

Descendants of Joseph Neely and Martha R. Johnston

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(1) JOSEPH NEELY was born aboard ship 25 Oct 1758 en route from Scotland.¹ He was the son of Charles Neely. As a boy Joseph learned the blacksmith's trade.² At the age of 17 he enlisted in Capt. John Marshall's Company, Col. Samuel Miles' Battalion, which was raised in Hanover Township, Dauphin Co. (now Lancaster Co.), near Harrisburg, Penn., in April 1776. They were called the Pennsylvania Rifle Regulars.³ He was a sharpshooter.⁴ According to Elsie Neely, he trained for almost three months, and was in Philadelphia 4 Jul 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed. He saw his first action in a skirmish at Perth Amboy, N.Y.⁵

On 27 Aug 1776, Neely was captured at the battle of Flatbush, along with Colonel Miles, several officers, and over 300 men.⁶ He escaped from a prison ship in New York harbor and swam ashore, going first to Pennsylvania, then to Virginia and later rejoining his regiment.⁷

Marshall's Company crossed the Delaware with Gen. George Washington at Coryell's Ferry on 25 Dec 1776. It is possible that Joseph Neely rejoined his company in time to make this "celebrated crossing."⁸

Neely was wounded in the ankle in the Battle of Brandywine 11 Sep 1777.⁹ According to one source, he was lame for the rest of his life. He was said to have been put into prison again,

¹ *Neely Family in America*, a typescript manuscript written in late 1920s.

² "Tribute is Paid Joseph Neely," in a Princeton, Ind., newspaper dated 14 Oct 1929.

³ DAR Application #241160, of Eloise Adams. See also: Pennsylvania Archives, 2nd. Series, Vol. 10, p. 233.

⁴ Various DAR Lineage books, based on DAR applications, state he was a sharpshooter.

⁵ Elsie Neely, *Neely Family*, written in the 1930s.

⁶ "Neely Family History," a manuscript put together in 1928, by Virgil H. Lockwood. It includes a typescript copy of a diary of Neely's regiment: "August 27 1776, ordered to Flatbush and met by 5000 men and 500 horses of enemy. We numbered 400. Defeated, captured Col. Miles and several officers and 310 men." An added handwritten note (added by Lockwood) states "including Joseph Neely." This is the only known source that states where Neely was captured, although other sources say he was captured.

⁷ "At one time he was captured by the British but escaped from the prison ship together with Andrew Ralston and swam ashore, later rejoining his regiment" from "Tribute is Paid Joseph Neely". DAR Application #241160, of Eloise Adams states: "He was on the prison ship in the New York harbor, escaped and went through Pennsylvania into Virginia."

⁸ "Neely Family History." Virgil Lockwood added the note "Celebrated crossing" to the typescript diary. It seemed to me that it would be unlikely that he would have noted this if Neely was not among the soldiers who crossed with Washington. On the other hand, Elsie Neely's account of the family doesn't mention the crossing.

⁹ Ibid. Handwritten note by entry pertaining to battle of Brandywine states "Neely was wounded in ankle." Membership Roster & Soldiers, Tennessee DAR, Vol. 1, Pt. 2, p. 1206, states that he was "wounded in the foot" but does not say in which battle.

escaping for a second time.¹⁰ He was later at the battle of Germantown and may have camped at Valley Forge that winter with Gen. Washington.¹¹ Poor weather prevented supplies from reaching the soldiers. In January, warmer weather brought mud which also hindered transport. Fever (probably typhus) claimed the lives of hundreds of men.

On 6 May 1778, Neely's first enlistment ended.¹² There was a second enlistment, lasting two years, during which time Neely served as part of General Washington's bodyguard.¹³ He was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.¹⁴

In 1781 Joseph married **MARTHA ROBERTSON JOHNSTON** in Lancaster County, Penn.¹⁵ She was born in 1761 in Alexandria, Va.,¹⁶ and was the daughter of Thomas Johnston and Ann Findley.¹⁷ Thomas Johnston was Joseph's employer as a boy.¹⁸

The family lived in Washington County, Penn., from 1781 to 1790¹⁹ and then migrated to Kentucky, near Lexington, where they lived about two years. They then moved to Mercer County.²⁰ According to recollections of Joseph's daughter, Patsey, the family embarked from Pittsburgh on a large flat boat loaded with flour and horses for the New Orleans markets. They came down the Ohio as far as Maysville, Ky.²¹ In 1803 they continued down the Ohio from Maysville to the landing where Evansville, Ind., is now located. Neely received a grant of land in Indiana in 1805 for his Revolutionary War services.²²

According to an article in the Evanston Journal, Joseph, his wife, one son and six daughters made the journey to Indiana "on horseback, without any road other than a bridle path, or Indian trail, never once crossing a bridge the whole distance. The rivers in the route were ferried and the creeks forded. Once the family camped on the bank of a swollen stream two or

¹⁰ Elsie Neely, *Neely Family*.

¹¹ "Neely Family History." His compiled Service Record at National Archives also shows that Neely was paid for the months of November and December 1777 as a member of Marshall's company. (Unfortunately, there is no other record of Neely's service at the Archives.)

¹² Ibid. Typewritten: "May 6, 1778, Final parade." Handwritten note "End of Neely's first enlistment."

¹³ Elsie Neely, *Neely Family*.

¹⁴ Membership Roster and Soldiers, Tennessee DAR, Vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 1206. Also, the Biographical Cyclopedia of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, (1897), p. 44, states that Joseph Neely was at the siege of Yorktown.

¹⁵ Charles A. Fisher, comp., Central Pennsylvania Marriages 1700-1896, pt. VII, p. 83. Other sources agree on the year.

¹⁶ A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana DAR (1976), p. 473. This is the only source that gives her place of birth. Other sources give the same year.

¹⁷ Elsie Neely, *Neely Family*.

¹⁸ "Tribute is Paid Joseph Neely."

¹⁹ *Neely Family in America*, p. 1, states "Lived in Washington County, Pa., 1781 to 1790."

²⁰ Joseph Tartt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, (1884), pp. 54, states "In 1790 Mr. Neely and family moved to Kentucky and lived for about two years near Lexington in that state; then moved to Mercer County, Ky., where Mrs. Ralston was born 19 Oct 1792." The same information is included in Gil Stormont's History of Gibson County (1914), p. 50.

²¹ Joseph Tartt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, (1884), pp. 54-55.

²² Membership Roster and Soldiers, Tennessee DAR, Vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 1206.

three days waiting for the water to fall enough so that it could be forded. The family settled upon a tract of land in Gibson County, two miles south of Haselton, near the line of the E & C.R.R."²³

According to some sources, Joseph Neely died on 26 Oct 1811, in Gibson County, Ind.²⁴ Martha is said to have died between 1811 and 1813. However, the newspaper article cited above stated that Joseph died the year following his coming to Indiana, which would put his death in about 1806. This same source states that Martha died "some five years later."²⁵

Joseph Neely is buried on Neely Hill northeast of Patoka, Ind. In October 1929 the DAR unveiled a marker near where Joseph Neely lies buried. The marker stands beside the old Petersburg-Evansville trail.²⁶ More than 200 persons, many of whom were descendants of Joseph Neely, attended the ceremony on the farm of Henry Jones.²⁷

Children:

2. [ELIZABETH NEELY](#), b. 1 Jan 1782; d. 27 Dec 1827; m. JOHN RALSTON
3. **THOMAS NEELY**, b. 9 Oct 1784; d. 1814;²⁸ unm.; served in War of 1812²⁹ According to Elsie Neely, "in 1813, Thomas, with Edward Hogan, built the first bridge in White River Township across the Patoka River. It was a toll bridge, built of logs, and it did much to increase the family income. But Thomas' career was cut short when a pestilence known as the "black plague" swept through the country and in 1814 he died."
4. **ANNA NEELY**, b. 6 Jan 1786; d. about 1860, in Gibson Co., Ind.;³⁰ unm. According to Elsie Neely, "Anna, who, at twenty-five was still at home, ran the house. But Anna was an unhappy girl..... She had lost her lover by death and for her, life was over. She would never marry anyone else."
5. **CHARLES NEELY**, b. 22 Dec 1787; d. young, in Mercer Co., Ky.³¹
6. [JOHN ISAAC NEELY](#), b. 27 Jan 1790; d. 9 Nov 1867; m. JANE R. MONTGOMERY
7. [MARTHA \("PATSEY"\) NEELY](#), b. 19 Oct 1792; d. 27 Jul 1886; m. ANDREW D. RALSTON

²³ "A Sketch of the Life and Times of General John I. Neely," *Evansville Journal*, 24 Oct 1867.

