

Biographies of Bloys, Yeck, Davenport & Harrell Families in Salem & elsewhere in Marion County Illinois,

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CHARLES DAVENPORT BLOYS was born on November 25, 1882, to T.D. Bloys and Etta Davenport, probably in Honey Grove. He died on June 25, 1886, at Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas, and is buried there in Section M of the Oakwood Cemetery (marker; Newhouse and Newhouse 1983:101; Salem Herald Advocate 7/2/1886).

DANIEL HERMAN BLOYS was born on December 5, 1858, in Stoddard County, Missouri to Mordecai D. Bloys and Amelia Patterson Yeargan. He grew up in Salem, Illinois (1861-1879) with his family. By late 1870s he moved to Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas. In 1884 he was working in McGregor (Coryell County TX) on cotton crops (Letter).

In Honey Grove, he married Hattie Smith on December 12, 1888 (Marriage F:381; Ft Worth daily gazette 12/23/1888 says 12/9).

In mid-November 1889 D.H. Bloys sold most of the tools in his saddle shop to L.R. Avery (Deed 37:73; Galveston daily news 11/13/1889). D.H. and Hattie Bloys continued to live in Honey Grove (1892 TX State Gazetteer). Barry Edwin, the two-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Burnitt (she the sister of Hatti Smith), died of measles at the D.H. Bloys home in Honey Grove (Honey Grove Signal 3/6/1896). Hattie Smith Bloys and their children traveled to Ardmore OK to visit The Burnitt family soon after this. While they were away, Daniel Bloys visited Mexico (Honey Grove signal 7/7/1896).

Daniel and Hattie Bloys children are: Annie Margaret Bloys (1889 -1965, m. Walter Evans Buchanan), Melvin Daniel Bloys (1892 - 1913), Myra Nana Bloys (1897 - 1956).

Hattie Bloys died on February 11, 1899 at Honey Grove (Honey Grove signal 2/15/1899), and their children were then raised by her relatives in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Daniel left Honey Grove to work in Lehigh (then Indian Territory, now), Oklahoma in about 1900 (Honey Grove signal 5/4/1906). He worked as traveling salesman until he was found dead in a hotel room on December 6, 1911, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Fannin Co. Probate Packets; Honey Grove signal 12/8/1911). Hattie and Daniel Bloys are buried in unmarked graves in the Oakwood cemetery, Honey Grove (Fannin County), TX.

A. Margaret Bloys was still living in Ardmore OK when she came to Honey Grove to visit the T.D. Bloys family in 1909 (Honey Grove signal 6/18/1909). She later married Walter Buchanan in OK.

HESTER HENRIETTA BLOYS (HARRELL) was born in 1853 in McLemoresville, Tennessee to Mordecai D. Bloys and Amelia Patterson Yeargan. They later moved to Stoddard County, Missouri (1855-61) and then to Salem, Illinois (1862-74, 1876-80). Hester Bloys lived in Ituka, Illinois in 1875 and taught school. During Aug 1876 she attended a Teachers Normal or Institute at Odin, Illinois.

On July 18, 1878 Hester Bloys married William James Harrell (b. 1834) of Meachum at her parents' home in Salem (Marion County Herald 7/26/1878). Her brother, Rev. W.B. Bloys, performed the marriage ceremony (Marriage D:124; W.B. Bloys' Coleman TX marriage register).

Prior to their marriage, William James Harrell enlisted as a corporal in Company A of the 67th Indiana Infantry Regiment on Aug. 19, 1862 and was promoted to Sergeant. On Dec. 21, 1864 he was transferred to the 24th Indiana Infantry Regiment. His units fought at battles of Munfordville, Yazoo pass, Chickasaw bayou, Arkansas post, Port Gibson, Champion Hill, Big Black R bridge, Vicksburg, Bayou Tech, Red R campaign, Sabine cross roads, Ft Gaines and Ft. Morgan. He mustered out at Galveston TX on July 19, 1865, and returned to Illinois.

Hester and William James Harrell lived at Meachum (Marion County), Illinois—about 15 miles from Salem—for at least ten years where he farmed. They owned 500 acres by 1884 (A.P. Bloys Letter). Their two-week old son died in late June or early July, 1879. Their 7 subsequent children are: Mabel Harrell (1881-1958), Molly Harrell, Maud Harrell (1884-?), James Carl Harrell (9/6/1886-4/14/1911*), Dow Harrell, the twins, Mary and Benjamin Harrell born August 6, 1889 at Meacham (Birth 2:103; both their death dates unknown) and Grace Harrell (1894-2/25/1960 Kalamazoo MI [Johnson 1914[3]1246]).

William James Harrell died on April 14, 1896, and is buried in the Snider Hill Cemetery, Carbondale (Jackson County), Illinois in a marked grave, along with his son(*).

Hester Bloys Harrell and her children resided in Centralia, Marion County, Illinois as late as the early 1900s. She might be the Mrs. Hester mentions in the Carbondale IL free press (1/4/1919:2). No death or burial record for them has been located.

JOHN JAMES BLOYS was born to Mordecai Dowel Bloys and Amelia P. Yeargan at McLemoresville, Carroll County, Tennessee on July 16, 1841 (Family bible says b. 1847). In 1855 he accompanied them to Stoddard County, Missouri. He, his parents, siblings, and mother's parents are listed in the 1860 census (#867-868). His father was pro-Union, so the family moved to Salem, Marion County, Illinois in 1862. John J. Bloys died in Onega (Marion County) IL on August 3, 1865, from wounds suffered in an Illinois army unit (Company H, 111th regiment, 3rd Illinois volunteer infantry) during the Civil War, and aggravated by measles (Johnson 1914:1246). Pvt. John J. Bloys was mustered out on June 6, 1865, from Company H (under Capt. George E. Castle) 111th Illinois Infantry Regiment (commanded by Col. James S. Martin). His unit was part of Sherman's march through Georgia to the sea. He raised his family in St. Joseph, Missouri. John J. Bloys is buried in the Millican Cemetery (Marion County) IL (marker).

MARY CREGG/CRAIG "MOLLIE" BLOYS (WILKINSON) was born on July 4, 1849, in McLemoresville, Carroll County, Tennessee to Mordecai D. Bloys and Amelia Patterson Yeargan. They moved to Stoddard County, Missouri in 1856 (1860 Census #867) and to Salem, Marion County, Illinois in 1862. During 1874-75 school year Mollie Bloys taught school about 6 miles south of Salem.

Mary C. Bloys went by the name of Mollie. She and her brother, Thomas Dow Bloys, moved to Honey Grove (Fannin County), Texas in June 1877. She taught school (1877-78) until she was married.

In Paris, Texas Mollie Bloys married Thomas David Wilkinson (b. 8/17/1840 Chambers Co AL [Copper review 3/11/1927]) on August 1, 1878. They met when Mollie came to Paris, Texas to visit her uncle, John D. Bloys. Her brother, W.B. Bloys, visited them in June 1879 and found that her husband was an abusive drunkard (Letters).

Thomas D. Wilkinson came to Texas from AL with his widowed mother in 1857 and they settled at Snow Hill (Titus County) TX. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted with others at Mt. Pleasant for 2-years' service in the 3rd Texas Infantry Regiment led by Col. Sul Ross. They operated in the Trans-Mississippi district. Later he served in cavalry units to the east of the Mississippi river under Albert Sidney Johnson, Wheeler and Ector. After marrying Mollie, they lived in Mt. Joy (Delta County) TX where he owned/operated a cotton gin. After he acquired another gin in Unitie, they lived there until 1910, then lived in Enloe until 1915, when Mollie died. After her death, "Uncle Tommie" Wilkinson lived with his daughters family in Enloe, Annie Amelia Wilkinson and her husband, Albert Cameron Toon.

Mollie and Thomas Wilkinson were the parents of Henry Lee Wilkinson (10/30/1879 Delta Co TX-7/30/1903 Delta Co TX*), Annie Amelia Wilkinson (4/2/1882 Delta Co TX-12/18/1957 Cooper, Delta Co TX, m. Albert Cameron Toon [b. 1/22/1881 AL, d. 5/19/1938 Enloe, Delta Co TX; both buried Oaklawn Cemetery, Cooper TX, marker; 4 children [Cooper review 12/19/1957]), Lucy Emma Wilkinson (10/12/1885-4/2/1969; m. Nathaniel Orlando Enloe [1881-1942]), and Mary Hester Wilkinson (10/4/1892-1964 Cooper TX; m. Edgar N. Holt [1887-1969], buried*; 1 child [Letter 7/19/1955]).

In May-June 1911 Mollie Wilkinson visited Fort Davis via Honey Grove, to escort her niece, Estelle Bloys, back home to Fort Davis, after Estelle completed high school in Honey Grove, while living with T.D. Bloys family. She fondly remembered this trip and seeing the Bloys gardens and fruits trees.

Mary/Mollie Bloys (Wilkinson) saved many old letters written to her mother Amelia Patterson Yeragan Bloys, by Mary's brother Dan and sisters. They were later in possession of Stanley Enloe of Paris, Texas (Letters). She lived in Enloe until her death (1915).

Mary Cregg Bloys Wilkinson died at a sanitarium in Paris, Lamar County, Texas on May 28, 1915 (Johnson 1914:1246; Honey Grove signal 6/4/1915, Cooper TX review 6/4/1915). She is buried in the Camp Shed Cemetery (Mt. Joy, Delta County TX, along with many of their children*) with her husband, Thomas David Wilkinson (d. 3/7/1927 Enloe, Delta Co. TX at Toon home; marker). Thomas D. Wilkinson was a member of the Albert Sidney Johnson Camp #70 of the United Confederate Veterans (Cooper review 3/11/1927).

Mary Hester Wilkinson graduated from Paris TX High School in 1910 (Yearbook), and married Edgar N. Holt on Dec. 10, 1911 at the Wilkinson House in Enloe TX. They traveled from their home in Cooper/Enloe (Delta County) TX where they were cotton farmers to Fort Davis in Aug. 1955 and attend the Bloys Camp Meeting. Mabel Bloys greeted them on the grounds at her cabin (Letter 8/9/1955). E. N. Holt and Hester Wilkinson Holt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Dec. 1961 at their home near Enloe (12/1961 newspaper).

