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The Wiley Funeral Home Records at Ouachita Baptist University

Lisa K. Speer

In 2009, Ouachita Baptist University's Special Collections and Archives received a set of records from the Wiley Funeral Home (now Mitchell Funeral Home) of Arkadelphia, containing death certificates, burial transit permits, and funeral insurance records kept between 1941-1968. The records document the lives of several thousand African Americans who were either residents of Clark County or whose funerals were handled by Wiley Funeral Home.

The Wiley Funeral Home records are composed primarily of copies of death certificates and funeral insurance records, as well as a small number of burial transit permits shipped with individuals who died outside of Arkansas and whose bodies were returned to the state for burial. Death certificates compose the bulk of the records, with 1,121 certificates for 1,038 individuals. For 83 people, there are one or more death certificates, not all of which contain identical information. In some cases, additional certificates are more completely filled out, or have conflicting information, such as dates of birth.

Handwriting on the death certificates, which are carbon copies, is faint and often not completely legible. Names also sometimes appear to be spelled phonetically. As far as was possible, every effort was made to verify the names of individuals against other existing sources, including the six-volume *Clark County Cemetery Indexes*, *Find a Grave*, and *Ancestry*. Wiley Funeral Home did not always provide complete birth and death dates on the death certificates. When only the age of the deceased was provided, a year of birth has been estimated.

Arkansas death certificate forms used during this period provided for gathering standard information about the deceased. The Wiley Funeral Home certificates vary in the degree of information collected. The examples provided below are from the two oldest persons represented in the records, Amandy Brinkley and Jonil Stitt, both of whom were born in the early 1840s. From the information collected about Jonil Stitt, one learns that she was an African American female, born in North Carolina in about 1843, based on her age (104) given on the date of her death, May 14, 1947. Mrs. Stitt was a widow, who lived in Gurdon, Clark County, Arkansas, at the time of her death. During her lifetime, she

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worked as a housekeeper. The names and birthplaces of Mrs. Stitt's parents are listed as "unknown," from which one can infer that the informant, Sula Glenn, either did not know their names, or that Mrs. Stitt did not know their names. Given that Mrs. Stitt was born in 1843, it is entirely possible that she was born into slavery and was separated from her parents as a child. Further research would need to be conducted to confirm this speculation.

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State File No. Thomas

Registration District No. _____
Primary Registration District No. _____ Registrar's No. _____

<p>1. PLACE OF DEATH:</p> <p>(a) County <u>Clark</u></p> <p>(b) Township <u>Madison</u></p> <p>(c) City or Town <u>London</u> Ward _____</p> <p>(d) Name of Hospital or Institution _____ (If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)</p> <p>(e) Length of stay: in hospital or institution _____ (Specify whether years, months or days)</p> <p>in this community _____ (Specify whether years, months or days)</p>		<p>2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:</p> <p>(a) State <u>Ark</u> (b) County <u>Clark</u></p> <p>(c) City or Town <u>London</u> (If outside city or town limits, write Rural Number)</p> <p>(d) Street No. _____ (If rural, give location)</p> <p>(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.7 _____ years</p>	
<p>3(a) FULL NAME <u>Jonil Stitt</u></p> <p>3(b) If veteran, name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____</p> <p>4. Sex <u>F</u> 5. Color or race <u>Col</u> 6(a) Single, widowed, married, divorced <u>Married</u></p> <p>6(b) Name of husband or wife _____</p> <p>6(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years</p> <p>7. Birth date of deceased _____ (Month) _____ (Day) _____ (Year) If less than one day _____</p> <p>8. Age: _____ Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ hr. _____ min.</p> <p>9. Birthplace <u>North Carolina</u> (City, town, or county) _____ (State or foreign country)</p> <p>10. Usual occupation <u>house keeper</u></p> <p>11. Industry or business _____</p>		<p>MEDICAL CERTIFICATION</p> <p>20. Date of death: Month <u>May</u> day <u>14</u> year 19<u>47</u></p> <p>21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____; that I last saw him alive on _____, 19____, and that death occurred on the _____ date stated above at _____ M.</p> <p>Immediate cause of death _____</p> <p>Due to _____</p> <p>Other conditions _____ (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)</p> <p>Major findings: _____</p> <p>Of operations _____</p> <p>Of autopsy _____</p> <p>22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following: (a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____ (b) Date of occurrence _____ (c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City or town) _____ (County) _____ (State) _____ (d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? (Specify type of place) _____ While at work? _____ (e) Means of injury _____</p> <p>23. Signature _____ M. D. Address _____ Date signed _____</p>	
<p>MOTHER</p> <p>12. Name <u>Unknown</u></p> <p>13. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) _____ (State or foreign country)</p> <p>14. Maiden name _____</p> <p>15. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) _____ (State or foreign country)</p> <p>16(a) Informant's own signature <u>Sula Glenn</u></p> <p>(b) P. O. address <u>London, Ark</u></p> <p>17(a) <u>Burial</u> (b) Date thereof <u>May 18, 1947</u> (Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)</p> <p>(c) Place: Burial or cremation <u>London, Ark</u></p> <p>18(a) Signature of funeral director <u>J. E. Smith</u></p> <p>(b) P. O. address <u>Archie, Ark</u></p> <p>19(a) _____ (b) _____ (Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)</p>		<p>FATHER</p> <p>12. Name _____</p> <p>13. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) _____ (State or foreign country)</p> <p>14. Maiden name _____</p> <p>15. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) _____ (State or foreign country)</p>	

Figure 1: Jonil Stitt death certificate, May 14, 1947.

Missing from Mrs. Stitt's certificate is the name of her deceased spouse, and her date of birth. If Mrs. Stitt was born into slavery and separated from her parents at some point, it is also possible that she did not know the date of her birth.

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Amandy Brinkley's death certificate, while also lacking complete information, provides some additional information that might help a researcher attempting to put together the pieces of her story. From her certificate we learn that she was a 101-year-old African American woman at the time of her death on what appears to be December 24, 1941 or 1947. However, her birthdate is given as 27 July 1843. So if we assume that her age is correct, the year is 1944. We also learn that Mrs. Brinkley was married to Peter Brinkley, and that she had been living in Gurdon, Arkansas, since 1887. The place of her birth is listed as "Clumba Co.," which is likely to be a phonetic spelling for Columbia or Columbus County, although no state is provided. Her father's name is provided, Louis U. Banks, and his birthplace is listed as South Carolina.¹ The informant's name is given as John Nails, whose relationship to Mrs. Brinkley is not known. Like Mrs. Stitt, during her lifetime, Mrs. Brinkley worked as a housekeeper. The place of burial, unfortunately, was left blank, so we do not learn from this document where Mrs. Brinkley is buried.