²⁴ DAR Application #241160, of Eloise Adams. She states that he died "near White Plains." Some sources say he died in 1806, such as Tarrt & Co., p. 54.

²⁵ "A Sketch of the Life and Times of General John I. Neely," *Evansville Journal*, 24 Oct 1867.

²⁶ See findagrave.com: Joseph Neely. The marker can be found off of John Ford Road, near Trippet Rd., at Latitude: 38.45993, Longitude: -87.52992.

²⁷ "Tribute is Paid Joseph Neely"

²⁸ According to the typescript "Neely Family in America", he drowned in 1814 in Gibson Co., Ind.

²⁹ Stormont, *History of Gibson Co., Indiana*, p. 50, states that Thomas served in the War of 1812

³⁰ According to "Neely Family in America" (undated typescript.)

³¹ Ibid.

8. [CATHERINE NEELY](#), b. 13 Dec 1794; d. 10 Nov 1874; m. HENRY REEL
9. [JANE BAYARD NEELY](#), b. 14 Dec 1796; d. 25 Jan 1883; m. THOMAS JEFFERSON EVANS
10. [MARGARET NEELY](#), b. 28 Dec 1798; d. 29 Apr 1872; m. SAMUEL ADAMS
11. [JULIET G. NEELY](#), b. 18 Jul 1801; d. 19 Nov 1886, m. THOMAS M. JOHNSON
12. [DR. JOSEPH NEELY](#), b. 26 Oct 1804; d. 31 Mar 1879; m. (1st) LYDIA MONTGOMERY; m. (2nd)
NANCY E. -----

Second Generation

(2) **ELIZABETH NEELY** was born 1 Jan 1782 in Kentucky.³² She died 27 Dec 1827, in Bath County, Ky.³³ She married **JOHN RALSTON**³⁴ 13 Nov 1798, in Jassamine Co., Ky³⁵. John was born 17 Dec 1769,³⁶ in Augusta Co., VA. He was the son of John Rolson and Agnes (Nancy) -----.³⁷ He died 17 Sep 1834,³⁸ in Fleming Co., KY.

“Young Ralston and his wife were not of the patrician class, or included in the blue-grass aristocracy, as they owned no slaves, or possessed, besides their farm, little more than sound health, industry and contentment... John Ralston seems to have been ambitious that his sons should rise to a higher intellectual level than mere tillers of the soil...”³⁹

Children:⁴⁰

13. **MARTHA JOHNSTON RALSTON**, b. 20 Nov 1799; d. 13 Jul 1885; m. HENRY SANDERS
14. **DR. JOSEPH NEELY RALSTON**, b. 25 Jan 1801; d. 25 Jun 1876; m. (1st) NANCY GRANT; m. (2nd) SARAH GRANT; m. (3rd) MARGARETTA (HALL) MITCHELL
15. **NANCY BREWSTER RALSTON**, b. 15 Oct 1802; d. 1833; m. THOMAS A. STAMPER, 8 mar 1828, Bath Co., KY. No further record.
16. **MARY GRAHAM RALSTON**, b. 21 Jun 1804; d. 27 Dec 1887; m. JOHN MILTON HAWKINS
17. **REV. THOMAS NEELY RALSTON**, b. 21 Mar 1806; d. 25 Nov 1891; m. (1st) JOSEPHINE THOMPSON; m. (2nd) MARY WOELPEPPER FISTER
18. **JAMES HERVEY RALSTON**, b. 21 Oct 1807; d. May 1864; m. (1st) JANE ALEXANDER; m. (2nd) HARRIET N. JACKSON
19. **RUTH A. RALSTON**, b. 1 Aug 1809; d. 22 Jan 1876; m. ELZEAPHUS THOMAS
20. **WILLIAM HENRY RALSTON**, b. 20 Apr 1811; d. 21 Aug 1815

³² John Ralston's bible in James & Alvin Sanders, Livestock Journalists of the Midwest; also Neely Family in America." However, Membership Roster of Soldiers, Tenn. DAR, says 2 Jan 1782.

³³ Date and place of death from typescript, "Neely Family in America." However, the Joseph N. Ralston Bible record, cited above, says Elizabeth died Dec. 3, 1827.

³⁴ Said to have been married in Bourbon Co., Kentucky. <http://adamscountyilgenweb.net/bios/ralston.htm> See also <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fra55>

³⁵ However, Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society (1909) says Bourbon County.

³⁶ John Ralston's bible, cited above. Place of birth and death not given.

³⁷ **Need sources.**

³⁸ Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society

³⁹ Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society (1909).

⁴⁰ Dates of birth from Ralston Bible.

21. JOHN RALSTON, b. 24 Feb 1814; d. 4 Aug 1814
22. ELIZABETH NEELY RALSTON, b. 18 Mar 1815; d. 20 May 1817
23. ROSANNA RALSTON, b. 11 Jun 1817; d. after 1830
24. WILLIAM HENRY HERVEY RALSTON, b. 12 Oct 1819; d. 23 Nov 1892; m. (1st) MARY ESTHER WOOD; m. (2nd) MARTHA E. DODD
25. ELIZA JANE RALSTON, b. 2 May 1822; d. 25 Jul 1905; m. JAMES BEST DODD
26. ELEANOR MARSHALL RALSTON, b. 8 Feb 1824; d. 9 Jan 1860; m. WILLIAM B. THOMAS

- (6) JOHN ISAAC NEELY was born 27 Jan 1790⁴¹ perhaps near Lexington,⁴² or near Mumfordsville,⁴³ KY. He died on 9 Nov 1867 in Du Quoin, IL.⁴⁴ He was buried in the Montgomery Cemetery, Oakland City, IN.⁴⁵ John married JANE R. MONTGOMERY, daughter of Isaac Montgomery and Martha McClure, 28 Jan 1819 in Gibson Co., IN.⁴⁶ Jane was born 19 Nov 1800 in KY. She died on 28 Sep 1862⁴⁷ in Oakland City, IN. She was buried in Montgomery Cemetery, Oakland City, IN.⁴⁸

John moved from Kentucky to Gibson County, Ind., in about 1803 or 1805,⁴⁹ According to an article in the *Evansville Journal*, written at the time of his death in 1867: "At the age of sixteen, sixty-two years ago, Thomas, an older brother, and himself, made the trip together by water in two large pierouges, or canoes, lashed together. In that day the canoe was a fashionable water craft here in the West. This craft was freighted with the household goods of the then large family, numbering eleven, not counting one sister, who had previously married and remained behind. The course of this voyage was down the Green River to the Ohio; down this to the Wabash; up it to the Patoka; up that stream to what is now the town of Patoka. This long and zigzag voyage was tedious and laborious, but performed in safety. The rest of the family, consisting of father, mother, one brother, now an infant, now Dr. Neely of Owensville, Indiana, and six sisters, all mad the journey on horseback."⁵⁰

⁴¹ Bible Record, John I. and Jane R. Neely's Bible (dated 1819).

⁴² "Another Pioneer Gone," *Princeton Union Democrat*, 16 Nov 1867, retrieved via newspaperarchive.com

⁴³ "A Sketch of the Life and Times of General John I. Neely," *Evansville Journal*, 24 Oct 1867. Mumfordsville is about 100 miles southwest of Lexington.

⁴⁴ Bible Record: "John I. Neely died in Du Quoin Illinois on the 9th day of November AD 1867 aged 78 years."

⁴⁵ I visited the cemetery in 1990. Also see findagrave.com: [John Isaac Neely](http://findagrave.com)

⁴⁶ Bible record.