MARY A. BLOYS was born to Sophronia McDonald and T.D. Bloys on February 18, 1881, at Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas. She died (noon on July 24, 1881) at the home of her grandparents (Mordecai/Amelia Bloys) in Salem, Marion County, Illinois (Salem Herald Advocate 7/29/1881; Death Certificate; Death Register 1:61). After Sophronia Bloys died, Mary and her father T.D. Bloys were visiting his parents the last 3 months of Mary's life. She died after 3 weeks illness, during which she was treated by Dr. J.A. Sanger. Mary A. Bloys is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, Honey Grove, next to her mother (marker; Newhouse and Newhouse 1983).

MORDECAI DOWEL BLOYS was born in Chester, Chester County, South Carolina on July 20, 1813, to William Bloys and Rebecca Dougherty. Another Mordecai Bloise is listed on the 1810 census for Chester County SC with a household composed to 1 male >45 yrs, 1 male 10-16 yrs, 4 females <16 yrs & 1 female >45 yrs. Mordecai Bloys sold 1000 wt of cotton at \$3 a hundred, two feather beds and furniture for \$30 and boss? for \$13; in all amounting to \$100, witnessed by William Bloys.

Mordecai Bloys moved to Carroll County, Tennessee in the 1820s with the rest of his family. He learned the saddle and harness trade. He married Amelia Patterson Yeargan on July 1, 1840, in McLermoresville (Carroll County), TN (Marriage Records, p. 32 #19). She born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on Sept. 22, 1820 to Benjamin Yeargan and Susannah Moore; and later her family moved to TN. Mordecai resided in McLermoresville, Carroll County, Tennessee (ca. 1820-1856). All of Mordecai and Amelia Bloys' older children were born there: (1) John James Bloys (1841-1865), (2) William Benjamin Bloys (1847-1917), (3) Mary Craig "Mollie" Bloys (1849-1915, m. Thomas David Wilkinson, 1878), (4) Thomas Dowel Bloys (1852-1914), (5) Hester Henrietta Bloys (1854- , m. S.H.H. Harrell), (6) Daniel H. Bloys (1858-1911), (7) Emma Amelia Bloys (1861-1881). Mordecai D. Bloys was listed in District 5 of the 1849-50 tax lists for Carroll County. He did not own any land, slaves or wagons, but had some tools on which he paid \$0.45 in taxes. In Tennessee he learned the harness and saddle trade.

They moved to Stoddard County, Missouri in 1856. Mordecai became a merchant, saddler and farmer. His mother Rebecca Bloys was 66 in 1860 and also lived in that county where she was raising many of her grandchildren. Mordecai, his wife, and children are listed in the 1860 census (#867) next to his wife's brother, John W. Yeargan (#868). Mordecai Bloys owned 160 acres (NE 1/4 of S. 19, T. 27 N, R. 10 E) during 1860-61 (Deed G533-534). Mordecai D. Bloys worked as a saddler.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Mordecai's love of the Union led him to move to Salem, Marion County, Illinois in 1862. He operated as a merchant out of his house (but did not own any land). All of Mordecai's brothers were pro-South.

According to the 1870 census (household #48/49) Mordecai and Amelia Bloys were living with 6 of their children (W.B., Mary, Thomas, Hester, Daniel and Emma) in Salem (Wormer 1983:89). During 1874-75 they temporarily lived in Coutterville (Randolph County), Illinois, but then returned to Salem.

The 1880 census indicates that Mordecai and Amelia Bloys were living with only two of their children (Daniel and Emma)

on College Street in Salem (Household #227/239). Both Mordecai and Daniel were then working as harness-makers (Wormer 1985), as part of the firm of Sweney & Blois Saddles & Harnesses (1881 Directory; Marion & Clinton Counties 1881).

In 1881 Mordecai and Amelia Bloys retired to Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas. In Aug. 1883 he traveled from Honey Grove, leaving his family behind, to visit their son, Rev. Bloys and Isa in Coleman TX. Amelia also made them a rag rug (Letter).

Amelia Patterson Yeargan Bloys died there February 6, 1889. Mordecai D. Bloys died on February 22, 1893, after catching pneumonia after walking from Honey Grove to Old Unitia to fix his son-in-law's harness for spring planting and returning in a snowstorm. Both are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Honey Grove (markers; Newhouse and Newhouse 1983:101; Johnson 1914:1246; Probate).

THOMAS DOWEL BLOYS was born on August 1, 1851, to Mordecai D. Bloys and Amelia Patterson Yeargan in McMoresville, Carroll County, Tennessee. He moved with his family to Stoddard County, Missouri where he attended school in Bloomfield (1855-61), and then Salem, Illinois (1862-1877) where he worked as a clerk.

T.D. Bloys and his sister Mollie Bloys moved to Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas in June 1877 and became a saddler and harness maker, with training provided by his father (1880 census). Dow made the saddle that his brother Rev. William B. Bloys used while riding the circuits in west Texas (now in Fort Davis National Historical Park museum).

T.D. Bloys married (1) Sophronia McDonald, daughter of J.C. McDonald, at Dodd City, Texas on March 12, 1879 (Fannin Co. Marriage Records C:593; Marion County Herald 3/21/1879). Sophronia was born in Honey Grove on August 20, 1861. They were the parents of Mary A. Bloys, who died soon after her birth (2/18/1881-7/24/1881), and Joseph Dow Bloys (1879-1921). The Bloys household included (1880 census): Dow, Sophronia, Joseph Dow, and an African American servant, Celliy, age 21 years. Sophronia died on Feb. 26, 1881, from complications arising from the birth of her daughter, Mary A. Bloys, and was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery at Honey Grove. After her death, T.D. Bloys returned to Salem, Illinois where his parents and other siblings still lived.

In August 1880 T.D. Bloys was again the defendant in the District Court case brought by Patrick Burns and Patrick Degman. This case continued for slightly over a year, with the jury trial being held in late August 1881. The jury found for the defendant, and T.D. Bloys again recovered his court costs. Soon after that he transitioned from saddle and harness making to working in the Honey Grove Post Office.

T.D. Bloys became active in the Republican party, and based on his party affiliation President Arthur appointed him the postmaster of Honey Grove (1882-1890). His term as postmaster ended on Dec. 12, 1890 (Galveston news 1/10/1889). During his lapse in appointment, he sold insurance (1892 TX State Gazetteer) as an agent for the Home Life Insurance Company of New York (Honey Grove signal 6/23/1893, 10/13/1893, 12/8/1893).

T.D. Bloys married (2) in Salem, Illinois to Mary "Etta" Margetta Davenport (b. 10/18/1857 Salem IL) on February 14, 1882 (Marriage D:153). They were married by Rev. William N. Scott (Salem Herald Advocate 2/17/1882). Dow and Etta Bloys' children (Charles Davenport Bloys [1883-1886], James Edgar Bloys [1884-1932]) were both born in Honey Grove.

In 1884 T.D. Bloys is mentioned (Dallas Herald 7/28/1884:4), and following March (1885) Etta was ill in Honey Grove following the birth of their child, James (Letter).

In 1887 two frame houses were built for them on a one-acre lot in Honey Grove during 1887 (Fannin Co. TX Deed 99:391). In 1895 T.D. Bloys was elected alderman for Ward 2 in Honey Grove and served from April 1895 through April 1896 but was not re-elected at the end of his term (Honey Grove signal 4/2 & 5/1895, 2/7/1896, 4/10/1896). In 1902 he bought and moved into the Dr. M.L. McNew's house across from the Methodist church on Pecan St. in Honey Grove (Honey Grove signal 1/25/1902). He continued to own and rent out his old 6-room house with a barn on 14th St (Honey Grove signal 2/22/1900, 6/28/1907). He is mentioned there in the 1910 census, where Etta, and their son Jim also lived.

T.D. Bloys was reappointed post master by Presidents McKinley (1898-1902), Roosevelt (1902-1910 [Honey Grove signal 5/9 & 13/1902, 4/6/1906], and Taft (1910-1914; Patman n.d.; Honey Grove signal 4/1/1910). Each appointment was for a four year term, and had to be approved by the US Senate. Besides handling the mail, he painted the post office interior and furniture (Honey Grove signal 6/15/1900). In mid-June 1911 T.D. Bloys was given a merit increase in his salary due to his hard work (Honey Grove signal 6/16/1911).

T.D. Bloys often participated in Republican county and state conventions and as an elector. During 1900 he chaired the Fannin County Republican Party from his base in Precinct 5 (Honey Grove signal 1/19/1900, 2/9/1900, 8/3, 17 & 27/1900), even though he suffered an injury when he fell off his barn roof (Honey Grove signal 2/9/1900). This injury also did not prevent him from attending the Texas Republican convention in Waco during the following month (Honey Grove signal 3/1900), nor the State-wide convention in Sept. 1900 (Honey Grove signal 9/21/1900). In 1902 and 1906 T.D. Bloys again chaired Precinct 5 of Fannin County Republicans, and contributed to county and state conventions (Honey Grove signal 8/22/1902, 9/12/1902, 7/20/1906).

T.D. Bloys left Honey Grove on Aug 2, 1906 to attend the Texas Republican Convention in El Paso and stopped in Fort Davis to see his brother, Rev. W.B. Bloys and spend 3 days at the 16th Bloys Camp Meeting (Honey Grove signal 8/7 & 14/1906).

As before, T.D. Bloys participated in the Fannin County Republican party meetings and campaigns in 1908 (Bonham news 4/21/1908, Bonham daily favorite 5/6/1908).

T.D. and Etta Bloys were members of the 20th Century Club, and hosted some of their parties at their home (Honey Grove signal 1/22/1909). The 20th Century Club also sponsored the speaking engagement of William Jennings Bryan in Honey Grove in April 1909, and he also visited with the T.D. Bloys family again (McKinney democrat gazette 4/29/1909).