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Dr. John Nails

Registration District No. _____ State File No. _____
Primary Registration District No. _____ Registrar's No. _____

<p>1. PLACE OF DEATH:</p> <p>(a) County: <u>Clark</u></p> <p>(b) Township: <u>Ward</u></p> <p>(c) City or Town: <u>Ward</u> Ward _____</p> <p>(d) Name of Hospital or Institution (If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)</p> <p>(e) Length of stay: In hospital or institution _____ (Specify whether years, months or days)</p> <p>In this community: <u>1887</u> (Specify whether years, months or days)</p>	<p>2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:</p> <p>(a) State _____ (b) County _____</p> <p>(c) City or town _____ (If outside city or town limits, write Rural Number)</p> <p>(d) Street No. _____ (If rural, give location)</p> <p>(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.? _____ years</p>
<p>3(a) FULL NAME: <u>Amandy Brinkley</u></p> <p>3(b) If veteran, name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____</p>	
<p>4. Sex: <u>7</u> 5. Color or race: <u>Ch</u> 6(a) Single, widowed, married, divorced _____</p> <p>6(b) Name of husband or wife: <u>Peter Brinkley</u></p> <p>6(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years</p> <p>7. Birth date of deceased: <u>27 July 1843</u> (Month) (Day) (Year) <u>101</u> years <u>7</u> months <u>27</u> days (If less than one day)</p> <p>8. Age: _____ Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ hr. _____ min.</p> <p>9. Birthplace: <u>Columbia Co.</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)</p> <p>10. Usual occupation: <u>housekeeper</u></p> <p>11. Industry or business _____</p> <p>12. Name of father: <u>Louis U. Banks</u></p> <p>13. Birthplace of father: <u>South Carolina</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)</p> <p>14. Maiden name _____</p> <p>15. Birthplace of mother _____ (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)</p>	
<p>16(a) Informant's own signature: <u>John Nails</u></p> <p>(b) P. O. address _____</p> <p>17(a) (Burial, cremation, or removal) _____ (b) Date thereof: _____ (Month) (Day) (Year)</p> <p>(c) Place: Burial or cremation _____</p> <p>18(a) Signature of funeral director _____</p> <p>(b) P. O. address _____</p> <p>19(a) (Date received local registrar) _____ (b) (Registrar's signature) _____</p>	
<p>MEDICAL CERTIFICATION</p> <p>20. Date of death: Month <u>Dec</u> day <u>24</u> year 19<u>44</u></p> <p>21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____, 19____ to _____, 19____; that I last saw him alive on _____, 19____, and that death occurred on the date stated above at _____ M.</p> <p>Immediate cause of death _____ Date of Onset _____</p> <p>Due to _____</p> <p>Other conditions: (include pregnancy within 3 months of death) _____</p> <p>Major findings: _____</p> <p>Of operations: _____</p> <p>Of autopsy: _____</p> <p>22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following: (a) Accident, episode, or homicide (specify) _____ (b) Date of occurrence _____ (c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City or town) _____ (County) _____ (State) (d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____</p> <p>While at work? _____ (Specify type of place) (e) Means of injury _____</p> <p>23. Signature _____ M. D. Address _____ Date signed _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PHYSICIAN Underscribe the cause to which death should be charged statistically.</p>	

Form VS-13-20M-4-12-78423-C-362E. MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Figure 2: Amandy Brinkley death certificate, December 24, [1944].

¹ Louis U. Banks could be his name or this could be a mistranslation of "Eubanks/Ewbanks" on the death certificate.

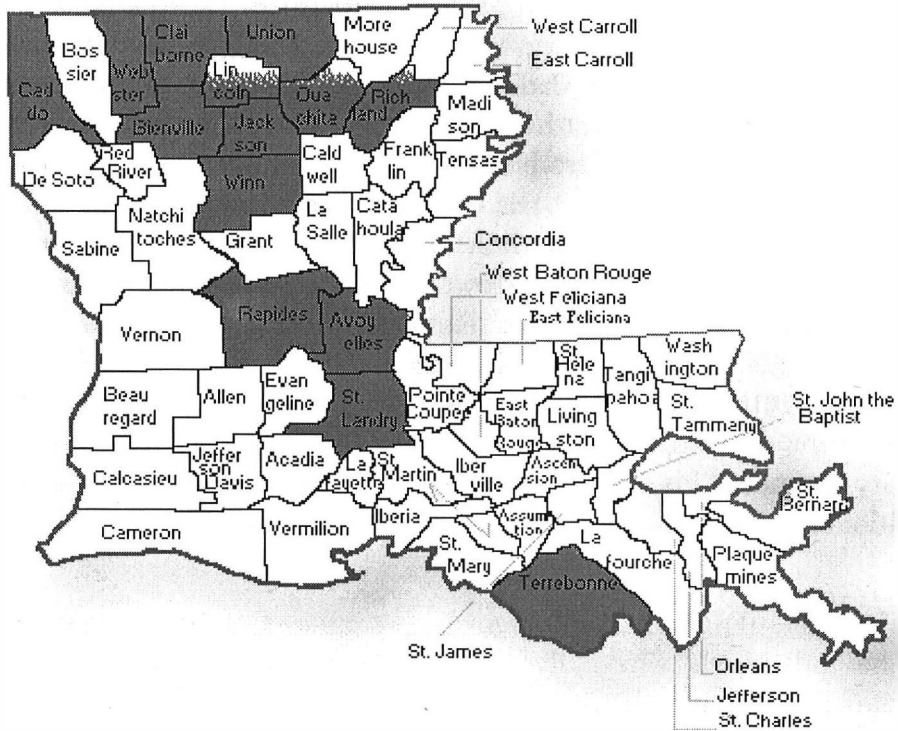
While the Wiley Funeral Home records are useful sources, particularly for those conducting African American family history research, like most sources, they should not be relied upon as sole pieces of evidence. When we turn to United States Federal Census records for 1910, we find Amanda Brinkley listed in the household of Peter Brinkley in Caddo Township, Clark County, Arkansas. Her age is given as 57, which would put her birth year as 1853. Her birthplace is listed as North Carolina (for which there is a Columbus County). Peter is identified as a Mulatto, and Amanda as Black. His occupation is given as farmer, while none is listed for Amanda. In their household is a third resident, a 15-year old Esther Nails, who is listed as a “niece.” However, a 1904 marriage license from Clark County documents Peter Brinkley’s marriage to a 55-year-old “A. Nails.” This seems to indicate that Amanda and Peter married sometime between 1904 and 1910, following the dissolution of his previous marriage. A record of Peter Brinkley’s 1904 marriage is held in the Clark County records at Ouachita Baptist University, but not of his subsequent marriage to Amanda Brinkley. Unfortunately, no additional information was found on Jonil Stitt at the time this article was written.

The Wiley Funeral Home records are interesting not only for the details about the individuals whose lives are documented therein; but also for the composite view they provide of this subset of Clark County’s and south Arkansas’s population in this time period. The group is characterized more by its homogeneity than its diversity. The 1,038 individuals for whom there are death certificates break down into 580 males and 503 females. Of these, 436 are identified as being or having been married at the time of their deaths; 315 as widowed; and eight as divorced. In all, 759 or 73% of the *total group* were married. The percentage of the group is actually higher when you consider that 88 of the 1,038 death certificates are for infants who did not survive beyond their first year of life. This brings the percentage of adults who reported as married/widowed/divorced to 79.8%. The percentage of infant mortality for this group is relatively small, less than one percent (.008).²

Only a small number (102 people) were born outside of Arkansas. Of that number, 43% listed Louisiana as their birthplace, although not all came from the same parish. Many of them came from the northern portion of the state on or near the Arkansas border. Claiborne and Union parishes, adjacent parishes on the south Arkansas border, provided almost half the emigrants (42/44). Other Louisiana parishes from which emigrants came to Arkansas included: Avoyelles, Bienville, Caddo, Jackson, Lincoln, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, St. Landry, Terrebonne, Webster, and Winn. Avoyelles, Rapides and St. Landry are in central Louisiana, and Terrebonne is in the southern part of the state, bordering the Gulf of Mexico. All others are located in northern Louisiana.

² “Infant mortality” for purposes of this study is defined as not surviving beyond the first year of life.