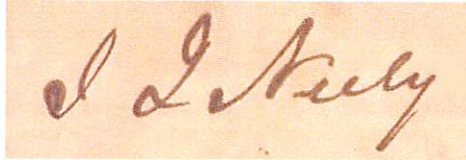
⁴⁷ Bible record.

⁴⁸ findagrave.com: Jane R. Neely

⁴⁹ "A Sketch of the Life and Times of General John I. Neely," says 1805. Some sources (?) said 1803.

⁵⁰ "A Sketch of the Life and Times of General John I. Neely," *Evansville Journal*, 24 Oct 1867.

According to an article in the *Princeton Democrat*, John I. Neely spent "considerable time" in the office of the pioneer editor Elihu Stout, of the Vincennes *Western Sun*.⁵¹ About September 20, 1811, he volunteered in Vincennes for the Company of Dragoons commanded by Capt. Benjamin Park and a Battalion commanded by Maj. Joseph H. Davis in the campaign against the Indians.⁵²



John I. Neely's signature⁵³

Tippecanoe was the Indians' capital, 150 miles north of Vincennes. Tecumseh was rallying the Indians against the steady advance of the white settlers. William Henry Harrison led 1,000 men northward to within striking distance of Prophetstown and then, yielding to appeals for a conference, encamped a mile from the village. Although promises were exchanged that no hostilities would begin before the next day, the Indians, without leaders, stormed the sleeping camp. Following the battle Harrison razed the Indian town and the battle was considered a victory. But nearly one-fourth of Harrison's men were killed or wounded. In this battle, Neely's horse was shot from under him and a spur was shot off his boot.⁵⁴

Neely was discharged at Vincennes about November 20, 1811. In 1812 at the request of Harrison he joined the North Western Army at Franklinton, OH, and was appointed by Col. James Morrison as quartermaster general, principal forage master of that wing of the Army. He continued in that duty until August 1813 when he was appointed deputy quartermaster general. He was in that position when the army crossed Lake Erie and retook Detroit.⁵⁵ He was at the Battle of Fort Meigs and at Proctor's defeat.⁵⁶

After the Battle of the Thames he was ordered to Cleveland where he took charge of the quartermaster depot in January 1814. He continued in that post until peace was declared in the spring of 1815 when he was engaged in collecting public property and disposing of it. He reported to the Adjutant General in Washington near the end of August and was directed to settle with the accountant

⁵¹ *Princeton Democrat*, May 6, 1882.

⁵² "Pension Papers of General John I. Neely," (deposition given 23 December 1850). A typescript copy is included in "Neely Family History," cited above.

⁵³ From a book, Journal of a Tour in Italy. The year 1821. Originally owned by John I. Neely, there is an inscription, "Maria Neely's Book, Presented to her, by her Father. Sep. 4th 1836." This book is in the possession of the author, unfortunately it is in bad condition with the back cover being lost and the front cover separated. The book's author is unknown, as it says "By an American."

⁵⁴ Tartt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, p. 54.

⁵⁵ "Pension Papers of General John I. Neely."

⁵⁶ "Another Pioneer Gone," *Princeton Union Democrat*, 16 Nov 1867, retrieved via newspaperarchive.com

of the War Department. He was honorably discharged by William H. Crawford, acting secretary of war.⁵⁷ At the close of the war he had been made a general of the state militia.⁵⁸

John I. Neely was one of the first trustees on the board of incorporation of Princeton, Ind.,⁵⁹ and became the first postmaster⁶⁰ of Gibson County in 1816.⁶¹ He was a justice of the peace from 1817 to 1819. He married Jane R. (Robinson?) Montgomery on January 28, 1819. She was the daughter of Isaac Montgomery and Martha McClure.

Neely was clerk and recorder of the circuit court from 1819 to 1836. His duties included keeping court records and the making of election returns.

In 1828 Neely and two others were appointed commissioners to survey a route for a road from Lake Michigan to Indianapolis.⁶² The initial survey began in May of that year and was completed by July. The commissioners and their assistants traveled 140 miles, much of the way through swampy territory. The commissioners cultivated the friendship of the Potawatomi Indians, and "one of the Indian chiefs presented Neely with his seven-year-old son, whom Neely planned to give all the benefits of education and society."⁶³

It was decided that the swampy route was impractical so a second survey was conducted in October. After this survey, John I. Neely's work on the project ended. The second route was eventually decided upon, and within ten years the road was built. The Michigan road was used by many pioneers to reach northwestern Indiana.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Tarrt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, p. 54. It is not clear if this was immediately after the war, or later. In the *Vincennes Western Sun*, March 26, 1825, we find "I am requested to say that John I. Neely of the 2nd Brigade, is a candidate for Major General of the 1st Division, Indiana Militia to fill the vacancy of Major General W. Wilson, resigned." Typescript copy in "Neely Family History."

⁵⁹ Tarrt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, p. 162.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 158.

⁶¹ Indiana Historical Society, Indiana Source Book, Vol. 2, (1981), p. 174. This source only lists the postmasters until 1825. Apparently Neely remained postmaster until 1841, when he was succeeded by his father-in-law, Isaac Montgomery.

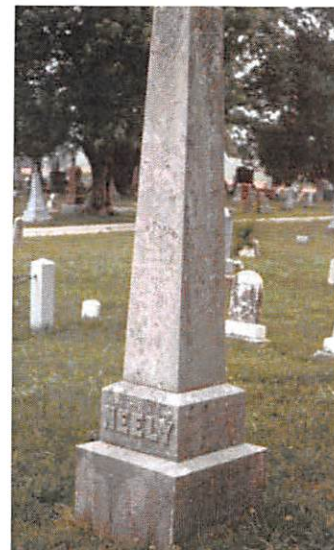
⁶² Logan Esarey, History of Indiana (1918), pp. 293.

⁶³ "The Struggle for the Michigan Road," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 16-19. Susan Truax, a researcher, recently looked up the original source for this, which is the *Indiana Journal*, July 10, 1828: "Gen. Neely, one of the Commissioners, so far gained the respect of one of the Potawatamie Chiefs - who had been a strong opposer of the late treaty - as to present to him his little son, a promising boy of about seven years old, as a mark of his confidence and regard. It is the General's intention, we understand, to afford this young son of the forest, all the benefits that may result, both from education and society."

In the 1850's John I. Neely and his wife were living in Owensville, IN.⁶⁴ Jane died September 28, 1862.⁶⁵ John was visiting his son Isaac, in Du Quoin, IL, when he died 9 Nov 1867. He and his wife are buried in the Montgomery Cemetery near Oakland City, Ind.⁶⁶ According to a county history, John I. Neely "was one of the best known men in the county. . . and is recollected by many of the pioneers, who speak of him as having been an officer of integrity and a genial, whole-souled man. He was noted for his hospitality and kindness of heart."⁶⁷

John I. Neely was a Mason. He was buried with Masonic honors, by Winslow Lodge, of which he was a member. He was said to have been one of the earliest Masons in Indiana, having become a Master Mason in 1821.⁶⁸

Children:



Gravestone of John I. Neely

27. **MARTHA ANN NEELY**, b. 16 Dec 1819; d. 6 Sep 1843; m. BENJAMIN LODGE BRIER
28. **CAROLINE NEELY**, b. 14 Sep 1821; d. 18 Sep 1885; m. (1st) MAJ. WILLIAM ALLEN THOMAS; m. (2nd) THOMAS PROVINE BERRYHILL
29. **MARIA AGNES NEELY**, b. 4 Dec 1823; d. 30 Jun 1852; m. HUGH B. MONTGOMERY
30. **DR. ISAAC MONTGOMERY NEELY**, b. 18 Jul 1826; d. 4 Jun 1906; m. MARY CATHERINE ELSTUN
31. **REV. JOSEPH WARRICK NEELY**, b. 12 Jan 1829; d. 16 Jan 1898; m. ELIZABETH CLARK
32. **ELIZABETH JANE NEELY**, b. 21 Nov 1831; d. 25 Nov 1930; m. DAVID L. BRYANT
33. **MARY FRANCES NEELY**, b. 30 Oct 1838; d. 1 Jan 1928; m. EZRA WOODS
34. **MARGARET CATHERINE NEELY**, b. 12 May 1841; d. 27 Nov 1907; m. REV. WILLIAM BEEBE CRAWFORD

⁶⁴ D. B. Montgomery, The Montgomerys and Their Descendants, (1903), p. 244, states "Along in the fifties he lived in Owensville, Ind., in a house that occupied the lot on which now stands the department store of Geo. R. Welborn."