T.D. Bloys also participated in meetings and on committees for the Honey Grove Board of Trade (Honey Grove signal 3/19/1909).

When T.D. Bloys attended the Ladonia TX town picnic in late July 1909 he was injured by the collapse of the ballpark seating (Bonham favorite 7/23/1909; Honey Grove signal 7/23/1909).

T.D. and Etta Bloys were away from Honey Grove from July 2-Aug 2, 1910 visiting his brother, Rev. Bloys and his family in Fort Davis, and attending the 20th Bloys campmeeting. Their niece, Estelle V. Bloys returned to Honey Grove with them. She lived with them while completing her final year of high school. After she graduated in May, 1911, her aunt, Molly Wilkinson (sister to T.D. & W.B. Bloys), escorted her home to Fort Davis and stayed for a short visit before returning to Paris TX.

By then T.D. Bloys health was in decline. His visit to Hot Springs, Arkansas spas in early Aug. 1911 provided temporary improvement (Honey Grove signal 8/11/1911).

T.D. Bloys and others gathered at the local newspaper office in Honey Grove to learn of election returns. Most of those at the office were Democrats, unlike him (Honey Grove signal 11/8/1912).

Thomas D. Bloys died suddenly of heart failure at Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas on Friday night, March 6, 1914, and is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery with the rest of his family (marker; Newhouse and Newhouse 1983:101; Johnson 1914:1246-1247; Probate Case 764, Packet Box 3; Salem Herald Advocate 3/13/1914; Bonham News 3/10/1914:1, Bonham daily favorite 3/37/1914; Honey Grove signal 3/10/1914:1, 3/13/1914). His widow moved to Dallas TX where she lived with her son, James Edgar Bloys and his wife. Etta Davenport Bloys died in Dallas on Dec. 2, 1929, and is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery by her husband (marker; Honey Grove signal citizen 12/6/1929).

WILLIAM BENJAMIN BLOYS was born at McLemoresville, Carroll County, Tennessee on January 26, 1847, to Mordecai Dowel Bloys and Amelia Patterson Yeargan (Death Certificate 8066; Lane Theological Seminary 1829-99 catalog). In 1851 they moved to Stoddard County, Missouri, then a few years later (1861) relocated to Salem (Marion County), Illinois due to their pro-Union sentiment. During 1862-66 he assisted his father on their farm and attended Salem Academy, where he met his future wife, Isa C. Yeck.

From at least Sept. 1874 until June 1876 William B. Bloys attended Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois. He left after the faculty resigned on June 8, 1876, and the college re-organized. During the summer of 1875 he sold materials for the Presbyterian Board of Publications in the Cairo Presbytery.

Isa Yeck taught school (1872-79) in or near Flora, Illinois while William Bloys attended Blackburn College and then Lane Seminary (on Gilbert Avenue between Yale and Chapel Streets) in the Walnut Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1879-80 Lane Seminary had 5 professors and 34 students (13 juniors, 6 seniors, 13 mid-class) and 2 resident ministers, representing 13 states (Ford 1881:184-185). Lane Seminary later merged with McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago in 1932, and soon after many of the buildings were torn down by the 1950s. Most of the ten-acre campus is now a Cadillac dealership (Giglierano et al.1988:172-178). Only the Harriet Beecher Stowe house (2950 Gilbert Avenue)--the former residence of her father, Lyman Beecher, while he headed the seminary, remains. The Walnut Hills United Presbyterian Church (2601 Gilbert Avenue) also existed nearby.

William Bloys attended Lane Theological Seminary from Sept. 1876 until he graduated on May 7, 1879 along with 11 other students (Presbyterian USA 1879 General Assembly minutes, p 655). During the summers he usually returned home to Salem, Illinois. The 1877-78 seminary catalog indicates he stayed at Room 23 in the campus housing and was in the middle class for the seminary students (see also Lane Theological Seminary 1829-99 catalog).

In May 1878 William Bloys was licensed to preach and began to provide monthly services at a series of once-a-month services at churches in Friendsville, Allendale, Monroe, Marshall, Belfast, New Market and Beth from May 3 through the end of Aug. 1878. Based on a newspaper (Mt Carmel IL register 9/15/1878) his preaching lasted until mid-Sept, then he returned to Salem IL briefly before going back to Lane Seminary. The following spring they began to discuss a marriage date. W.B. Bloys would graduate on May 7-8, 1879, and he planned to leave for the missionary field in Texas on June 1, leaving his newly married wife behind in Flora. After much correspondence back and forth between Isa Yeck and William Bloys, the date was set by Isa's close friend with whom she boarded, Mrs. Bowman, because the Bowman family was leaving on vacation at the end of May (see letters).

W.B. Bloys married Isabelle Yeck on May 22, 1879, at Flora, Illinois in the Presbyterian Church. On June 4, 1879, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Cairo, Illinois (Lane Theological Seminary 1829-99 catalog).

Rev. Bloys was rejected by the examiners from service in the Foreign Mission due to his frail health. He wanted to go to India (Smithers 1981:6). His close friend and fellow Lane graduate, Rev/Dr. Henry S. Little (born 3/27/1837 Cincinnati OH to Dr/Rev Henry Little--a western missionary [in IN]; graduate Wabash College, Crawfordville IN; ordained 4/11/1866; Honorary D.D. from Washington & Jefferson College and Wabash College; attended General Assembly NYC 1884; died 7/29/1906 Denison TX), Superintendent of Presbyterian Home Missions in Texas (1879-1906) from Denison TX [Assembly Herald 11/1906]), encouraged Rev. Bloys to come to Texas after he was accepted by the Home Mission Program of the Northern Presbyterian church.

On Feb. 17, 1878, Rev. Bloys wrote his cousin, Lucy E. Wilkinson in Enloe/Paris, Texas saying he might be moving to Texas or New Mexico from Cincinnati OH (Letter 6/16/1961). According to Stanley Enloe, W.B. Bloys had been to Texas once before visiting his sister, Mary "Mollie" Bloys and brother, T.D. Bloys in Lamar County, but no other record of this visit has been found.

Rev. W.B. Bloys left for Sherman, Texas on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad from St. Louis MO on June 9, 1879, leaving his newly married wife behind with her mother and the Dr. Jeremiah Bowmans' in Flora (with whom she had lived since 1870. He visited his brother and sister in Honey Grove, before continuing on by hack to Coleman by way of Fort Worth, Weatherford and Brownwood. In Coleman he lived at a hotel and held services in the courthouse, above a general store/saloon (Coleman democrat voice 2/10/1970). His younger sister, Emma Amelia Bloys (1861-1882) arrived for a visit in early July 1879, and then lived with them until her death. Isa C. Yeck (Bloys) left St. Louis by a similar train for Denison, Texas with Rev. and Mrs. Little on Aug. 27. Her husband, Rev. Bloys, met them on Sept 2, and then they visited his family in Honey Grove, before continuing to Coleman in a borrowed wagon.

At Coleman, Isabelle Bloys taught school, and started a Sunday School and Women's organization. Rev. Bloys husband organized churches and preached at first in Coleman, Belle Plain, Buffalo Gap and Brownwood. Their first two children, Mabel and Edna Bloys were born in the two-rooms they rented above a downtown store. In June 1880 Rev. Bloys almost drowned in a flash

flood filled creek crossing near Brownwood (Galveston daily news 6/10/1880).

In February 1882 W.B. Bloys purchased an acre of land on the south side of Hord's Creek (about 900' east of Hwy. 3425), near the old Woodward house (Coleman democrat voice 3/22/1934). They built a house there by 1885. Their child, Warren, was born in this house in 1885. There they lived until the land was sold in January 1888. The house that Rev. Bloys built stood until it was destroyed by a fire in about 1920 (Coleman democrat vice 8/31/1923).

Rev. Bloys' first sermon was delivered in a large two-story building--now The Carousel--that he discovered upon hearing the clink of glasses was above a saloon. The upper floor where the service was held served as the courthouse. The courthouse and church were soon relocated to the upper floor of the rough lumber courthouse owned by Mr. Paddleford and now the site of the First Coleman National Bank--across Liveoak Street from the present courthouse built in 1882. Early members included Richard Sherwood Bowen (1854-1899; surveyor), and Richard Henry Overall (1832-1900; rancher) and Tye Overall (Coleman democrat voice 7/9/1985). Later services were held on the second floor (Masonic Lodge) of the present Bowen Drug Store.

A Presbyterian church building was erected in 1880-84 with support from the General Assembly of the (Northern) Presbyterian Church USA, and the Synod and Presbytery of Austin (Comanche chiefs 8/14/1880; Coleman democrat voice 2/17/1970). An organ was installed and benches built with leftover lumber (Bruce 1973:75). The Presbyterian church USA was dedicated in 1884, and the only church building then in Coleman (Coleman democrat voice 11/12 & 19/1926). The building that Bloys and other members built (was demolished in the late 1980s) at 201 San Saba (Bruce 1970; Coleman 1985; Coleman democrat voice 3/19/1926), and the deed is dated August 17, 1882. This building was sold to the Catholics on December 28, 1892. The earliest records at the report to Austin Presbytery of April 1, 1883, to April 1, 1884. For many years this church was interdenominational, serving Baptists, Presbyterians, Christians, and Methodists, for one Sunday a month (Bruce 1973:76).

In 1884 the Southern (US) Presbyterians built a small church in the lot just south of the present building (416 W. Elm), but it was soon destroyed by a tornado. They soon rebuilt (1887) at the present location (205 W. College). The building was sold to the Nazarenes on November 26, 1916, and moved to Concho Street, where it was rebuilt and veneered with rock. The Manse was a frame house, just north of the church, also facing Frio Street East. It was later moved to Elm Street. The USA church membership merged into the US church.

By the early 1900s a Cumberland Presbyterian Church was located where Taylor Motor Company now stands. It was a frame building with a triangular steeple. While a new brick church was built in 1916-17, services were held over what is now the Perry Brothers Store (then W.J. Coulson Store).

