

THE FAMILY OF CALVIN RAGSDALE

NOTE: Number in () indicate the generation, with Calvin being the first generation

(1) CALVIN RAGSDALE is said to have born 18 Jan 1820. I don't know if that is correct. He is said to have died 16 March 1871 in Lawrence County, Arkansas. In the 1900 census his son, Benjamin, said that he was born in Kentucky, his son Willis said he was born in Tennessee and his son Silas said he was born in Indiana. No one knows yet who CALVIN'S parents were. He is thought to have moved to Lawrence County, Arkansas about 1835. I have not found him in any census for that area or any of the surrounding counties, including in Missouri. The 1870 census for Lawrence Co., AR has Jane and the children but Calvin wasn't with them.

On the 30th of September 1847 CALVIN married JANE RUSSELL in Lawrence Co., AR. Jane was born about 1828 in Posey Co., Indiana and died 1871 in Lawrence Co., Arkansas. Her parents were WILLIAM RUSSELL and CHARLOTTE CULLEY.

NOTE:

WILLIAM RUSSELL was born abt 1755, Carteret Co., N. Carolina and died 1 May 1850, Posey Co., Indiana. He was the son of BENJAMIN RUSSELL and SARAH

CHARLOTTE CULLEY was born circa 1804 in N. Carolina and died pre. 1849 , Posey Co., Indiana. She was the daughter of THOMAS CULLY Jr. and ELIZABETH "BETSEY" CANADAY.

Arkansas land records show that Calvin bought 40 acres of land on September 1, 1856. It was registered at the land office in Batesville, document number 9021. Batesville is in Sharpe Co., AR now but in 1856 Sharp Co. didn't exist and that area was still part of Lawrence County.

Children of CALVIN RAGSDALE and JANE RUSSELL:

(2) 1.** WILLAM RAGSDALE, b June 1852 Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, d. 16 Oct 1883 in Lawrence Co., Arkansas. He married MARY (POLLY) ELVIRA BROWN 25 Oct 1878 Oregon County, Missouri. She was born 6 Feb 1843 in Tennessee and died 5 May 1916 in Lawrence Co., Arkansas. She was the daughter of HOLLOWAY BROWN and MARY (POLLY).

NOTE:

In the 1880 census for Lawrence Co., AR., Dent and Spring River District, I think I found William and Polly but it was almost unreadable. Their ages were right and they were in the same area as I found Polly in the 1900 census. William died a month before their son William Arthur was born in 1883 and eleven months later their son George W. died. Polly raised Sanford and William by herself and never remarried.

Children of WILLIAM RAGSDALE and MARY (POLLY) ELVIRA BROWN:

(3) 1. SANFORD RASSOR RAGSDALE, b. 12 Feb 1879 Monmouth Springs, Fulton Co., AR., d. 15 Jan 1929 Egypt, AR. He married LIZZIE JANE HOLDER 21 Feb 1907 in Lawrence Co., AR. She was born June 1886 and was the daughter of HENRY J. HOLDER, b. in Alabama and MARY A. EZELL., b. in Tennessee.

(3) 2. GEORGE WASHINGTON RAGSDALE, b. 2 Sept 1881 Lawrence Co., AR, d. 9 Sept 1884

Lawrence Co., AR.

(3) 3.** WILLIAM ARTHUR RAGSDALE, b. 31 Nov 1883 Lawrence Co., AR, d. 19 Mar 1926 Toledo, Lucas Co., OH., from pneumonia. He married INA EASTER GOOD 5 Nov 1910 Lawrence Co., AR. She was born 17 Aug 1885 Toledo, Lucas Co., OH and died July 1973 Luna Pier, Michigan, at the home of her daughter Luzetta Ragsdale Friend. Ina was the daughter of JOHN MUNCH GOOD, b. 24 Dec 1847 Shelby Co., OH, d. 5 Aug 1931 Toledo, Lucas Co., OH. and HANNAH ETTA LAMBERT, b. 14 Sept 18 1852 Shelby Co., OH, d. 22 Nov 1937 Toledo, Lucas Co., OH.

(2) 2. ROBERT WILLIS RAGSDALE, twin of William, b. June 1852 Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, d. after 1900 Mammoth Springs, Arkansas. He married MARY ANN ELLIS 28 Sept 1879 Oregon County, Missouri. She died abt 1894 Monmouth Springs, AR. She was the daughter of WINSTON ELLIS and SALLIE.