⁶⁵ Bible record.

⁶⁶ I visited the cemetery in 1990 and again in 2009 . See findagrave.com: [John Isaac Neely](http://findagrave.com)

⁶⁷ Tarrt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, pp. 54, 158, 192.

⁶⁸ Princeton Union Democrat, 16 Nov 1867, retrieved via newspaperarchive.com

(7). **MARTHA ("PATSY") NEELY** was born 19 Oct 1792 in Mercer Co., KY. She died 27 Jul 1886 in Ft. Branch, IN, at age 93. She was buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Ft. Branch, IN.⁶⁹

Martha married **ANDREW D. RALSTON** 27 Nov 1817, in Montgomery Co., KY.⁷⁰ Andrew was born in Kentucky in about 1794, the son of William Ralston and (Agnes) Nancy McClure. He was the nephew of John Ralston, husband of Elizabeth Neely. He died 4 Jan 1829 in Ft. Branch, IN,⁷¹ at age 35.

Soon after their marriage, Andrew and Patsy moved to Princeton, Gibson County, IN.⁷²

Patsy Neely Ralston's recollections are recorded in Tarrt's History of Gibson County, Indiana, 1884. This source states that, at the age of 92, "she seems to possess a memory unimpaired." After her parents died, she "returned to Kentucky and lived with a sister in Bath County, near Licking River. Here she became acquainted with and married Andrew D. Ralston in November, 1817, remaining in that vicinity until May 1, 1818, when she returned to this county with her husband and settled in Princeton. He was a blacksmith and worked at his trade there about eight years. In 1826 they moved on a farm about one mile southeast of Fort Branch. There Mr. Ralston died Jan. 4, 1829."

In 1884, the book goes on to say, "Mrs. Ralston has been blind the past nine years, occasioned by neuralgia. Her general health is, however, very good, and her mind very clear on events that occurred in her younger years."

Children:

35. **DR. WILLIAM G. RALSTON**, b. 13 Feb 1819; d. 11 Aug 1914; m. ISABELLA HELEN MATTHEWSON

36. **MARTHA J. RALSTON**, b. 10 Dec 1820, d. 17 Apr 1908; m. HIRAM ABIFF HOPKINS

37. **Child**, "accidentally killed on the farm at the age of seven"

38. **NANCY AMERICA RALSTON**, b. 24 Jul 1825; d. 6 Apr 1912; m. SILAS MERCER HOLCOMB

39. **ELIZABETH "LIZZIE" RALSTON**, b. 16 Dec 1827; d. 8 Jan 1899; bur. Walnut Hill Cem., Ft. Branch, IN; m. (1st) JOHN FINCH, 21 Sep 1852 in Gibson Co., IN; m. (2nd) ISRAEL HEMENWAY, 27 Jun 1877 Gibson Co., IN. Israel was born on 18 Jan 1810 in NY. He died on 7 Apr 1886 in IN. He was buried in Hemenway Cem., Warrick Co., IN.

(8) **CATHERINE NEELY** was born 13 Dec 1794⁷³ in KY. She died 10 Nov 1874 in Ft. Branch?, Gibson Co., IN.⁷⁴ She was buried in Woods Cem., Union Twp., Gibson Co., IN.

Catherine married **HENRY REEL** 7 May 1815, in Gibson Co., IN.⁷⁵ Henry was born on 14 Feb 1793,⁷⁶ in KY. He was the son of John and Catherine (Stooky) Reel, who were natives of New York state. He died 25 Mar 1871 in Gibson Co., IN.⁷⁷ He was buried in Woods Cemetery, Union Twp., Gibson Co., IN.

⁶⁹ http://www.ingenweb.org/ingibson/Cemeteries_wPhotos/UnionTwp/Walnut%20Hill/UN_WalnutHill_Ra-Rh.html

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⁷¹ Joseph Tarrt & Co., History of Gibson County, Indiana, (1884), pp. 54-55.

⁷² Memoirs of the Lower Ohio Valley, (1905), p. 348.

⁷³ Neely Family in America (manuscript).

⁷⁴ Ibid.

In 1850, Catherine and Henry lived in Johnson Twp., Gibson County, with six children and three grandchildren. His occupation was farmer.⁷⁸ They continued to live there in 1860 and 1870.

According to Stormont's History of Gibson County, Henry Reel was one of the early settlers of Gibson County, who "first located near Patoka, moving shortly thereafter to Johnson township, where he bought a piece of land from [John I. Neely]... Here he settled with his family, later taking up government land, and on this place raised a family of twelve children and lived to a ripe old age. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, he drove a stage for a time between Evansville and Vincennes. He was a man of great energy and action and a leader in his time. During the Indian wars in Tecumseh's time, Mr. Reel took an important part in the suppression of the troublesome redskins."⁷⁹

Children:⁸⁰

40. JOHN REEL, b. 13 Feb 1816; said to have d. 1866; m. HELENA -----
41. ELIZA ANN REEL, b. 15 Aug 1817; m. DR. GEORGE HALBROOK
42. ELIZABETH REEL, b. 13 Feb 1819; d. 1836
43. JOSEPH NEELY REEL, b. 31 Oct 1820; d. 19 Oct 1896; m. PHEOBE ANN CARNAHAN
44. DAVID L. REEL, b. 31 Aug 1822; no further record⁸¹
45. MARGARET ANN REEL, b. 6 May 1824, d. 17 Apr 1853; bur. Woods Cem.; m. GEORGE WASHINGTON CLEVELAND
46. ELEANOR REEL, b. 25 Dec 1825; m. JAMES HUMPHREYS
47. MARTHA JOHNSTON REEL, b. 3 Sep 1827; d. 17 May 1911, Oakland City, IN; m. GEORGE BELOAT
48. DR. SAMUEL ADAMS REEL, b. 3 May 1829; d. 2 Mar 1912; m. ELIZA GAMMELL ADAMS
49. THOMAS JEFFERSON REEL, b. 24 Jan 1831; d. 1919; bur. Oswego Cem., Oswego, KS; m. NANCY A. BICKNELL
50. HENRY CLAY REEL, b. 2 Oct 1832; d. 20 Sep 1932; bur. Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, CA; m. (1st) CATHERINE GILMORE; m. (2nd) SARAH ANN LEWIS
51. FRANKLIN MOSES REEL, b. 11 Aug 1834; m. MARY -----
52. CATHERINE NEELY REEL, b. 31 Dec 1836; d. 1919; m. CHARLES FAIRBANKS
53. NANCY JANE REEL, b. 17 Sep 1838; m. (1st) BENONI (?) WHEELER; m. (2nd) H. H. SNYDER

⁷⁵ Ancestry.com: Indiana Compiled Marriages, 1802-1850.

⁷⁶ Photo of gravestone:

http://www.ingenweb.org/ingibson/Cemeteries_wPhotos/UnionTwp/Woods_Deweese/Woods_Deweese.html

⁷⁷ History of Coles Co., Illinois, p. 583.

⁷⁸ 1850 census.

⁷⁹ Stormont, History of Gibson County, Indiana, pp. 582-3.

⁸⁰ The birthdates of all fourteen of their children are given in the History of Coles Co., Illinois. I have seen the eldest son called "John Minus Reel" but have not found proof of his middle name.

⁸¹ Said to have died in 1922, but this seems doubtful as he is not found on any census records.