Rev. Bloys was "adaptable, friendly and untiring. Very poor in worldly goods, he would start off alone somewhere to preach, taking no money and only a change of clothes; he would hobble his horse to graze, sleep in the grass, wash his clothes in the creek water and dine on pecans and wild plums when necessary to visit his distant missions" (Bruce 1973:75).

In April 1882 Austin Presbytery met in Georgetown TX and elected Rev. Bloys moderator (Galveston daily news 4/9/1882). The following May 1883 he attended the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA in Sarasota Springs NY (Letter).

In Aug. 1883 father, Mordecai Bloys visited them from Honey Grove, and soon after Rev. Bloys' mother sent them a rag rug she made for their home (Letters).

On April 4, 1884 Rev Bloys spoke at the Austin Presbytery meeting in San Antonio at Madison Square Presbyterian church ; and he was elected clerk of the newly created West Texas Presbytery. His friend and supervisor, Dr/Rev Henry S. Little reported on the founding of a new church in Fort Davis (San Antonio light 4/4/1884:1; Austin statesmen 4/10/1884; Letters). In Oct. 1884 Rev. Bloys attended the Texas Presbyterian Synod meeting in Austin (Letter).

On January 26, 1885, Isa and W.B. Bloys attended the organizational meeting for a public library held at the Presbyterian Church. The library was located at the rear of the L.E. Collins/Coalson's Drug Store, just S of the courthouse (Coleman democrat voice 2/1/1940; Abilene reporter news 3/21/1954, 1/3/1956). That year he served as moderator of the Synod of Texas (Lane Theological Seminary Catalog 1829-99), and in March attended the Presbytery meeting in Lampasas (Letter 3/1885).

While at Coleman, Rev. Bloys organized and one-a-month served churches in the surrounding towns (possibly Atoka, Ballinger, Buffalo Gap, Paint Rock, Santa Ana) in direct competition with the Cumberland Presbyterians. Of these only the church at Ballinger still operates in the original building (Abilene reporter news 10/28/1951; The Paint Rock church, where Rev. Bloys preached from 1881-83, in 2012 became an art gallery [San Antonio mission presbytery news 6/1991:155; Coleman chronicle 6/20/2012]). The original church building in Coleman was torn down. Rev. Bloys performed about 50 marriages between December 13, 1879, and January 15, 1888, at Bell Plain, Buffalo Gap, Camp Colorado, Coleman, Currie's Ranch, Glen Cove, Hill's ranch, Paint Rock, Santa Anna, Wylie's ranch (W.B. Bloys' Coleman TX Marriage Register; Reeves 1981).

In Coleman, several children were born to William B. Bloys and Isabelle Yeck: Mabel Edith Bloys (1880-1955); Edna Cole Bloys (1884-1895), Warren D'Or (1885-1945), and Herbert Daniel Bloys (1887-1959).

In the winter of 1886-1887 William Bloys came down with measles while attending a meeting in Runnels. Returning home on horseback in a norther, he was seriously ill with chills and fever when he reached Coleman. He never fully regained his health, and the doctors advised him to move to a higher dryer climate. The tensions and factionalism between the US, USA and Cumberland Presbyterians may also have contributed to his move. The USA members were definitely the minority, being outnumbered by the pro-Southern factions in post-Civil War Texas.

At the urging of Dr. Little, who had just visited Fort Davis and the David and Martha Merrill (whom the Bloys' were friends with in Coleman. Both the Merrills and W.T. "Bill" Jones moved to Fort Davis and they wrote him in October 1887 encouraging Bloys to come to Fort Davis.

The Bloys family moved to Fort Davis, Texas in 1888 with the support of the Austin Presbytery (First Presbyterian Church of Fort Davis Minutes). They traveled by the Texas & Pacific Railroad from Baird to Toyah, Texas, where they were met by one of the Merrill men, who took them by hack. After stopping for picnic lunch in Limpia Canyon, they reached Fort Davis on February 22,

1888--Washington's Birthday--during a snowstorm. By then only four members and no elders of the church remained in Fort Davis.

For the first three weeks (March 1888) they lived in a cold three-room house. After their household furnishing arrived, they moved into an adobe house (4/1888 - summer 1891; later owned by Bergmanns) across from the first Lympia Hotel in what was called New Town. Roy Bloys was born here in 1889. Mrs. Bloys gardened and had chickens and a cow for milk.

Fort Davis was then divided into three sections: the army post, South Fort Davis, and North Fort Davis or New Town. New Town was built after South Fort Davis, but both had the same number of Anglo residents.

The Rev. W.B. Bloys re-organized the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Davis on March 18, 1888 during a service at the Methodist Episcopal Church (Church minutes). The following members all came from Coleman: Judge W.O. Read, Mrs. L.E. Read, Mrs. Alice Jones, and Mrs. I.C. Bloys. Mr. J.J. Caswell and Miss Kate Fink also joined. Mr. E.Le Gage and Mr. Jesse W. Merrill (born 1862 IL, came to Waco TX 1878 then Coleman, moved to Ft. Davis 1883; Secretary [1890-] and President, Bloys Camp Meeting; Jeff Davis County Judge, Surveyor, and Deputy Sheriff; died 1957) were elected elders. J.W. Merrill declined to serve, but later (from June 20, 1889) served as an elder until his death in 1957. Judge W.O. Read was elected Deacon during the March 1888 meeting.

On May 12, 1888, Rev. W.B. Bloys preformed his first marriage in Fort Davis when he married Lt. Farrand Sayre and Miss. Kate H. Phelps of St. Marys, Ohio.

At Christmas time in 1888 Rev. Bloys started a tradition of putting up a community Christmas tree, around which were presents, that continued for decades (Alpine avalanche (12/24/1926).

At first, Rev. Bloys preached at the Methodist church. Later he preached to the soldiers and towns people at the Fort Davis post chapel (e.g Apr 1, Aug 19, 1894 [Church minutes]). His request (letters to Adjutant General's Office of War Dept 3/11 & 27, 1890) to serve as the post chaplain was never granted (but acknowledged in War Dept letter 6/13/1890). He made long seats for his big wagon. On Sundays he drove around town picking up children for Sunday school, and later made a second trip to get older people for church. A Baldwin organ arrived for use in the church services latter part of 1888 (Letter).

W.B. Bloys preached in Fort Davis for 30 years, while also serving other circuit churches in the Big Bend Region: Alpine (1888 - , on second Sunday of month [and later also on the fourth Sunday in the brick church] in school building, then in Methodist Church [1889-1911, Alpine avalanche 7/8/1904, Marfa new era 4/8/1911], Courthouse [1891-92], A.M. Turney Building--across from present church [1892-10; Alpine Avalanche 5/11 & 18/1900, 5/15/1903:4, 10/14/1904:4, 4/5/1907,6/10/1909, 7/18/1909, 9/9/1909:3], and finally brick church [at N. 5th St/Ave B completed in June 1910; Alpine Avalanche 7/7/1910, 2/15/1911:3, 4/8/1915:3 6/10/1909:3, 6/2/1910]; which destroyed by fire on 4/14/1943), Brogado, Marathon, the Union Church and later at the Presbyterian Church (10/1910 -) in Marfa (Letter 4/24/1910); Shafter (11/24/1903 - 12/16/1906 [Letter 3/25/1904, Austin statemen 2/22/1904), Toyahville (1904 - 1980 [Alpine avalanche 8/5/1904]), and Valentine (5th/last Sundays of the month by 1890 at the Union church [El Paso dispatch 5/3/1910, El Paso morning news 4/2/1912]). When he made the trip to Valentine, he usually stayed overnight with the Medleys at Barrel Springs Ranch or at Crow's Nest Ranch with the Means (Jacobson and Nored 1993:466). At times he preached further away in Pecos, Sanderson, and Presidio (Jacobson and Nored 1993:191). During late April and December 1895 and 1896 he performed marriages in Pecos County (Marriage 2:65, 66, 76).

The Presbyterian church in Alpine was organized on Nov. 27, 1892 by Rev. W.B. Bloys and 10 charter members (L.B. Coruthers, Lena Coruthers, Walter Garnett, Mamie B. Garnett, Lillie Rooley, Laura Irving, Lou Miller, Mary A. Garnett, Will Lewis & Nina Baxter). By 1942 only Mrs. Mamie B. Garnett was still alive. Rev. W.B. Bloys served the Alpine church until his death in 1917, when he was replaced by Rev. H.J. Reemstma (1918-1921). The church buildings was not erected until 1910, and the manse in 1922 [Alpine avalanche 11/27/1942]).

Based on his marriage register, Rev. W.B. Bloys performed hundreds of weddings between May 1888 and March, 1917. While most of these marriage ceremonies occurred in Fort Davis, he also preformed ceremonies in outlying places--Alpine, Balmorhea, Brogado, Duncan's Ranch, Finley's Ranch, Fort Stockton, Haymond, Jone's Ranch, Kount's Ranch, McCutcheon's Ranch, Marfa, Marathon, Medley's Ranch, Pruett Ranch, Richmond's Ranch, Shafter, Toyah, Toyahvalle, and Valentine. As needed he would also preach at Balmorhea (Letter 10/17/1910) and some of these places.

Rev. Bloys traveled by train to more distant places. On April 28, 1890 Rev. Bloys spoke at the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) lodge 284 in El Paso (El Paso international times 4/27/1890). The next day, he assisted in the installation of Rev. Henry Whaling as the new pastor at the Myrtle Street Presbyterian church in El Paso (El Paso internation times 4/29/1890). He also traveled to Pearsall and San Antonio to preach in local churches (Letter 4/9/1892). And, the following year he attended the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA in Washington DC (Letter 5/22/1893). In April 1895 he participated in the meeting of Austin Presbytery in Taylor (Williamson County) TX (Galveston daily news 4/6/1895) and again returned there for another Presbytery meeting in March 1899 (Houston daily post 3/26/1899). In April 1900 Rev. Bloys was an invited speaker the subsequent Austin Presbytery meeting in Houston (Houston daily post 4/4/1900). During 1902 he served again as moderator of the Synod of Texas, and for several terms was the clerk of the Presbytery of El Paso (- 1917). Rev. Bloys traveled to San Antonio in April 1902 to preach at Madison Square Presbyterian church (San Antonio light 4/5/1902). In Sept 1902 he went to Albany TX to speak at the opening of the Reynolds Presbyterian Academy (Albany news 9/12/1902). A few months later he returned to preach again at Madison Square in San Antonio (San Antonio light 11/1/1902). In Feb. 1904 Rev. Bloys attended the Austin Presbytery meeting in Austin and reported on the newly established Presbyterian church in Shafter and spoke about missionary efforts in NW Texas (Austin statesmen 2/22/1904).