NOTE:

In 1852 Mammoth Springs, Arkansas was still part of Lawrence County, Arkansas

NOTE:

Obituary for SALLIE ELLIS (from the usgenbeb Fulton Co., AR site, submitted by Henrietta Kerby)

Mrs. Sallie Ellis, wife of Uncle Wince Ellis died Sunday Dec 17 at the Ellis farm 4 miles south of Monmouth Springs, of paralysis. She was 102 years old and leaves a husband, age 104 years old and several children, the baby among whom is 49 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis are native of North Carolina where they married 73 years ago. They came to Monmouth Springs, what was then an Indian camping ground known as (Head of the River) in 1852 and have occupied the farm where the aged woman died, 41 years. Funeral Services were conducted by Uncle Tom Wooldridge who had been intimately acquainted with the deceased more than half a century. She was buried in the Moten Church graveyard. (no date was given)

Children of ROBERT WILLIS RAGSDALE and MARY ANN ELLIS:

(3) 1. CHARLES W. RAGSDALE, b. 1880 Mammoth Springs, Fulton Co., AR., d. 1973 Mammoth Springs, AR. He married ALLIE McLEMORE, b. 1880, d. 1952 Mammoth Springs, AR. They are buried in Moten Cemetery approx. 3 miles south of Mammoth Springs, Fulton Co., Arkansas.

(3) 2. JOEL (Joe) W. RAGSDALE, b. 1883 Mammoth Springs, AR. He married his first cousin, ORA RAGSDALE, daughter of Willis's brother George W. Ragsdale.

(3) 3. SALLY ANN RAGSDALE, b. 1885 Mammoth Springs, AR. She married 1. RUFUS JOSHUA HOWARD, 22 Jan 1903 in Fulton Co., AR. 2. ROY BERRY in Oklahoma.

NOTE on Charles W. Ragsdale:

Charles worked for the railroad in Arkansas and made arraignments for Sally Ann and her seven young children to take the train to Oklahoma after her husband, Rufus Howard, had died. Her brother Joel already lived in Oklahoma.

Charles and Allie had triplets but only one lived to be grown. Her name was Iona. She married a man whose name was Paul Million so her name was Iona Million. They were sweet people. Lived in Indianapolis, Indiana. They are gone now. The other two of the triplets were Irene, b. 3-10-1898, d. 8-30-1898 and Carl, b. 3-10-1898, d. 7-22-1908.

Cemetery dates for Irene and Carl from the Moten cemetery records, Monmouth Springs, AR (usgenweb, Fulton Co., AR site)

Great Uncle Charlie was a sweet gentle man, by contrast to Great Uncle Joe, who was a colorful character. Good man, but a tougher personality.

NOTE on Joel W.:

Joe and Ora had one son, but he is gone now. Great Uncle Joe was said to have been the sheriff in Okmulgee Co., Oklahoma and that he killed an outlaw during that reign. Okmulgee was an oil boomtown, just South and East of where Grandma (Sally Ann) settled when she came to Oklahoma.

NOTE for Sally Ann:

Sally Ann changed her name to Sarah Edith later in her life. Her husband, Rufus Howard died young leaving her with seven small children. Her brothers, Charlie and Joe Ragsdale, helped her get to Oklahoma where the oil boom was in full swing. She settled around the Gypsy, Bristow area in Oklahoma. She married Roy Berry approx. 6-7 years after coming to Oklahoma. They had no children.

(Information on Willis's children from Karen Elliott of Muskogee, Oklahoma, granddaughter of Sally Ann, GGranddaughter of Robert Willis). 2002

(2) 3. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RAGSDALE, b. 15 Sept 1855 Lawrence Co., AR., d. 28 Apr 1927 Lawrence Co., AR. He married SARAH ANN HOLDER 23 Sept 1875 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR. She was the daughter of Bledsoe (Bletch) Holder and Elizabeth Gibson. Bledsoe was the son of Bennett Holder and Sally.

Children of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN and SARAH ANN HOLDER:

(3) 1. THOMAS J. RAGSDALE, b Sept 1879 Lawrence Co., AR

(3) 2. LEONA E. RAGSDALE, b. March 1882 Lawrence Co., AR

(3) 3. WILLIAM J. RAGSDALE, b Aug 1884 Lawrence Co., AR

(3) 4. ROBERT C. RAGSDALE, b. Apr 1888 Lawrence Co., AR

(3) 5. MARY SUSAN RAGSDALE, b. Dec 1892 Lawrence Co., AR

This list of children is from the 1900 census for Lawrence Co., Arkansas. Ina Ragsdale also had a daughter, Lulu, as the oldest child.

(2) 4. SILAS R. RAGSDALE, b. 12 June 1858 Lawrence Co., AR., d. 16 Sept 1935 Wanette, Pottawamie Co., Oklahoma. He married MARY HENRY ELIZABETH FRANCES COFFELL 13 July 1878 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR. She was born 11 Mar 1862 Lawrence Co., AR., d. 5 Dec 1921 Trousedale, Pottawattomi,

NOTE:

Lou Ethel Ragsdale, daughter of Silas, said that Silas added the R. to his name when he needed a middle name but it wasn't there originally.

Mary Henry Elizabeth Frances Coffell is said to have been named for all four of her Grandparents.

