

# NANCY E. BRISCOE RESEARCH PROJECT

## OBJECTIVE

The objective for this project is to discover more about the life of Nancy E. Briscoe, born 7 February 1847 in Benton County, Arkansas. Nancy married Richard Frazier about 1865 in Missouri and died 30 January 1924 in Love County, Oklahoma.

## SUMMARY OF KNOWN FACTS

Event and Date	Locality	Source	Notes
1848 Birth of Nancy E. Briscoe	Missouri, Barry County	Widow's Pension	Most censuses reported Arkansas
1850 Census	Arkansas, Benton County, Sugar Creek	1850 Census	Age 3
1860 Census	Arkansas, Jackson, Newton	1860 Census	Age 10
1861 Civil War service of Richard Frazier	Missouri	Widow's pension	1861-1865 Marme Dukes Division, Capt. Clanton's Company, infantry and then Cavalry
1863 Marriage to Richard Frazier	Missouri, McDonald County	Widow's pension	Specific day left blank She would have been 15.
1870 Census	Missouri, Mcdonald, Fox	1870 Census	Age 21
1880 Census	Texas, Cooke County	1880 Census	Age 35
1888 Move to Indian Territory	Indian Territory	Widow's pension	

1900 Census	Indian Territory, Chickasaw Nation	1900 Census	Age 53
1910 Census	Oklahoma, Love, Burney	1910 Census	Age 63
1911 Death of Richard Frazier	Oklahoma, Love, Burney	Widow's pension	
1915 Widow's pension	Oklahoma, Love, Burney	Widow's pensions application	Age 67, resided in Oklahoma 23 years

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Barry County, Missouri

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Barry\\_County,\\_Missouri\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Barry_County,_Missouri_Genealogy)

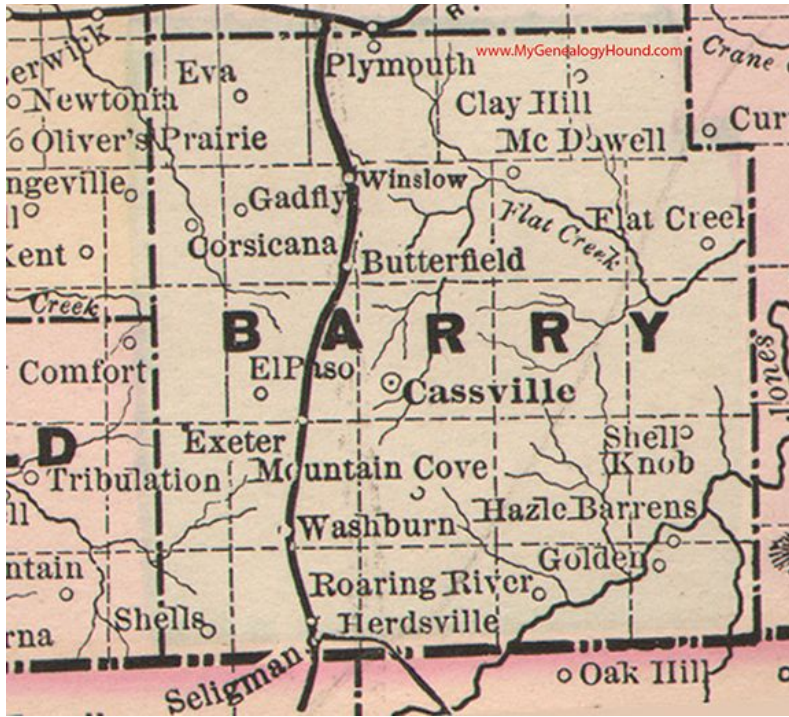
<b>Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records<sup>[4]</sup></b>						
<b><u>Birth*</u></b>	<b><u>Marriage</u></b>	<b><u>Death*</u></b>	<b><u>Court</u></b>	<b><u>Land</u></b>	<b><u>Probate</u></b>	<b><u>Census</u></b>
<b>1883</b>	<b>1837</b>	<b>1883</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>1830</b>
<b>Statewide registration started in 1910 for births and deaths. General compliance for births by 1927 and deaths by 1911.</b>						

