



## Cornelia's Story

### Preface

This story is the result of several years of research, and it's not over by far. I'll continue to search for more sources and proofs, but I'm fairly cautious, not making assumptions readily without some documentation to back it up.

With that in mind, I have to say that I find the following story convincing. Keeping an open mind to all possibilities, I have looked for alternatives at each junction along the way, and followed those, only to prove them incorrect and find myself pointed back to what I now believe to be true. The end of this story arrives at the life of our grandmother, Cornelia LaBelle Patton McFarren.



### Roots

#### For My Cousins

As you know, Grandma McFarren's roots have been quite a mystery. It's amazing how little we knew when she died, but, from all I can glean, our family is not unusual. I've assisted several people researching their own families and find that they have similar stories to tell. With the flood of information available now at our fingertips, and increasing constantly, most people will be able to solve these mysteries before long. The other thing we share with most other families is "family lore." I have taken our family stories with a grain of salt but felt they were all worth checking out, and that has proved worthwhile to some degree, but has also taken me down blind alleys, particularly when it came to finding Grandma's mother.

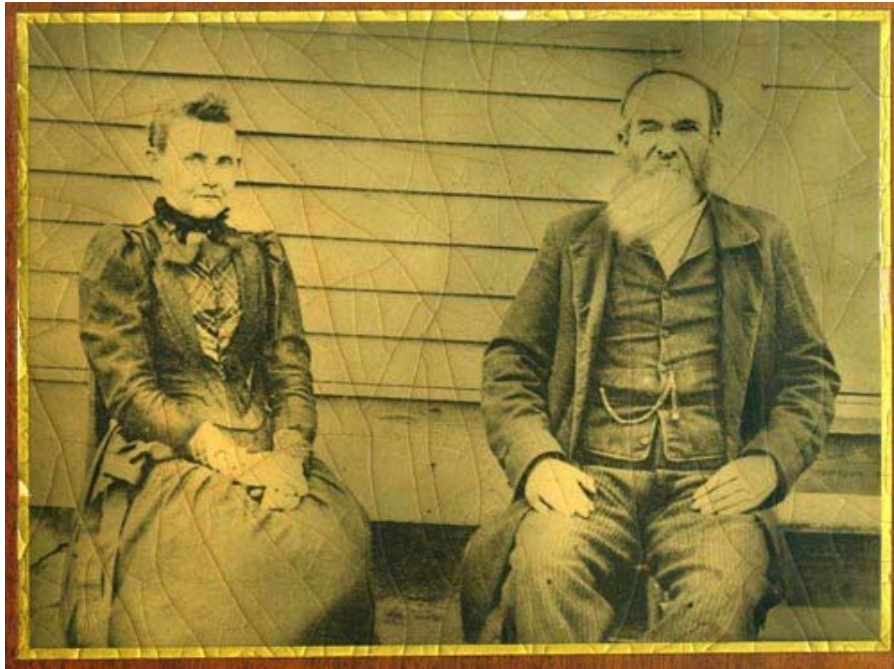
You will probably remember some of these stories, and by all means, if you know more, I would like to hear about them!

Our family tradition and lore about Cornelia Patton McFarren:

1. Born in Texas
2. Grew up in Arkansas
3. Father was Sam Patton
4. Mother died when Grandma was born
5. Named after her mother (I began to doubt my memory when other names entered as possibilities from various sources, when all along I should have listened to her voice in memory's ear!)
6. A half brother was killed by dynamite while working on the RR
7. Raised by a stepmother
8. Sam Patton was a surveyor
9. There was a military title in Sam's background.

I remember prompting Grandma for stories about her childhood, and she told me about her stepmother, who was addicted to chewing coffee beans, and having to run to the store to get them for her, a cautionary tale about coffee addiction, I'm sure. She told me about burying cabbage in the ground for use in the winter, and about learning to embroider as a child. How I wish I'd nagged her for more!

At one point, Barbara McFarren shared some photos of Grandma as a child, as well as one of **Sam Patton** and his wife, Martha, the coffee bean chewing stepmother. I vaguely remembered the portraits on the library table in the living room at Grandma and Grandpa's house, and the box of pictures I loved to sort through on a lazy Sabbath afternoon, but hadn't seen them in many years. It is great to be able to put faces on these legends.



Martha A. and Samuel E. Patton - about 1895, Arkansas

This is very little to go on though, isn't it? The first thing I did was research the Pattons, which was quite fruitful, but I thought that by doing so I would find Grandma's birth place, and therefore her mother's final resting place. The specific place still alludes me but I'm circling in on it! Despite uncertainties in some areas, there is much to share now, so I thought it best to begin.



Cornelia Patton  
about 1895, Arkansas

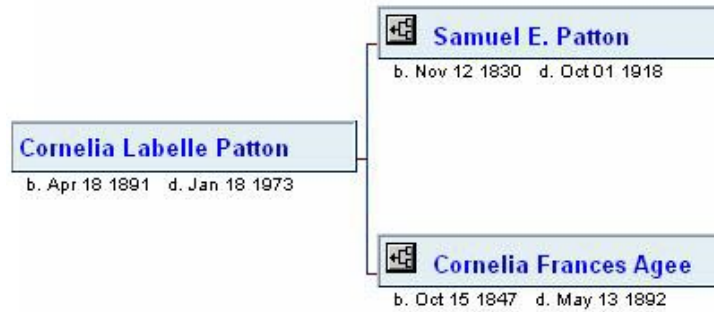
Now that we have [Samuel Patton's Death Certificate](#) from the State of California, we have several questions answered. Even that official document has errors. The person who gave the information to the state was Grandpa Exie McFarren. He was never a stickler for exact and accurate information. Just ask Auntie Alice when you get to heaven, because she had more than one birthday date every year as a result of Grandpa playing loose with the facts! I quote Aunt Alice, quoting Grandma, "That man never could get anything straight!" Can't you just hear it now? He was full of entertaining tales though, wasn't he? I'll not take a lesson from Grandpa though, and strive for accuracy as much as possible.

Rather than go from current time back, I'm going to start with the distant past as far as I know it at this time. I hope you enjoy the story thus far even a fraction as much as I have enjoyed researching it. I will let you know along the way if I'm including conjecture, as well as facts. There is much yet to be done and I have a feeling this will be a pastime for me for the rest of my life.

By the way, I talk to Grandma a lot about this. She likes it when I discover things and I can hear her chuckle and call me "my Judy," which always made me feel pretty special. Being raised as an only child certainly didn't hamper her ability to mother...or grandmother!

## The Agee Family

The story begins with a name you probably haven't heard before. I know I had not! This first part is the family of our GREAT grandmother, [Cornelia Francis Agee](#) (Gowin Patton).



There are convincing circumstances that tie our Agee family line to that of Mathieu Agé, a French Protestant Refugee to Virginia. The information in these paragraphs come from other's research and published records.

Born in Nantes France around 1660 - 1670, Mathieu Agé fled with other Huguenots from France during the religious persecutions after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, by Louis XIV. Many Huguenots left France for Holland, and later to England. About 1690 many sailed from England to Virginia where free grants of land were given. Some records say these grants were given for services in assisting William of Orange to secure the British crown. However, and whenever, the Agé family came to the shores of America, we know they were Huguenots, who were former French citizens, largely Calvinists, fleeing from Catholic domination in their homeland and looking for opportunity in a new land.

Mathieu Agé was naturalized with the other Manakintowne Huguenots in April or May of 1705. He married Ann Godwin in Virginia. The name evolved to Agee soon after arriving in Virginia. Absolute connection has not been made to this particular patriarch, however, family members moved to Kentucky, Alabama, and North Carolina, where we find our line, the family of Hercules Agee. Like many families, given names were repeated over and over and there were a number of men named Hercules Agee in the extended family Mathieu Agé. There are many other details pointing to a connection to this family, in addition to this name, but until we know for sure, I'll move forward to the facts that we do know for certain.

One thing to keep in mind is that between 1790 when the very first US Federal census took place, and 1850, when we find our great grandmother in the census for the first time, there were very few Agees in this country. They were all in the areas mentioned, and nearly all can be traced to this family of French Huguenots.

From the records of Agee researchers, well documented with land titles, property tax rolls and the like, it seems that there was a Hercules Agee, born about 1777 in Virginia, who was a son of James Agee and Marie Faure. Most Agee researchers refer to this book for this early period.

"The Agee Register, A Genealogical Record of the Descendants Of Mathieu Agee A Huguenot Refugee To Virginia", by Louis N. Agee, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1982.