Migration From Louisiana Parishes



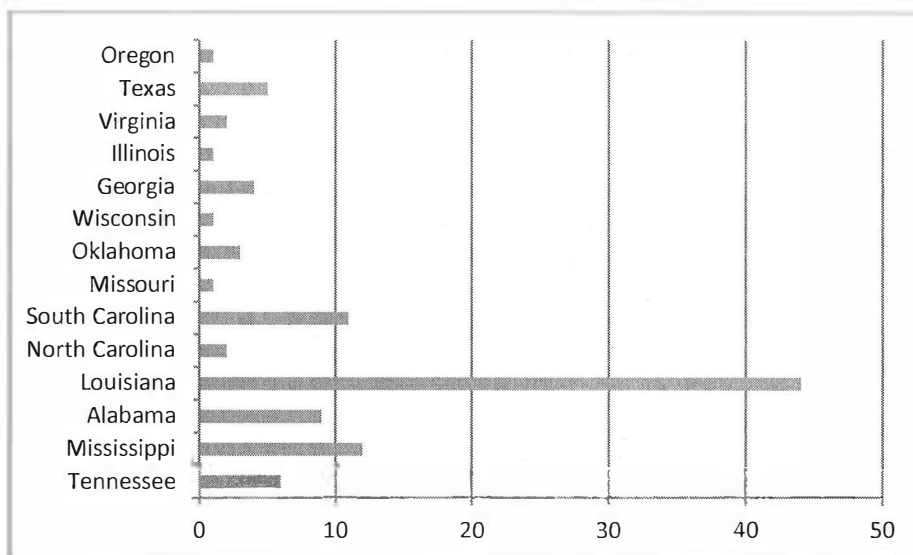
Source: diymaps.net (c)

Figure 3: Migration to Arkansas from Louisiana, 1853-1932.

The majority of the individuals born outside of Arkansas were born in states that were part of the Confederacy during the Civil War. 93% of the emigrants came from southern states, while seven were born in Illinois (1), Missouri (1), Oklahoma (3), Oregon (1), and Wisconsin (1). These numbers support scholarship on African American postbellum migration patterns. Between the end of the Civil War and World War I, Arkansas attracted more African American migrants than any other state, over 200,000.³ Many came for higher wages and inexpensive land; but Arkansas’s political and social climate attracted others.

³ Story Matkin-Rawn, “‘The Great Negro State of the County’: Arkansas’s Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 72, 1 (Spring 2013): 3.

Figure 4: Born Outside of Arkansas.



During Reconstruction, blacks in Arkansas made significant gains as office holders at the county and state level, and also at the polls. Black office holders worked to secure legislation that supported public schools that provided equal, albeit separate, accommodations for African American pupils. And these same legislators successfully pressed for civil rights statutes in 1868 and 1873 that prohibited business owners who provided public accommodations from discriminating lest they risk fines or imprisonment. While the laws were generally not enforced, historian John Graves suggests that their existence slowed segregationist practices in Arkansas.⁴

Between 1870 and 1910, approximately one of every ten black southerners migrated to another southern state. Over three-quarters of these migrants moved to states considered “southwestern” at the time – Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. According to demographer William Vickery, nearly 700,000 African Americans moved to these five states over this forty year time period.⁵ Most of them relocated to Arkansas. While the Wiley Funeral Home records indicate that blacks migrated to Arkansas from states farther east, like Alabama (9), South Carolina (11), Georgia (4), Tennessee (6), North Carolina (2), and Virginia (2), the Wiley records also reflect African Americans moving from “southwestern” states like Mississippi (12), Texas (5), Oklahoma and Louisiana to Arkansas. This movement may reflect Arkansas’s greater political, social and economic opportunities for African Americans that lasted until a less welcoming climate settled over the state in the 1890s. The 102 individuals born outside of Arkansas were born between 1843 and 1957, with 75% of them born between 1859

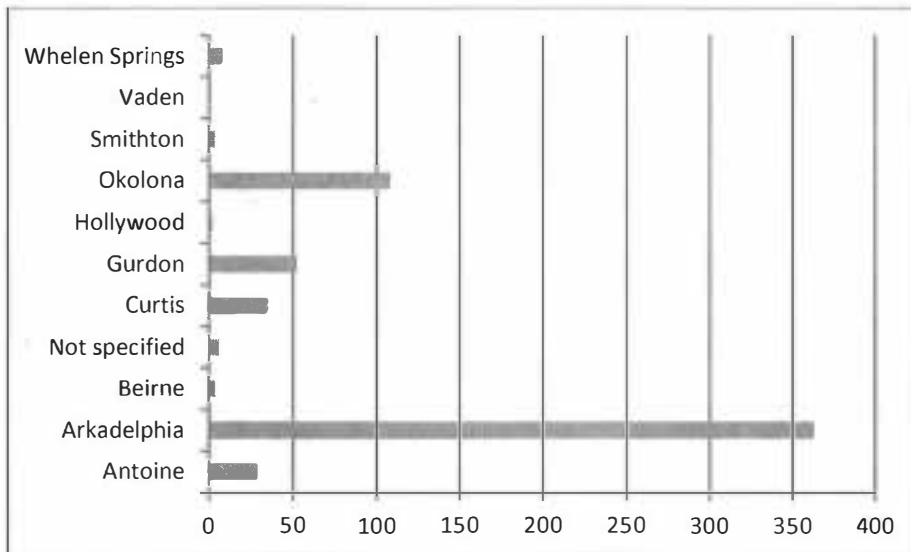
⁴ “African Americans,” *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, accessed September 30, 2019, at <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/african-americans-407/>.

⁵ William Vickery, *The Economics of Negro Migration, 1900-1960* (New York: Arno Press, 1977), 27.

and 1904. While it would require additional research into census data to determine when each of them migrated to Arkansas, it seems likely that many of them probably came during this period of significant black migration between 1870 and 1910.

By far, the individuals whose deaths were handled by the Wiley Funeral Home were natives of Clark County. Of those for whom a place of birth was reported on either a death certificate or a burial transit permit, 67% listed Clark County as their birthplace.

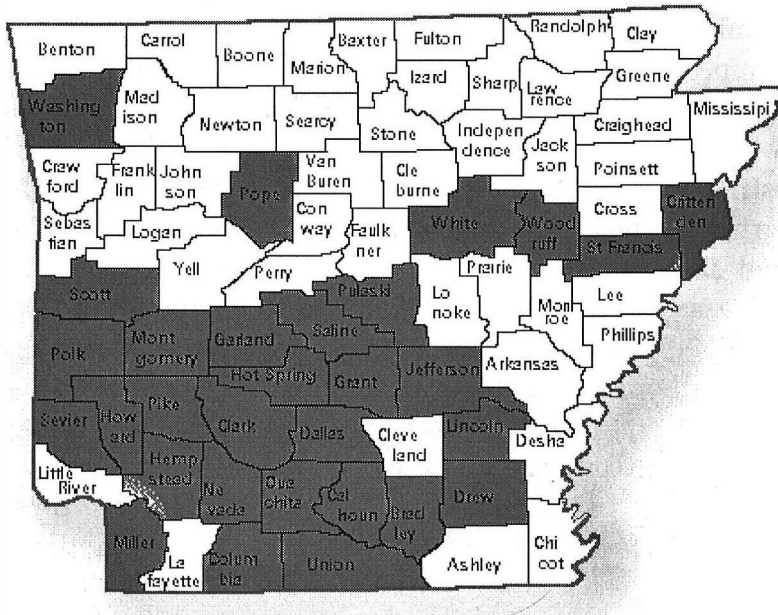
Figure 5: Born in Clark County.