Rev. W.B. Bloys' buggy was pulled by two horses, Roxy and Bill, provided by his old friend, W.T. "Bill" Jones. His saddle was made by his brother, Thomas Dow Bloys in Honey Grove, Texas. In 1912 Joe B. Irving, a member of the Presbyterian Church in Alpine, bought Rev. Bloys a Model T Ford runabout car (Marfa new era 3/16/1912, Alpine avalanche 3/28/1912). This auto replaced his horse drawn buggy on his visits to outlying churches and ranches. Early in 1917 Barry Scobee, the local historian, and a local rancher, encountered the Rev. Bloys with his Model T stuck in a sandy road. They helped push it out (Smithers 1981:7).

Rev. Bloys visited most of the ranches in the area, providing religious services and baptizing children in whatever faith the

parents requested. He usually wore black, and carried along a change of work clothes so he could help with the ranch work. Twice he encountered unidentified bodies of dead men, on the Alpine Road, and a young boy hanging in Limpia Canyon. They were brought back to Fort Davis for burial. In June 1894 he officiated the funeral for Mrs. Mollie Townsend at the church in Marfa (Marfa New Era 6/6/1894). On September 5, 1894, he married Lola Pruitt and Joe Esby at Fort Davis (Marfa New Era 6/23/1894). That same year Rev. Bloys married Jesse W. Merrill (1862 - 1957) and Emily Anderson (1871 - 1956) at the Post Chapel.

In 1896 Rev. Bloys' annual salary was \$675 (Ft Davis church minutes). Two years later (1897) it was increased to \$875 provided by the churches at Alpine, Marfa, and Fort Davis; and the Board of Home Missions (Church minutes).

From the fall of 1892 to 1905 they lived in the apartment at the back of the Sender & Siebenborn Store (after Joseph Sender closed it in September 1891, moved to New York, and asked Rev. Bloys to disperse the remaining property), about 1-2 miles from the post office, just east of the army post, in what is known as New Town. The large one-story adobe building had a cellar, and a broad east-west oriented hallway. The rooms on both sides of the hall were for residence; and the store (40 x 60 feet) was in the south part of the building. An enclosed and elevated platform in the middle of the store was so the bookkeeper could watch the customers. There were numerous windows and doors. A corral and well were located to the east of the building. W.B. Bloys continued to rent the Sender store until the end of 1909 (Letter 3/19/1910).

In Fort Davis several more children were born to W.B. and Isa Bloys: Roy Humphrey Bloys (1889-1980), Estelle Virginia Bloys (1892-1995, m. LC Fawcett) and Arthur Dowell Bloys (1894-1975). Edna Bloys died here of appendicitis at age 12 or 13. B.A. Johnson purchased the Sender store in 1918 for \$500, and had it razed. The materials were used to build his home on the northeast edge of Fort Davis (Scobee 1963:136-137).

From 1887-95 Mrs. Anderson taught at the public school in Fort Davis known as Fort Davis Academy (North Fort Davis School). The older Bloys children (Edna, Mabel and Roy) attended this school, which was in a two-story adobe building, also used as the Oddfellow Hall, in the next block north of the Sender store. After it was razed in the 1940s, a Mr. Granado's house was built there. The location is north of the Juan Razo house and west of Carmen Gonzales' long building. After the school grew, it was moved in the late 1890s to the Oddfellows Hall, several blocks west of the original redbrick Limpia Hotel, on the opposite (north) side of the street; and east of the Sender store. Alfredo Granado Jr.'s house was built on this site after the school was razed in the 1950/60s (Scobee 1963:152). Rev. Bloys served as a trustee for the local schools and provided janitorial services. He was also a member of Ft. Davis Lodge # 329 I.Q.Q.F. Rev. Bloys usually attended the monthly meetings of the Women's Missionary Society at his home (1888 -).

The first Bloys Camp Meeting was held on Saturday, October 10, 1890, at Skillman's Grove, 16 miles west of Fort Davis and 20 miles north of Marfa, at the suggestion of the Means family. The Rev. Bloys, John Zack Means, George Evans, Bill Jones, Ole Finley, Bill Kingstones, and other cowboys cleared off the brush and built an arbor for the two-day meeting (Smithers 1981:8). An Arbuckle Coffee box was used as a pulpit, and people camped in tents around chuck wagons. Rev. Bloys led the singing of hymns without the aid of hymnals. In 1891 people attended from as far away as Sierra Blanca, Pecos, and Marathon. He became known as Brother Bloys to everyone, and the Camp Meeting continues to be held each year in early August. After some dogs interrupted the nondenominational service, Rev. Bloys banned dogs from the grounds during camp meeting. During the 1891/92 meeting Rev. Bloys was assisted for the first time by Rev/Dr. Henry S. Little of Denison, Texas. They had known each other at Coleman. Prof. C.B. Smith the Superintendent of Pecos Public Schools also attended. The group/family camps were organized at the 4th camp meeting in 1893. In 1897 Bloys and Little were joined by Ralph Clark who later founded Texas Christian University. The Bloys Camp Meeting Association organized in 1902 acquired the 640 acres which included Skillman's Grove. In 1904 they were incorporated by the state of Texas. In late June 1903 Bloys announced the 13th camp meeting would begin on August 5 (Alpine Avalanche 5/26/1903:1) and at least 600 people attended the week-long event involving 9 ministers representing the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians (Pecos news 9/8/1903). The 14th campmeeting in early Aug. 1904 attracted 400-500 people who arrived in 65 hacks or buggies and 41 wagons to camp in 60 tents. The year (1904) a large new tent with canvas pews was used for the services (Alpine avalanche 8/5/1904). Rev. Bloys' brother, T.D. Bloys, attended the 16th campmeeting in early Aug. 1906 under the big tent (Honey Grove signal 8/7 & 14/1906; Austin statesmen 8/18/1906). By 1910 many families from further away were attending due to the availability of automobiles. The 22nd campmeeting in 1912 was delayed to Aug. 14th to enable the completion of the lumber-framed tabernacle, which replaced the large tent previously used (El Paso herald 6/12/1912, 7/16/1912, 8/14 & 16/1912; Alpine avalanche 7/18/1912; Marfa new era 6/8/1912). The following (23rd) campmeeting, Aug. 23-30, 1913 was widely reported upon in various newspapers (Alpine avalanche 7/3/1913, El Paso herald 7/4/1913, Ft Stockton pioneer 7/11/1913). A thousand people attended the Sunday services during the 25th campmeeting in 1925 which began on July 21st. Six ministers representing the Baptists, Disciples of Christ/Christian, Methodists and Presbyterians preached at the services. Considerable infrastructure was installed by 1915 including the 500 seat tabernacle, telephone, water system, electricity and a stock corral (Alpine avalanche 7/1 & 29/1915, Jacksboro gazette 9/16/1915). \$5 collected at this campmeeting was donated to the Southwest Presbyterian Home & School for Orphans in Itasca TX (Alpine avalanche 8/2/1915). The 26th campmeeting, Aug. 23-29, 1916, was the last one led by Rev. Bloys, and during the business meeting of the Bloys Camp Meeting Association he was shouted down when he attempted to turn over leadership to a younger man (San Antonio express 9/17/1916). After his death (1917) camp meeting continued to grow tremendously and new infrastructure was added: Enlargement of the tabernacle completed in 1927 enabled the seating of 150 more people, and new water wells and a 15,000 gallon water tank were added. Families began to replace their tents with cottages to be used only during camp meeting (Alpine avalanche 6/24/1927, 8/5/1927; Marfa new era 6/25/1927). More than 2500 people attended the 40th Bloys Camp Meeting in 1929. Attendees contributed \$7000 to cover costs of new water well, food, and maintenance (Alpine avalanche 8/9 & 23/1929; Dallas news 9/9/1930). For the 50th meeting in 1939 the tabernacle was enlarged again to 72' x 90' to handle the 2000 people who attended (Henderson daily news 5/13/1939, Goldthwaite eagle 8/18/1939, Sulphur Springs daily news telegram 8/24/1939).

T.D. & Etta Bloys traveled to Fort Davis from Honey Grove to visit his brother's family, and attend the 20th camp meeting (Marfa new era 7/30/1920, Honey Grove signal 8/5/1910). Estelle Bloys may have returned with them to Honey Grove to complete

her final year of high school; she definitely graduated from there in May, 1911.

According to C.E. Way (quoted in Raht 1919:347): "... I have seen him [Rev. Bloys] walk into a saloon [in Alpine] full of drunken men, who were yelling and cursing. When he appeared in the doorway, every curse was hushed; glasses half raised to cursing lips now lowered; profanity stopped; and gambling games suspended operation. After speaking with whom he had business with a friendly nod he went his way."

During 1894 the Presbyterian church at Baird, Texas attempted to recruit Rev. W.B. Bloys as their new minister. However, he declined on March 9, 1894 (Ft Davis Church minutes).

Rev. Bloys did not speak Spanish. Often Bob Fair (1849-1906), a retired soldier (122nd Regiment Colored [1864-65]; 9th Cavalry [1867-72]), translated for him. Rev. Bloys was among the Jeff Davis County School Trustees who in October 1902 authorized the purchase of a lot for a new school at the base of Sleeping Lion Mountain from James Stewart for \$480. When the so-called American school opened in September 1904, they also enforced racial segregation by making the colored children attend the old South Fort Davis School even though this school was at the opposite end of town from the homes of most of the students and had previously been condemned. After ignoring complaints by parents to this effect, school attendance declined at the Mexican school. This situation continued until 1924 when a new Mexican school was built across from the Catholic Church, with the support of Lovey Weathery--the first woman elected a school trustee (Jacobson and Nored 1993:308, 311). Even so not a single Hispanic completed High School until 1939 (Jacobson and Nored 1993:313).

