

Robert Cisney Royston was born February 9, 1848 in Alabama, the son of Thomas Beverly Royston and Cynthia. His middle name was derived from his paternal grandmother's maiden name, Cessna. The eighth of fourteen children, Thomas grew up in Chambers County, Alabama on a large cotton plantation.

With the advent of the Civil War, life changed dramatically for the Royston family. Five Royston sons, including Robert joined the Confederate Army, three of them dying during the war. Although no record exists in the Confederate records for Robert C. Royston, the 1910 census has CA written in the column asking about Civil War service, meaning Confederate Army veteran. His widow, Isabell applied and received a widow's pension from the state of Oklahoma in 1929 based upon Robert's service in the Confederacy. Her application for the pension mentions that Robert enlisted at Montgomery, Alabama and was a sharpshooter in the war.

Robert's father, Thomas Beverly Royston died in 1868, leaving his wife, Cynthia, all of the "real estate known as the home place" and all of his personal estate. He also left Cynthia with the "schooling, educating, and raising, (of) my minor children during minority. I also give and bequeath unto my sons, Joseph and Robert C. Royston that part of my Dozier place lying East of the Chickaseknocksee Creek and that part of my Parker place lying south of the Vernon Road, to go unto possession of the said lands at any time after the present year 1867."

Robert is named as an heir in the administration of the will from 1868-1883.

Robert is not listed on the 1870 census of Chambers County, Alabama with his mother and siblings. He probably had sold his land upon turning 21 in 1869, and headed west. He married Isabella Weatherford Carpenter in 1877 of Van Zandt County, Texas. She was a widow with a daughter, Mary Clem Carpenter. Robert and Isabella's first son, Robert Edward Royston. was born in 1878 in McKinley, Collin County Texas. Robert's mother, Cynthia, along with his siblings Richard, Thomas B. , Thomas L., Maria, and Martha, had also moved to Texas by 1880, being listed on the Collin County census.

For the next several years, Robert and Isabell moved often, as evidenced by the birthplaces of their children. Their second son, Charlie Baldwin Royston, was born in 1880 in Van Zandt County. The family was in Johnson County Texas for a time, being listed on the 1880 census there. Dora Algie Royston was born in 1882 in Montague County, Texas. Then Oscar Herbert Royston was born in 1884 in Indian Territory, Oklahoma. Effie D. Royston was born in 1887 in Van Zandt County, Texas, then Everitt Lee Royston, the last child of Robert and Isabella was born in 1892, Elmore Oklahoma. The family was enumerated on the 1900 census in Chickasaw Territory, Stephens County, Oklahoma.

For the next ten years, the children married and moved on. According to his homestead testimonial of 1909, Robert, age 60, born in Alabama made a homestead entry in 1906. He established residence in October of 1906, completing a wagon house by 25 October when he began residence with his wife and one child (Everitt).

The homestead included a house that was half a dugout, a barn, well, about 100 acres fenced with 50 acres plowed, 150 fruit trees. The family resided continuously on the land until 1909 when Robert applied for the land patent.

The 1910 census has only Everitt, Robert and Isabella living in Howard County Arkansas. Robert died 5 February 1915 and is buried in Stephens County, Oklahoma. Isabella lived almost thirty more years, not dying until 1942, in Tucumari, New Mexico.