

Wagoner Family Revisited

Introduction

Genealogical research is like keeping house, it never ends. Therefore, though we added many new members to our family and filled in several gaps in the older information, there is still much to discover. The purpose of this publication is only to inspire and encourage others who want to join the search. We hope our facts are reliable enough to make your continued quest easier.

Our book begins with Washington and Nancy Alice (Smalling) Wagoner and their 5 children. Most of the data is for John Thomas and Rachel (Worley) Wagoner. Internet made our "backwards search" faster, but we must be very careful with source verification. Even census records show obvious errors and variations. For example, the family name can be spelled "Wagoner," "Waggoner," "Waggener," "Wagener," or "Wagner" among brothers. Many times, the census takers simply wrote what they thought they heard - and Southern accents do make a difference!

At this time, we are relatively sure that John Thomas's father was **Washington Wagoner**. The Blount County, AL 1850 census lists Washington, age 36, with birthplace KY, as a farmer. In that same household we find **Nancy Smalling**, age 26, with birthplace AL; **George** (age 9), **Mary** (age 4), and **John** (age 1) all born in Alabama.

Before 1860, something happened to Washington. We don't know if he died or divorced, but the 1860 Caldwell Parish census shows, **Nancy** (age 35), **George Calvin** (age 17), **John Thomas** (age 13), **William Newton** (age 7), and **Zacaria** [sic] (age 6) in the same household. However, she is married to **William Wallace "Varmint" Gregory**, and has a baby daughter, **Emily**. There are also **six** of William Gregory's children by his previous marriage in the same household. Birthplaces for several of these family members do not agree with the 1850 census. We can find no reliable information about Mary Wagoner after the 1850 census. But Nancy's life with William Gregory is well documented in the US Census until 1880 when Nancy is in the household of her son, William Newton. Evidently, she is widowed for the second time. **Calvin** and **John Thomas Wagoner** lived out their lives in Louisiana. However, by 1910 **William Newton** and **Zachariah**, *who married sisters*, had moved to Texas where they lived until their deaths.

For those who want to continue the search, here are a few interesting facts to guide you:

Caldwell Parish Marriage Records -

- **G. Calvin Waggoner** married **Henrietta Windham** on Nov. 12, 1873
- **Z.W. (Zachariah) Wagoner** married **E.J. (Elizabeth J. "Betty") Head** on March 14, 1878
- **W.N. (William Newton) Waggoner** married **M.J. (Mary Judson) Head** on 19 Feb 1885

US Census Records and Headstones verify that:

- **William Newton Waggoner** was buried in the Breckenridge, TX Cemetery on 17 June 1925.
- **Zachariah Wagoner** died in Jefferson County , TX, and was buried in Rest Haven Cemetery in Silsbee, TX on 1 April 1926.

Mt. Olive Church Cemetery in southwest Ouachita Parish:

- **John T. Wagoner** - 20 Feb 1918 (This is John Thomas)
- **Rachel Wagoner** - 20 July 1937 (Rachel Worley, John's wife)
- **George Calvin Waggoner** - 30 Sep 1897 (This is John's brother)
- **Henrietta Elizabeth Waggoner** - 10 Nov 1933 (Henrietta Windham, Calvin's wife)

DISCLAIMER

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The disk contains database in both PAF (Personal Ancestral File) and GEDCOM. It also has copies of the free Latter Day Saints Personal Ancestry File program, versions 4 and 5.