Dr. Little in the 1895 minutes of the Presbyterian USA General Assembly (p. 237) described Rev. Bloys' efforts as follows: "Between Del Rio and El Paso, a distance of five hundred miles along the Southern Pacific Railway with forty towns and four stations, the Rev. W.B. Bloys has been until lately the only minister of any name preaching the Gospel there."

Rev. Bloys became close friends with Father Brocadus Ecken to serve Catholics on a circuit that spanned the Big Bend from his arrival in 1895 until his retirement in 1932 (Jacobson and Nored 1993:187). The town of Brogado was named after him.

In 1904 Rev. Bloys designed and helped to build the Fort Davis Presbyterian Church (corner First St & Bloys Ave with Frank Sproul and Charles Janes, and similar in plan to the ones at Valentine and Alpine), the old church at Toyahville (built in 1904 [Alpine avalanche 8/5/1904], later the home of Lee Kingstom [Evans 1940]). Rev. Bloys built the Valentine Community Church with the help of Janes and Sproul of Fort Davis during 1904 (Jacobson and Nored 1993:320).

The 1907 Presbyterian USA missionary report (p. 245) states that Rev. Bloys served churches in Alpine, Fort Davis and Toyahville, with a total of 102 members.

In 1909 they moved to the new adobe house at the base of Sleeping Lion Mountain, behind (west of) the church (Alpine avalanche 6/3/1909); and he ceased paying rent on the Sender Store (Letter 3/19/1910). Local ranchers contributed funds to build new house. Rev. Fawcett learned cabinet making from his father, and made the paneling in the church, a desk, and wardrobe. The Rev. Bloys provided janitorial services at the school and church. He helped build their new house, the pulpit in the church, and the tabernacle at the camp meeting. He also planted and tended many fruit trees, and had a large vegetable and flower garden. Both Isa and W.B. Bloys loved flowers. In 1913 he added a well with a windmill pump and a garage next to his home (El Paso herald 2/7/1913; San Antonio express 2/15/1913).

Each Christmas Eve the residents of Fort Davis gathered at the Presbyterian Church for a program and to distribute gifts. These gatherings continued until the 1930s (Jacobson and Nored 1993:185).

Children from outlying ranches often boarded with the Bloyses while attending school in Fort Davis. Isa Bloys prepared Sunday dinners to feed families from more distant ranches, such as the Swartzs' and Merrells. Many children came to the house to play and eat cookies, especially when the Rev. Bloys was away. He demanded more subdued behavior when he was present and was very punctual.

Rev. Bloys and his daughters, Estelle and Mabel, were active members of the Fort Davis chapter of the Christian Endeavor Society. Estelle Bloys continued her participation as a college student in San Marcos. Mabel Bloys assisted with hosting the West Texas District Christian Endeavor conference in Fort Davis. Rev. and Mabel Bloys also assisted meetings of the Alpine Chapter (Alpine avalanche 4/7/1910, 7/20/1911).

The charter of First Presbyterian Church at Fort Davis was signed on June 5, 1904, by Warren, Isabelle, and Mabel Bloys (8/9/1948: Deed Records 52:222-224). Before each service in the new church building, he climbed a ladder to light the kerosene lamp in the church yard. This lamp given to him in 1890 was later rewired for electricity when the interior was also wired in 1926 (Jacobson and Nored 1993:191). A porch was added to the entry in 1905, and a Lyon and Healy Cathedral Grand Organ installed. Espy and Keesey Miller, two local boys, were paid \$1 a month to sit behind the organ and pump it during the two services. They often fell asleep, especially during the evening service and had to be waken for the hymns.

The charter of the Bloys Camp Meeting Association was signed on August 22, 1904, with William B. Bloys as a witness (9/24/1904 Jeff Davis Co.). Section 20 around Skillman Grove was purchased for \$1500. In 1908 William Bloys supervised the building of an adobe storeroom to hold tents and supplies. The tabernacle was completed in 1912 and lit with acetylene lamps. In 1914 a water well was dug, and the following year pipes were run to various camps. In 1916 the first piano was installed (Evans 1940).

Throughout his career as a Presbyterian minister, W.B. Bloys encouraged ecumenical and multi-denominational religious efforts in west Texas, involving Catholics, Protestants (including Baptists, Christian/Disciples of Christ, Methodists and others), and Jews. His personal library incorporated works from all of these faiths, and he would on request complete baptisms, funerals, and other services in the requested faith. He even studied up, drawing on his books, to preform a Jewish funeral service. The Fort Davis Union Missionary Society met at the W.B. Bloys home (Alpine avalanche 5/11 & 18/1911).

On January 17, 1910, W.B. Bloys was elected the first president of the Fort Davis Cemetery Association. He was also a charter member. In March 1911 Charles Mulhern sold the Association (himself, S.A. Thompson and W.B. Bloys) for \$1 the 4 acres

already being used as what is now the Hillcrest cemetery (Jacobson and Nored 1993:197, 419). The older Pioneer Cemetery continued to be used until 1913, and the St. Joseph's Cemetery was developed for the Mexican population. In 1966 the Pioneer Cemetery was deeded to the Fort Davis Historical Society.

In 1910 Rev. Bloys also helped found the Presbytery of El Paso and was elected stated clerk (El Paso herald 123 & 8/1910). He spoke again at the subsequent Presbytery meeting in El Paso (El Paso herald 4/10/1911). He served as Clerk-Treasurer (1910-17) except for 1914 when he was moderator (El Paso herald 4/15/1914; Alpine Avalanche 4/16/1914).

A letter of March 19, 1911, called Rev. W.B. Bloys to continue to serve the First Presbyterian Church at Fort Davis. His annual salary would be \$500, but he must provide his own housing.

On September 14, 1911, the Presbytery affiliation of the Fort Davis church was transferred from San Antonio to El Paso. Near the end of that year (Dec. 1, 1911) the Adult Sunday School of the First Presbyterian Church at Fort Davis was chartered. Rev. W.B. Bloys and Mrs. I. Bloys were among the signers. The following Jan., Rev. Bloys assisted in the organization and hosting of the Fort Davis Union Sunday School (Marfa new era 1/13/1912).

Rev. W.B. Bloys attended the meeting of the El Paso Presbytery in El Paso in mid April, 1912, and spoke about the history of missionary efforts in West Texas (El Paso herald 4/15/1915). He probably drove to Alpine or Marfa, then took the train to El Paso.

In April 1913 W.B. Bloys once again drove to Valentine to visit with his sons, Arthur and Roy Bloys, and preach in the Union church (El Paso herald 4/8/1913).

Rev. W.B. Bloys was one of a few ministers from Texas selected to attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in mid-May 1913 (El Paso herald 5/6 & 7/1913). From Alpine he traveled there on the train.

Rev. W.B. Bloys was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by Trinity University (then in Waxahachie) in 1913 (El Paso herald 6/10/1913). He left on a train from Alpine on July 10th, 1913, and returned from Waxahachie with his degree in time to preach the Presbyterian service in Alpine the following Sunday (Alpine avalanche 7/10/1913).

Rev. Bloys participated in the meeting of the El Paso Presbytery in El Paso in mid-April 1914, and was elected moderator (El Paso herald 4/15/1914, Alpine avalanche 4/16/1914).

In mid-October 1915 he returned from a visit to Paris, Texas (Alpine Avalanche 10/28/1915:2). During 1915-17 Bloys visited doctors in El Paso for treatment of his failing eyesight due to cataracts (Letter 7/2/1914). He took the train from Alpine to El Paso in late June 1914, and cataracts were removed by Dr. Carpenter during operations on both his eyes, before he returned by train to Alpine and then Fort Davis in mid-July (Alpine avalanche 6/26/1914, 7/7/1914; Letter 7/12/1914), in time to start the 24th campmeeting on July 16th (Ft Stockton pioneer 6/12/1914, Alpine avalanche 6/18/1914). 600 people attended the 1914 campmeeting. Even with the surgery, his eyesight remained poor, and he had to wear thick eyeglasses to help compensate for his lost vision, but he resumed conducting services almost immediately (Alpine avalanche 10/8/1914).

In Oct. 1914 Rev. Bloys took the train again from Alpine/Marfa to El Paso to attend the meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Texas. During the meeting he gave a detailed talk about the founding and organization of the Bloys campmeeting (El Paso herald 10/10/1914).

During the meeting of the El Paso Presbytery at Marfa in mid-April 1915, Rev. Bloys led the dedication ceremony for the new Presbyterian Church building in Marfa (El Paso herald 4/10 & 20/1915). The following month (May 1915) Rev. Bloys was again in El Paso to obtain medical care (Letter 5/27/1915).

In Oct 1915 Rev Bloys traveled by train to Paris TX to attend the meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Texas (Alpine avalanche 10/7 & 28/1915). Two months later (early Dec. 1915) he traveled by train to El Paso to participate in the meeting of the El Paso Presbytery (El Paso herald 12/4/1915).

In Jan 1916 the Fort Davis chapter of Christian Endeavor Society was hosted in the W.B./Isa Bloys home (El Paso morning news 1/23/1916).

On April 15, 1916, the building of the First Presbyterian Church at Fort Davis was finally dedicated. Soon after, the Rev. Bloys married his youngest daughter, Estelle Virginia Bloys, to Leslie Clarence Fawcett, Sr. on August 16, 1916 at Fort Davis Presbyterian Church (Rev W.B. Bloys' marriage register). He only preformed three more marriages after this—the last on March 15, 1917—a week before his death.

In Sept. 1916 Rev. Bloys traveled to Altura, just outside El Paso, to attend the El Paso Presbytery meeting. Once again he spoke about the history of the Skillman's Grove camp meeting, and served as stated clerk (El Paso herald 9/9, 12 & 13/1916).

