

Chapter 5: John B. and Mary Ann Gilliland Redding

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Profile of John B. and Mary Ann Gilliland Redding

John B. Redding was born in Morgan County, Illinois, in 1826. He was possibly named for John Barker Norris, his mother's brother (their parents were David and Mary Barker Norris). His family moved to Schuyler (now McDonnough) County when he was four, and into Iowa when he was eight. He married Mary Ann Gilliland in Des Moines County (near Burlington on the Mississippi River) in 1850. Mary Ann was born in Illinois in 1830 and was from a family that had moved into Illinois from Kentucky, where they had been for several generations going back to Thomas Gilliland, born at sea en route to America from Ireland (Ulster). Mary Ann's father, Thomas, served in the Black Hawk War, then headed for the California gold fields about the time Mary Ann and John B. were married. Thomas was never heard from again.

About 1856, John B. and family moved to Putnam County, Missouri, where his father and sister were settled just across the state line in Iowa. John B. and Mary Ann had 10 children and also cared for Mary Ann's mother and her adult sister after Mr. Gilliland disappeared. John B. inherited some small acreages and city lots from his father, Francis, to provide for the care of John B.'s mother, Nancy, who lived to be 100.

In 1860, John B. purchased 160 acres in Putnam County, where he farmed. He served briefly in the Missouri Militia on the side of the Union to guard against the possible attack of Quantrill's Bushwhackers.

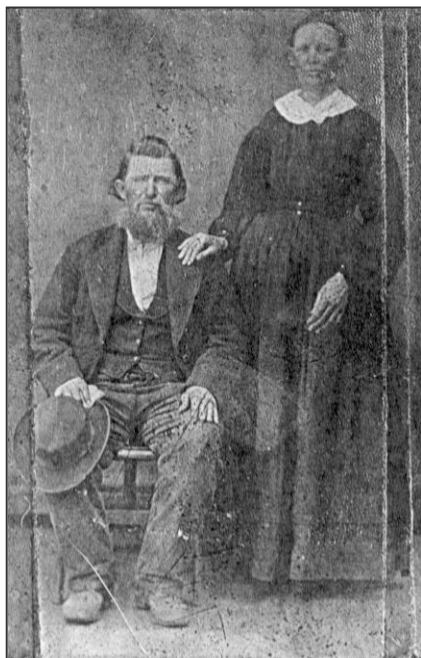
In 1879, at age 49, Mary Ann (no doubt exhausted from the care of 10 children, a mother, a mother-in-law, and a sister) slumped to her death in a Christian Church in the country near Unionville, Missouri. John B. died in 1904 at the home of his daughter.

Children of John B. and Mary Ann Gilliland Redding were: Emma Cordelia Redding Cook, Malissa Redding Wells, Alfred Fear Redding, Anna Redding Davolt, Rhoda Redding Noel, Nancy E. Redding Robbins, Mary Jaley Redding Noel, Francis M. Redding, John Thomas Redding, and Sarah Redding Noel.

Chapter 5: John B. and Mary Ann Gilliland Redding

Illinois Beginnings

John B. Redding was born in Morgan County, Illinois, on March 15, 1826, five years before Abe Lincoln moved to nearby New Salem. He married Mary Ann Gilliland on February 7, 1850 in Des Moines County, Iowa. Mary Ann was born December 21, 1830, in Morgan County, Illinois. In 1824, Thomas Gilliland, Mary Ann's father, was on the voter list in Morgan County, Illinois, in Diamond Grove township, along with John B. Redding's uncles, James and Jacob. John B.'s parents, Francis and Nancy, were married in Lexington, Missouri, in August of 1818. About 1825, Francis must have brought his family to live near his father and brothers in Morgan County, Illinois, where John B. was born the next year.



John B. and Mary Ann Redding

By 1830, the Redding clan had relocated a couple counties to the northwest where Francis purchased a farm in Schuyler (now McDonough) County, near Blandinsville. In the 1830 census, John B. had two older sisters and a younger brother. The county of McDonough was organized that year, and Francis was elected a constable.