Half (363) reported Arkadelphia as their place of birth, while the next largest percentage reported Okolona (108). Double-digit births were reported in Antoine (29), Curtis (35), and Gurdon (52). Fewer than ten births were reported at Beirne, Hollywood, Smithton, Vaden and Whelen Springs.

Individuals buried by the Wiley Funeral home were born in thirty other Arkansas counties, in addition to Clark County. Perhaps not surprisingly, the heaviest concentrations of those births are from south Arkansas counties, including Dallas (115), Nevada (55), Hempstead (12), and Ouachita (12). Central and western Arkansas are also represented, as well as a few counties in the northeast and central portions of the state. Wiley Funeral Home reported thirteen births as occurring in "Washington" in the space reserved for county on the death certificates. Additional research on census records would need to be conducted to determine if these individuals in fact were born in northwest Arkansas, which would seem to be an aberration when viewing the data as a whole, and also based on Arkansas's historical population patterns. Possibly "Washington," referred to Washington in Hempstead County.

Arkansas birthplaces



Source: diymaps.net (c)

Figure 6: Arkansas County Birthplaces.

One of the most interesting reported places of birth was on the death certificate of Annie Pumphrey (b. 6/16/1900 – d. 8/12/1947). Her place of birth, as well as her usual residence was reported as Nydia in Grant County. Nydia was a community settled by former slaves and their descendants after the Civil War. At one time, Nydia had a school, a church and as many as thirty dwellings; but today, the only remnant of the community is the cemetery. Nydia was located between Fenter and the Saline County line along Highway 229. According to one source, Pumphrey was one of the local family names in Nydia.⁶

As a group, the lives of the individuals whose burials were handled by the Wiley Funeral Home were characterized by some degree of mobility, although that mobility was largely within the state of Arkansas. Only 39% of the 1,038 people represented in the records were born and died in the same location. Just as one percent of the Wiley burials were for individuals born outside of Arkansas, less than one percent of the records (85) reflected out-of-state deaths. These 85 deaths, however, occurred in 24 different states, which perhaps reflects the impact of the Great Migration, or the mass movement of about five million southern blacks to the north and west between 1915 and 1960.

The first wave of movement occurred during World War I, when the majority of migrants moved to major northern cities like Chicago, Detroit,

⁶ Nydia was pronounced Nider or Nyda by locals. Elwin L. Goolsby, *Our Timberland Home: A History of Grant County* (Little Rock, AR: Rose Publishing Company, 1984), 143.

Pittsburgh and New York. By the 1940s and the second World War, migrants continued moving north, but many headed west to California, Oregon and Washington. While the number of out-of-state deaths among the Wiley records is small, they do appear to offer some support for the impact of the Great Migration on Clark County. Thirty-one deaths occurred in eastern and northeastern states including New York (1), Wisconsin (3), Connecticut (3), Indiana (2), Ohio (1), and two in the District of Columbia. The largest concentrations were in Illinois (9), with five occurring in Chicago, Michigan (7), and Massachusetts (5). Twenty-three deaths occurred in western and midwestern states, including California (7), Missouri (4), Kansas (5), Colorado (4), Nebraska (1), and Utah (1). Twenty-five deaths occurred in the Arkansas border states of Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi and Oklahoma, while the remainder of out-of-state deaths occurred in other southern states including Florida (1), South Carolina (2), and North Carolina (1). Additional research into the lives of those individuals would need to be conducted to determine what motivated their moves away from Arkansas -- whether they were motivated by economic opportunity or family ties in other places.

The overwhelming majority (99%) of those persons whose burials were handled by the Wiley Funeral Home, however, died in Arkansas. For 980 of them (90%), we know the location by county, if not by town. More than half of those deaths -- 66% -- occurred in Clark County. The other 331 deaths occurred throughout twenty Arkansas counties, many of them adjacent to Clark or in the southern part of the state. The next most frequently reported place of death was Pulaski County with 93 deaths, likely accounted for by Little Rock's significance as the medical center of the state. Pulaski County was followed closely by Dallas County with 81 deaths. Family ties, proximity, or perhaps the absence of funeral accommodations for African Americans in the age of segregation are all potential factors that may account for Wiley's handling of such a large number of burials of African Americans living in Dallas County. The next largest number of in-state deaths, not surprisingly, also come from counties that border Clark -- Hot Spring (22), Pike (25), Nevada (17), Garland (17), and Ouachita (11). Counties having ten or fewer deaths handled by Wiley were: Arkansas (1), Faulkner (1), Hempstead (2), Howard (9), Jackson (2), Jefferson (6), Miller (3), Mississippi (1), Montgomery (5), Scott (4), Sevier (1), and Union (5).

One other cluster of significance are 25 deaths reported at Alexander, Saline County. Alexander was home to the Thomas C. McRae Memorial Sanatorium, established in 1931, to treat African American tuberculosis patients. The Arkansas State Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Booneville opened in 1909, but treated only white patients. Alexander was selected as the site of the sanatorium for blacks because it was "near the center of Negro population" and close to Little Rock, which had additional medical facilities. The McRae Sanatorium treated consumptive black patients from all over the state from 1931 to 1968, when the

state sanatoriums were integrated.⁷ For much of its history, the sanatorium lacked sufficient beds to meet patient demand. In 1945, there were over 600 people on the sanatorium's waiting list for treatment.



**Figure 7: Postcard of the McRae Sanatorium, not dated
Courtesy of USGen Web Archives Website.⁸**

Wiley Funeral Home staff did not list causes of death for the majority of the 25 people who died at Alexander. However, it seems likely that most, if not all of these, may have been tuberculosis patients who died while in the care of the state sanatorium.

The 1,038 men and women buried by the Wiley Funeral Home between 1941 and 1968 had lifespans that were not too far out of sync with the national average. Between 1949-1971, the average lifespan for African American males was 60.13 years, and 65.83 for African American females.⁹ The average lifespan for males buried by the Wiley Funeral Home was 60.9 years, slightly better than the national average. This number, however, does not account for male children who died before reaching their first year. When those numbers are added in, the

⁷ "Thomas C. McRae Memorial Sanatorium," *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas History*, at <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/thomas-c-mcrae-memorial-sanatorium-6229/>, accessed October 2, 2019.

⁸ "Penny Postcards from Arkansas," at <http://www.usgarchives.net/ar/pulaski/postcards/ppcs-pulaski.html>, accessed October 2, 2019.

⁹ By comparison the average lifespan during this same period for white was: 67.26 for white males and 73.9 for white females. Racial bias in medical care, particularly in the south during this time period, undoubtedly accounts for some of the disparities in lifespan between blacks and whites. "United States Tables, 2003," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 54, 14 (April 19, 2006), accessed October 2, 2019, at https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr54/nvsr54_14.pdf.

average lifespan for males falls to 49.7, significantly below the national average. African American females buried by the Wiley Funeral Home did not fare as well, with an average lifespan of only 59.2 years, almost seven years below the national average. When the deaths of female children are factored in, the average lifespan falls even more dramatically to only 50.8 years. In all, 80 of the Wiley death records are for children who died before reaching age one. While a small percentage of the total number of records (.007%), their presence has a dramatic effect on the picture of life expectancy for African Americans in Clark County during this thirty year period.