### Record Loss

1861 Courthouse burned; some records were destroyed.

1835 Barry County was created 5 January 1835 from Greene County.  
County seat: Cassville

Barry County, Missouri 1886



<http://www.mygenealogyhound.com/maps/missouri-maps/mo-barry-county-missouri-1886-map.html#>



<https://www.mapofus.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/MO-county.jpg>



<https://www.mapofus.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/AR-county.jpg>

### McDonald County, Missouri

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records <sup>[4]</sup>						
<u><a href="#">Birth*</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Marriage</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Death*</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Court</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Land</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Probate</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Census</a></u>
1856	1865	1856	1855	1853	1865	1830
Statewide registration started in 1910 for births and deaths. General compliance for births by 1927 and deaths by 1911.						

- 1856** Log courthouse was demolished.
  - 1863** Courthouse burned, destroying most records. Deeds before 1863 were recreated
  - 1849** McDonald County was created 3 March 1849 from [Newton](#) County.
- County seat:** Pineville

## WORKING HYPOTHESIS

Nancy E. Briscoe experienced the Civil War as a young woman growing up on the border of Arkansas and Missouri, The devastation of war precipitated the move of Nancy and her Confederate veteran husband, Richard Frazier, to Texas by 1870 and shaped the remainder of her life.

## IDENTIFIED SOURCES

- **County Histories**
  - McDonald and Newton County sections : of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald counties history [digitized book](#)
  - Illustrated history of McDonald County, Missouri, from the earliest settlement to the present time [digitized book](#)
- **Tax records**
  - McDonald County, Missouri tax payers of 1861, physicians & surgeons, GAR roster, includes marriage records, 1865-1866 [digitized book](#)
  - Marriage records, McDonald County, Missouri, book "A" 1865-1878 and the 1861 tax lists [digitized book](#)

## PRIORITIZED RESEARCH STRATEGY

1. Search county histories for Barry and McDonald Counties for life during the Civil War era and after - reconstruction.
  - a. McDonald and Newton County sections : of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald counties history [digitized book](#)
  - b. Illustrated history of McDonald County, Missouri, from the earliest settlement to the present time [digitized book](#)
2. Research the Nancy Briscoe, head of household in 1860. She is an aunt? Never married? Look for her on FamilySearch and Ancestry.
3. View maps of the area where Nancy E. Briscoe lived - historical and Google Earth.
4. Research the Civil War companies and battles mentioned in the Pension Application



## FINDINGS & ANALYSIS - RESEARCH REPORT

### Objective

The objective for this project is to discover more about the life of Nancy E. Briscoe, born 7 February 1847 in Benton County, Arkansas. Nancy married Richard Frazier about 1865 in Missouri and died 30 January 1924 in Love County, Oklahoma.

### Background Information

The early years of Nancy E. Briscoe were known only through the census records of 1850, 1860, and 1870. No marriage record had been found for her marriage to Richard Frazier and the date of 1865 only estimated from the 1900 census noting that she had been 35 years in her current marriage. This research project sought to discover more about her life on the Missouri/Arkansas border before she moved to Texas with her husband by 1880.

### Widow's Pension Application

Discovering the Widow's Pension Application for Nancy E. Frazier opened the door to learning more about her early life.<sup>1</sup> Because her husband, Richard Frazier, had fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War, she had to apply for a pension from the state of Oklahoma. The United States government did not give pensions to Confederate Army veterans, so each southern state passed their own pension laws.

The pension application was sworn to by Nancy E. Frazier before notary T.W. Scott on 27 May 1915. She stated that she was the widow of Richard Frazier who had died 13 January 1911 at Burneyville, Love County, Missouri. Nancy gave a marriage date of October 1863 (no day noted) at McDonald County, Missouri. She stated her age as 67 and her birthplace as Barry County, Missouri. She had resided in Oklahoma for 23 years.

