

BLOYS AND RELATED FAMILIES IN SALEM, ILLINOIS
Estelle Virginia Bloys Fawcett, Oral History
1980-85

Estelle Virginia Bloys Fawcett told her granddaughter, Ruth Estelle Fawcett (Sarah Rilling), the following stories over several months during the early 1980s. Ruth's handwritten notes were transcribed by her brother, William B. Fawcett, Jr., and annotated (set off in []) with Ruth's assistance and the input of our grandmother (Estelle). The stories are mostly from Estelle's childhood at Fort Davis, Texas. Estelle Bloys Fawcett died at her home in San Antonio in June 1995. 5/27/2025 version.
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Bloys [Estelle's father's family].

[William Benjamin Bloys was born at] McLemoresville, Tennessee [on] January 26, 1847 to Mordecai Dowel Bloys ([married to] Amelia Teargain [Yeargain], a farmer born in Chester, SC [and who] died in Honey Grove, Texas [after] he caught pneumonia walking from Honey Grove to Old Unitia. [Wm B. Bloys] died [in] 1917. [His older brother was] John Doherty [Bloys of Company H of the 11th Illinois Infantry], who died after the Civil War from wounds or complications of measles he had during [the] war. [His younger siblings were] Mary ([Bloys born] 1849 Paris, Tennessee, [died] 1915 Paris, Texas; married: Thomas Wilkinson ([born] 1840 Chamber County, Alabama, [died] 1927 Enloe, Texas)), Thomas Dow Bloys ([born] 1851, [died] 1914 Honey Grove, Texas; married Soffrona McDonald who died in 1880), and Thomas married [again to] Mary [Marietta] Davenport, [born] Salem, Illinois 1857; [died] 1929 Dallas). [Wm Bloys] taught school before [he] went to Lane Seminary, Cincinnati Ohio. [Other children of Mordecai and Amelia Bloys are:] Daniel Bloys ([married] Hatti Smith)-- thought to be a river boat pilot on [the] Mississippi, Hester Bloys ([married] J.H. Harrel), and Emma Amelia Bloys ([born] March 20, 1861, died November 20, 1882 of T.B. [in] Coleman [but buried in Honey Grove].

Her Parents.

[Estelle Bloys' mother, Isabella Yeck] was born December 25, 1848. [During] 1872 [she was] teaching. [In] 1879 [she] came to Coleman, Texas [after her marriage....in] Salem, Illinois. [She] met her husband [Wm. Bloys] at [Salem] Academy. Both [were] going to school. [They traveled by] stagecoach from Flora to Coleman. [She] was so afraid of Indians [that she] wouldn't sleep at night. Tall weeds [resembling] waving Indians woke grandpa [Wm Bloys] up. [She] taught in Coleman and lived up above [a] saloon for awhile.

While at Coleman, Mable, 1880; Edna, Warren, [and] Herbert [were born]. [After] nine years, Papa [Wm. Bloys got] measles and T.B.-- [so they moved to] Fort Davis [to] go to [a] higher altitude [in 1888, where he became] chaplain for [the] army and church life [for] 29-30 years.

Isa [was a] good seamstress. [She] taught Sunday School, Literary Society, Junior Endeavor--[for] young [people] in [the] afternoon, Chairman of Women's Missionary Society.

Rev. William Benjamin Bloys and Isabella Yeck Come To Texas (as told by Estelle Bloys Fawcett).

After an engagement that spanned almost a decade, William Bloys married Isabella Yeck in Flora, Illinois on May 22, 1879. The Rev. Bloys was rejected as a missionary to India due to his poor health. Instead, later the same year, he boarded a stagecoach in Flora with Isa, and together they road to Coleman, Texas by way of Denison. Isa was so afraid of Indians that she could not sleep on the trip. She imagined that tall grass waving in the wind was the feathered head-dresses of savage Indians that were about to attack the stage. Her imagined Indians never attacked, and they reached Coleman safely. Later, they moved to Fort Davis. William and Isa Bloys were never attacked by hostile Indians at either place.