We can trace our connection to page 183:

HERCULES AGEE (M-Js), b. \_\_\_\_\_; son of James Agee & wife Marie Faure; he appears with his father in personal property list Buckingham Co., Va. 1788 (sometimes listed as Arculus); he received 200 acres from his father & 150 acres from Atkerson & Hal in 1797; then 200 acres from Elisha Ford, 100 ac from Harris & 12 acres new grant in 1801; he sold his land to Thos. Cobb & William Puryear ca. 1817. Does not appear further in Buckingham Records. The census of 1810 shows 1 male under 10, 1-26-45 and 1 female under 10; 1-26-45; 6 slaves. The personal Property list of 1816 lists Hercules Agee, Sr. & Hercules Agee Jr., he m. SALLIE FUQUA, a sister of William Fuqua (see his Will Louisa Co. WB 35-p88-"brother-in-law Hercules Agee").

From this and the following, we can assume that Hercules Sr. left Buckingham, VA, and moved to North Carolina about 1817, or shortly after. A daughter, Mary James Agee was born 12 September 1817 in Buckingham, VA. Her mother, Sallie Fuqua Agee, may well have died in childbirth at that time. She does not appear in the 1820 census. Neither does the "female under 10" from the 1810 census, however, she could have married by 1820, or died. No further mention or record has come to light.

In the year 1820, the census gives the name "Hercles Agey," as head of a household in Rockingham, Richmond County, North Carolina. Census-takers of the past often offered us a challenge with the spelling of names, and other facts recorded as well, but nonetheless, we are lucky to have these precious records. Though one must match their inventiveness, it must be done with caution and reason. This "Agey" was over 45 years of age, but it tells us little more since these early census records included only the name of the head of household and how many in the home in several age categories. He was evidently a widower, for there is only one "free white" female in the home, and she was under 10 years of age. There was also a "free white" male between the age of 16 and 18 in this home, probably the "male under 10" that appeared on census 10 years earlier.

"Hercles Agey" held 13 slaves (7 male, 6 female), so he had help, not only on his farm, but also with the young, motherless

daughter.

Since no other children appeared to have moved with Hercules to NC, unless masked to us under a daughter's married name, it may be that there were only two or three surviving children, not too unusual at a time of high infant and maternal mortality.

Of some assistance in sorting out this muddy part of the Agee family history are the Estate Records of Richmond County, North Carolina, bound in books by Myrtle Bridges. I've found them to be very useful. I was under a false assumption for some time until studying the copy of Hercules Sr.'s will and the settlement of his estate.

Hercules Sr. died 15 October 1820, leaving as heirs a son, Hercules Jr., a daughter, Mary, and a wife, Sarah. (Since no other children were mentioned, it would give more credence to their being only the two children, Hercules Jr. and Mary, leaving the probability of an early demise of the first daughter.) This death date for Hercules caused some consternation to me. Remember that the 1820 Census did not show a wife. The official enumeration date for the census that year was 7 August. So, it would appear that Hercules Sr. married between August and October 1820. Or, did the census-taker make an error, failing to note the wife? We may never know. Was the "Sarah" mentioned in the will Sallie Fuqua Agee and she didn't die in 1817 after all? In those days, "Sallie" was a common nickname for "Sarah." However, there is more to come on that puzzle.

The daughter, Mary James Agee, lived to over 92 years. It was stated on Mary's death certificate that her mother was Sarah Dumas Agee. Who was Sarah Dumas? It would appear that Sarah Dumas was Mary's stepmother, not her birth mother, if we can rely on the census-taker's accuracy in 1820. That seems the most reasonable explanation since Mary did claim to have been born in 1817 in Virginia and we have records that Hercules Sr. was married to Sallie Fuqua in VA, not Sarah Dumas. But this definitely leaves questions.

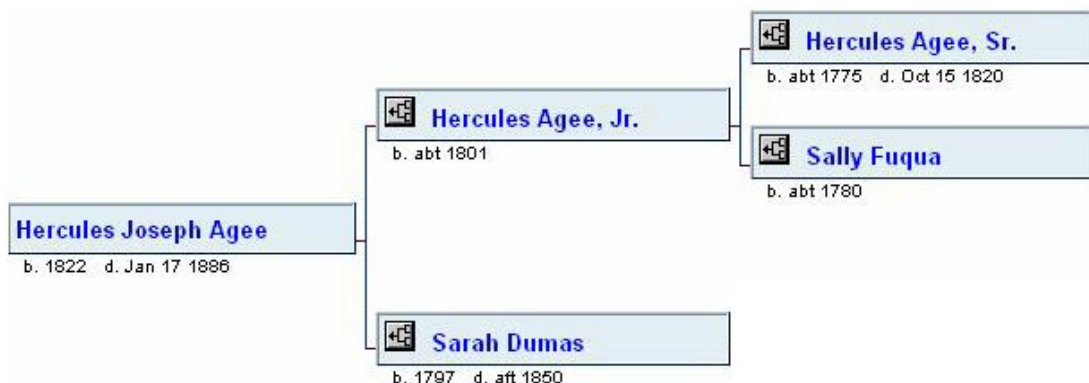
To add to the muddied waters, the 1830 census did not show the family of the widow and two children living on their own. In those years, only head of household was named. Either Sarah remarried, or, more likely, Sarah, Hercules Jr. and Mary, lived with relatives and were simply enumerated with them as numbers, not names. Hercules Jr. would have been old enough to appear on his own, but he is not found. Mary did not marry until 1831.

Neither Sarah Agee nor Hercules Agee is found on the 1840 census, though Mary is found with her husband in the neighboring county, Anson County, NC. More on that later.

What we do know is that in 1850 a Sarah Agee, born 1797 in NC, appears in the household of a Hercules Agee in Anson County, NC. But, this Hercules Agee was born in 1822! We will come back to him too, but this brings up more parts of the puzzle than we can comfortably cram in to make a whole picture.

My best guess is that after Hercules Sr.'s move from Virginia to North Carolina, he found a second wife, Sarah Dumas, who was from a nearby family of fellow Huguenots from Virginia. The Dumas family came to NC before 1800. Possibly she was the daughter of Jeremiah Dumas, neighbor of Hercules Agee. There were several Dumas families nearby, however.

Since this third Hercules Agee found in the 1850 census was born after Hercules Sr. died in 1820, he can't have been his son. Besides, Hercules Sr. already had a son named Hercules Jr., born about 1801. So, was Hercules, born 1822, the son of Hercules Jr.? Only further research may be able to tell us that for certain. It would mean that, not only would we have three Hercules in a row, but two or three Sarahs as well. Neither situation would be terribly unusual. Fathers commonly named sons for themselves and their fathers, and Sarah was a very common name. Wherever the ultimate truth might lay, it is apparent that Hercules Jr., born about 1801, died before 1850, for he is nowhere to be found at that time, or later. The 1850 census did name all household members, but did not tell their relationship to the head of household, as later census years did.



1850 Census:

Agee, Hercules J. 28 M Farmer 7200 NC  
Elizabeth K. 21 F NC  
Sarah 53 F NC  
Cornelia F. 2 F NC  
James 1 M NC

All were born in North Carolina. Sarah's birthplace of NC only tells us she was either Sarah Dumas, who raised Mary and Hercules Jr. making her this Hercules' step-grandmother, or it tells us that she was the wife of Hercules Jr., thus this Hercules' mother.

To this part in our narrative, we can only assume and surmise until further evidence comes to light, but from the time of Hercules Agee, born 1822, we have solid evidence for our story.

### The Adventurousome Terrys

The daughter of Hercules Sr. and Sallie Fuqua, whom Sarah (Dumas) Agee raised, was Mary James Agee. She married James Leake Terry on 7 November 1831, near Cheraw, Chesterfield County, SC. This is just over the SC border from the towns of Rockingham and Morven, in Anson and Richmond counties. The Terry families had lived in the area for quite a long time and were many in number, some active in the political scene.

Mary and James Terry had three sons and a daughter before pulling up stakes and making a trek south to the west coast of Florida sometime between 1840 and 1844 to try their hand at farming there. The Alafia Settlement, where they settled, was along the Alafia River (varied spellings, meaning "River of Fire" in the Seminole language because of the phosphorous content in the water), just south of Tampa.