The pension application revealed the Civil War service of Richard Frazier: his command was organized in Missouri and he served from 1861-1865, first in the infantry and then in the Cavalry. He was under the command of Captain Clanton in Company I, Marmadukes Division.

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<sup>1</sup> Nancy E. Frazier, widow of Richard Frazier, application no. A2988, 1915-1924, pension no. P1077, Record Group 5; digital images, "Confederate Pension Records Database," *Oklahoma Digital Prairie* (<http://www.digitalprairie.ok.gov>) : accessed 20 Jan 2019); citing Commissioner of Confederate Pensions, Oklahoma State Archives, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City, Ok.

## Birth of Nancy E. (Briscoe) Frazier

Nancy E. Briscoe was born in the antebellum period of the south. Rumblings of discontent might have been felt in the small townships where she lived, but the people were probably more concerned with feeding their families than the issue of slavery.

As with so many individuals, the records vary for her birth year, but center on 1847 or 1848. Birth information for each individual in the census was generally given by the head of household who may or may not have known the exact year.

Where Nancy herself gave the information, her date of birth was noted as 1848 and birthplace Barry County, Missouri, or just Missouri. This is likely the most accurate date and place. Table 1 details the various entries throughout her life.

**Table 1. Birth Information for Nancy E. (Brisco) Frazier**

Birth Year & Place	Source	Notes
1845 in Arkansas	1880 Census <sup>2</sup>	Informant likely her husband, Richard Frazier
1847 in Arkansas	1850 Census <sup>3</sup>	Informant likely her father, John Briscoe
1847 in Arkansas	1900 Census <sup>4</sup>	Informant likely her husband, Richard Frazier

<sup>2</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Cooke County, Texas, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 113, sheet 254B (stamped), p.32 (penned), dwelling 271, family 270, Richard Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1298.

<sup>3</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Benton County, Arkansas, population schedule, Sugar Creek, p.83A (stamped), dwelling 510, family 510, John Briscoe household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 25.

<sup>4</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, population schedule, Township 7S Range 1W, enumeration district (ED) 177, sheet 6B (penned), dwelling 89, family 91, Richard Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

1847 in Missouri	1910 Census <sup>5</sup>	Informant likely her husband, Richard Frazier
1848 in Missouri	1920 Census <sup>6</sup>	Nancy as the head of household likely gave the information on the 1920 census
1848 in Barry County, Missouri	Widow's Pension Application <sup>7</sup>	Information given by Nancy E. (Brisco) Frazier for pension application
1849 in Missouri	1870 Census <sup>8</sup>	Information likely given by her husband, Richard Frazier
1850 in Arkansas	1860 Census <sup>9</sup>	Information likely given by head of household, Nancy Brisco; Nancy E. Brisco age 10

With a birth year and place of 1848 in Barry County, Missouri, identified as the most likely for Nancy E. Brisco, research commenced to discover more about the area where she was born and raised to adulthood.

Viewing the locations mentioned in the records revealed that Nancy resided on the Missouri/Arkansas border. The map below shows the highlighted counties from the census records.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> 1910 U.S.Census, Love County, Oklahoma, population schedule, Burney, enumeration district (ED) 166, sheet: 8B (penned), dwelling 147, family 149, Richard Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1261.

<sup>6</sup> 1920 U.S.Census, Love County, Oklahoma, population schedule, Burney Township, enumeration district (ED) 124, sheet 9A, (penned), family 148, Nancy E Frazier in Edmond T. Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1467.