Despite lower than average life expectancies for this group, as a whole, there are a significant number of octo-, nona- and even several centenarians among the records. Allegedly, the oldest person buried by the Wiley Funeral Home was Caroline Gipson, a female housekeeper from Sparkman, whose birth year was recorded as 1849 at the time of her death in 1957, making her 108 years old. No information about the place of birth or the month or day of her birth was recorded for Mrs. Gipson, which calls into question the reliability of 1849 as her birth year. Her father's name was not known, but her mother's name was recorded as "Bessie Seales." Next oldest was Emmer Anthony, another female housekeeper, who died in 1962 at age 105. Emmer's death certificate provides an age at death (105), month of death (December) and day of death (4th), but not a year. We have to assume and attempt to verify with other sources that her informant, Mrs. Juanita Owens, knew Anthony's exact age or year of birth and was not estimating age for the coroner. The records include five other centenarians: Mary Wilson (103), Marie Tucker (103), Cornelius Tucker (101), Amanda Brinkley (101), and Kat(t)ie Parrish (100).¹⁰

Finally, the Wiley Funeral Home records also reveal something about occupations available to African Americans in the segregated south in the first half of the 20th century. 63% of the death records listed occupations for individuals. Of those 651 records, some clear patterns emerge. Women who worked had less choice of occupation. The overwhelming majority of them ended up in "house work," which is interpreted as domestic service outside their homes. The Wiley Funeral Home recorded occupations as either "house work" or, for a much smaller group of women, "house wife." The term "maid" as an occupation appears to have been used only for women who worked in public establishments, and only two appear in this set of records. One woman served as the maid at the post office and another as maid at a local hotel. Other occupations open to women, although

¹⁰ Many of these individuals who lived to advanced ages may have been born into slavery. Thirty-seven of the individuals buried by the Wiley Funeral Home were born prior to January 1, 1863, the date on which Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

offering fewer opportunities, were laundry work, food service, and teaching, which is included under “professionals” in the table that follows:

Figure 8: Occupations listed for men and women on Wiley Funeral Home death certificates, 1941-1968.

House Work	266
Farming	143
Public Work	63
Labor/Day Labor	46
Millwork	31
Railroad	21
House Wife	15
Yard Work	7
Food Service	7
Janitor	6
Factory	6
Logging	6
Professionals	6
Skilled Craftsmen	4
Laundry	3
Minister	3
Trucking/Driving	3

About half the men in this set of records were farmers or had retired from farming. The remaining half primarily performed non-agricultural labor in a variety of settings, including sawmills, factories, railroads, or out in nature. Next to farming, the single largest occupational category for African American men buried by the Wiley Funeral Home was “public work,” which refers to government infrastructure projects, like construction of public buildings, roads and bridges, or utilities – all projects that enhance quality of life in a community.

Men appeared to have greater employment options than women, at least in rural south Arkansas, in terms of category of labor – unskilled labor, skilled craftsmen, professionals – although only marginally better options. While unskilled labor predominated among the male occupations given in the Wiley records, also represented are ministers, railroad porters, a shipping clerk, a carpenter, a veterinarian, a barber, a painter, a shoe repairman, a hotel night clerk, and a store keeper.

Conclusion

The Wiley Funeral Home Records are an important source for researchers conducting African American family history research, as well as for what they can tell us about blacks living in southwest Arkansas in the early part of the twentieth

century. The death certificates help to establish familial relationships between parents and spouses, and other family members, who are sometimes listed as informants on the death certificates.¹¹ With the the biographical information provided on these death records (i.e., age at death, birth/death dates, place of birth, name of parents), researchers can use additional sources, like obituaries, marriage records, population censuses, and cemetery records, to confirm identity and develop pictures of the lives these people once led.

Currently, researchers interested in accessing the Wiley Funeral Home records can either use them in person at OBU's Special Collections and Archives or by emailing archives@obu.edu or calling 870-245-5332. Because HIPAA restrictions on making these records available for public research have now expired (50 years following date of death), OBU's Special Collections plans to make these records available online by 2021. An alphabetical index to the Wiley Funeral Home death certificates and burial transit permits follows this article.



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¹¹ The Wiley burial insurance records, which were not included in this article, provide another good source of information for family history researchers, including names of family members on each policy, address of policy holder, and, inconsistently, the ages, birthdates and death dates of the insured.

Adair, George	Arnold, Bobie Lue	Bell, William
Adams, Charles Barron	Arnold, [Infant]	Berriman, Henderson
Adams, Rosie	Atkinson, Alfred	Berry, Minnie
Adkinson, Eliza	Austin, Lillie	Bibbs, Pearl
Albert, Herbert	Bailey, Bobetta	Biggs, William C.
Alexander, Bessie	Bailey, Emry	Bizzle, Anthony
Alexander, Harris	Bailey, George	Bizzle, Farrie Lee
Alexander, Larry Donn	Bailey, Laura	Blackman, Charlie
Alexander, Rickey	Bailey, Willie	Blackmon, Hannah
Allen, B. D.	Baker, [Henry E.]	Blackmon, Huston
Allen, Fannie	Balch, Lara Bell [Laura H.]	Blackmon, Laurah Ever
Allen, Pricella	Ballard, Robert	Blackmon, Linda Kay
Allen, Rev. Oliver [B.]	Bankhead, [Jahue]	Blackmon, Mary Sue
Allen, Walter	Banks, Addie	Blacknall, D. G.
Alston, Isabell	Banks, Alonzo Bismack	Blacknall, Sam
Amos, Hillander	Banks, Halon	Blake, Nathaniel
Anderson, Alice	Banks, Hattie	Blevans, Littie
Anderson, Charles	Barks, Janie	Blevens, John W.
Anderson, Hosea E.	Barlow, A. C.	Blevens, Patsy
Anderson, John	Barlow, Joseph	Blevins, Lizzie Lee
Anderson, Lillie	Barnes, Willie	Booker, Daisy Lee
Anderson, Ora	Barton, Henry	Booker, Esteller Viola
Anderson, Robert	Battle, Warren	Booker, John W.
Anderson, Stella	Beard, Jr., Lawson	Booker, Robert Vernon
Anderson, Syrene	Beard, Katie	Booker, Waymon
Anderson, Wallace	Beard, Paul	Boozer, Louis
Andrew, Mary Bell	Beard, Silla	Bowen, Margaret
Andrews, Thomas	Beavers, Sarah	Bowman, Ike
Ankton, Roosevelt	Beavers, Frank Edward	Bowman, Tempie
Anthony, Adie	Beavers, Jessie	Boyce, Dora
Anthony, Emmer	Beavers, Julia	Bracy, Lottie David
Anthony, Evie Burns	Bell, Charlie E.	Bragg, Dawn B.
Anthony, Lula	Bell, Elvie Lee	Branch, Fannie
Anthony, Yank	Bell, James A.	Brassfield, John
Arbor, Major	Bell, James William	Braswell, Arthur
Archie, Jim	Bell, Luberta	Braswell, Lillie
Archie, Rosanna	Bell, Roberta	Braz[w]ell, Nancy
Armstrong, Hella	Bell, Urola L.	Brim, Arilla
Armstrong, Rosie		Brim, Mattie Sallie