William Bloys died at suddenly of a heart attack that resulted in general paralysis on Sunday, March 22, 1917 at 8:30 p.m. in his chair at his home in Fort Davis (TX Certificate 8068; Alpine Avalanche 3/29/1917:2; Coleman democrat voice 4/6/1917, El Paso herald 3/23/1917, El Paso morning times 3/25 & 26/1917; Honey Grove signal 4/6/1917). He was buried on March 23, 1917, in the Hillcrest Cemetery at Fort Davis (marker). Many friends from Alpine, Marfa, Valentine, Van Horn, Toyahville and Fort Davis attended his funeral (Alpine Avalanche 3/29/1917:2). Estelle, Roy, Warren, Herbert and Mabel Bloys also attended and stayed around until early April helping their widowed mother, Isa Bloys (El Paso times 4/8/1917).

A memorial service was held for him at the following camp meeting on August 19, 1917, at 3 p.m. Resolutions of sympathy were sent by the Fort Davis congregation and the Presbytery of El Paso upon his death.

After several years of planning, fund raising and construction, the marble/granite shaft monument was installed on the camp meeting grounds (Pecos enterprise 8/31/1917, Alpine avalanche 9/13/1917; El Paso morning times 9/16/1917). The monument was dedicated at the Camp Meeting on August 17, 1919, at 10 a.m. by his good friends, Revs. Dr. George Truett and J.H. Burma. The captions, added in 1920, reads: "In Memory of Our Beloved Brother Dr. William Bloys, Founder And For Twenty-Seven Years The Faithful Leader Of The Camp Meeting" (Alpine avalanche 8/7, 14 & 21/1919; El Paso herald 7/22/1919).

On Bloys Day (Sunday, Dec. 4, 1921), a memorial service was held for Rev. William B. Bloys at the First Presbyterian Church in Alpine. Several ministers participated, including Rev. R.L. Irving, H.M. Bandy and L.A. McMillan, in the service which

included dedication of the Bloys memorial stained glass window and testimonials from people about his character (Alpine avalanche 11/24/1921, 12/1 & 8/1921).

Isabelle Bloys died at Fort Davis on June 21, 1935.

At the 46th camp meeting on August 17, 1935, a re-enactment of the first camp meeting was presented. Warren D. Bloys played the part of his father, Rev. W.B. Bloys. On May 31, 1959, the Good Shepherd window in the First Presbyterian Church at Fort Davis was dedicated in memory of Dr. W.B. Bloys by Rev. H.E. Dirks. On March 24, 1963, the First Presbyterian Church at Fort Davis celebrated its 75th anniversary (Alpine Avalanche 4/28/1988:1, 3; Jeff Davis County News 3/24/1988).

DR. JAMES ALEXANDER DAVENPORT was born to Dr. John Davenport (1785-1854) and Catherine "Kitty" Higgins (1789-1863) on Aug. 9, 1825 in Livingston County, Kentucky. He became a pro-Union abolitionist, supported of the underground railroad, and so relocated from KY to Salem IL. He married for first time on Aug. 31, 1836 in Salem (Marion County), Illinois to Permelia Ann Watts (b. 1831 KY). Five children were born to them in Salem IL (and most are buried along with their parents in the East Lawn Cemetery in Salem*): 1) John Henry Davenport (1/15/1848-3/31/1919*; m. 1883 Elizabeth 'Eliza/Lizzie' Phillips [7/26/1853 OH-5/18/1927 St Louis MO*]; 1 child), 2) Alice Davenport (1849-8/11/1850*), 3) Sarah R. Davenport (2/6/1851-11/12/1853*), 4) Marietta 'Etta' Davenport (1857-1929; m. Thomas Dowel Bloys in Salem IL; both bur. Oakwood Cemetery, Honey Grove [Fannin Co] TX), 5) Edgar Davenport (1858-?*). After the death of Permelia Ann Watts Davenport on Oct. 23, 1860 in Salem*, he married again in Salem IL 2) on Dec. 25, 1861 to Nancy Carrigan Jennings (b. 1/24/1840 IL). Their children were also born in Salem and most are also buried there in the East Lawn Cemetery(*): 6) Charles Noleman Davenport (9/28/1862-11/25/1942 Ravenna NE; m. Alice B. [7/28/1876-11/21/1949]; both buried with joint tombstone in Highland Cemetery, Ravenna [Buffalo Co] NE), 7) James E. Davenport (1865-1923, bur. Forest Hill Cemetery, Napoleon [Henry Co.] OH unmarked grave), and 8) Mariah/Maria "May" Jennings Davenport (1/25/1871-10/26/1957 St Louis MO*; May Davenport accompanied Wm Jennings & Mary Elizabeth Bryan on visit to Honey Grove TX in 1897 [Honey Grove signal 2/19/1897]).

MARIETTA "ETTA" DAVENPORT (BLOYS) was born on Oct. 18, 1857 to Dr. James A. Davenport and Nancy Jennings in Salem (Marion County) Illinois. Her mother died in Salem IL on Oct. 23, 1860.

Etta Davenport married Thomas Dow Bloys on February 14, 1882 in Salem, Illinois. She lived with him in Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas. Etta was a Democratic party supporter while her husband, T.D. Bloys, was a leader and organizer in the local Republican party, which enabled his appointment as postmaster during Republican administrations.

As late as 1892 Marietta Bloys continued to own property northeast of Salem, Marion County, Illinois (T. 2 N., R. 11 E., S. 1, NE) that she probably inherited from her parents (Plat book 1892:37).

In Aug. 1894 her brother, Charles Noleman Davenport traveled from his home in Ravenna (Buffalo County), Nebraska to visit her in Honey Grove, then continued on to Arkansas before returning home (Honey Grove signal 8/10/1894). The following year, Etta Davenport Bloys visited her relatives in Salem IL (Honey Grove signal 9/6/1895).

Her step-mother (Nancy Carrigan Jennings [1840-1921]) was a sister of Mariah Elizabeth Jennings (1834-1896), who's son was William Jennings Bryan ([1860-1925]; Secretary of State under President Wilson & Democrat candidate for President, who came to Honey Grove TX on several occasions and visited with the Bloys family [Bonham news 1/22/1897, Honey Grove signal 2/12 & 19/1897]).

In March 1900 her step mother, Nancy Jennings Davenport, and step-sister, May Davenport, visited the T.D. Bloys family again in Honey Grove (Honey Grove signal 3/15/1900). They returned again from Salem IL in Jan. 1905 for another visit with the T.D. Bloys family, but his time continued on to Mississippi to visit other relatives (Honey Grove signal 2/3/1905). When William Jennings Bryan returned to Texas in June 1907, Etta Bloys traveled to Parris TX to visit with him and her other friends and relatives (Honey Grove citizen 6/28/1907). Etta's step-mother and -sister, Frances Jennings Davenport and May Davenport traveled again from Salem IL to visit T.D. Bloys family in Honey Grove over Christmas holidays later the same year (Honey Grove signal 12/20/1907).

In late May 1912 Etta Davenport Bloys took the train from Honey Grove to visit her step-mother and siblings in Salem IL (Honey Grove signal 5/17/1912). She returned about a month later to Honey Grove (Honey Grove signal 6/28/1912). The following year (Nov. 1913) she visited relatives in Salem IL and St. Louis MO again (Honey Grove signal 11/21/1913).

After T.D. Bloys died (3/1914), and at the end of 1914 or early 1915 Etta soon moved to live with her son, James E. Bloys and wife, at 209 S. Marlborough Avenue in Dallas (1917-20s). T.D./Etta Bloys house in Honey Grove was rented out for a number of years before it was sold (Honey Grove signal 4/16/1915). Etta Davenport Bloys continued to make trips back to her hometown, Salem IL, to visit her mother (Mrs. Nancy Jennings Davenport) and other Davenport and Bloys relatives (Honey Grove signal 9/4/1914); and to visit friends in Honey Grove (Honey Grove signal 4/23/1915). At the end of 1922 she revisited R.K. Wood family in Honey Grove and then other friends in Paris from Dallas (Honey Grove Signal 11/24/1922).

In late July 1928 Etta Davenport Bloys of Dallas, and her step-sister, May/Mae Davenport, from Salem IL, visited Mr/Mrs Albert Hester in Honey Grove, Texas. This probably was Etta's final visit to Honey Grove (Ladonia news 7/27/1928).

Marietta "Etta" Bloys died in Dallas at her son, J.E. Bloys, home on December 2, 1929 (Certificate 57832) and is buried in Section M of the Oakwood Cemetery, Honey Grove, Fannin County, Texas (Newhouse and Newhouse 1983:101; Johnson 1914:1247; Honey Grove signal 12/6/1929).

ISABELLE "ISA" CATHERINE YECK (BLOYS) was born on December 25, 1848, to Louisa Schweigoeffer and Charles Yeck at their farm near the village of Sisterville (Tyler County), Virginia (now West Virginia). Isa Yeck was their second child, but the only one listed with their household in the 1850 census. They lived in Sisterville until she was 9 (1857) when they moved to a farm in the woods 5 miles from town. She and her little brother attended a one room log school with 23 other children. A new school was completed by the following winter term.

Near the end of the the Civil War (1864), her family moved to Flora, Clay County, Illinois where she attended Salem Academy and local Teacher Normals or Institutes. In Flora she lived most of the time from 1870 to 1879 with the family of Dr.

Jeremiah Bowman, a wealthy physician (1870 census). For two years (1877-79) she only lived with them on weekends and during holidays, while teaching at a rural school about 3 miles to the northeast of Flora.

Isa C. Yeck met William Bloys at Salem Academy. He lived in Salem, Illinois. On August 31, 1872, she received a Second-Grade teacher's certificate from the Louisville (Clay County), IL Superintendent of schools. She taught school in Flora (Clay County), Illinois from Sept. 1872 until mid-February 1879, while W.B. Bloys attended Blackburn College in Carlisle IL and Lane Seminary in Cincinnati OH and they corresponded. They were married on May 22, 1879, in Flora, Illinois by Rev. Allen M. McFarland of the First Presbyterian Church (Marriage Record 2:263; D:363). The date was set by Mrs. Bowman so that she could attend and then leave on vacation with her family.