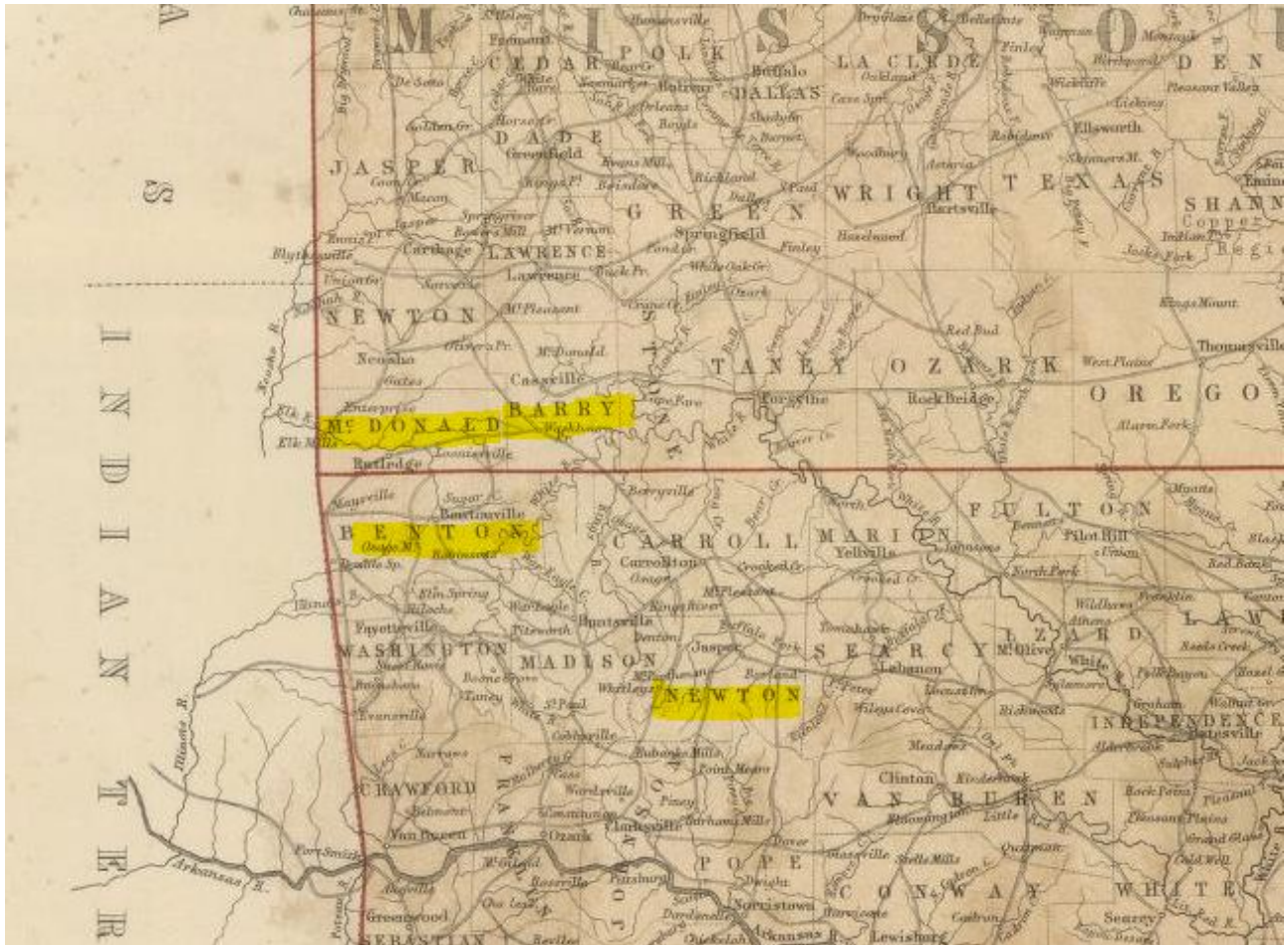
<sup>7</sup> Nancy E. Frazier, widow of Richard Frazier, application no. A2988, 1915-1924, pension no. P1077, Record Group 5.

<sup>8</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, McDonald County, Missouri, population schedule, Fox, p. 9 (penned), p.25A (stamped), dwelling 64, family 61, Richard Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 792.

<sup>9</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Newton County, Arkansas, population schedule, Jackson, page 958 (penned), dwelling 77, Nancy Brisco household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 46.