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Brim, Nolie	Buford, Wilma	Clayborn, Lena
Brinkley, Amandy	Bullock, Armon G.	Clemons, Nellie
Brock, Carrie	Bullock, Harry Lee	Cleveland, Claude
Brock, S. P.	Bullock, Joe	Cleven, Charlet
Brooks, Charlie	Bunn, Harmon	Cobb[s], Alice
Brooks, Clarence	Burks, Henry	Cole, Math
Brooks, Julia	Burns, Lena/Leona	Cole, Mattie
Brown, [illegible]	Burton, [Lucy]	Coleman, Maggie
Brown, Bessie	Burton, Fannie	Collins, Emmer
Brown, Charlie	Burton, Joe	Commins, Ulysses S.
Brown, Colleen	Butler, Henry	Conner, Darlene
Brown, Esma	Butler, Herschell	Cook, Cecille Arnetta
Brown, Jim	Butler, Mattie	Cook, Charles Williams
Brown, John	Butler, Noah J.	Cook, Charlie
Brown, Lizzie	Butler, Robert T.	Cook, John B.
Brown, Maggie Obie	Byrd, Lalie	Cook, Nancy
Brown, Mary	Carr, Clevie	Cook, Samuel W.
Brown, Mary Ellen	Carr, Lucille	Cook, Tonch
Brown, Mary Pearl	Carr, Mary Elizabeth	Cook, Walter
Brown, Maybell	Carr, Nick	Cooke, Amous
Brown, McKinley	Carr, Pearl	Cooke, Claude R.
Brown, Willie	Carr, Sherman	Cooke, Ella
Browning, [Rev.] John	Carter, [Bonnie] M.	Cooke, James
Browning, Addie [Adie]	Carter, Henry	Cooke, Susie
Browning, Harris	Carter, Marcus Del O.	Cooksey, James M.
Browning, Mariah	Carter, Monroe	Cooper, Louisa
Brownlee, Will	Carter, Richard	Cooper, Tony
Bruner, Ray Lee	Carter, Sallie	Corbin, Georgia Ann
Brunson, Bessie Ann	Cazart, [Rev.] J. L.	Cox, Rachel
Bryant, Larven Deniese	Chappell, Silvia [Sylvia]	Craig, Bell
Bryant, Monroe	Charles, Bennie	Craig, Bud
Bryant, Robert Earl	Charles, Earnestine	Craigg, Perley
Bryant, Shirley Mae	Charles, Mary Ann	Craighead, Charles
Bryant, Susie	Charles, Nathaniel	Cranford, Cincilla J.
Bryant, Willie Rees	Charles, Peet	Cranford, Joe
Buckley, [Infant]	Charles, Willard	Crawford, Freddie Lee
Buckley, John	Clark, Eddie	Crite, Henry
Buckner, Fred	Clark, Roberta	Crite, Will
Buford, Jim [James A.]	Clayborn, Jackson	Crockett, Mary F.

Crow, Luther	Dedmon, Vurnie Mae	Edmundson, Henry
Crow, Mack	DeFroe, Lucy	Erbin, James
Crowe, Henry Alford	Deloach, Algia [Reaver]	Ervin, Abbie
Crudup, Celistene	Deloach, Red	Evans, Connie
Crudup, Ossie	DeLoach, Willie	Fears, Mary
Cummings, Amsiah J.	Dickens, Melba Jean	Fenter, Garfield
Cummings, Venonza	Dickerson, Almon	Fetty, Mary
Cunningham, Charles	Dickerson, Cannary	Finks, Anthony C.
Cunningham, LeRoy	Dickerson, Fred[ric]	Fite, Albert
Cunningham, Lewis	Dickerson, Jim	Floyd, Charles Hosa
Cunningham, Mary	Dickerson, Nancy	Floyd, Ollie Lee
Cunningham, Walter	Dickerson, Polly	Floyd, Paul
Dailey, Sarah	Dickerson, Sedric	Ford, A. J.
Dailey, William	Dickerson, Willie	Ford, Ephrom
Daniel, Arthur	Dixon, Amanda/Mandy	Ford, Julie
Daniel, Charlie	Dixon, Charlie	Ford, R. T.
Daniel, Lizzie	Dixon, Huie	Fort, Curtis Dale
Daniels, Verma Marie	Dixon, Pearl	Fort, Mary Ellen
Davis, Andy C.	Dixon, Santha	Fort, Washington
Davis, Arizona	Dixson, Minnie	Forte, Charlie
Davis, Dan	Dixson, Walter	Forte, William
Davis, Elnora	Draper, James W.	Foster, Irene
Davis, George	Dudley, Simmon	Freeman, Beatrice
Davis, [Infant]	Duncan, Claud	Gardner, Birdie
Davis, James	Duncan, Cora	Gardner, Ervin
Davis, Jim	Duncan, Jeff	Gardner, Isac
Davis, Lara McCoy	Duncan, Martha	Garland, Daisy
Davis, Martha	Duncan, Ollie B.	Garland, Fannie
Davis, Mary	Duncan, R. T.	Garland, Sherlie Ann
Davis, Minnie	Duncan, Susie	Garland, Thomas
Davis, Richard	Eason Metcalfe, Earlie	Garland, Walter
Davis, Robert Lewis	Eason, Aldus Green	Gentry, Bell
Davis, Viola	Eason, Angie	Gentry, Charlie
Davis, Walter Charles	Eason, Charlie	Gentry, Lum
Davis, Will	Eason, John	Gentry, Mary
Davis, William A.	Eason, Louis Doss	Gentry, O. T.
Dawson, John	Eason, Pansy Ann	Gentry, Sam
Deadmon, Arnette	Eaton, Fannie M.	Gentry, Sam Ella
Deadmon, Bettie E.	Eaton, Rev. Henry	Giles, Bessie Marie

Giles, Mary [Lareka]	Guinn, James	Hearn, Blenda Kay
Gill, Nannie Mae	Guinn, Philips	Hearn, Earlie J.
Gillette, Daniel C.	Guinn, Valerie [Ann]	Hearn, Ollie
Gilmare, Maxine A.	Gunn, Amanda	Hearn, Rufus
Gipson, Caroline	Hagans, Bennie	Hearn, Vena Mae
Gipson, Lee	Hale, Alex	Hearn, Wilma L.
Gleen, Alice	Hale, Birtha	Helms, George W.
Glenn, Andy Robert	Hale, Imon	Hemp, Lottie
Glenn, John	Hamilton, Mary Ruth	Hempstead, Annie Lee
Glenn, Josephine M.	Harington, Mattie	Hempstead, Florida M.
Glover, Dan	Harington, Rosie	Henderson, Barbie A.
Glover, Fannie Carter	Harington, William	Henderson, Lonzo
Goff, Annie	Harmon, Annie	Henderson, Maggie
Goff, Norah	Harper, Odessa	Henderson, Mary
Golden, Dorthy Nell	Harper, Peet	Hendrix, Charlie
Golden, Mattie	Harris, Fred Eugene	Hendrix, James [Jim?]
Golden, Peter	Harris, James [Dr. J. H.]	Hendrix, Judge
Golden, Rose	Harris, Mary	Hendrix, Katie
Goldsby, Flossie Mae	Harris, Mary Lee	Hendrix, Lee
Goldsby, Girtha	Harris, Mickael [Michael Fred]	Hendrix, William
Goldsby, J. H. S.	Harrison, Elnora	Henry, Fannie
Goldsby, Mary	Harrison, Henry	Henry, Lula
Goodloe, Henry	Harrison, Louis A.	Henry, Robert Y.
Goodloe, Minnie	Hart, Jewel	Hicks, Hurtie
Gordon, Ezekiel	Hart, Lula Vera	Higgs, Alice
Gordon, Frank E., Eld.	Hart, Luther	Hildreth, Almeta
Gordon, Johnnie [John Sr.]	Hart, Neal	Hill, Belve G.
Gordon, Tom	Hart, Oscar Lee	Hill, Cap
Goza, Hill [Hilliard]	Harvell, Gracie Mae	Hill, Charles Russell
Gray, James	Harvey, Hiram	Hill, Durwood
Green, Eliza	Harvey, Roosevelt	Hill, George
Green, Ethel Lee	Hatley, Rebecca	Hill, Hattie
Green, Hattie	Hawthorn, Sallie	Hill, Jasper H.
Green, Jimmie	Hawthorne, Ollie	Hill, Jay T.
Green, John E.	Hawthorne, Willard	Hill, John Franklin
Green, Rev. Alex [A. W.]	Ezikle [W. E.]	Hill, Kathe
Grigsby, Jim A.	Hayes, Henry	Hill, Love
Grimmett, Martha W.	Hayes, Lula	Hill, Robert S.
		Hill, Sherman