### Descendants of Hercules Agee, Sr.

**Hercules Agee, Sr.** abt 1775 - Oct 15 1820 m. **Sally Fuqua**  
- **Hercules Agee, Jr.** abt 1801 m. **Sarah Dumas**  
-- **Hercules Joseph Agee** 1822 - Jan 17 1886 m. **Elizabeth Kate McRae**  
--- **Cornelia Frances Agee** Oct 15 1847 - May 13 1892 m. **Samuel E. Patton**  
---- **Cornelia Labelle Patton** Apr 18 1891 - Jan 18 1973 m. **Exie Moore Leroy McFarren**  
---- **Charles Vivian Gowin** Dec 01 1869 - 1956 m. **Wilda Ann Rutledge**  
---- **John Wayne Gowin** Jul 25 1872 - 1873  
--- **Junius Agee** 1849  
--- **Orianna Agee** 1851 - 1880 bef  
--- **Mary Agee** 1853  
--- **Sarah Agee** 1857  
--- **William H. Agee** 1863  
--- **Elizabeth S. Agee** 1859  
- **Mary James Agee** Sep 12 1817 - Feb 07 1910 m. **James Leake Terry**  
-- **William Cole Terry** Nov 28 1834 - Feb 09 1908  
-- **Pickette Hercules Terry** Mar 09 1837 - Jun 06 1904  
-- **Mosely James Terry** Aug 12 1839 - Apr 20 1923  
-- **Orianna Tabathia Terry** Aug 16 1842 - Jan 26 1844  
-- **Mary Orianna Terry** Jun 13 1846 - bef 1880  
-- **Elizabeth Tabilla Terry** Mar 1850 - bef 1870

Florida had recently declared statehood, in 1838. The Wars with the Seminoles were still in progress, led by the likes of Col. Zachary Taylor, so it seems like a rather adventuresome prospect to move there at this time. It must have been an arduous trip, as well, to this area of Florida in those years. It's possible that the Terrys came by boat, but more likely they made their way overland from the Carolinas in wagons pulled by oxen or horses along the old Indian trails, which in Florida territory were paved with oyster shells. No rail had yet been built in FL. Mary had inherited eight slaves from her father in 1822. In 1840, the Terrys still owned 8 slaves. It's not known if they were the same slaves by that time, of course, but by 1850 they owned ten, so they did have help with the move to Florida.



Shortly after 1850, the Terrys once again made a long distance move, this time directly west across the Gulf of Mexico, to Victoria, Texas. More than likely this trip was made by ship across the Gulf. Victoria is about 15 miles from the top of Matagorda Bay, north of Corpus Christi. James Terry died in 1851 in Victoria, soon after their arrival in that place, leaving Mary to farm the land and raise their children on her own. Once again, it must have taken great courage for Mary to survive in this place where a few short years before there had been fierce Comanche raids, and Mexican invasions. We will return to their life a bit later.

### **Hercules III in North Carolina**

In the meantime, by 1850, Hercules Joseph Agee, 28, was living near the town of Morven, Anson County, North Carolina. This is only a few miles from Rockingham in Richmond County where we found "Hercles Agey" and the Dumas families 30 years before. Hercules J. Agee married Elizabeth Kate MacRae 18 June 1846. Their first child, a daughter, whom they named Cornelia Francis Agee, was born in 1848. (She was our great grandmother.) A son, Junius, was born about a year later.

The widowed Sarah Agee, resided with them as well in that year. She was 53. I imagine that with two toddlers on their hands, it was helpful to have Sarah living with the young family, but Hercules and Elizabeth did not lack help. They owned 36 slaves.

In their possession were 10 female and 5 male slaves over the age of 18. There were also 10 females ranging in age from 1 to 12, and eleven males in this age range. It was common, according to slave chronicles, for young slaves to be playmates for the owner's children, and there were plenty in this household to fill that need for Cornelia and Junius, but probably most of those slaves older than 5 yrs or so were kept busy in the fields. It would be fascinating to know what the Agees grew on their farm. Hercules is listed simply as a farmer. Possibly they grew tobacco in addition to cotton and grains, products that in those days drove the economy of the South. The Hercules Agee estate was worth \$7200 in 1850.

Here is a picture of the place and time:

*ANSON - A county in the S. part of North Carolina, bordering on South Carolina, has an area of 650 square miles. Rocky river forms its entire boundary on the N., and the Yadkin or Pedee on the E. It is also drained by Brown's and Lane's creeks. The surface is undulating or hilly; the soil is mostly fertile. Cotton is the staple product: Indian corn is also cultivated. In 1850 this county produced 389,828 bushels of corn; 35,796 of wheat; 95,113 of sweet potatoes, and 10,864 bales of cotton. The quantity of cotton was the greatest produced by any county in the state except Surry. It contained 26 churches and 2 newspaper establishments. There were 11 corn and flour mills, 9 saw mills, and 2 tanneries. Granite underlies a portion of the county. The forests contain the white oak and other hard timber. The Yadkin furnishes motive-power for several cotton factories in this county. It is intersected by a plank-road leading to Cheraw, South Carolina. Capital, Wadesborough. Formed in 1749, and named in honour of Admiral Anson, the famous navigator. Population, 13,489, of whom 6657 were free, and 6832 slaves.*

### **Elizabeth Kate McRae**

This may be a good time to tell a bit about Hercules III's wife, Elizabeth Kate McRae Agee. She was born 9 Nov 1826, in NC. Her father was Duncan McRae, son of Finlay Philip McRae of Scotland. Her mother was Francis L. Ledbetter, daughter of Rev. Henry Ledbetter of Brunswick, VA, and Mary Johnson. The book "Ledbetters from VA" by Roy C. Ledbetter et al mentions this family on page 50. In addition, the Richmond Estate Records include marriage information, and further estate

records.

In 1850, Duncan and Francis were living in Montgomery, NC. Duncan was a tavern keeper. One can wonder if this occupation was deemed appropriate by his clerical father-in-law, who at age 80 was still living, helping to farm his son William's land in nearby Anson County. However, Duncan died in 1850 so perhaps the tavern closed not long after. Francis apparently inherited land and property from her husband and/or father, for in 1860 her personal worth was over \$8600, a respectable amount in those days. She lived with grown sons and daughters. Of her eight children, these four never married. One other might not have married either but we lose track of him after 1850. Only our Elizabeth Kate, her brother George and sister Martha are known to have had families. Francis lived out her days in Montgomery County, NC, always residing with 2 or more of her unmarried children. She died in Nov. 1880 of "paralysis."

### **Hercules III on the Move**

Backing up to 1860, the census tells us that Hercules and Elizabeth had left the remaining McRaes behind and moved their rather large household to Winston County, Mississippi. They had 10 fewer slaves, but their real estate was then worth \$14,500 and their personal estate worth \$45,000, a very substantial sum for that time. Perhaps it had to do with the sale of the property in North Carolina. In Winston, MS, they had 4 slave houses in addition to their own home.

Sarah Agee, from the census 10 years before, had probably died by this time. She would have been 63 years old in 1860, but she was not found on census here or elsewhere. There is always the possibility that she remarried and was listed under another name.

Also in 1860, Cornelia was listed as daughter "C. F. Agee," age 12. Her brother, Junius was 10. They had three little sisters by then, Oreander, 9 years old, Mary, 7, and Sarah, 3, probably named for her grandmother.

Hercules' aunt Mary Agee Terry, in the 1860 Census, was still residing in Victoria, Texas. She was a 42 year old widow, farming with the aide of her 20 year old son, Mosely Terry. She had two young daughters still at home and the schoolmaster was living with them. Mary had real estate valued at \$5500. and personal estate of \$7000, so, though not wealthy, she had not been left penniless by the loss of her husband.

### **The War between the States**

It is obvious what comes next. The Civil War tore apart the country in the 1860s, devastating the South, of course. H. J. Agee (Hercules Joseph Agee) of Winston County, Mississippi served the Confederacy as a private in Co. G of the 5th Mississippi Infantry. I don't have his exact dates of service, but this is what I found about these troops:

The 5th Infantry Regiment, organized in the spring of 1861, contained men from Pike, Amite, Lauderdale, Winston, Noxubee, and Kemper counties. After serving in Florida it took an active part in the fight at Shiloh under General Chalmers. Later it was assigned to J.K. Jackson's, Gist's, and Lowry's Brigade, Army of Tennessee. The 5th was involved in the campaigns of the army from Murfreesboro to Atlanta, endured Hood's winter campaign in Tennessee, and fought in North Carolina. It lost forty-seven percent of the 170 engaged at Murfreesboro and thirty-three percent of the 225 at Chickamauga. In December, 1863, the unit totalled 395 men and 283 arms. At the Battle of Atlanta there were 11 killed, 44 wounded, and 11 missing. Only a remnant surrendered on April 26, 1865.

What we do know is that Hercules survived! I cannot even imagine the hardships endured by these soldiers, as well as by those family members left at home to fend for themselves. A sort of "Gone with the Wind" saga, I suppose.

A few short years after the war, there were interesting developments. The family had moved once again, but not far this time. They were in Smith County, Mississippi, Post Office: Sylvarena. Hercules was then 48 years old and I imagine he had aged considerably during the preceding 10 years. He was certainly reduced in circumstances in 1870, sharing the fate of Southerners in general. The Agee real estate was worth \$2425. and the personal estate was but \$1777, still not poor, in comparison to others in that time, but it was a fraction of their former worth.