<sup>10</sup> Adam & Charles Black, "Missouri and Arkansas," (Edinburgh : A. & C. Black, 1856); *David Rumsey Map Collection*, (<https://www.davidrumsey.com> : accessed 6 Feb 2019).





The counties where Nancy was born, resided, and married are all located squarely in the Ozark Mountain range. Although the artificial border between Missouri and Arkansas runs squarely through the Ozarks, the people of the area would have moved back and forth without noticing much of a difference between the states. The rich land would have yielded good crops and Nancy's father and husband all farmed the land to provide for their families.

In 1850, Nancy was enumerated with her large family in the Sugar Creek township of Benton County, Arkansas. The youngest child of John and Susana Briscoe, Nancy had five older siblings at the time. Table 2 details the census information for the family.

**Table 2. 1850 Census for the household of John Briscoe**

Locality			1850, Arkansas, Benton, Sugar Creek						
Enumeration Date			20 December 1850						
Page	House	Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Real Estate	Birth Place	Remarks
				Age	Sex				
83	510	510	John Briscoe	56	M	none		Tenn	
			Susana	33	F			N.C.	
			Wm R.	13	M			Ark	
			John E.	10	M			Ark	
			James C.	9	M			Ark	
			Isaac J	6	M			Ark	
			Luanda M.	5	F			Ark	
			Nancy	3	F			Ark	

Although the family was residing in Arkansas at the time of the 1850 census and the children are all noted as being born there, Nancy Briscoe gave Barry County, Missouri as her place of birth,<sup>11</sup> as did her sister, Rebecca.<sup>12</sup> Further study in the land and tax records of the area could reveal more details about the family's movement between Arkansas and Missouri.

<sup>11</sup> Nancy E. Frazier, widow of Richard Frazier, application no. A2988, 1915-1924, pension no. P1077, Record Group 5.

<sup>12</sup> "Missouri, Birth Registers, 1847-1910," entry for birth of Willis Frazier, McDonald, 1884; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 Feb 2019).

By 1860, the nuclear family of John and Susanna Brisco had broken up and a Nancy E. (Briscoe) Frazier is found living in the household of another Nancy Briscoe.<sup>13</sup> Table 3 details the household.

**Table 3. The 1860 census household of Nancy Brisco**

Locality		1860, Arkansas, Newton, Jackson Township							
Enumeration Date		8 June 1860							
Page	House / Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
958	78	Nancy Brisco	53	F	Domestic		125	Ken	
		Isaac M	16	M	Farmhand			Ark	
		Mahala F	14	F				Ark	
		Nancy E.	10	F				Ark	
		William Collum	92	M				Tenn	

Who is Nancy Brisco, age 53 and is this the correct record for Nancy E. Brisco? Family lore has it that Nancy's mother, Susanna, died during the Civil War and that the family lived near the site of the Pea Ridge Battlefield in Benton County, Arkansas. If Susanna didn't die until the Civil War, she would be living in 1860.

Researching Nancy Brisco, age 53 and the head of household in 1860, discovered a possible 1850 census listing for her with a husband of another John Brisco in Newton County, Arkansas.

<sup>14</sup> This family also includes an Isaac and a Nancy Brisco and it is shown in Table 4.

<sup>13</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Newton County, Arkansas, population schedule, Jackson, page 958 (penned), dwelling 77, Nancy Brisco household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 46.

<sup>14</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Newton County, Arkansas, population schedule, Van Buren, page 18A (penned), dwelling 253, household 253, Nancy Brisco in John Brisco household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 6 Feb 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M432 roll 28.

**Table 4. The 1850 Household of John Brisco, Newton County, Arkansas**

Locality			1850, Arkansas, Newton, Van Buren						
Enumeration Date			5 November 1850						
Page	House	Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Real	Birth	Remarks
				Age	Sex		Estate	Place	
18	253	253	John Brisco	45 M	M	Farmer	\$100	Tenn	
			Nancy	46	F			Ken	
			William	24	M	Farmer		Ark	
			John	17	M	Farmer		Ark	Twin
			Joel	17	M	Farmer		Ark	Twin
			Jane W	15	F			Ark	
			Jesse W	13	M			Ark	
			Peggy M	11	F			Ark	
			Isaac M	6	M			Ark	
			Marian	4	M			Ark	
			Nancy	1	F			Ark	

Further research in the probate, tax, and land records of Newton County, Arkansas, could reveal more about the family of John and Nancy Brisco enumerated in 1850.

