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Margaret Elizabeth Rainwater

Margaret Elizabeth Rainwater (1835–1898) came to Bell County and settled on a farm in the Bottoms community northeast of Temple in 1879 with her husband, Moses Alexander Lewallen. They had married in Washington County, Arkansas, on October 23, 1856. Being the oldest child in her family, many of her brothers and sisters followed her and settled in and around present-day Troy during the 1880s.

Margaret Elizabeth (b. May 29, 1835) was born in Sevier County, Tennessee (Jefferson County until 1793), the daughter of Mathew Rainwater (b. Oct. 9, 1815), probably of Jefferson County, and Mahala Jane Snapp (b. Sept. 17, 1818), probably of Washington County, Tennessee. Mahala Jane Snapp was the daughter of Peter Snapp, son of Abraham Snapp and Mary Fogelsang, and Margaret Barnhart, daughter of Conrad Barnhart and Barbara Gefeller. Peter and Margaret Barnhart moved to Sevier County about 1825 and settled at Pigeon Forge near Sevierville, Tennessee.

Mathew Rainwater married Mahala Jane on April 2, 1833, in Sevier County. Their children were:

1. Margaret Elizabeth (b. May 29, 1835) married Moses Alexander Lewallen.

2. Barbara (b. Aug. 7, 1836) married Joseph Vance, then a Wagnor.

3. Benjamin Franklin (b. June 18, 1840) married Amanda Adeline Woods.

4. John (b. Apr. 9, 1842) married Sarah Isabell McKeever.

5. Charity Ann (b. Apr. 20, 1844) died the same year.

6. Abraham B. (b. June 13, 1846) married Hattie W. Goddard.

7. Samuel (May 8, 1848–Mar. 21, 1854).

8. William Henderson (b. Jan. 2, 1852) married Hattie Mayberry.

9. Mary Evaline (b. Nov. 26, 1854).

10. Martin Van Buren (b. Nov. 6, 1855) married Fannie Wright Mayberry.

11. Nancy Bell (b. May 5, 1857) married Armstrong Hendricks.

12. Susan Adeline (b. Sept. 4, 1860) married James Lewellen.

Mathew and Mahala Jane Snapp Rainwater moved from Sevier County, Tennessee, about 1845 and settled in Johnson County, Illinois, where they lived until 1851 when they moved to Prairie Grove, Washington County, Arkansas.

One of their sons, Martin Van Buren, who moved to Bell County in 1881, told a *Fort Worth Star Telegram* reporter on September 27, 1935, "When I was a boy of 11, I watched the Civil War battle at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. My home was just two miles from the battlefield. One day when I went to see a pony in the neighbor's yard, some soldiers passed and later began firing on us. We could see the balls whistle by our heads. We ran into a large log cabin. Two cannon balls were shot into the house."

Mathew Rainwater died in Washington County, Arkansas, on March 30, 1878, and his wife, Mahala Jane Snapp

Rainwater died in 1888. Both are buried near Prairie Grove, Arkansas, where one of the major battles during the Civil War was fought in Arkansas. **

Margaret Elizabeth Lewallen died April 4, 1898, and was buried in the Lewallen Family Cemetery, located on the old farm place owned by Moses Alexander Lewallen, her husband of 42 years.

ARTHUR
CEMETERY

Submitted by Raymond Harrison Bostick

E.G. Ramsaier

Ernst G. Ramsaier was born July 29, 1862, in Warnbraun, Germany, and in 1888 came to Bartlett and found employment in the blacksmith shop of Frank Beyer. He later worked for George P. Alten in his hardware and implement store. In 1910 he went into business for himself and for nearly 30 years served the citizens of Bartlett in the plumbing and tin business.

On December 4, 1894, Ramsaier married Bertha Schnitneck in St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church in Walburg. She was born in Czechoslovakia on September 29, 1874, and came to Bartlett when she was seven.

The Ramsaiers were members of a Lutheran church. He died October 24, 1940, and she died November 11, 1961. Their marked graves are in the Bartlett Cemetery. Their children were: Mrs. Sam Sproles of Waco and William Ramsaier of Lubbock.

Ambrose Knox Ramsey

Ambrose Knox Ramsey was a resident of Bell County by 1857. In that year he signed a petition to build a county courthouse and jail. On August 2, 1858, he was elected chief justice of the county. Meetings were held in the county on March 29, 1859, and September 14, 1859, and the ranger companies known as the Independent Blues and Bell County Rovers were organized to protect the frontier against Indians. Dr. Ramsey was a member of both units. In 1860 he was appointed as delegate to the state Democratic convention held in Galveston.