(9) **JANE BAYARD NEELY** was born 14 Dec 1796 in KY. She died 26 Jan 1883 in Crawfordsville, IN.⁸² She married **THOMAS JEFFERSON EVANS** 23 Oct 1823 in Gibson Co., IN.⁸³

According to Stormont's History of Gibson County, Thomas Jefferson Evans was a brother of Gen. Robert M. Evans, for whom Evansville, IN, was named. He may have been the son of Gen. James Evans and Elizabeth McMillian.⁸⁴ Thomas is said to have moved to Gibson County in 1810, engaging in business in Princeton, IN. He "moved to Iowa in 1840 and was appointed a judgeship" and "died there in the same year."⁸⁵

An obituary stated that he died 13 Nov 1841, in Burlington, IA, and that he had "early emigrated" with his father to Indiana. "At the age of twenty he was admitted to the Bar, and practiced in the southern counties. He subsequently removed to the Upper Wabash country. He was a member of the Legislature for many years and represented a county (Fountain) decided opposed to him in national politics. He was chairman of the committee on Canals and Improvements, when the 'Mammoth System' was adopted. He was chosen Speaker to the House of Representatives at two successive sessions. He was selected as a candidate for Congress in 1839 to run against Gen. Howard." The obituary goes on to say, "The Burlington Hawk Eye, in noticing this dispensation, says 'The District Court adjourned on Monday, the day of his funeral, and the members of the bar passed appropriate resolutions; the Masonic Fraternity paid due honors to their departed brother, and the general turnout of the citizens was sufficient evidence that the vacuum thus created was felt and appreciated.'"⁸⁶

In 1860, Jane and is listed on the census living with her son John N. Evans, his wife Mary, and Jane's unmarried daughter Caroline. They lived in Richland Twp., Greene County, IN. By 1870 she was living with daughter Caroline, now married, in Perrysville, Vermillion Co., IN, and continued to live there (now Highland Twp, part of Perrysville), in 1880.

Children:⁸⁷

54. **JOHN NEELY EVANS**, b. about 1828; d. 11 May 1870; m. **MARY BELDING**

55. **CAROLINE SYDNEY EVANS**, b. 30 Nov 1840; d. 3 Nov 1913; m. **DAVID CHARLES SMITH**

(10) **MARGARET NEELY** was born 28 Dec 1798⁸⁸ in KY. She died 29 Apr 1872⁸⁹ in Gibson Co., IN. She was buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Union Twp., Gibson County, IN.

⁸² Ancestry.com: Indiana Deaths, 1882-1920.

⁸³ Ancestry.com: Indiana Marriages, 1810-2001, with original image.

⁸⁴ Proof needed.

⁸⁵ History of Gibson County, p. 49.

⁸⁶ *Richmond (Ind.) Weekly Palladium*, 4 Dec 1881, available to subscribers on Newspapers.com. The Palladium copied this from the *Indiana Journal*. He was Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives in 1837 and 1838.

⁸⁷ I have seen another child, Alexander L. Evans, listed with this family, but this was probably a brother of Thomas J. Evans, not his son.

⁸⁸ An old scrap of paper passed down through my family: "Margaret Neely born Dec. the 28th 1798."

⁸⁹ Gravestone, although difficult to read from photograph. DAR Application #241160 only says Apr 1872.

Margaret married **SAMUEL ADAMS** 4 Jul 1815 in Gibson Co., IN.⁹⁰ Samuel was born on 1 Jan 1784⁹¹ in PA. He died on 1 Aug 1861⁹² in Union Twp., Gibson Co., IN. He was also buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Samuel Adams was a farmer. In 1850, he is listed as aged 65 on the census in Johnson Township, Gibson County, wife Margaret, 46, son Thomas N., 29, and daughter Hester A., 22. In 1860 we find:

Samuel Adams, 76, "Old Farmer"
Margaret ", 61
Mariah S. ", 20
Hester A. Lucas, 32
Margaret J ", 29
McGrady ", 6
George W. "2.

Samuel left a will dated 7 Jun 1858. Probate records mention Margaret Adams, Elizabeth J. Speer, J. H. Speer, Nancy Higginbotham, Thos. N. Adams, Catherine Rutledge, J. T. Lockwood, Juliet Lockwood, Hester Ann Lucas, Martha J. Connelly, and Mariah L. Adams. His children each received 89 dollars and 75 cents.⁹³

Children

56. **MARTHA JOHNSTON ADAMS**, b. 22 Jul 1816; d. 28 Mar 1903; m. (1st) **MARK REAVIS**; m. (2nd) **HUGH M. CONNELLY**
57. **THOMAS NEELY ADAMS**, b. 21 Jan 1821; d. 27 Oct 1891; m. **MARGARET PARKER**
58. **ELIZABETH JANE ADAMS**, b. 1822; d. 18 Oct 1891; m. **JAMES H. SPEER**
59. **NANCY ANN ADAMS**, b. 25 Jun 1825; d. 15 Feb 1905; m. **JAMES G. HIGGINBOTHAM**
60. **CATHERINE ADAMS**, b. 1827; d. 4 Nov 1887; m. **MARTIN S. RUTLEDGE**
61. **HESTER ANN ADAMS**, b. 1828; d. after 1880; m. **LEVI LUCAS**
62. **JULIET NEELY ADAMS**, b. 1832; d. 1873; m. **JAMES TUCKER LOCKWOOD**
63. **Mary C. ADAMS**, b. about 1836; d. Oct 1840; bur. Woods Cem., Union Twp., IN.⁹⁴
64. **MARIA LOUISE ADAMS**, b. 28 Sep 1840 in IN; d. 17 Oct 1867; bur. Walnut Hill Cem., Union Twp, Gibson, IN; m. **THOMAS C. BRASELTON**
65. **JOHN B. FRANKLIN ADAMS**, (birth order uncertain), died in infancy, bur. Woods Cem., Union Twp., IN.

(11) **JULIET G. NEELY** was born 18 Jul 1801⁹⁵ in KY. She died 19 Nov 1886 in Virginia City, NV.⁹⁶

⁹⁰ Ancestry.com, Indiana Compiled Marriages, 1802-1892.

⁹¹ DAR Application #241160 (Eloise Adams).

⁹² From gravestone, although it is "very hard to read."

⁹³ Ancestry.com, Indiana Wills and Probate Records, 1798-1999, with original images.

⁹⁴ Gravestone says daughter of Sam. & Margaret Adams, died Oct. 1840 "in the 4 year of her age."

⁹⁵ An old scrap of paper: "Juliet Neely born July the 18th 1801."

Juliette married **THOMAS M. JOHNSON**, 4 Aug 1823, in Bath Co., KY.⁹⁷ Thomas was born about 1799 in KY. He died after 1860 in IN?.

Thomas and Juliet are listed on the 1850 census in Evansville, IN, where Thomas was a tavern keeper. With them are children Mary A., 22; William N., 20; Henry C., 8; and Laura M., 4. In 1860, they continue to live in Evansville. Thomas is then listed as a laborer, and only one child is listed with them, Laura, 14.

Thomas must have died sometime between 1860 and 1867, when an obituary of Juliet's brother John I. Neely calls her a widow.

Juliet is listed on the 1870 census living in Virginia City, NV, with daughter Mary Adkinson and her husband D.O. Adkinson. On the 1880 census she continues to live with the Adkinsons in Virginia City.

Juliet's death notice reads: "Death of a Noted Lady. Mrs. Juliet Johnson died at the residence of Judge Adkinson in this city this morning. Deceased was the mother of J. Neely Johnson, a former governor of the State of California, and of the wife of Judge Adkinson. She was a native of Kentucky, 85 years of age. The funeral will take place from the residence of Judge Adkinson, on the Geiger Grade, at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon."⁹⁸

Children:

66. **GOV. JOHN NEELY JOHNSON**, b. 2 Aug 1825; d. 31 Aug 1872; m. **MARY BREVOORT ZABRISKIE**
67. **WILLIAM NEELY JOHNSON**, b. about 1829; d. 25 Jun 1885; m. -----
68. **MARY A. JOHNSON**, b. about 1828; d. about May 1888; m. **DAVID OLIVER ADKINSON**
69. **HENRY C. JOHNSON**, b. about 1842, IN; probably died young as not listed on 1860 census
70. **LAURA M. JOHNSON**, b. about 1846, IN; living in 1860

12. **DR. JOSEPH NEELY** was born 26 Oct 1804⁹⁹ in KY. He died 31 Mar 1879 in Owensville, IN.¹⁰⁰ He is buried in the Walnut Hill Cemetery in Ft. Branch.¹⁰¹

Joseph married **LYDIA MONTGOMERY**. Lydia was born about 1805 in KY. She died in Aug 1865 in IN, at age 59. She was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Poseyville, IN.¹⁰²

Joseph married, second, **NANCY E.** -----. Nancy died on 12 Jun 1870.¹⁰³ She was buried in the Walnut Hill Cemetery, Ft. Branch.