Living in the home in 1870 with Hercules and Elizabeth, was; son Junius, a 21 year old farm laborer (no more slaves to do the work!); teenaged daughter, formerly reported as "Oreander," now written "Orraannah;" Elizabeth, formerly reported as named Sarah, later known as "Lizzie;" and a son of 7 years of age, William, probably born just before Hercules went off to war, or while he was away. Conspicuously absent are Cornelia, and little sister Mary. Mary would be about 17 years old and could have been married, or she may have been living elsewhere, such as with relatives or away at school somewhere. I lose track of Mary here, not finding marriage records or death records, so it's hard to know.

### **Romance in the air for Cornelia Francis**

There are some wonderful surviving letters about what had been happening with Cornelia during this time. These letters were submitted to the Gowen Research Foundation's electronic newsletter. There are a couple of items that require comment, such as a death date mentioned for Cornelia. I will address these after the article.

Wayne Gowin, CSA Veteran  
Persistent, Successful Suitor  
By Col. Michael O. Beck

On June 13, 1865, Wayne Gowin took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, while a prisoner of Federal soldiers at Point Lookout, Maryland. He had been a prisoner of war less than two months then, having been captured along with 250 other men of his unit, the Sixteenth Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Battery Gregg in the gallant defense of Petersburg, Virginia. There he had fought his last battle of the war to buy Robert E. Lee and his shadow of an army, 28,000 men, precious time in their final withdrawal toward a meeting with destiny at Appomatox Courthouse April 9, 1865. His military service was distinguished by many of the greatest battles of that tragic civil war--Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, to name a few. His record shows he served his cause continuously over four years, except for one brief furlough. The fact that he survived continuous battle for that long is remarkable. On June 23 he was released from prison for "Transportation to Jackson, Mississippi."

Wayne's first priority after the war was to resume a relationship with Cornelia Agee, 24 years old and new to the community when he joined the Confederate army.

In the first of 10 love letters of Wayne and Cornelia that survive, he wrote from his home in Smith County in October 1866:

I respectfully ask for an interview next Saturday morning. In justice to you and also [sic] to my self wee [sic] should come to a tacit understanding owing to the impresion [sic] that is prevalent in the county that we will marry. I hope you will grant the desired interview when I hope to know my fate.

Seven months later, May 19, 1867, Wayne wrote again to his sweetheart, a student at Sylvarena Female Institute in Sylvarena, Mississippi reiterating an earlier marriage proposal:

Miss Cornie,

After compliments the undersigned would respectfully ask the pleasure of an interview for next Saturday, the 26th at 5 pm.

Miss Cornie, I hope you have given my interrogatories sufficient thought to give me an answer or at least to give me some data from which I may form some idea of your intentions. This I assure you is no matter of secondary importance but one that has caused great anxiety. Indeed my future happiness depends on it to a greater or less extent. And I hope you will weigh the matter well in all of its lights and shades, and if I should be the happy recipient of your love, I will exert [sic] my humble ability to make you happy in the position.

Yours as ever,  
Wayne Gowin

Cornelia graduated from the Institute and delivered the valedictorian address there in July of 1867. In December 1867, Wayne wrote from Shubuta, Mississippi:

My Dear Miss Cornie,

I write you a few lines this morning to inform you that I have reached home in good health and with whole bones. Times were very dull here during Christmas. Nothing but egg nogs and turkey dinners though we are anticipating quite a nice time here New Years night. The Shubuta Cowbellions are all gowing [sic] to turne [sic] out in mask or disguise [sic] and march all over town with a band of music and transparent lights. At twelve o'clock they will throw off their masks and welcome New Year in and have a nice supper to which every body is invited. After supper is over they will spend the night in dancing or any other way they see right and proper. I wish you could be here to witness it.

May Heaven's blessing attend you. Come, come, soon.  
Your devoted Wayne

Wayne was still courting Cornelia in March of 1868, but the relationship was upon rocky shoals at his writing on the 19th:

Dear friend,

Your letter notifying me of your change of mind was received on the return of Mr. and Mrs. Welch [sister of Cornelia] from Smith. In reply I will say your will bee don [sic]. I have lived for a different state of things but it has bin [sic] to no purpose. In the future we will meet only as friends. I think I understand the whole. In conclusion, I will say if you love mee [sic] you will marry and risk the consequence. May the lamp of heaven guide you through this life and finally bring you safely to the Haven of Eternal Rest is the prare [sic] of a friend.

Wayne

The relationship was patched up by the start of the New Year for they were married shortly afterward. Their first child, Charlie V. Gowin was born December 11, 1869 in Shubuta. A second son was born to them July 25, 1872, according to the family bible.

### **Wayne and Cornelia Gowin**

I'll take liberty to break into the story here to explain that the 1870 Census shows Wayne and Cornelia living in Clarke County, Mississippi, Post Office DeSoto. Desoto, an unincorporated area, consisting of a few side streets off of Hwy 45 S on today's map of Clarke County, is a few miles from Shubuta. Shubuta isn't much larger with a population of around 600, the majority African American. The railroad runs through both towns. It probably hasn't changed a lot since the Gowins resided there.

Wayne was a 31 year old farmer in 1870 with an estate worth \$500. Cornelia F., his wife, was a 22 year old homemaker and mother. They had a 6 month old son, Charles, born in December of 1869. Living with them as well was a young black woman, Mary J. Gowan, 23 years old, and her two baby daughters 1 and 2 years old. I've checked the former slave roles of both the Gowins (spelling varies) and the Agees. This Mary J. Gowan may have come from either of their family's former slave holdings. She may have grown up with Cornelia and chose to live with her, or was hired by them after the War as domestic help. Also there was a 13 yr old Mulatto slave in the Gowin family in 1860, so this may be Mary J. Gowan found here 10 years later. The census does not tell us the answers to these questions. I have read that the former slaves did not necessarily take the surnames of their former owners, but I find a number of blacks named Agee living near Hercules Agee in 1870 after the Civil War. They all seem to fall in the age categories of his slaves of before the War. The same is true of blacks named Gowin/Gowan in that community. My conclusion is that at least immediately following the War they used these family names.

### **And Tragedy Strikes**

Here's the rest of the article, containing the errors mentioned earlier:

Wayne Gowin died January 2, 1873 at age 32. The second son died shortly afterward while Cornelia was living with her parents, Hurcules Joseph Agee and Elizabeth Kate McRae Agee. They were from Montgomery County, South Carolina. Cornelia and Charlie continued with her father when he removed to Arkansas about 1875 seeking to escape the carpetbaggers who had bankrupted his lumber business. The move was made by steamboat up the Arkansas River to Little Rock and then by wagontrain to Logan County where they bought land. Later Cornelia and Charlie removed with family members to Haskell, Texas where she died in 1887. Charlie V. Gowin went on to marry and father 10 children. His surviving children now live in the Texas towns of Kyle, Sealy, Shamrock and Andrews. Thanks to Edna Gowin of Kyle, daughter of Charlie V. Gowin, for preserving the love letters and giving them to a fourth-generation descendant of Wayne Gowin, patriot and star-crossed lover.

"Star-crossed" or "star-crossed lovers" is a phrase describing a pair of lovers whose relationship is said to be doomed from the start. It is a reference to astrology, and the phrase was first coined by William Shakespeare in his play *Romeo and Juliet*.

In regards to the mention of Cornelia's death, I thought at first I was simply barking up the wrong tree when I read this, however this was Col. Michael O. Beck's best information in 1998 when he wrote the article. I have subsequently been in touch with him. He tells me that now he has information addressing some of these issues, such as that the Gowin family did know of Cornelia's daughter (our grandmother!) and that she had married a second time in TX to a Patton. He also gave me her death date of 13 May 1892. So, as you can see, it's simply the nature of genealogy, to report what is known at any given time, only to learn new information later. There's a great deal of "best guess" work until facts come to light!

One fact is that we have a record for the marriage of "Mrs. C. F. Gowin and Sam Patton" from Bosque County, Texas, for 5 July 1888. So, she couldn't have died in 1887, obviously. None of these records stand alone because there is always the possibility of reporting error, by the family member giving the information, or by the record taker, or by the reader of the record!

How do I know it's the same C. F. Gowin, you ask? I searched the census both before and after. I searched for the locations of all the siblings, Gowins and Agees and Pattons and looked for further corroborating evidence such as marriage or cemetery records. In order to do this I had to research the Gowan/Gowen/Gowins, who were living in the same area of Mississippi in 1870 and follow their movements. I looked for any other C. F. Gowins, of course. But, we are skipping ahead. I will explain as we go.