In 1834, Francis sold his farm in McDonough County, Illinois, and the family, including Francis's parents, James and Susannah, and Francis's daughter Mary (now married to John Wyatt) moved to the new territory across the Mississippi River in Des Moines County, Iowa (then Wisconsin Territory), near Burlington.

Iowa Upbringing

In the 1836 Iowa Territorial Census, Francis Redin is listed in Des Moines County with 2 males over 21 (Francis and his father, James), 2 males under 21 (John B. and James), 2 females over 21 (Nancy and Susannah), 2 females under 21 (Melissa and Sarah M.). [Note: Melinda married in 1836.] Francis remains in Des Moines County in the 1840 census (township 64 N range 4 W), with 2 males 10-15 (John B. and James), 1 male 40-50 (Francis), 1 female 5-10 (Sarah M.), 1 female 15-20 (Melissa), and one female 40-50 (Nancy). Francis's parents are no longer in his household. By this time, his father, James, has probably died, as his will was prepared in 1839. We do not find Francis's mother Susannah either in the home of Francis or his brother James or nephew Andrew Leonard in Des Moines County or his sister, Polly Wyatt, in nearby Jefferson County in the 1840 census. James, Jr. is in the same township and range as Francis, as are Azariah Gregg (Melinda's husband), Andrew Leonard (Mary's son), and two Deardorffs.

In the 1840 census in Soap Creek Milles, Des Moines County, Iowa, Thomas Gilliland was between 40 and 50, his wife between 40 and 50, with a man between 20 and 30, 2 girls between 15 and 20, 2 girls between 10 and 15, 2 girls between 5 and 10, and one girl under 5. In 1840, Thomas's father, Robert, and brother, William, remained in Morgan County but moved to Adams County, Illinois, in 1841.

In the 1850 census in Union Township, Des Moines County, Iowa, John B. was in the home of his father, Francis, as was his wife Mary, 18, his mother, Nancy, 49, a John with no age, and Charles Thomas, 19, possibly a boarder. Francis and Nancy were born in North Carolina, John B. and Mary in Illinois, John in Iowa, and Charles Thomas in Ohio. Francis and John B. were both farmers. Only Nancy could not read or write. Who was the John with no age?

Life in Missouri

About 1856, John B. and family moved to Putnam County, Missouri; his father was nearby in Wayne County, Iowa, with his son-in-law, John Shepherd.

In 1860, John B. Redding purchased 160 acres in Putnam County, described as:

E½NE	36/	67-N	20-W	No	5th PM	MO	Putnam
N½SE	36/	67-N	20-W	No	5th PM	MO	Putnam

In the 1860 census, John B. Redding was 33 years old, a farmer, living in Brechinridge Township (later Sherman Township) near Unionville, Missouri, with his wife, Mary Ann, seven children (he had 10 before he quit), his mother-in-law, Mary (Polly) Gilliland, and his sister-in-law Nancy (then 33). He was activated in the Missouri Militia on the side of the Union for a brief time during the Civil War, serving nine days in Missouri, on alert for Quantrill's Bushwhackers. In the 1870 census, John B. Redding is back in Iowa, in Monroe Township, Wayne County, age 44, farmer, wife, 7 children. The Reddings owned small farms on both sides of the state line and moved residence while working in both states. In 1880, John B. is widowed, in Sherman Township again, 53 years old, farming, born in Illinois and parents in South Carolina [actually, father born in North Carolina], with Nancy (18), Mary J. (16), Francis (13), John T. (10), and Sarah R (4) in the home. Next door was John B.'s daughter Anna, married to John Davolt, with children David A. (5) and Mary (1). Nearby was John B.'s daughter Rhoda, married to Andrew Noel, with son Arthur in the household.