On the 1850 census, Smith Township, Posey County, IN (Joseph and Lydia born in Kentucky, the others all born in Indiana).

Joseph Neely, 46, M.D., \$2500 value of real estate

⁹⁶ Virginia (City) Evening Chronicle, 19 Nov 1886.

⁹⁷ Ancestry.com: Kentucky County Marriages, 1783-1965.

⁹⁸ Virginia (City) Evening Chronicle, 19 Nov 1886.

⁹⁹ Old scrap of paper: "Joseph Neely was born October 26th 1804." Also Neely Family in America (manuscript).

¹⁰⁰ Neely family in America; also his gravestone, although it is somewhat difficult to read.

¹⁰¹ http://www.ingenweb.org/ingibson/Cemeteries_wPhotos/UnionTwp/Walnut%20Hill/UN_WalnutHill_N-O.html

¹⁰² findagrave.com: Lydia Neely

¹⁰³ Gravestone. She is called the "consort of Dr. J. Neely."

Lydia ", 45
Ann L. ", 22
Harriet C. Finch, 18
John Finch, 23, M.D.
John M. Neely, 14
Martha E. ", 10
Amelia J. ", 4

Also living with them, perhaps servants or roomers, were Anna Mowry, 15, and John Highman, 25, laborer.

In 1860, in Patoka Township, Gibson Co.:
Joseph Neely, 55, M.D.
Lydia, 55
Martha E., 19
Amelia J., 13
Harriet C. Whiting, 4
Wm. Ralston, 3.

We append this with an account written by Elisie Neely:

"Joseph...was still a baby when his father died. His earliest recollections were the sound of crackling logs in the huge seven-foot clay fireplace, the smell of roast venison turning on the spit, the cozy feel of his head nestling against his mother's ample bosom.

When he was six years old he started to school in the little log school house with the greased paper windows in White River Township, one of the first schools in Indiana. He worked laboriously over his letters in the old Dilworth speller, and made his ink by boiling the out-side and inner bark of the maple tree with a little copperas, into which he dipped his quill pen for the writing class.

In 1811, when he was seven years old, his mother died, and for weeks the little boy was desolate. His sisters and brothers were good to him, but they couldn't take the place of his mother.....

In 1815, (sisters) Katy and Margaret were married -- Katy to Henry Reel and Margaret to Samuel Adams. Soon after, Jane and Juliet married, leaving only Anna, John and little Joseph at home.

About this time John fell in love with Jane Montgomery, daughter of Judge Isaac Montgomery, one of the most prominent men in the state. When they married, John took Joseph, still a school boy, to live with them. The old Neely Homestead remained the property of the family until 1839, when it was sold to David Robb. So it came about that young Joseph was brought up with many more advantages than his father or even his older brothers had had.

As he entered his teens, Joseph became filled with ambition. He was determined to make his mark in life -- in what field, he did not quite know. In 1817, when the first log school house was built in Princeton (until then, unoccupied cabins had been used), he was certain that that he wanted most was to be a teacher, so he studied diligently with this end in view. Then, as he grew older and became more and more interested in his brother John's success in public life, he felt that he, too, would like to have a part in building up the government of the young state.

About 1826 he was appointed assessor and appraiser of Gibson County and soon after that was made sheriff, which post he held for one year. About this time, the practice of medicine, which was fast growing into a recognized profession, took his fancy, and he decided to become a doctor.

Early in the nineteenth century, medical schools were almost unknown. When a boy decided to become a doctor he entered the office of a practicing physician, where, between dusting out the office and watching the old doctor treat his patients, he was allowed to read what medical books the doctor possessed. Memorizing "Gray's Anatomy" was an important part of his education. After four years of "reading under the doctor" he was supposed to be ready for practice.

In order to make a living while he was studying to be a doctor, Joseph taught school, spending all his spare time poring over the medical books. One year he taught at the district school in Bruceville and another year in another district school near Vincennes. In 1831 and 1832, he was teaching in Evansville, where one of his pupils was the son of his sister Patsey -- another Andrew Ralston.

His ambition to become a doctor was further spurred on by his love for Lydia Montgomery, a relative of the sister-in-law in whose home he had grown up. It was most difficult for a school teacher to support a wife for much of the pay he received was in food and lodging at the homes of his pupils. So Joseph spent all the time he could on his study of medicine.

Finally the great day arrived when the old doctor told him he was equipped to start practicing. The little town of Newburg kind no physician and Joseph decided that here was the place he wanted to begin his career. Soon the shelves in the back room of his office were loaded with bottles and boxes of medicine, for every doctor was his own druggist, and he proudly hung out the shingle which told the townspeople that Dr. Joseph Neely, Physician and Surgeon, was ready to treat their ailments.

Joseph was a big, blue eyed, jolly man, and the people here were completely won over by his sympathetic interest in them, and the calm, efficient way he went about treating them.

His practice flourished from the beginning and in a very short time he was able to bring his little brown-eyed bride to Newburg to make a home for him.

Lydia Montgomery Neely presented quite a contrast to her large, bluff, cheery husband. She was a small, gentle woman to whom the beautiful things in life were as important as the practical. Breeding showed in every line of her face, in every word she spoke.

Their home was a happy one. Joseph was able to supply most of the comforts of life for his family and Lydia, in her quiet manner, made their home an attractive, pleasant place for her husband to return to after hard days on the country roads looking after his patients."

Children:

71. ANN LOUISA NEELY, b. about 1828; d. before 1862; m. DR. JOHN SHANKLIN WHITING
72. HARRIET CATHERINE NEELY, b. about 1832; m. DR. JOHN FINCH
73. Dr. John Marshall Neely, b. 18 Feb 1836; d. 18 May 1897; m. (1st) ELLEN SMITH; m. (2nd) LENA MARIE MIKELSON
74. Martha E. Neely, b. about 1840; m. JOSEPH NEWTON WOODS

75. **Indiana Neely**, b. Apr 1842 in IN; d. 14 Apr 1844 in IN; bur. Mount Pleasant Cem., Poseyville, IN.¹⁰⁴
76. **Amelia Josephine Neely**, b. about 1846; m. ROBERT ST. CLAIR 6 Dec 1865 in Gibson Co., IN; no further record; they may have moved to Mississippi.