Lets follow with our snapshot of the census year 1880. As you read in Col. Beck's article, Civil War veteran, Wayne Gowin, died an early and untimely death. We don't know how he died or of what cause, but as can be imagined from his long service in the war, he was probably somewhat broken in health, as so many Civil War veterans were. Perhaps it was an accident. There are so many possibilities. Regardless of how and why he died, Cornelia was a very young widow.

Hercules Agee, 58 and leading a much simpler life it would seem, unencumbered by slaves and business interests, had moved yet again, to Short Mountain, Logan County, Arkansas, as you read in the article. He was listed as a farmer, but we don't really know the extent of his farm in AR. Perhaps it was simply a family farm, but he had been a farmer on a much larger scale in the past, so it's hard to know, and as the article points out, he also had a lumber business previously. No farm laborers show on this census with his household however, and of course, he no longer owned slaves. But, he might have hired work done by neighboring laborers. Short Mountain is a township near Paris, AR.

Though the 1880 census adds information about the mother's and father's birth places for each person, it does not always tell us the estate value. In this case, it does not. But, we do learn that Hercules' father was born in Virginia. Another clue to the Huguenot heritage. And his mother's birth place is confirmed as North Carolina. Whether the Agees always lived in or near Richmond or Anson Counties is a mystery. As I mentioned before, there is no Agee listed in Anson County in 1840, but a lot of County lines were in flux at that time too. No possibilities arise in the SC records either though, so the SC reference for the Agees seems unlikely. The McRaes did live in Montgomery County, North Carolina, so perhaps this is where the Montgomery County reference came from, and it is certainly possible that Agees lived in that area too, between census, or were missed on one. Regardless of unanswered questions, it is delightful to have the rest of the story of Cornelia and her first husband, the unfortunate Wayne!

### **Early Arkansas Roots**

In Short Mountain, AR, in 1880, Hercules and Elizabeth still had their last son, 17 year old William, living at home. In addition, Cornelia, then a young widow, and her son, Charles, were living with her parents once again.

Also, there was a 3 year old granddaughter named Lola Hardeman in the home. I've researched this child and found that Cornelia's sister, Orrianna (many spellings) Agee, married James Foster Hardeman on 30 December 1875 in Johnson County, Arkansas, not far from Logan County. I suspect Orrianna died, perhaps when Lola was born in 1876, for there is no record of either Orianna or James Foster Hardeman in 1880 (only little Lola, living with her grandparents). The widowed father and Lola are found however, in 1900, residing in Indian Territory, partners in a hotel business with Mr. Hardeman's brother.

Also found living next to Hercules' household in 1880 was daughter Lizzie (Sarah Elizabeth), aged 23, married 31 Oct. 1877 in Logan, Arkansas, to William T. Young. They had a baby daughter, Ima.

Son Junius had moved to Aransas, TX by 1880. He's found living with his wife Mildred and baby daughter Maggie, and very near Picket Terry, a son of Mary James Agee Terry, so one would conclude that the families must have kept in touch and Junius chose to move to the area, perhaps on the advice of his cousin (father's cousin?) Picket. Junius was working as a "miller" at that time.

Hercules Joseph Agee (Hercules III) died 17 Jan 1886 and was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Paris, Logan County, Arkansas.

Unfortunately, the 1890 US census was burned. The loss of this census makes for some difficult tracking during these years, but doubled efforts have been made to find records to take its place, like city directories, where available, and the like. Some states were just starting to keep records around the turn of the century, so it's a hit and miss situation. Texas vital records, for instance, were not officially recorded until after 1903, and then only sporadically by some counties for several years more. Arkansas is even later, around 1914.

Cornelia Francis Agee Gowin may have come to Texas and resided with her own siblings, but it's possible that she joined members of the Gowin family who were in Texas by this time also. Wayne Gowin's widowed mother had moved to Navarro, Texas, by 1880, with her younger son, Lafayette Gowin. The whereabouts of the various relatives of Cornelia are significant in understanding how she might have met and married Sam Patton. The Patton family was beginning to scatter by this time, but had been centered in the town of Red Oak, Ellis County, Texas, just south of Dallas. They had been large land-owners, not only in Ellis County but in other areas of the state as well, and Sam's father, James, had died in 1874, leaving much of the management of these land holdings to Sam. More on this later, but keep in mind the proximity of Cornelia's family. Lafayette Gowin was married in the same nearby county of Bosque, two years earlier than Sam Patton and "Mrs. C. F. Gowin" were married there. More than half of Wayne Gowin's siblings moved to TX, most to the cluster of counties surrounding Dallas.

Lizzie Agee Young and William Agee, Cornelia's younger siblings, along with their families, moved to Jones County, Texas, which is about 150 miles to the west of Dallas. It is next to Haskell County, mentioned by Col. Beck as the destination of the families when they moved from Arkansas. Perhaps they lived in Haskell for a time after arriving in TX. The Young family is found on census from 1900 to 1930 in Jones County, TX. By the way, 1930 is the last census available for research at this time. William Agee and family are found in Jones County from 1910 to 1930.

It seems appropriate now to bring in the Pattons.

### **Beginning with Col. James Erwin Patton**

There are volumes of information about our Patton family. Rather than trying to cover it here, I will begin with a little information about the parents of our great grandfather, Samuel E. Patton. They were Col. James Erwin Patton and Mary Catherine Cowsert. James Erwin Patton was born in Buncombe, North Carolina, but moved with his parents to Bedford, Tennessee as a young man. There he met Mary Catherine, and they were married 16 October 1817. By 1830 James and Mary had moved to Ray County, Missouri, and had 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. They kept slaves in those years, like the Agees, but in far fewer numbers. In 1820 in TN they had 2 female and 2 male slaves all under 14 years of age. In 1830 they had but 2 female slaves and by 1840, they had none. And, by that year, James and Mary Catherine had 9 children, the last of whom was Daniel. He would live with family for the rest of his life, having been born apparently mentally challenged. (Amusingly, Daniel was referred to as a "priest" in the FamilySearch website of the Mormon Church in their interpretation of the handwriting of a notation on the 1880 census that he was an "idiot," which rings harsh to our modern sensibilities and ears, but was in common usage in those times. This is a good example of the vagaries and challenges of reading the census.)

Patton family stories tell of the colorful nature of Samuel's father, Col. James Patton. Natalie Campbell Patton said:

James Erwin was quite a "Wheeler-dealer." He first came to Texas about 1832, leaving his family in Ray County, Missouri. By 1844 James had moved his family to the settlement of Red Oak, Ellis County, Texas, near the present site of Ovilla. James was known as "Colonel" to the folks around town as he served in the Mexican War. James has been described as an enterprising, generous and charitable man.

👉 Family Lore #9 - Was this the military title in the Patton line that we heard about?)

Not to belabor, but I thought this was interesting as well, from the Ellis County History Book:

James Erwin Patton was born in North Carolina, lived in Tennessee and by 1830 had moved with his family to Ray County, Missouri. He was a relative of a numerous family in that state, several of whom were ministers of that state. He was a man of honesty and integrity and so un-expecting that he suffered considerable loss financially, believing others as honest as himself. Devoted to his church, though not a sectarian, his hand ever open to the wants of suffering humanity, giving of his means to the institutions of the church and the cause of Christianity. James Erwin had limited education, but was a close observer, reader and thinker, so that he was well posted in church and governmental affairs. He engaged in locating and surveying land, which he continued to follow till the close of his earthly career.

👉 Family Lore #8 - Here is the legend of a Patton Surveyor of Texas.

Samuel E. Patton, our great grandfather, was the 7th child and 4th son of James and Mary Catherine. When the family did finally make the move from MO to TX, when Samuel was about 14, it was to a more stable environment as Texas had by this time eased some of the more volatile of its birth pains. The Handbook of Texas Online has this entry:

**RED OAK, TEXAS.** Red Oak is on Interstate Highway 35 twenty miles south of Dallas in northern Ellis County. In 1844 James E. Patton and his family settled on Red Oak Creek a few miles southeast of Billingsley Fort, at the site of present Ovilla. The first post office came to the area in 1847 from Mitchell's Branch, two miles from the site of future Red Oak. The settlement was originally called Possum Trot because of the abundance of possums in the area. It was renamed Red Oak after Ellis County was formed in 1849 for the creek. Before the Civil War the principal crop of the local farmers was wheat. In the 1860s an increase in cotton production occurred because more slaves came to the area from other southern states. Cotton was still produced in 1988, although farming was not central to the local economy.