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Hill, Tennie	Hunter, Jessie	Johnson, Sarah Hill
Hogan, Susie Ella	Hunter, John Ana	Johnson, Tom A.
Horn, Willie	Hunter, Louis	Johnson, Will
Horton, Arto [Jefferson]	Hunter, Ray Lee	Johnson, Willie Mae
Horton, Berta	Hunter, Wanda Louis	Jones, Ben
Horton, Emma Jean	Hunter, Wayman	Jones, Berta Lee
Horton, Julius Ceasar	Hunter, William Floyd	Jones, Caslean
Horton, Lucinda [B.]	Israel, Omeria	Jones, Catherlene
Horton, Phyllis Naomi	Jackson, Gallie	Jones, Charlie
Horton, Summit	Jackson, Jim	Jones, Charlie S.
[Sonney L.]	Jackson, [Rev.] Neal	Jones, Delois
Horton, Wheirmelda	Jackson, Willie	Jones, Ed
House, Amber	Jefferson, Aretta	Jones, Edgar
House, Artel	Jefferson, Clara Dell	Jones, Effie
House, Charlie	Jefferson, Jr., Howard	Jones, Eliza
[Charley]	Jefferson, Josh	Jones, Ester
House, Tommy [Tomie]	Jefferson, Mary	Jones, Freddie Louis
Howard, John	Jefferson, Thomas	Jones, Gracie [Grace]
Hubbard, George	Jiles, Leomie	Jones, Hattie
Hudson, Henry	Johnson, [illegible]	Jones, Isah
Huey, Emmer	Johnson, Adline	Jones, Jabo
Hughes, Eliza Ellen	Johnson, Albert	Jones, Jannie
Hughes, Henry Lee	Johnson, Aline	Jones, Jean H.
Hughes, Jessie	Johnson, Charlie Jones	Jones, Jessie
Hughes, Robert Lee	Johnson, Eddie Dean	Jones, Jim G.
Hughes, Sam T. W.	Johnson, Edward	Jones, Jimmie
Hughes, Willie Lee	Johnson, Ella	Jones, Joe Anna
Humphrey, Lizzabeth	Johnson, Grace	Jones, Katie
Hunt, Angie	Johnson, Joe	Jones, Lillie Lue
Hunt, James L.	Johnson, Lawrence	Jones, Linnie Lee
Hunter Amandy	Johnson, Liltie	Jones, Lucy
Hunter, Ann Mariah	Johnson, Lorence	Jones, Maggie
Hunter, Arthur R.	Johnson, Lovie	Jones, Malendy
Hunter, Corene	Johnson, Luther	Jones, Mattie Dona
Hunter, Ed	Johnson, Maggie V.	Jones, Mattie L.
Hunter, Eddren	Johnson, Mamie C.	Jones, Roderick Dean
Hunter, Hattie Fay	Johnson, Robert W.	Jones, Ruby
Hunter, [Infant]	Johnson, Roy	Jones, Sam
Hunter, James Walter	Johnson, Sam	Jones, Sarah Mae

Jones, Tiny [Tinnie]	Lee, Theodora	McClain, Joe
Jones, Wilbert Phifer	Leeper, Cynthia	McClain, JoeElla
Jones, William	Leeper, Debra	McClain, John
Jordan, Matlida	Leeper, Florence	McClanahan, Ellease
Kaufman, Florine	Leeper, Lena	McClanahan, Jacob
Kazee, James	Leeper, Lunia	McClellan, Jerry
Keith, J. C.	Lewis, Wille Lee	McClellan, Leonard
Kelly, Bertha Lee	Lindsey, Perl	McClure, James
Kennedy, Margaret F.	Littlejohn, Mollie	McClure, Jeanette
Keys, Anthony	Lock, Clemmie	McClure, Marion
King, Lewis	Lock, Early	McClure, Martha
Kirkendoll, Waymon	Lock, Ella	McCothren, Etta
Knight, Henry	Lock, Luella	McCoy, Vinnie
Knight, Leona	Lock, Martha Virginia	McCoy, West
Knight, Mittie	Lothrudge, Orange	McDaniel, Andrew
Knight, Winnie	Louis, Fred	McDaniel, Bud
Knox, Amaziah J.	Luster, Robert	McDaniel, Burn
Knox, Christen	M[?], Ladie	McDaniel, Mack
Knox, Cornetta	Mabley, Mary	McDaniel, Odessa
Knox, Fannie B.	Macon, Huie Lee	McDaniel, Sarah
Knox, Henry Jacob	Macon, Leon	McGee, H. W.
Knox, Jacob	MacRector, Addie	McGhee, Fannie
Knox, Katie J.	Mardilia, [illegible]	McKinney, David Walter
Knox, Loretha	Marion, Hanah	McNeely, Martha
Knox, Martha	Marsh, Nina	McNeil, Alexander
Knox, Nora L.	Marshall, Frank	McNeil, Harold
Knox, Oliver	Marshall, John [E.]	McNeil, Jennie
Knox, Will	Marshell, Mary B.	McNeil, Sam
Lack, Lavinia	Mass, Marshall	McNiel, Nathan H.
Lagrove, Lander	Matlock, Charlie	McPeak, Amon
Lake, Henry	Matlock, Dayle	Merriwether, Thomas
Lawrence, Ben	Matlock, Ed	Metcalf, George
Lawrence, Laura	Matlock, Marcella	Metcalf, Earlie
Lawson, Veronmia	Matlock, Perlie	Middleton, Cynthia
Leeper, Vernon	Matlock, T. W.	Middleton, John F.
Lee, John	Mattack, Cara	Middleton, Louis B.
Lee, Lucy	Maxon, James	Middleton, Michael
Lee, Mary	McCann, Rena	Miles, Hour
Lee, Sam	McCauley, Paul	Miller, Anna

Miller, Cal	Neley, Pinkey L.	Patten, Sr., Robert Lee
Miller, Lizzie	Nelson, Hettie	Patton, Henry
Miller, Mary	Nelson, Lillie	Payne, Allen
Miller, Sterlin	Nelson, Lula	Payne Jr., Allen
Mitchell, Thomas	Nelson, Sherman	Payne, Floyd
Mitchell, Bennie	Nevels, Cassandra	Payne, Lee
Mitchell, Clifford	Newborn, Angel	Peeples, Maggie
Mitchell, Hattie R.	Newborn, Arseline	Penney, Emma
Mitchell, Henry	Newborn, Beatrice	Penney, John
Mitchell, [Infant]	Newborn, Bedie [H.]	Pennington, Nenly
Mitchell, James	Newborn, Charlie	Pennington, Zeck
Mitchell, Josie	Newborn, John [H.]	Peoples, Josie
Mitchell, Julia	Newborn, Mose	Perry, Anner
Mitchell, Lewis	Newborn, Pauline	Perry, Beatrice
Mitchell, Love [Joy]	Newborn, Rena	Perry, Ben
Mitchell, Lula	Newton, Albert	Perry, Bertha
Mitchell, Mildred B.	Nolen, Berney	Perry, Charline
Mitchell, Moses	Norman, Jake [Jacob]	Perry, Henry
Mitchell, Otis	Norris, Lula	Perry, James
Mitchell, Rosa	Norton, Hal	Perry, Obie
Mitchell, Will	Norton, Mary	Perry, Peter
Monroe, Annie Lee	Norton, O. B.	Perry, Susan Ann
Moon, Annie C.	Norton, Roy	Peter, Perry
Moore, Burell	Nunley, Fannie	Pettus, Martha
Moore, Jim	O'Hair Hermon	Phifer, Bulah
Moore, Lady	Oliver, Allen	Phifer, Charlie
Moore, Marendra	Oliver, Frances	Phifer, Julius
Moore, Minnie	Orsburn, Dave	Phifer, Mart
Moore, Shelton	Osborn, Estella	Phifer, Nettie Mae
Morgan, Martha	Osborn, Gus	Phifer, Susie
Morris, Sarah	Osborn, Nettie	Phifer, Virginia Ann
Moss, Allen	Osborne, Young	Phillips, Wesley
Moss, Hattie	Owens, Ida	Pigg, Beatrice D.
Murchison, Ed	Owens, Irea	Pigg, Corine S.
Murchison, Sallie	Page, Lizzie	Pigg, Garfield
Nails, John	Parish, Kattie	Pigg, Julia
Nalden, Mary	Patillo, Katie	Porter, Flossie
Neal, Kit	Patrick's, Ada	Primm, Alex
Neal, Sim	Patten, Manora Hearn	Pumphrey, Annie