Children of SILAS R. RAGSDALE and MARY HENRY ELIZABETH FRANCES COFFELL:

(3) 1. NETTIE ELZINA RAGSDALE, b. March 14, 1879 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR. She married WASHINGTON W. LAWSON.

(3) 2. MANDY LUCRETIA RAGSDALE, b. 29 Sept 1880 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR, d. 6 June 1881 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR

(3) 3. CHARLES CALVIN RAGSDALE, b. 4 Oct 1883 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR, d. 7 Feb 1919 Walnut Ridge, Lawrence Co., AR. He married LEOTA BROWN, b abt 1885, d. 1918 Walnut Ridge, Lawrence Co., AR

NOTE for Charles Calvin Ragsdale:

Charles Calvin had a baby that died, three months after that Leota, his wife died and three months after that Charles died.

(3) 4. ISORA DELL RAGSDALE, b. 7 Nov 1885 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 1967 Shawnee, Oklahoma. She is buried at Tecumsah Cemetery, Oklahoma. She married ELMER A. AUSTIN.

(3) 5. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RAGSDALE, b. 4 Dec 1887 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 12 Feb 1900 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR.

(3) 6. WILLIAM EDGAR RAGSDALE, b 3 Nov 1889 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 30 May 1960 Selmar, Calif. He married 1. IDA BRON 14 Dec 1910 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR. He married 2. VIRGINIA OLIVIA BRYANT 5 Aug 1936 Rosedale, McClain Co., OK.

NOTE for William Edgar:

William was in the Navy in World War 1. He died in the Veterans Hospital in 1960 and is buried in the Noble Cemetery, in Oklahoma along with his second wife Olivia Bryant.

(3) 7. ALBERT CLIFFORD RAGSDALE, b. 6 Oct 1891 Walnut Ridge, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 1922

NOTE for Albert Clifford:

Never married. Cut a foot off cutting wood. Was never in the service.

(3) 8. ORA BELL RAGSDALE, b. 28 Feb 1894 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 1 Oct 1974. She married THOMAS A. KILPATRICK 1914. He was born 1 Feb 1873 in Tennessee. She married NEWMAN HEZEKIA ROBERTS July 1923

(3) 9. JOSEPH MILTON RAGSDALE, b 31 May 1896 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 17 Oct 1918

NOTE for Joseph Milton:

Died in World War 1, buried in France.

(3) 10. JESSE FREEMAN RAGSDALE, b. 20 June 1898 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR. He married EVA BOATWRIGHT 1919.

(3) 11. LOU ETHEL RAGSDALE, b. 26 Nov 1901 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR., d. 8 Nov 1974 Chickasha, OK. She married 1. GEORGE BLEVINS, 2. LEONARD HARP/MARKUS 1919.

(3) 12. FRANCES OBURE RAGSDALE, b. 7 Sept 1903 Imboden, Lawrence Co., AR, d. 24 Mar 1975 Oklahoma City, OK. She married A. T. BARABER 3 July 1921.

NOTE:

Information on children of Silas Ragsdale provided by Ruby Louis through letters from Lou Ethel Ragsdale Muncas, daughter of Silas Ragsdale.

NOTE:

This entry from rootsweb by kimon/muncas/clanasof 03022000.web. Muncas is the married name of Silas' daughter, Lou Ethel, so this is probably from one of her daughters:

"Silas was a large, somewhat taciturn man. he wore a full beard. he was not unkind but did not admit people very well into his confidence. Silas and family moved to Oklahoma in November 1906. Silas, Mary and the girls, Ora, Lou, and Fannie went by train to Wanette, OK and waited for the men in the family. The men, Charlie, Albert, William, Jesse, and Joe went by covered wagon. It took them six weeks to get there. FYI on Silas' and Mary's children: Nettie lived the longest, 93 years. Mandy died at 9 months. Charley was a farmer, Zora had the first set of twins, Frank died at age 12 from meningitis, Bill was a barber and was in World War 1. Albert, a farmer, cut off one foot in 1914 chopping wood, Ora had heart trouble for a long time. Joe, killed in World War 1, was buried in Flanders Field, France, Jesse was a farmer, raised cattle and was also a cabinet maker. He was in the process for the draft when Armistice was signed. Lou was a nurse and a homemaker. Fannie died of a heart attack and not found until the following day."

(2) 5. MARY ANN RAGSDALE, b 1860 Lawrence Co., AR.

NOTE for Mary Ann:

In a 1971 letter from Lou Ethel Ragsdale Muncas to Ruby Louis she said "I heard a whisper that my Dads' sister, Polly, (Mary Ann) had an illegitimate child. My dad would have nothing more to do with her and didn't want to hear her name called. Even to this day I hope the rest of her family never gave her such treatment." (Polly was the common nick-name for Mary)

In the 1880 census, two doors from where I think I found William and Polly, there was a Mary Ragsdale, age 20, and her 2 year old daughter, Mary, living with another family. Mary was listed as a servant. I think this is our Mary Ann and it is the only information I have found on her.