Col. James Erwin Patton  
1799-1874

James E. Patton also founded the first church in the area, the Shiloh congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, on July 25, 1847. Other churches, including the Baptist and the Methodist, were founded at cemeteries. In 1884 the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad reached Red Oak. The townspeople did not want the trains to disturb the tranquility of the community, so the tracks passed by a mile northwest. The line was finally finished in 1890, connecting Red Oak with Dallas and Waco. The town eventually moved out and centered along the railroad. Fires in 1909 and 1919 caused extensive damage first to the southern and later to the northern part of town. Red Oak was incorporated in 1949. The population was 350 in 1950 and 1,882 in 1980. In 1967 Red Oak was used as the site for three days of filming for the motion picture Bonnie and Clyde. A local woman, Mrs. Mabel Cavitt, made a brief appearance as Bonnie Parker's mother. In 1987 Red Oak had an estimated 2,425 residents, most of whom were commuters to Dallas or Fort Worth. In 1990 the population was 3,124.

Pattons of Texas said of James surveying career:

"Colonel Patton was a surveyor and had much to do with the location

of the lands in this (Ellis) and other counties. He was employed to locate the Ellis County school lands. The Colonel was a tall angular man and somewhat eccentric. It is told that the lack of chain or chain-carriers was no obstacle to him. James would take a piece of rawhide, hobble his feet together the length of a foot apart and thus equipped, performed the duties of surveyor and chain-carriers."

The Bureau of Land Management has so many entries for James E. Patton during his lifetime that it defies absorbing. Probably he was privy to a great deal of land speculation during his years as a surveyor. The lands that came and went through his hands were fairly far flung throughout the state. By the time of his death in 1873, his estate was considerably reduced, from what I can gather, however, there were transactions and clarifications being made even after his death, which were attended to and signed by Samuel E. Patton. I have gathered several land transactions of this nature from the Ellis County Court records.

The Texas General Land office has historic maps of the Ellis County area for "surveying location." The images online are too difficult to read, but it would be interesting to find Patton's name on something like this. They do offer copies for sale.

## **Samuel Patton**

Col. James and Catherine's son, Samuel E. Patton, married Susan Louisa White, the daughter of Robert Macklin White and Mary Jane Gregg, 1 April 1852, in Ellis County, Texas. Louisa was born 28 Dec 1822, and was eight years older than Samuel. Together they produced a family of two sons and three daughters, the last born in 1861.

Samuel served with the Confederacy during the Civil War. He was with Parson's Mounted Volunteers, the 12th Regiment Texas Cavalry. He was a private going in and coming out. This is what we know about this unit.

12th Cavalry Regiment was organized with about 940 men in August, 1861, by Colonel W.H. Parsons. Most of the men were from Hempstead, Fairfield, Georgetown, and Waxahachie, and Ellis and Hill counties. This unit served in Hawes' and Steele's Brigade, Trans-Mississippi Department and skirmished the Federals in Arkansas and Louisiana. During 1865 it was in Northern Texas guarding approaches from the Indian Territory. The regiment was included in the surrender on June 2. Its commanders were Colonel William H. Parsons, Lieutenant Colonels Andrew B. Burleson and John W. Mullen, and Majors Locklin J. Farrar and E. W. Rogers.

After the war, in 1870, Samuel and Louisa were living in Red Oak. Samuel was listed as a 38 yr old farmer with real estate worth \$2000, and personal estate of \$800. Louisa was a 48 yr old homemaker with all five children still at home. They were; Mary Jane, 16, James E., 15, Cynthia, 13, Sarah M., 11, and Robert, 9.

I have looked high and low for years trying to locate Samuel and Louisa in 1880 without results. I had concluded that Louisa had died by that time and that Samuel was at loose ends, perhaps traveling and so was not listed by the census, however, I finally found at least one Patton researcher who gave a death date for Louisa of 23 Nov 1886. So many of the Pattons and Whites (Louisa's family) were buried in the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Ovilla, TX, very near Red Oak, that I was sure I would find her there, but she isn't listed in their records online, which is not conclusive evidence. She may be buried there. Some of her children are.

## **Our "half" Grand Aunts and Uncles**

Did our Grandmother, Cornelia, know anything about her half siblings who were so much older than her? I feel confident that she had heard many stories about them. I wish she had shared them with us, but it will have to suffice to tell you what I've been able to piece together. I will digress here a bit to tell you about them.

Though we don't know where Sam was in 1880, we do find his grown children living not far from their childhood home. They were in the Dallas area, in close proximity to one another. All but one had married.

The oldest, Mary Jane Patton, was born 27 December 1852. It's interesting that she was a full 40 years older than her half sister, Cornelia Patton McFarren. It would seem unlikely if we did not know for certain that their father, Sam Patton, was over 61 years old when our grandmother was born.

Mary Jane Patton married Christopher Columbus Trousdale, 8 November 1874. In 1880 we find C. C. and M. J. Trousdale living in Precinct 6, Dallas County, Texas. He was a 33 year old farmer from Illinois. He was the 10th of 13 children of Felix Grundy Trousdale and Elizabeth Lakin. C. C. and Mary Jane had but one child in 1880, 2 yr. old Sarah Louise, but they had lost a son, Felix Erwin, the first year of their marriage. Mary Jane evidently was expecting another child at the time of the 1880 Census, for Robert Lakin Trousdale was born to them in August of that year. Two years later, son John Summerville was born, to survive only one week. Tragedy struck the following year when young Mary Jane, a 31 year old mother of the two surviving children, died as well. Perinatal deaths were so common in that time that it's easy to suspect there was another pregnancy, but this is not known for sure, so at this time I don't know the cause of her death.


Christopher Trousdale lived quite a long life but never remarried. He stayed close to his children, and lived with them in his later years. The daughter, Sarah Louise married Utah rancher William Goddard and moved to New Mexico where Mr. Goddard found a job as a Supervisor with the US Forest Service. They had 4 children before divorcing sometime prior to 1920. Sarah had moved a short distance away by 1920, to El Paso, Texas, where she was claiming on census to be widowed, a very common "white lie" told in those days by divorcees. But Sarah's ex-husband, Mr. Goddard, still a Forest Service Supervisor, was alive and kicking, living in Roosevelt, Gila County, AZ, with a new young wife.

Christopher, 73 years of age, was living with son, Robert, and wife in 1920 in La Union, Dona Ana, NM. And by 1930 Christopher was living with daughter Sarah Louise Goddard, in El Paso.

Christopher Columbus Trousdale died November 1935. I haven't found a death record for his daughter, Sarah Louise, but most of her children appeared to have stayed in Texas, except one son, William Charles Goddard, who died in 1991 in San Francisco. The son of Christopher and Mary Jane Patton Trousdale, Robert Trousdale, died in 1981 in El Paso. He had no children.

Back to the children of Sam Patton and his first wife, Louisa. Their second child was James Erwin Patton, obviously named for his paternal grandfather, the Colonel. James was born 17 September 1853. He married 18 year old Emma L. (maiden name unknown) of Louisiana on 17 April 1879, so by the 1880 census they had been married only a year. James was listed as a miller that year, but it does not specify what type of mill he owned, though I assume it was for grain. Emma was carrying a child at census time in 1880, like her sister-in-law Mary Jane Trousdale, who lived next door. Son James M. Patton was born to this young couple in November of 1880.

Sadly, James Erwin Patton left his young bride a widow much too early. He died in the winter of 1883, three weeks before Christmas. He is buried at Shiloh Cemetery, as is his sister, Mary Jane, who preceded him in death by only 41 days. Sam Patton had a very difficult year, losing both of his eldest children so close together.

 Family Lore #6 - Was James Erwin Patton, who died at the age of 30, our grandmother's half sibling who died in a RR dynamite accident?

James Erwin Patton's young widow, Emma L. Patton, waited 11 years to remarry, and had no more children. She married Joseph Cogdell, a retail grocer, who helped her raise her young son, James M. Patton, in Mineral Wells, Texas. By 1930, Mr. Cogdell had died too and the twice-widowed Emma was living with her son and his family in Lancaster, Dallas County. James M. Patton had become manager of an Insurance office. His wife, Ima, was a typist for Sun Oil Co. and their only child, James L. Patton, was an architect, 23, single and still living at home with his parents and grandmother.

The third child of Sam and Louisa Patton was daughter, Cynthia E., born about 1857. Cynthia married Duncan James Calhoun 1 April 1873, on her parents 21st wedding anniversary. D. J. Calhoun was born and raised in Clarke County, Alabama, the son of Duncan Calhoun and Rachel Graham. In 1880, D. J. and Cynthia farmed next door to Cynthia's siblings in Dallas County. They had two sons, Samuel D., 6, and William A., 2, that year. I've made many searches for Cynthia and D. J. after 1880, but have not found either of them after that date. D. J.'s large Calhoun family remained in Clarke County, Alabama, where he was born. Sons Samuel and William, are later found living in Clarke Co., so perhaps this is where D. J. and Cynthia moved after 1880. Since we are missing the 1890 census we cannot locate them that year, so it's possible that they both died by 1900, leaving no records behind.