Polly Gilliland's husband, Thomas, who had served in the Black Hawk War, either ran away to California in the Gold Rush or died en route to California and never returned. Polly appealed to the government and received bounty land in Missouri, which she immediately deeded to James Redding (John B.'s brother), not to her son-in-law, John B. So John B. inherited a mother-in-law and a sister-in-law, but not the farm. Later, he inherited some small acreages and city lots from his father, Francis, the income from which was pledged to support John B.'s mother, Nancy, who moved in with John B. John B. raised 10 children and provided for his mother (who lived to be 100), mother-in-law, and sister-in-law. John B.'s wife Mary Ann, at the age of 49, sat in the Christian Church in the country outside Unionville, took her youngest daughter's hand in hers, and fell forward dead. This was in 1879. John B. died at a daughter's home in 1904. John B.'s children told that, after the death of his wife, John B. would often invite the preacher to Sunday dinner, spending the afternoon talking religion. When the preacher came, the girls were instructed to set the table for their father

and the preacher and to wait until the two adults finished eating before taking their meal. Finding that the two

men often left little for the children, the girls would hide food before the men dined, saving it for the little ones.

The Gilliland Family

Mary Ann Gilliland's family was from Kentucky, where her parents married in Shelby County in March of 1818. By 1824 they were in Morgan County, Illinois, where Thomas was on the tax list. Thomas served in the Black Hawk War. Mary Ann's mother was Mary (Polly) Jewitt, born January 27, 1798, the daughter of John Jewitt from Pennsylvania. Thomas and Polly were married in Shelby County, Kentucky in 1818 by a Methodist minister. The Gillilands were a Scots-Irish family that came to America in the 1700s, settling first in Cecil County, Maryland, and then in Kentucky.



John B. Redding and his children, after the death of his wife Mary Ann. John B. holds the family Bible.

Back left to right:

Emma Cordelia	1851-1931 m. Isaac Cook
Malissa	1853-1921 m. James Wells
Alfred Fear	1855-1931 m. Almedia J. Bradshaw (in home of her father, A.J., May 13, 1877)
Anna	1857-1930 m. John N. Davolt
Rhoda	1860-1938 m. Andrew J. Noel
Nancy	1862-1957 m. Ed Robbins

Sitting in front:

Francis	1867-1943 m. Mattie Smith
Mary Jaley	1864-1957 m. James Noel
John B. (father)	1826-1904 m. Mary Ann Gilliland
Sarah R.	1867-1950 m. George F. Noel
John Thomas	1869- after 1960 m. Mary Grimes

Children of John B. and Mary Ann Gilliland Redding

Emma Cordelia	5/17/ 1851 2/18/1931	Des Moines Cnty, IA Wayne Cnty, IA	4/18/1867	Isaac Cook
Malissa	3/27/1853 8/16/1921	Des Moines Cnty, IA Putnam County, MO	11/4/1868	James Wells
Alfred Fear	5/20/1855 4/18/1931	Des Moines Cnty, IA Olathe, KS	5/13/1875/77	Almedia Bradshaw
Anna	9/22/1857 11/6/1930	Putnam Cnty, MO Putnam County, MO	6/13/1875	John Davolt
Rhoda	1/26/1860 aft 1938	Putnam Cnty, MO Lewiston, MT	12/4/1878	Andrew Noel
Nancy E.	4/30/1862 1/22/1957	Putnam Cnty, MO Putnam County, MO	4/25/1894	Ed Robbins
Mary Jaley	12/20/1866 9/18/1957	Putnam Cnty, MO Portia, KS	10/4/1882	James Noel
Francis M.	3/4/1867 3/11/1943	Putnam Cnty, MO Trinidad, CO	3/29/1886	Mattie Smith
John Thomas	11/6/1869 aft 1959	Putnam Cnty, MO Blackwell, KS	12/31/1891	Mary Grimes
Sarah	12/20/1872 1/19/1950	Putnam Cnty, MO Putnam Cnty, MO	10/15/1893	George Noel