## Civil War and Marriage of Nancy E. Briscoe

Despite the confusion of the 1860 census household, Nancy E. (Briscoe) Frazier's widow's pension application stated that she was married to Richard Frazier in October of 1863 in McDonald County, Missouri.<sup>15</sup> No marriage record exists because the courthouse was burned

<sup>15</sup> Nancy E. Frazier, widow of Richard Frazier, application no. A2988, 1915-1924, pension no. P1077, Record Group 5.

that same year. According to memories of early settlers, "In August or September, 1863, a raid was made on the town by a band of bushwhackers and the court house, with all the records there, was fire to and burnt."<sup>16</sup> This raid on the courthouse could have been prior to the marriage, but with the upheaval of the Civil War, marriage records in the county weren't recorded again until 1865.

How did the Civil War affect Nancy E. Brisco and other settlers in the Ozark Mountains of southwestern Missouri? County histories reveal that during the Civil War: "the inhabitants of the county up to that time were principally from the southern states and a majority considered that their interests were with the southern people. At the same time there was a strong Union element among them who resisted secession until the war was begun, when they cast their fortunes with the Confederacy. There was still another element, largely in the minority in this county, that remained loyal to the last."<sup>17</sup>

Nancy's spouse, Richard Frazier enlisted in the Confederate Army on 27 August 1862 at McDonald County, Missouri.<sup>18</sup> He was enrolled by Captain Clanton for 3 years of the war and entered his service with a horse valued at \$125 and equipment at \$2.

According to Nancy's widow's pension application, Richard first served in the infantry then the cavalry. No record exists for the infantry service - all the extant cards in his Compiled Service Record are for his service in the 3rd Cavalry, Missouri. Although only four service cards survive, they do give a glimpse of his service. He appears to have served as a teamster in the Cavalry, possibly driving the supply wagons. He was recruited and enrolled by Captain Clanton, a possible relation of his future wife whose mother was Susanna Clanton according to family records.

Richard Frazier's service records reveal the following:

- **27 August 1862** Enlisted at McDonald County, Missouri by Captain Clanton
- **30 October 1862** Present on the muster-in-roll at Fulton County, Arkansas; detailed as a teamster to the Regiment team master from 1 November to present
- **Jan/Feb 1864** Present on Company Muster Roll
- **7 June 1865** Appears on a roll of prisoner of war of Company F, 3 Regiment Missouri Cavalry, Confederate States Army, commanded by Capt. Chas. K. Polk,

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<sup>16</sup> J.A. Sturges, *Illustrated History of McDonald County, Missouri, From the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*, (Pineville, Missouri : Sturges, 1897), 74.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 167.

<sup>18</sup> Compiled Service Record for Richard Frazier, Confederate, 3rd Missouri Cavalry, Capt W.C. Clanton's Co. Greene's Regiment, Missouri Vols. p. 3, digital images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/88561660> : accessed 6 Feb 2019); citing NARA M322, roll 23.

surrendered at New Orleans, LA., by General E.K. Smith, C.S.A. to Maj. Gen E.R.S. Canby, U.S.A., May 26, 1865, and paroled at Shreveport, La., June 7, 1865. Roll dated Shreveport 7 June 1865.