We find that son Samuel D. Calhoun married Aleene (unknown maiden name) of Alabama. They farmed in River Hill, Clarke County, and had no children.

Son William was still single at 30 years of age in 1910. He lived with a Calhoun cousin in Lincoln County, LA, and worked in a Printer's office. Apparently this was the beginning of a lifelong career for William. By the 1918 WW I draft he was married to Nellie Ainslee and resided again in Clarke Co., AL. He was then himself a publisher. This is corroborated by the 1920 Census where his occupation was given as Editor, Newspaper.

William's wife, Nellie, was a "laborer" on the newspaper, so evidently it was a Mom and Pop operation, though their only child was the newspaper. They had no offspring, then or later. They were still childless at age 50, but remained the publishers of the newspaper in Jackson, AL. Today Jackson's newspaper is the South Alabamian. It would be interesting to see if its roots were in the Calhoun's paper.

The fourth child of Sam and Louisa Patton was daughter, Sarah M. Patton, born about 1859. At around age 19, Sarah married Hill Hamilton of Tennessee. They were living in Ellis County, two doors away from Sarah's uncle, Reverend Robert White and his family, in 1880. Rev. White was Louisa White Patton's brother, who became minister of the Shiloh Cumberland Presbytery for a time. A son, Jessie C. Hamilton was born to Sarah and Hill Hamilton in 1879, and in May of 1882, they had daughter, Eva. Sarah did not live to see the turn of the century either however. I cannot find burial records for her but Hill Hamilton was a widower by 1900, living with daughter, Eva, 18. Later records have not been found for any of this family.

If you are keeping track, it appears that the first four of Sam Patton's children may well have died before 1900. We know for sure that 3 of them did. There was one more son from this first marriage. His name was Robert Macklin Patton, born about 1861. He was named for his mother's grandfather or uncle, both Robert Macklin White. In 1880 he was a laborer, 19, and

boarding with a Smith family, not far from his siblings and their families in Dallas County. I have yet to find a subsequent record for certain for Robert M. Patton, so he is still a mystery.

Referring back to Col. James E. Patton, Sam's father, for a moment, James had long outlived his first wife and Sam's mother, Mary Catherine, who died in 1851 in Ellis Co. Col. Patton had the care Daniel, the youngest son, to be concerned with and so it appears he looked for help by marrying it. He remarried in December of 1854 to Mary D. Sneed. Reportedly this marriage ended in divorce. By 1860, Mary D. Sneed Patton was living with her daughter by her first marriage, supporting herself as an embroidress in Waxahachie, Ellis County. The Colonel, 61, was not far away, living with Daniel, 21. He did have a 31 year old male slave at the time, so perhaps this was Daniel's caregiver during that time while the Colonel conducted his business. He had amassed considerable land holdings, which were worth in excess of \$58,000, and his personal estate was worth \$3200.

I don't find a record for service for Col. Patton during the Civil War, but then he was in his 60s by that time and more than likely he was needed at home to help the households whose men were away at war.

By 1870, after the Civil War, Col. Patton was married to the widow Annie J. Carmichael who still had minor children at home. His real estate was then worth \$30,000. His personal worth was only \$400.

What happened to Annie is unclear, but it appears that James married one more time, in September 1871 to another widow, Mrs. Mary J. Browning. Col. James Erwin Patton died of Tuberculosis on 8 August 1874 in Peoria, Hill County, TX. It was a trip of about 50 miles to lay him to rest in Shiloh Cemetery next to Mary Catherine, his first wife and mother of his children.

Daniel was taken in by his widowed older sister Margaret Patton Goodloe after the Colonel died. They say that Margaret had a large and lively household in Ellis County. Daniel was 42 in 1880. His death date is unknown.

The point of presenting this information here is to note that Col. James Patton was living in Peoria in the 1870's during his last years, which is only about 25 miles from Meridian, Bosque County, TX, where Samuel Patton married Cornelia Agee Gowin in 1888. It's very possible that Samuel was looking after the estate left by his father, in or near Peoria, when he met Cornelia. Samuel did have other siblings, but they are all accounted for, most living in other areas of the state. If this is where Samuel was residing in those years, it could well be that Peoria, Hill Co., TX is the birthplace of our grandmother, and the burial place of Cornelia F. Agee Gowin Patton. This is yet to be proven. There are a number of cemeteries in Hill County that have not been transcribed for publication. If a gravestone exists and is in tact for Cornelia F. Patton, it may be for future generations to find.

### **Cornelia Patton's Parents**

So, this brings us to July 5, 1888, when Samuel E. Patton and the widow, Mrs. Cornelia F. (Agee) Gowin, were married. Cornelia was 40 years old. She had been widowed for 15 ½ years. Her son was over 18 years of age and she had recently moved to Texas from Arkansas after the death of her father, Hercules J. Agee in January of 1886. This marriage is an interesting match because of the age difference, Samuel being 18 years older than Cornelia, but probably not so unusual in those days. I would imagine that Samuel was rather lonely by then. We know he had lost his wife and at least his two older children by that time. In any case, the remaining children were grown with lives of their own. And surely Cornelia would have looked for the stability of a marriage at this juncture as well, especially after the recent loss of her father.

It must have been quite a shock to both of them in the latter months of 1891 to realize they were expecting a child. Cornelia, then 43, had not given birth since her second son was born in 1872 (he died as an infant). Samuel turned 61 in November. Who knows? Perhaps they were elated at the prospect of a child. I, for one, hope so. In any event, with the spring lambing and the new growth of the cotton, sorghum, and wheat crops sprouting around them, all life unfolding on the Texas plains of April of 1892, our grandmother made her way into the world. Now that we have a death date of 13 May 1892, supplied by a Gowin researcher, we know that Cornelia Francis died 25 days after her daughter was born. So many things can and did go wrong during, and soon after, childbirth in those days of home deliveries, with little help other than from Mother Nature, a country Doc or midwife with their home remedies, and good luck and the grace of God. Since she lived that long, it can be speculated that she had a septic birth causing a lingering infection that eventually overwhelmed her.

Whatever may have gone wrong, Samuel found himself with a motherless infant on his hands. I imagine he required the help of family or friends to care for newborn Cornelia, named for her poor mother. Cornelia Labelle must have celebrated her first birthday and the appearance of a new mother around the same time. Samuel married Martha, a widow who had no children of her own. We know little about Martha, except she was born about 1837 in Alabama, and that she had been married before.

We also don't know exactly when and why Samuel decided to move to Arkansas in the mid 1890s. Whatever economic or political problems were plaguing the Southern states in those years, they were surely as bad in Arkansas as they were in Texas. Maybe Samuel simply wanted a quieter existence, which he surely found in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. Perhaps he was thinking along the same patterns that we do these days when considering retirement, finding a location where the dollar goes further.

Anyhow, by 1900 the census tells us that Samuel E. Patton, 69, was farming in Red River Township, Searcy County, Arkansas, with his wife of 7 years, Martha A. (maiden name unknown), 63, and his little daughter, called "Belle" at that time, eight years of age. The census also tells us that "Belle" was born in Texas, father born in MO, mother born in MO- this last note about mother's birthplace being MO, is an error, but a common one in those days. Like Grandpa Exie McFarren, the informants to the census-taker did not always know things such as the parents birthplaces, even of their spouse's parents, and often gave erroneous data. Later, Grandma, herself, did not seem to know. She reported her mother's birthplace to be TX in 1910, MO in 1920, and simply US in 1930. Perhaps they were pressed to fill in the blank regardless of whether they knew or not. As you can imagine, this compounds the difficulty of the task of the researcher.



- Family Lore #1 Born in Texas
- Family Lore #2 Raised in Arkansas
- Family Lore #3 Father Samuel Patton
- Family Lore #4 Mother died when Cornelia Labelle was a babe.
- Family Lore #7 Raised by a stepmother

### A match made in ....Arkansas



Cornelia

The next time the census rolled around, there were some new citizens of Red River Twp in the Ozark National Forest Reserve. John and Mary Ann McFarren had come to live there. In 1910 they were sharing their home with only a grand-daughter, May, aged 12, all of their progeny having grown and flown the nest some time before. However, nearby was their son, Exie, 28, and his 18 year old wife of only 1 year, Cornelia. They owned and worked their own farm. This census of April 1910 also notes that Cornelia attended school during the previous year. We know, of course, that Cornelia was expecting her first child in July. It was a very busy and productive time for our grandmother. The rigors of homemaking in that time, and in that place, could not have been a stranger to her though, and I imagine she was well equipped to take on her new roles, even at her tender age. Her 80 year old father was living nearby with his wife Martha, then 74. I can imagine that she had been doing much of the labor in their home for some time.