Dr. Ramsey, a native of Alabama, was born March 11, 1833. On April 19, 1859, he married Anna Eliza Kingsbury in Belton. She was the daughter of Silas A. Kingsbury, a resident of Belton in 1860. A hotel keeper, Silas owned the St. Charles Hotel in Belton. Kingsbury was born about 1812 in Ohio and died soon after the Civil War ended. His wife, Nancy A., leased out the hotel until it burned in April 1875. *Lucinda Kingsbury and *Nancy A. (1826-1906) were the two wives of Silas A. Kingsbury.

A daughter, Eugenia, was born to Dr. and Mrs. Ramsey on March 26, 1860. She married Porter L. Ellis in 1878. Porter L., a Confederate soldier, was born February 28, 1841 and **died April 1, 1919. Their children were: Mrs. M. Amaral; Mrs. D.F. Rugeley; Mrs. R.L. Nichols; P.L.; Quincy Ambrose; **Annie Lida; and **Ethel Winston. Eugenia, a Methodist, was a member of Daughter of the American Revolution and Daughters of the Republic of Texas. **She died July 18, 1932.

On June 5, 1867, Dr. Ramsey married Sallie Kathrine Taylor, who was born in Kentucky on June 28, 1846. Dr. Ramsey's other children included: William, Ambrose Knox Jr., Mrs. Coleman Eads, Mrs. A.T. Van Ness, Mrs. J.W. Porter and James E. Ramsey.

Moses Alexander Lewallen

Moses Alexander (Oct. 30, 1834–Dec. 6, 1908) was born in Sevier county, Tennessee, and moved to Bell County, Texas, where he settled on a farm in the Bottoms community in 1879. His mother died when he was in his early teens, and his father moved to Washington County, Arkansas, with his six sons, sometime after the 1840 census.

In 1847 Lewallen's father, John married Mary Ann Atkinson in Washington County, Arkansas. John Lewallen was born in 1811 in South Carolina. On October 23, 1856, Moses Alexander Lewallen married Margaret Elizabeth Rainwater, daughter of Mathew Rainwater and Mahala Jane Snapp. Margaret was reputed to be his first cousin. The 1850 census listed Martha Lewallen (b. 1768), John's mother, as part of his household.

Moses and Margaret Lewallen (b. May 29, 1835) had the following children, all born in Arkansas:

1. Jennie (b. Feb. 6, 1858) married Nathan Pevehouse.
2. William (b. Oct. 30, 1859).
3. Thomas Riley (b. Sept. 24, 1861) married Nancy Almira Lewellen.
4. Mahala A. (b. Apr. 27, 1866).
5. Mary Adeline (b. Feb. 28, 1868) married Thomas Marion Atkerson.
6. Nancy Bell (b. Feb. 5, 1870) married John C. Atkerson.
7. Margaret (Maggie) (b. Aug. 17, 1872).
8. Fannie (b. Jan. 4, 1875) married Joseph Arthur, Hiram D. Thompson, then Walter Whiteley.
9. Charles M. (b. Sept. 18, 1877) married Nancy J. Brightwell.

During the Civil War, Moses Lewallen served as a soldier in the Confederate States Army in Company A, 2nd Arkansas Regiment. Margaret Elizabeth preceded her husband in death on April 4, 1898, and Moses Alexander moved from his farm to Temple, where he died. Both are buried in the Lewallen Family Cemetery, located on his old farm place about nine miles northeast of Temple. His farm is currently owned by one of his descendants, Marvin Flinn.

ARTHUR CEMETERY Submitted by Raymond Harrison Bostick

Columbus Scott Lewellen

Columbus Scott Lewellen was born March 3, 1847, in Scott County, Tennessee. A farmer, he came to Bell County, Texas, with his parents in 1874 and settled in the Little Flock community. On August 8, 1866, he married Dorcus Koger (b. Apr. 28, 1845).

The Lewellens had 12 children:

1. John William (b. July 27, 1869) was born in Missouri.
2. James Calvin (June 3, 1871–June 1933) married Maud Williams (Dec. 26, 1870–Dec. 1942), and both are buried in Roberts Cemetery at Haskell, Texas.

#1476