¹⁰⁴ [findagrave.com: Indiana Neely](https://www.findagrave.com/entry/104)

Third Generation

13. **MARTHA JOHNSTON "PATSY" RALSTON** was born 20 Nov 1799¹⁰⁵ in Bourbon Co., KY. She died on 13 Jul 1885 in Knoxville, IA, at the residence of her daughter, Elizabeth (Sanders) Downs.¹⁰⁶ She was buried in Talleyrand Cem, Keokuk, IA.¹⁰⁷

Martha married **HENRY SANDERS** 23 Jan 1816 in Bath Co., KY.¹⁰⁸ She was just 16 years old. Henry was born on 28 Aug 1788 in Botetort Co., VA, and was the son of Samuel Sanders and Nancy Reed. He died 18 Dec 1862 in Keokuk Co., IA, and was buried in Talleyrand Cemetery, Keokuk, IA.¹⁰⁹

Henry was a veteran of the War of 1812, and was granted bounty land for his service. In 1826, he and his family moved to Mill Creek Township, Union County, OH, and by 1833, to nearby Scioto, Delaware County. In 1852, Henry and Patsy moved to Keokuk County, IA.¹¹⁰ By 1856, Henry and Patsy were living in Clear Creek Township, Keokuk Count, IA.¹¹¹ Henry Sanders left a will, in which he directs that his wife and daughter should receive the mare "Nelly."¹¹²

Children:

77. **ELIZABETH R. SANDERS**, b. 15 Apr 1817 Bath Co., KY; d. 20 Feb 1907 in Knoxville, IA; bur. Forest Cem., Oskaloosa, IA.; m. (1st) **ALEXANDER WRIGHT**, 20 Nov 1839, Delaware Co., OH.; m. (2nd) **AMBROSE DOWNS**, 20 Jul 1847, Delaware Co., OH

78. **JOSIAH MARTIN SANDERS**, b. 14 Nov 1818; d. 16 Apr 1891; m. (1st) **CELINA ANN SAID**; m. (2nd) **MATILDA L. DODDS**; m. (3rd) **MARGARET LEE**; m. (4th) **ADELAIDE MCCAMPBELL**

79. **JOHN R. SANDERS**, b. 1 Jan 1821, Bath Co., KY; d. 25 Jul 1845; m. **NANCY T. ABRAHAM**, 20 Aug 1844, Union Co., OH.

80. **SAMUEL REED SANDERS**, b. 10 Jan 1823; d. 14 Nov 1898; m. **LOUISA J. TURNER**

81. **NANCY VIRGINIA SANDERS**, b. 7 Oct 1824; d. 16 Aug 1864; m. **WILLIAM MCLEAN ABRAHAM**

82. **JOSEPH NEELY SANDERS**, b. 27 Sep 1827; d. 16 Nov 1913; m. (1st) **OLIVE DICKS**; m. (2nd) **LUCY E. O'HARA**

¹⁰⁵ Bible record of Josiah Martin Sanders, in James & Alvin Sanders, Livestock Journalists of the Midwest (1985).

¹⁰⁶ Obituary of Patsy Sanders, in *Sigourney News*. Her obituary claims she was related to the famous orator Patrick Henry, and also to Gen. Joseph Johnston. It is not known if this is correct or not. The obit contains some errors, such as saying Gov. "Joseph Neely Johnston" (should be John Neely Johnson).

¹⁰⁷ findagrave.com: Patsy Ralston Sanders

¹⁰⁸ Ancestry.com: Kentucky Compiled Marriages, 1802-1850.

¹⁰⁹ findagrave.com: Henry Sanders. His gravestone gives his date of death as Dec. 18, 1862, and his age as 70 years and 4 months.

¹¹⁰ Obituary of Patsy Sanders, in *Sigourney News*.

¹¹¹ Keota Centennial History, 1973, online at: http://iagenweb.org/keokuk/histories/keotacent/pgs_251-265.html

¹¹² James & Alvin Sanders, Livestock Journalists of the Midwest

83. **MARTHA ELLEN SANDERS**, b. 22 Aug 1828; d. 25 Mar 1895; m. ARCHIBALD STEELE IRWIN
84. **RUTH T. SANDERS**, b. 12 Oct 1830, OH; d. 29 Aug 1876 ,Keokuk Co., IA; bur. Talleyrand Cem., Talleyrand, IA; unm.
85. **JAMES HARVEY SANDERS**, b. 9 Oct 1832; d. 22 Dec 1899; m. MARTHA RODGERS
86. **MARY JANE SANDERS**, b. 5 Jan 1835; d. 22 Aug 1914, Knoxville, IA; bur. Graceland Cem.; m. (1st) EBENEZER T. ROBERTSON, 1 Mar 1855; m. (2nd) WILLIAM BLACK, 31 Dec 1877
87. **SAMANTHA EMELINE SANDERS**, b. 31 Jul 1837; d. 2 Jul 1915; m. HARLAN ARTEMAS HERRICK
88. **CELINDA ADELAIDE SANDERS**, b. 7 Jul 1839; d. 11 Mar 1916; m. HENRY J. TURNER
89. **CAROLINE W. SANDERS**, b. 20 Nov 1843; d. 5 Jan 1902; m. CHARLES C. HERRICK

(14) **DR. JOSEPH NEELY RALSTON**¹¹³ was born 25 Jan 1801, in Bourbon County, KY.¹¹⁴ He died 25 Jun 1876, in Quincy, IL. He married three times, first, on 9 Feb 1825, in Bourbon Co., KY, **NANCY GRANT**,¹¹⁵ who was born in about 1807, the daughter of Robert Grant.¹¹⁶ He had three children by his first wife, only one of which lived to adulthood.¹¹⁷ He married, second, **SARAH GRANT**, 4 May 1833, in Bourbon Co. There were no children by his second wife. He married, third, **MARGARETTA (HALL) MITCHELL**, 31 May 1837, in Adams County, IL.¹¹⁸ She was born 28 Mar 1818, in Cincinnati, OH.¹¹⁹ She had a daughter, Mary B. Mitchell, by a previous marriage, who later became the wife of ----Hollowbush.¹²⁰



J. N. Ralston
Dr. Joseph Neely Ralston

After the death of his first wife, Joseph “turned his attention to scientific pursuits, attended medical lectures in Lexington, Ky., and in 1832 removed to Quincy [Illinois] and entered upon the practice of medicine.”¹²¹

(This section is in progress)

¹¹³ See <http://myralstonfamily.com/My%20Ralston%20Family%20story%208.html>

¹¹⁴ *History of Adams County, Illinois* (1879), p. 680.

¹¹⁵ Ancestry.com: Kentucky Compiled Marriages, 1802-1850 (database.) However Ancestry.com: Kentucky County Marriages 1783-1965, with typescript image, shows the date of “2-7-1825.”

¹¹⁶ Ancestry.com: Kentucky County Marriages 1783-1965 says “f.-Robert” next to Nancy’s name.

¹¹⁷ *History of Adams County, Illinois* (1879), p. 680.

¹¹⁸ Ancestry.com: Illinois Marriage Index, 1860-1920. The index calls her “Margueretta H. Mitchell.”

¹¹⁹ Parents??

¹²⁰ Source needed.

¹²¹ *History of Adams County, Illinois* (1879), p. 680.

Children, by his first wife Nancy:

90. **VIRGIL YOUNG RALSTON**, b. 16 Jul 1828; d. 19 Apr 1864; m. CHARLOTTE "LOTTIE" TAYLOR
91. **child**, died young
92. **child**, died young

Children, by his third wife, Margueretta:

93. **EMELIE JOSEPHINE RALSTON**, b. 17 Apr 1840; d. 8 Feb 1917; m. JACOB WHITE CALDWELL
94. **IDA ANN RALSTON**, b. 19 Dec 1841; d. 8 Apr 1903; m. EDGAR ROBBINS MORRIS
95. **MARGARETTA HALL RALSTON**, b. Mar 1844; d. 27 Mar 1916; m. WILLIAM CHARLES
96. **THERESA RALSTON**, b. Jun 1849; d. 10 Jul 1879; unkm.
97. **MARY NEELY "MINNE" RALSTON**, b. 12 Oct 1859; d. 24 Jul 1923; m. PHILLIP CADY HAYDEN

(16) MARY GRAHAM "POLLY" RALSTON was born 21 Jun 1804 in Bourbon Co., KY. She died 27 Dec 1887 in Huntingdon, TN. She was buried in Hawkins Cemetery. Mary married **JOHN MILTON HAWKINS** 8 Mar 1821,¹²² in Bath County, KY. John was born 28 Feb 1796 in Bath Co., KY.¹²³ He died 24 Jan 1852 in Huntingdon, TN.¹²⁴ He was buried in Hawkins Cemetery.

John is listed on the 1850 census as a farmer. He left a will. He states that his son Milton Hawkins "has recently departed this life" and was indebted and that he would pay the debts. The will also mentions his "beloved wife" Polly Hawkins, his son Alvin Hawkins who was to be joint executor with his wife. Other children are not mentioned by name.¹²⁵

In 1880, his widow Polly lived alone in Carrol Co., TN.