On June 9, 1879, W.B. Bloys left St. Louis MO on the M.K. & T. railroad for Sherman, Texas, leaving the newly married Mrs. Isa Yeck Bloys behind in Flora. After he settled in Coleman, she traveled to Denison, Texas on the same train as Dr/Rev. Henry Smith Little and his wife. They left St. Louis on Aug. 27, 1879, and arrived in Denison several days later where she was joined by her husband, Rev. Bloys. They then drove in their buggy to visit his family in Honey Grove, before continuing west to Coleman.

In Coleman, the Bloys' lived in two rooms. They slept on the floor and used boxes for tables and chairs. It took two weeks for the ordered furniture to arrive. On the third week Dr. Little visited them and the Bloys divided their living room with curtains into separate sleeping quarters. Giving the bed to their quest they again slept on the floor. Eventually they moved to a house Rev. Bloys built on a parcel of land he acquired on Hoard Creek near Coleman.

In Coleman (1879-88), she taught school while they lived above the saloon and her husband organized and preached at the local Presbyterian Church (at first meeting in the courthouse above a saloon), and was away organizing others. When a regular salary was given to him, a house was purchased and remodeled by them. Mrs. Bloys became an expert seamstress.

After a meeting in Runnels, Mr. Bloys came down with measles while traveling in a norther on horseback. He was seriously ill when he arrived home. He never again fully recovered his health.

They moved to Ft. Davis, Texas so William Bloys could recuperate from measles in a dry climate, and in response to the efforts of Dr. Little and a call from there. The 6 Bloyses (Mabel, Edna, Warren, Herbert and their parents) traveled by the Texas & Pacific railroad from Baird to Toyah. From there one of the Merrill's, whom they knew from Coleman, drove them in a hack for the final 60 miles to Fort Davis. They ate lunch among the rocks in Limpia Canyon, and arrived at Fort Davis on February 22, 1888--Washington's Birthday.

For the first three weeks the Bloyses lived in a cold three-room frame house, before moving into an adobe home across from the hotel. Their new home is within what is now known as New Town, and later owned by the Bergmann family. Later, the Bloys family moved into the back of the Sender Brother's store where they lived until 1905, when they moved into their newly completed home next to the Presbyterian church at the base of Sleeping Lion Mountain.

In Fort Davis she taught in the primary department of the Sunday School (1904-11+), Literary Society, Junior Endeavor (11/20/1898-5/1906), and Chaired the Women's Missionary Society (aka Presbyterian Women's Society; 10/22/1888-3/10/1921) which met in the Bloys home until October 18, 1923, when they moved into the church. On June 24, 1914 Mrs. W.B. Bloys was elected a life member of the Woman's Board of Home Missions (Certificate). Each August the Woman's Missionary Society met at the Bloys Camp Meeting to collect funds for the Home Mission Board (even though this practice ran contrary to the Camp Meeting charter). An annual report of the Missionary Society's activities was sent to the Synod, and they subscribed to the "Home Mission Monthly". Rev. Bloys joined them in hymns, bible readings, and prayers during the early years. Some help was sent to the Confederate Home in Austin after a letter was received requesting aid in 1890. Records of the Society's activities are missing from 1891 to 1908. Isa was also active in the Civic Club (1900-ca. 1930) that improved streets, schools, yards and other interests in Fort Davis; and the Literary Society.

In 1905 the Bloys' moved to the newly built house. Ranch children often boarded with them while attending high school. She was an excellent seamstress, making two quilts in the last year of her life. A signature quilt done by the Christian Endeavor in 1916 includes her signature as well. She loved to grow flowers.

As a member of the Ft. Davis Mother's Club Isabelle Yeck Bloys presented a paper describing her early school teaching experiences in the 1870s in Illinois (San Antonio express 1/30/1916). After the death of her husband, W.B. Bloys, in 1917 she became less visible in the Fort Davis community. She did host the Ft. Davis Presbyterian Missionary Society at her home in July 1920 (San Antonio express 7/25/1920). Her Fawcett grandchildren (Leslie, Catherine, Bill) often spent much of their summers with her in Fort Davis during the 1920-40s.

Isabelle Yeck Bloys celebrated her 80th birthday on Christmas day at a dinner hosted by her son Warren Bloys in his Fort Davis home. Mabel and Herbert Bloys attended (Alpine avalanche 12/28/1928). In 1931 she broke her left wrist (Letter 1931).

At the end of March, 1935 Isa Yeck Bloys' sister, Stella Bloys Lauchmer, visited her from St. Louis. They had last seen each other in Flora, Illinois when Isa married W.B. Bloys in 1878 (El Paso herald post 3/29/1935). Both sisters died soon after this visit.

Isabelle Yeck Bloys died at 4:30 p.m. on June 21, 1935, 18 years after her husband (Hill 1937). Both are buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery at Fort Davis. During her last 4 months she suffered from influenza under the care of Dr. C.E. Eaton of Fort Davis. Isabella Catherine Yeck Bloys died on June 21, 1935, in her Fort Davis home, from bronchial pneumonia after 10 days of illness. She was buried on June 22, 1935, at Fort Davis by W.G. Young of Marfa (TX Death Certificate 137; San Antonio exporess 6/23/1935; Fort Davis post 6/28/1935).

JOHN YECK was born in Pennsylvania in 1811/18, to John and Mary/Maria Yeck of Mifflinville, Columbia County. He was the elder brother of Charles Yeck, and they were both shoemakers. He is not listed in the censuses (1810-50) of Pennsylvania. John married Harriet E. Afentranger by 1847. Harriet Afentranger was born on Dec. 26, 1819 in Crawford County PA. They may have resided for a year (1848) or so in Frederick, Maryland. Within a year or two they moved to Sisterville, Tyler County, Virginia (now WV). John continued initially to make shoes but soon switched to farming by 1860 (Census #115), while living near his

shoemaking brother, Charles. Each had accumulated \$300 of wealth by then.

John and Harriet's older children were born in Sisterville, Tyler County, West Virginia including Edward Jerome Yeck (1848-1920 Elgin OR), Mary Catherine Yeck (10/14/1852-10/14/1888, m. 1874 Achilles Lafayette Matthews [b. 1/31/1850 Centrailia IL, d. 1/3/1886; both buried Sandoval cemetery, Marion Co IL; 2 children), Cora Ellen Yeck (11/5/1852-8/19/1853, bur. Oakwood Cemetery, Sisterville, Tyler Co WV, marker), John Charles Yeck (12/18/1853-), Ella Marquis Yeck (4/21/1856 Sisterville WV-11/13/1933 Orange CA, m. 1875 James Newton Huff [1848-1886]; both buried marked graves Santa Ana cemetery, Santa Ana CA; 5 children), William Tell Yeck (2/1/1858 Sisterville WV-3/11/1876 Marion Co IL; bur. Sandoval cemetery IL, marker), Homer Joseph Yeck (4/12/1859 Sisterville WV-8/2/1925 NE; m. 1893 Rachel Amanda Adeline Kennedy [1867-1952]; both bur. marked grave Cliff Table Cemetery, Merna [Custer Co] NE; 1 child), and Caroline Teressa Yeck (11/25/1860 Sisterville WV-1/1/1937 Halfway, Baker Co OR, m. Joseph Franklin Huff [1854-1919]; both bur. markers Pine Haven Cemetery, Halfway, Baker Co OR; 1 child) (Birth Records 1:5,23,33,36).

On September 28, 1853 John Yeck received lot 81 in Sisterville as part of a court settlement (Deed 12:410-411; County Court Order 4/29/1853:97). The county tax rolls (1854-65) valued the building at \$200-250 and land at \$300-350. John Yeck lived on lot 81 from 1853 through 1859. His brother, Charles apparently resided nearby on lot 79 (1848-56). In July 1854 John Yeck and P.W. Stocking sold 800 acres at the falls of Middle Island (known as Stucker lands) to William Smith for 4 notes that totaled \$6900 (Deed 13:84-85). At the same time, Yeck and Stocking agreed to pay Isaac Hoge \$6840 (in 2 notes) for 337 acres at the head of Williamson (now Owl?) Run (2.5 miles above Sisterville) and 163 acres on Point Pleasant Fork and another 500 acres at the head of that Fork of Middle Island in Wetzel County, Virginia (now WV; Deed 13:43-44). On April 28, 1857 Isaac Hoge released their obligation for the 337 acre parcel (Deed 13:433). The following year (3/19/1858) John and Harriet Yeck paid \$1500 to Philo W. Stocking for the remaining 1/3 interest of the same 337 acres (Deed 14:63). The next year (2/18/1859) John Yeck paid \$1800 for 81 acres on the west side of Pursley Run, 4 miles SE of Sisterville (Deed 14:3030; Tax Rolls 1861-65 valued it at \$405-408). The same day he also sold lot 81 in Sisterville to John S. Wood for \$300 (Deed n.s. 1:357). In September 1859 John became the country surveyor (Court Order Books 1858-61:164). John Yeck is listed with his brother, Charles Yeck (#111) in the 1860 census, even though they each owned separate land. On March 4, 1864 John and Harriet Yeck sold their 81 acres on Pursley Run to James People for \$1134 (Charles also sold his land at this time and both families moved to Illinois).

The youngest child of John and Harriet Yeck were born after they moved to Sandoval, Marion County, Illinois, and included: Esther Ellen Yeck (7/29/1862?-1932; m. 1885 Emery White [1856-1943]; bur. marker Fairhaven memorial park, Santa Ana CA; 1 child).

John Yeck died in Marion County, Illinois on Sept. 24, 1865. His widow, Harriet Afentanger Yeck died a decade later (July 18, 1875) also in Marion County, Illinois. They are both buried with marked graves in the Sandoval Cemetery, Sandoval (Marion County) IL.