(2) 6. GEORGE WASHINGTON RAGSDALE, b. abt 1862 Lawrence Co., AR., d. 17 Aug 1941 Mammoth Springs, Fulton County, AR. He married CAROLINE.

Children of GEORGE WASHINGTON RAGSDALE and CAROLINE:

(3) 1. WILLIAM RAGSDALE, b. Oct 1886 Mammoth Springs, Fulton Co., AR d. 1965 Mammoth

Springs, Fulton Co., AR

(3) 2. MAUDE RAGSDALE, b. Mar 1888

(3) 3. MONTEZUMA RAGSDALE, b. Sept 1890 Mammoth Springs, Fulton Co., AR, d. 1960 Mammoth Springs, Fulton Co., AR.

(3) 4. MARGARET RAGSDALE, b. Dec 1891

(3) 5. ORA RAGSDALE, b. Nov 1896; married JOEL W. RAGSDALE son of Robert Willis Ragsdale (cousins).

(3) 6. ALLIE RAGSDALE, b. Nov 1898

NOTE on Montezuma:

Mont married ? Taylor. Their son, Clovis married Thelma Maxine, June 1, 1939
This information from Karen Elliott.

COURT RECORDS LAWRENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

CALVIN RAGSDALE died, date not included:

Gdn: In 1872, George W. Brown was the guardian for the minor heirs of Calvin Ragsdale, dec'd. Date of appointment not included. These minor heirs appear to have been Robert W., Cilas, George W. and Polly A. Ragsdale.

Petition: On 9 March 1872 the following persons petitioned the court asking that the Ragsdale real property be sold, towit: George W. Brown as gdn. of Jane Ragsdale, dec'd, heirs Benjamin Ragsdale, Jacob Sharp, Samuel h. Ball, J. A. Bottoms, William Ragsdale, Willis Ragsdale, G. H. Blackwell and D. R. Campbell.

NOTE:

George W. Brown was an older brother of Mary Elvira (Polly) Brown who later married Calvin's son William Ragsdale.

1900 CENSUS FULTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS, AFTON TOWNSHIP

dwelling # 49, family 51

R. WILLIS RAGSDALE,	June 1852	47	AR	TN	IN	
CHARLES W.	July 1880	19	AR	AR	AR	NC
JOEL W.	Feb 1883	17	AR	AR	NC	
SALLY A.	Sept 1885	14	AR	AR	NC	

dwelling # 94, family 96

GEORGE RAGSDALE	Mar 1862	38			
CAROLINE	Mar 1862	38	AR	UNK	VA
WILLIAM	Oct 1886	13	AR	AR	AR
MAUDE	Mar 188?		AR	AR	AR
MONTEZUMA	Sept 1890	10	AR	AR	AR
MARGARET	Dec 1881	8	AR	AR	AR
ORA	Nov 1896	3	AR	AR	AR
ALLIE	Nov 1898	1	AR	AR	AR

Sources:

Ina Good Ragsdale, wife of William Arthur Ragsdale and my Grandmother
 Ruby Louis, Ragsdale researcher for 30 years
 Michael Howard, GGrandson of Robert Willis Ragsdale
 Karen Elliott, GGranddaughter of Robert Willis Ragsdale
 Michael Brown, Brown researcher who has gathered Ragsdale information.
 Lou Ethel Ragsdale Muncus, daughter of Silas Ragsdale.

1850-1900 Census'

Court Records for Lawrence Co., AR
 Land Records for Lawrence Co., AR
 Marriage Records for Lawrence Co., AR

(2) WILLIAM RAGSDALE AND MARY (POLLY) ELVIRA BROWN

Not much is known about William other than that he was born in June of 1852 at Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, which was part of Lawrence County, Arkansas at that time but is now in Fulton County, Arkansas. By 1870 the family was living in the Spring River District of Lawrence County, Arkansas. William and Polly were married 25 Oct 1878 in Oregon County, Missouri which is just across the state line from Mammoth Springs, Arkansas. William died in Lawrence County in 1883 at the age of 31. Polly Elvira Brown Ragsdale was born 6 Feb 1847 in Tennessee and died 1916 in Lawrence County, Arkansas. She was the daughter of HOLLOWAY BROWN and MARY (POLLY), last name unknown.

From a 1979 issue of the Lawrence County Historical Society Quarterly I learned that the City of Ravenden was filed for record on the 17th of July 1883 and the railroad was completed through Ravenden with the first train going through Ravenden on October 20, 1883. It made me wonder if perhaps William worked for the railroad and was killed in an accident. Working for the railroad was a dangerous job in those days.