Children:

98. **Gov. ALVIN HAWKINS**, b. 2 Dec 1821; d. 27 Apr 1905; m. JUSTINA MELROSS OTT
99. **CAMILLUS HAWKINS**, b. 29 Jan 1822; d. 11 Jan 1825
100. **DR. ASHTON WILLIAM HAWKINS**, b. 12 Oct 1824; d. 9 Feb 1888; m. (1st) SARAH ANN LILLY;
m. (2nd) SARAH ANN MAY
101. **MILTON HAWKINS**, b. 21 Aug 1826, Bath Co., KY; d. 2 Jul 1850, Carroll Co., TN; bur.
Hawkins Cem.; unkm.
102. **JAMES NEELY HAWKINS**, b. 12 Apr 1828; d. about 1912; m. MATILDA A. HARRIS

¹²² John Ralston Bible record, in James & Alvin Sanders, *Livestock Journalists of the Midwest*. The Bible does not give the location, but Ancestry.com Kentucky County Marriages, 1783-1965, contains a marriage bond, dated 12 Feb 1821, from Bath County.

¹²³ Gravestone: "In Memory of John M. Hawkins, was born in Bath co., K.Y. Feb. 28, A.D. 1796..." Bath county however was not yet formed in 1796.

¹²⁴ Ibid, the place of death being "near this spot."

¹²⁵ Ancestry.com: Tennessee Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008.

103. **REV. SAMUEL J. HAWKINS**, b. 21 Aug 1830; d. 31 Jul 1888; m. (1st) **MILDRED ELLIOT TROTTER**;
m. (2nd) **EMALINE M. BURKE**
105. **JOSEPH RALSTON HAWKINS**, b. 6 Jul 1832; d. 21 Jul 1908; m. **MARY ELLEN COCHRAN**
105. **WILLIAM HARVEY HAWKINS**, b. 16 Mar 1834 d. 8 Jul 1914; m. (1st) **MARY E. BLACKWELL**;
m. (2nd) **SALLY MITCHELL**
106. **FRANKLIN HAWKINS**, b. 7 Aug 1838 in Carroll Co., TN; d. 14 Aug 1864, Harrisburg, MI; bur.
Hawkins Cem., Carroll Co., TN.
107. **ALFRED HAWKINS**, b. 24 Apr 1841 in TN; d. 1 Sep 1841 in Carroll Co., TN; bur. Hawkins
Cem.
108. **ALBERT G. HAWKINS**, b. 24 Apr 1841; d. 17 May 1908; m. (1st) **SUSAN ELLEN PRINCE**; m. (2nd)
KATE VAN HORN
109. **Camillus HAWKINS**, b. 8 Mar 1843; d. 11 Mar 1909; m. **JOANNA COLE**
110. **DR. ELVIS B. HAWKINS**, b. 31 Mar 1845 in TN; d. 5 Jul 1871; Mansfield, TN; unm.

17. **REV. THOMAS NEELY RALSTON** was born 21 Mar 1806 in Bourbon Co., KY. He died 25 Nov 1891 in Campbell Co., KY. He was buried in Lexington Cem., Lexington, KY.

Thomas married, first, **JOSEPHINE THOMPSON**. Josephine was born 10 Mar 1808 in Danville, Bath Co., KY. She died 6 Aug 1856 in Lexington, KY. She was buried in Lexington Cem., Lexington, KY.

Thomas also married **MARY WOELPEPPER PHISTER** 12 Aug 1857 in Mason Co., KY. Mary was born 21 Nov 1829 in Maysville, KY. She died 12 Feb 1908 in Maysville, KY. She was buried in Lexington Cem., Lexington, KY.

According to his obituary in the Maysville (KY) Evening Bulletin, he was "one of the pioneer Methodist preachers of Kentucky."¹²⁶

Child, by his first wife:

111. **ELIZABETH RALSTON**, b. about 1845, IL; no further record.

18. **JAMES HERVEY RALSTON** was born 21 Oct 1807 in Bourbon Co., KY. He died in May 1864 near San Antonio, NV. James married **JANE ALEXANDER**, daughter of Samuel **ALEXANDER**, 11 Oct 1832 in Quincy, IL. Jane was born 6 Oct 1811, and died 3 Jul 1847 in San Antonio, TX.

James married, second, **HARRIET NEWELL JACKSON**, 20 Oct 1853 in New York, NY. Harriet was born in Nov 1827 in NY. She died 6 Feb 1920 in Washington, DC.

Children by his first wife Jane:

¹²⁶ Maysville *Evening Bulletin*, 26 Nov 1891, retrieved via Newspapers.com.

- 112. (Child, died young)
- 113. (Child, died young)
- 114. (Child, died young)
- 115. (Child, died young)
- 116. **ELIZABETH JANE RALSTON**, b. about Jan 1845; d. 19 Apr 1876; m. **MARCELLUS CRANE TILDEN**

Children by his second wife, Harriet:

- 117. **JACKSON HARVEY RALSTON**, b. 6 Jan 1857; d. 13 Oct 1945; m. **SARA B. RANKIN**
- 118. **MARY AURORA RALSTON**, b. about 1859 in CA

19. Ruth A. RALSTON was born 1 Aug 1809 in Bourbon Co., KY. She died 22 Jan 1876 in Putnam Co., IN. She was buried in Union Chapel Cemetery, Morton, IN.

Ruth married **Elzeaphus THOMAS** 1 Nov 1830 in Bath Co., KY. Elzeaphus was born 5 Nov 1806 in Montgomery Co., KY, the son of Joel Thomas and Mary Stiles.¹²⁷ He died 22 Sep 1889 in Putnam Co., IN and was buried in Union Chapel Cem., Morton, IN.

Elzeaphus came with his parents to Putnam County, IN, in 1825, settling in Clinton Twp. "Mr. Thomas began life with but little, but prospering, he added to his place until he became one of the well-to-do of this and adjoining counties, owning at one time nineteen hundred acres of valuable land, mostly near the home place, so that he could ride horseback over his broad acres and give it his personal attention. He loaned money and traded in stock extensively, keeping all within range...He was a keen observer, a good manager and was very successful in business. Although often importuned to do so, he would never hold office, being a Democrat, but no politician."¹²⁸

Children:

- 119. **JOHN H. THOMAS**, b. 14 Nov 1831; d. 20 Apr 1909; m. **MARY E. DAVIDSON**
- 120. **ELIZABETH J. THOMAS**, b. 8 Aug 1833; d. 24 May 1919; m. **GEORGE S. FRANK**
- 121. **MARGARET THOMAS**, b. 16 Nov 1834; d. 18 Jun 1924; m. **GEORGE HARRIS COOPER**
- 122. **MARTHA "PATSY" THOMAS**, b. 16 Nov 1836; d. 12 Apr 1899; m. **RICHARD R. LLOYD**
- 123. **AMANDA ELEANOR THOMAS**, b. 16 Dec 1838; d. 19 Oct 1921; m. (1st) **PURNELL MADSON LAYTON**; m. (2nd) **HARRISON MONROE RANDEL**
- 124. **JAMES NEELY THOMAS**, b. 3 Feb 1841; d. 29 Aug 1840; m. **SARAH ANN MARSHALL**
- 125. **JOSEPH ANDREW THOMAS**, b. 10 Apr 1843; d. 9 Aug 1917; m. **NANCY CATHERINE BURKETT**
- 126. **ROSANNA JOSEPHINE THOMAS**, b. 17 Jan 1846; d. 10 May 1938; m. **EDMUND PERKINS**

¹²⁷ For parent's names: History of Putnam County, Indiana, p. 343.

¹²⁸ History of Putnam County.

127. SARAH FRANCES THOMAS, b. 19 Aug 1848; d. 5 Jan 1919; m. (1st) WAIT WARREN MYRICK; m.
(2nd) JAMES M. CROSS
128. MILTON E. THOMAS, b. 23 Apr 1851; d. 11 Jul 1898; m. AGNES G. DENTON
129. MARY AUGUSTA THOMAS, b. 13 Jan 1854; d. 5 Aug 1943; m. RUDY HARRISON BURKETT