### Samuel's Death

This is the last time we find Samuel E. Patton on the census. I have yet to determine when Martha died exactly. The AR death records began in 1914 but she does not appear in them, so I would conclude that she died between 1910 and 1914.

We have Samuel's Death Certificate from the State of California of 1918. What was Samuel doing in California then? Of course, we know that Cornelia and Exie McFarren, with their son Elmore, and little daughter Dovie in tow, moved to CA around 1913. But Samuel and Martha did not go with them then. The certificate sheds some light, despite its sketchy information.

The Death Certificate has two parts. One is information gathered from a family member, which in this case was from Samuel's son-in-law, E. M. McFarren, who knew little of Samuel's life. Exie McFarren either left blank certain questions such as the name and birthplace of Samuel's mother, or he was ambiguous, such as saying Sam was the widowed husband of "Mrs. Sam C. Patton." Yes! He gave the middle initial "C." This was definitely in error. He did have his birth date and his place of birth correct. Grandma must have written this down for him.

Most telling however was the information about the length of time Sam had been residing in the "Place of Death" and/or in "California." Both were very clearly written as 7 days!

The other portion of the Death Certificate is the Medical Certificate of Death. W. F. Marler, M. D. of Holtville signed it on 10-2-1918. He states that he attended the deceased from 9-26-1918 to 10-1-1918, "that I last saw him alive" on 9-26-1918 and that death occurred on the date stated above (10-1) at 10:30 AM.

Cause of death: Rupture of small vessel in brain. Duration: (6 or 1-difficult to read) days.  
Contributory: Arterio-sclerosis. Duration: Several years.  
Burial: El Centro.  
Undertaker: Mulligan and Bowen - El Centro, Calif.

If Sam had been senile for "several years," we can only speculate that someone in AR loaded the elderly Sam Patton on the train and sent him to his only known kin, his daughter Cornelia, in California. My heart sinks thinking about how confused he must have been, but I cannot imagine other scenarios. Grandma, by this time, had four children to care for, and in that month, October of 1918, she was pregnant with my mother, the 3rd Cornelia. My mother "Babe" Hazel Cornelia McFarren, changed her middle name, informally, to Carol sometime in her youth. I now wish that she had known the history of her

name. It might have changed her attitude about it! At any rate, It seems unlikely, though not impossible, that our grandmother made a round trip to Arkansas to fetch her ailing elderly father, so I imagine he came alone, confused, not well, perhaps with a note pinned to his lapel. (Pardon my imagination!) Of course, it's always possible that someone from AR was headed to CA and brought him along with them. I guess we will never know about that fateful trip.

Exie's mother, Mary Ann Jackson, had died in Holtville in December of the previous year, but John McFarren lived on until March of 1922. These three of our great grandparents are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in El Centro, CA. I believe there is only a numbered plaque showing Sam's resting place. Someday I would like to provide at least a simple marker for him, with name and dates engraved.

#### Regarding Death and Birth Certificates-

Cornelia's own Death Certificate also contains errors. It represents another example of the need to recognize that these kinds of documents contain information presented to the official agency by a family member, who may or may not know the facts. In the State of California that agency is the Department of Health Services and in Grandma McFarren's case, the "informant" was Dovie Johnston. Aunt Dovie gave Cornelia's father's name as "John Patton." It was commonly known by the family that Grandma Cornelia's father was Samuel Patton, not John Patton. Dovie probably confused him with her other grandfather, John McFarren. Both grandfathers died in Holtville before Dovie was 10 years old.

Dovie never knew her maternal grandmother, and obviously did not remember her name but probably gave something that rang a bell to her. She stated for the record that Cornelia's mother was "Kathleen Calhoun." As you can imagine, this sent me on a number of wild goose chases, but now I can say that I thoroughly investigated the possibility that Kathleen Calhoun, or any part of that name, was the correct one, and can confidently say it is not. My conjecture about where it came from is clearly only a wild guess. Calhoun, as you recall, was the married name of Samuel Patton's daughter, Cynthia Evie. Might Cornelia have known the name and passed it down in family stories to her children? Also, we don't yet know the surname for Cornelia's stepmother who raised her, other than Martha A. (Patton). Could she have been a Calhoun before her marriage to Sam Patton?

As for the given name, Kathleen, I'm even more stumped, but do have an idea or two to consider. The name "Kathleen," or a derivation of it, appears in a couple places. One is in the name of our Aunt Exie. Her Birth Certificate states her name as Exie Kathleen McFarren. Grandma Cornelia wrote her daughter Exie's name "Exie Catheren Ester McFarren" many years later. Aunt Exie's daughter, Bonnie, said she thought that Exie didn't like her middle name, Esther, in High School, so she used the name Kathleen instead for her middle name, but then it turned out that Kathleen was the one on the birth certificate all along. My mother always said Exie's name was Exie Kathleen Esther McFarren. Despite all the iterations, Kathleen is definitely a part of Cornelia's second daughter's name. So, where did that come from? If she named Aunt Exie for someone other than Grandpa Exie, who was it?

We know now that Grandma's mother's name was Cornelia Francis (nee Agee) and that Grandma was given her first name. We also know that the mother of Cornelia Francis (Agee Gowin) Patton, was Elizabeth Kate (McRae) Agee, and that she lived until March 5, 1904. She is buried in Phantom Hill Cemetery in Jones County, TX. Grandma Cornelia would have been close to 14 years old by the time of her maternal grandmother's death. Did she know her? Did they write to each other? Was Elizabeth's middle name Kate actually "Kathleen?" Was this name given to Aunt Exie to honor her great grandmother Agee?

Another interesting name to trace is that of Uncle Elmore, given as Elmore Lee Ervin McFarren on his "delayed" Birth Certificate, issued by the State of Arkansas in 1962 and signed by his mother. She, however, later wrote his name "Elmore Le Evern McFarren" on that now infamous list of creative spellings (see below). "Ervin" or "Erwin" is a family name (with variations) passed down to several members of the Patton family. It's origins lay in the surname of Col. James Erwin Patton's paternal grandmother, Margaret Irwin, who died in 1790 in Azalea, NC. Did Sam Patton suggest to Grandma Cornelia that she give her first born son this family name? Was Samuel's own middle name Erwin, after his father? I strongly suspect that it was, but it is not stated on any documents I've found. Only the middle initial, "E," is given. By the way, Uncle Elmore's other middle name, "Lee," might be for Grandpa Exie's brother, Benjamin Lee McFarren.

Well, as you can see, these are the challenges of a family historian. Many of these "answers" will remain speculation. The point is that we can't put too much stock in "official" document information, but must only use it as a possible guide, just like family lore. The information stated on these documents can be as illusive as memory.

## The end of the beginning

A remarkable woman like our Grandmother Cornie must have had a story to tell. I knew it would be a good one when I found it. I'm pleased to present it to you here and hope you enjoyed it a fraction as much as I enjoyed finding it.

My notes on sources are voluminous. I didn't even begin to give all the details here. There are many more family members with fascinating lives that were not mentioned here. I hope to be able to share it all with those with computers one of these days. For safe keeping, my brother Jerry has at least one copy of my research thus far.

My purpose is to share with you some of the adventure of researching our family. I hope you didn't fall asleep too many times. We have a rich heritage that I have only hinted at here. The most fulfilling way to discover it is to do your own research, but I am most happy to share all of my information with any one of you. I was particularly excited to make these breakthroughs in Grandma Cornie's family, which has been so difficult to unveil. She was the grandparent who made the biggest impact in my life, so it has been a pleasure to find, and to share her story with you.

If you close your eyes and try, you might smell her bread baking, see her hands and crochet needle working an intricate pattern, and hear her soft chuckle in your memory.

Love to all my cousins,  
Judy

---

### Just a few References:

Huguenot Immigration to Virginia" Brock  
The Agee Register" Louis N. Agee

<http://huguenot-manakin.org/> (Website with history and photos of the site of the Huguenot Colony in VA)

GOWEN RESEARCH FOUNDATION ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER  
Volume 1, No. 4 April 25, 1998

<http://members.aol.com:/pattnath/cjep.html>  
Research of Natalie Campbell Patton

Ellis County History Book

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/RR/hjr5.html>  
The Handbook of Texas Online  
BIBLIOGRAPHY: Edna Davis Hawkins, et al., History of Ellis County, Texas (Waco: Texian, 1972).

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/mapscol.html>  
Texas General Land Office Map Collection  
Texas History, Texas Maps