Nancy E. (Briscoe) Frazier's widow's pension application states that Richard served from 1861-1865 in "Marme Dukes Division." This would be General John S. Marmaduke. A native of Missouri, General Marmaduke began the war in the United States Army but following a defeat in 1861, he resigned and secured a commission in the Confederate Army. By April of 1862, he was leading the 3rd Infantry and by December of 1862 a division of the cavalry. A biographical sketch for General Marmaduke sheds light on what Richard Frazier would have been doing during the Civil War under his leadership.<sup>19</sup>

During the first half of 1863, Marmaduke operated independently by raiding southeastern Missouri from staging areas in northern Arkansas. When Marmaduke shifted tactics and used his cavalry to attempt a siege at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on April 26, 1863, he was forced to withdraw, eventually as far as Helena, Arkansas, without meeting the primary objectives of his raiding operations.

Matters did not improve for Marmaduke as the war progressed into Arkansas. Leading his cavalry division in an attack on the now Union-held Helena, Arkansas, on July 4, 1863, Marmaduke was driven back with heavy losses when supporting troops under Brigadier General Lucius M. Walker, fearing for their own exposed position, failed to support the Confederate advance.

The sketch describes multiple skirmishes and raids in Arkansas and Missouri as the Confederate positions collapsed. With the fighting taking place throughout the area where Nancy E. (Briscoe) Frazier resided as a young woman and then as a young bride, she likely spent her days toiling in the fields while the men were off fighting. The years following the war saw a great deal of unlawfulness in the area and the county officials appealed to the U.S. government for a military outpost.<sup>20</sup> In 1866, the Fox Township was established, and Richard and Nancy Frazier were listed together for the first time in the census of 1870 residing in that location.<sup>21</sup> Their household included two sons, John age 2 and William 1.

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<sup>19</sup> Russell Perkins, "Marmaduke, John S." *Civil War on the Western Border: The Missouri-Kansas Conflict, 1854-1865*. The Kansas City Public Library, (<http://www.civilwaronthewesternborder.org/encyclopedia/marmaduke-john-s> : accessed Feb, 06, 2019).

<sup>20</sup> *McDonald and Newton County Sections : of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History*, (S.I. : McDonald County Historical Society (Missouri), 1972), digitized book on *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 3 February 2019), 52.

<sup>21</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, McDonald County, Missouri, population schedule, Fox, p. 9 (penned), p.25A (stamped), dwelling 64, family 61, Richard Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 792.



With the close of the Civil War, the couple were starting a new life together that would take them from the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and Arkansas, to Texas, and then to Indian Territory/Oklahoma.

The 1900 census reveals that Nancy was the mother of 13 children, with 10 living.<sup>22</sup> Having survived living in the midst of the Civil War, she would have developed the tenacity and courage to face moving west to another frontier. Her children memorialized her life on her headstone: “She was the sunshine of our home.”<sup>23</sup>

## CONCLUSION

This research project sought to discover more about the life of Nancy E. Briscoe. The discovery of her Widow’s Pension Application revealed vital facts about her birth, marriage, and her husband’s Civil War service in the Confederate Army.

Researching the time and place of Nancy, it was found that she experienced the conflicts of the Civil War in her community nestled in the Ozark Mountains of southwestern Missouri. The 1860 census remains a mystery and further research can answer the question of the two Briscoe families.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Research the John Briscoe family of Newton County, Arkansas listed on the 1850 census. Discover the connection to Nancy Brisco, age 53 on the 1860 census of Newton County, Arkansas.
  - Search probate, land, and court records of Newton County
- Search the 1860 census for all members of the family of Nancy E. Brisco found on the 1850 census of Benton County, Arkansas.
- Search records of McDonald County, Missouri for all Briscoe and Clanton connections.
  - Probate, land, tax, and court records

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<sup>22</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, population schedule, Township 7S Range 1W, enumeration district (ED) 177, sheet 6B (penned), dwelling 89, family 91, Richard Frazier household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> accessed 30 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

<sup>23</sup> *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 30 January 2019), memorial page for Nancy E Briscoe Frazier (15 Feb 1847–30 Jan 1924), Find A Grave Memorial no. 14139934, citing Burneyville Cemetery, Burneyville, Love County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Phil & Donna (Stricklan) Whitaker (contributor 4308835) .

