. Albert Len Michael was born in Madison County, Indiana, on June 20, 1892 (73). A son, Albert Lynn Michael, was born to that union on April 17, 1921, at Topeka, Kansas. Altho the spelling of the middle name of the son is somewhat different from that of his father, he is, however, referred to as Albert Lynn Michael, Junior.

Albert Lynn Michael, Jr. married Helen Palmer on May 25, 1942, in Anderson, Indiana. A son, Eric Lynn Michael, was born to that union on June 24, 1943. Eric Lynn Michael married Anita Darwin Ayres on November 22, 1961. A son, Gerald Eric Michael, was born to Eric and Anita on July 24, 1963. Albert Lynn Michael, Jr. was married a second time; this second marriage was to Helen Church. A daughter, Janet Jean Michael, was born to this second union on July 24, 1949 (73).

Emma Suzanne (Bobbitt) Michael, previously named, now lives (1969) on her farm near Noblesville, Indiana.

SECTION XIII

Ina Bobbitt (XII - 6), the daughter of James Robert Bobbitt and Mary Suzanne (Orr) Bobbitt, was born at Dyer, Gibson County, Tennessee, on Saturday, January 29, 1881 (75).

Ina Bobbitt attended the school at Dyer and after graduating from the Dyer High School she entered a teaching career and taught for three years at a rural school near Kenton, Tennessee. In April, 1902, she moved to Denton, Texas, where friends of hers were then living. For several years thereafter she taught school at the neighboring town of Pilot Point, Texas.

On January 6, 1909, Ina Bobbitt married James Latney Noel in Pilot Point. The couple made their home in Pilot Point until Mr. Noel's death. Mr. Noel was born near Lexington, Mississippi, on January 31, 1875, and died at Pilot Point on December 17, 1969. Altho Mr. Noel used the name Latney as his middle name, the true and correct spelling is Latane. Among his many friends Mr. Noel was called Banks; that was a nickname given him by his father in memory of a Civil War veteran of that name who was a friend of the father.

Mr. Noel was a prominent citizen of Pilot Point. In November 1932 he was elected the 10th Mayor of the town; he resigned that post in September 1935 to accept an appointment as Postmaster. Mr. Noel's portrait now hangs in the City Hall at Pilot Point.

After her marriage Ina (Bobbitt) Noel continued her teaching career and also her efforts to attain still further educational achievements. In 1936, at age 55, she was graduated from the Teacher's College at Denton with a major in Elementary Education.

Ina Bobbitt Noel was reared at Dyer as a Cumberland Presbyterian but is now a member of the Methodist Church. As a descendant of Lewis Bobbitt, whose record is covered in Section VI, Mrs Noel is a member of the Denton Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, National Number 503175.

The author is indebted to Mrs. Noel for her unfailing encouragement in the preparation of this family history, for furnishing copies of certain family documents and for her numerous letters, many of which contained interesting items of family lore.

Mrs. Ina Bobbitt Noel carried herself with a certain befitting dignity, is soft spoken, cultured and refined and exhibits the gracious Southern Manner that is in keeping with the true nature of this distinguished and beloved lady.

Following the death of Mr. Noel, Mrs. Noel makes her home with her son, Judge James L. Noel, in Houston, Texas.

Two children were born to James and Ina (Bobbitt) Noel, as follows:

1. James Latane Noel, Jr.
2. David Bobbitt Noel

James Letane Noel, Jr. was born in Pilot Point, Denton County, Texas, on October 29, 1909 (76). James was educated in the local schools and later earned a degree in law at Southern Methodist University at Dallas. As a result of a distinguished career in the legal profession, James L. Noel, Jr. was appointed to the Federal Bench on March 17, 1962, by President John F. Kennedy. Judge Noel makes his home in Houston, Texas.

On April 21, 1942, James L. Noel, Jr. married Virginia Ernestine Grubbs in Austin, Texas. Virginia was born on December 20, 1916, in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Five children have been born to Judge and Mrs. James L. Noel, Jr., as follows:

James Latane Noel, III
Born October 15, 1948

Carol Annelle Noel
Born May 13, 1951

Edmund Orr Noel
Born August 7, 1952

William David Noel
Born September 10, 1954

Robert Cornelius Noel
Born September 3, 1957

The five children of Judge and Mrs. James L. Noel, Jr., as named above, were born in Houston, Texas.

David Bobbitt Noel, the second child of James and Ina (Bobbitt) Noel, was born in Pilot Point, Texas, on September 20, 1915 (77). David attended the local schools and was later graduated from Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas. Mr. David Bobbitt Noel is now in the insurance business in Dallas.

David married Marion Elizabeth Wunderle who was born on January 31, 1921, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Marion is a graduate of Wellesley College in Wellesly, Massachusetts.

Before his marriage David was a Lieutenant in the Navy during World War II, and Marion was a Lieutenant in the Waves.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. David Bobbitt Noel, as follows:

David Bobbitt Noel, Jr.
Born July 28, 1950

Nancy Noel
Born March 31, 1952

Richard Horace Noel
Born August 7, 1955

The above children were each born in Dallas, Texas.