Randall, Augustus	Russet, Angels	Smith, Isaac
Randall, Robert	Rutledge, John	Smith, J. A.
Randle, John W.	Ryan, Paralee	Smith, Jacob
Rector, John C.	Sally, Amelia	Smith, Jerry
Reed, Gladys	Sally, Sterling	Smith, Lawrence E.
Reed, Lillie	Sanders, Jimmie	Smith, Mary
Reed, Lizzie	Schugart, Ida	Smith, Melvin L.
Reedy, Beatrice	Scott, Eddie	Smith, Robert
Revels, Cleo	Scott, [Gldy]	Smith, Sammie
Revels, Tyree	Scott, Jim	Smith, Willie
Reynolds, Mose	Scott, John	Snell, Cornelia
Rhymes, John Henry	Scott, John	Sowden, Ester
Richard, Leo/Les	Scott, Mattie	Stamps, Moses
Richerson, Alena	Scott, Robert L.	Stanley, Octavia
Richerson, Fay	Scott, Will	Starkey, Victoria W.
Richerson, Huey	Scott, William	Steed, Dave
Richerson, Marion	Scroggins, John	Stephens, John W.
Richerson, Silvia	Seals, Ella	Stephens, Willie
Richerson, Walter	Seals, John	Stevens, Fannie
Richey, Pauline R.	Seawood, [Wadis]	Stewart, Dennis
Richie, [Annie]	Shaffer, Odessa	Stewart, Lonnie
Rise, Louvenia	Shells, Mozelle	Stewart, Viola
Ritchie, Clara	Shugart, B. G.	Stitt, [illegible]
Ritchie, James	Simmons, Alice	Stitt, Bob
Robinson, Abe	Simmons, Alma	Stitt, Burber
Robinson, Bennie	Simmons, Fannie	Stitt, Fletcher
Robinson, Maggie	Simmons, Jessie	Stitt, Joe [Rannly]
Rogers, Cherrie Ann	Simmons, Maggie	Stitt, Jonil
Rogers, Mary	Simmons, Mittie	Stitt, Leroy
Ross, Albert	Simmons, Neil	Stitt, Walter M.
Ross, Anthony	Sims, John Eliza	Stovall, Earnestine
Ross, Charlie	Sims, Marshall	Strong, Nathan
Ross, Gracie	Smith, Cicero	Stroughten, Joe
Ross, Susie	Smith, Fannie	Summerville, Audrey
Ross, Will	Smith, Gaston	Summerville, Hattie C.
Ruck, Febbie	Smith, Hattie	Summerville, Luther
Rucks, Bar	Smith, Henry	Summerville, Theodora
Rucks, Dave	Smith, Hezekiah	Summerville, Vanessa
Ruff, Maggie	Smith, Hugh	Summerville, Willie T.

Swayze, L.	Turner, Huie	White, Jerry
Swink, James	Ussery, Julius	White, Mary
Swinton, Dora A.	Utley, Matthew Giles	White, Regenmer
Tadum, Lucindy	Utley, Ozella	Whitlow, Naomi
Tate, H[orations]	Vaden, Lena	Wiley, A. W.
Tate, James Edward	Vaden, Wade	Wiley, Alvin
Taylor, Anna	Vance, Jessie Lee	Wiley, Freddie Lee
Taylor, Betty J.	Waldes, Lizzie	Wiley, Mittie
Taylor, Granison	Walker, Alpha	Wiley, Sherry E.
Taylor, James	Walker, Angie	Wilkerson, Lula
Taylor, Johnny	Walker, Creecie	William, Walter
Taylor, Willie	Walker, Fred	Williams, Abe
Thomas, Clara	Walker, LeRoy	Williams, Annie
Thomas, Cleola	Walker, Mary	Williams, Artis
Thomas, Frank	Walker, Maudi	Williams, B. W.
Thomas, Lucienda	Walker, Velma	Williams, C. L.
Thomas, Mary	Walker, William	Williams, Cara
Thomas, Robert	Wallace, James	Williams, Cleo
Thomas, Thadeus	Ware, Joe	Williams, Clumbus
Thomas, Victoria	Ware, Lawson	Williams, Cody Leon
Thompson, Jr., Charlie E.	Washam, Ann	Williams, Della
Thompson, Allie	Watson, Walter	Williams, Dewey
Thompson, Allie Mae	Watt, Fannie	Williams, Dora
Thompson, Charlie	Weatherspoon, Alberta	Williams, Dorothy Mae
Thompson, Essie	Weaver, Angeline [Williams]	Williams, Dorsey
Thompson, George W.	Welch, Floy D.	Williams, Earnest
Thompson, Luvada	Welch, Laura	Williams, Easter
Thompson, William	Welch, Rub	Williams, Forster
Thorn, Frank	Wells, Mary	Williams, Henrietta
Thornton, Daisee	Wells, R. T.	Williams, Henry
Thornton, Rodger	Westbrook, Eliza Ann	Williams, Joanna
Thornton, Terry	Wheeler, Albert	Williams, Lawrence
Todd, Shell	Wheeler, Low	Williams, Lizzie M.
Tracy, Annie	Wheeler, Prof. H. W.	Williams, Luther
Trower, Pearl	Whitaker, George	Williams, Mammie
Tucker, Cornelius	White, Arthur	Williams, O. D.
Tucker, Marie [Mary J.]	White, Beatrice	Williams, Paul
Turner, Cora	White, Clodell	Williams, Russie
		Williams, Sarah

Williamson, Wallace
Willingham, Israel
Willis, Allie
Wills, Gordie
Wilson, Arkie
Wilson, Doris
Wilson, Earl
Wilson, Floetta
Wilson, John
Wilson, L. B.
Wilson, Laure
Wilson, Lucille
Wilson, Mary
Wilson, Nancy
Wingfield, John
Woodberry, Mary
Woodbury, Etta [Etter]
Woodbury, Jeffrey
Woods, Jack
Woods, James L.
Woods, Josie
Woods, Olechthon
Wright, Earl
Wright, Elgie
Wright, Emma
Wright, Henry
Wright, Lizzie
Wright, Murdis
Wylie, Will
Yocum, Denver
Zachary, Jack [John]
Zachery, Nancy