

# Isabella Weatherford Research Project

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## Objective

The objective of this research phase is to examine the economic and social conditions in Dallas County, Texas, in the early 1870s and their influence on Isabella D Weatherford's life and marriage prospects. Isabella was born on 4 Mar 1858 in Missouri; she first married John H. Carpenter on 16 Jan 1874 in Dallas County, Texas, then later married Robert Cisnie Royston on 16 Jan 1877 in Van Zandt County, Texas, and died on 9 May 1942 in Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico.

## Limitations

- The project was limited to 20 hours for research and writing.
- Artificial intelligence was used to create summaries for portions of the report.
- The research was limited to records available online.

## Results Summary

- Traced the Weatherford family's movements from Arkansas to Missouri and Texas between 1839 and 1880, providing context for Isabella's birth and early life.
- Discovered Isabella and her family in the 1870 census in Camden County, Missouri, living with her widowed mother, resolving a previously unknown period in her life.
- Analyzed Dallas County's economic and social conditions from 1860 to 1874, revealing a period of growth, Civil War impact, and post-war reconstruction that would have influenced Isabella's life.
- Explored potential migration routes between Texas and Missouri, highlighting the role of the newly completed Texas and Pacific Railway in 1873 as a possible factor in the family's return to Texas.
- Examined contemporary accounts of Dallas County during the Civil War and Reconstruction, providing insight into the social and economic challenges faced by residents during this period.

## Background Information

Isabella's parents, Henderson Weatherford and Clemsey Cline, likely married around 1839 in IZARD County, Arkansas, where Henderson paid taxes that year.<sup>1</sup> Their children were born over the next two decades, with the family moving between Arkansas, Missouri, and eventually Texas.<sup>2</sup>

- Eliza Jane was born on 20 March 1838 in Arkansas
- Mary Ann was born on 13 September 1844 in Arkansas
- John Wesley was born on 24 October 1847 in Arkansas
- Clemsey D. was born in 1848 in Arkansas
- Amanda M. was born in 1851 in Arkansas
- Susan Louisa Algeline was born in 1852 in Missouri
- Isabella D. was born on 4 March 1858 in Missouri
- Samuel Henderson was born on 22 January 1862 in Dallas County, Texas

The 1850 U.S. Census shows the family living in Buffalo, Morgan County, Missouri.<sup>3</sup> By 1860, they had relocated to Precinct 6 in Dallas County, Texas, where they were enumerated in the Scyene post office.<sup>4</sup>

Isabella D. Weatherford, the focus of this research, was born on 4 March 1858 in Missouri, just before the family's move to Texas.<sup>5</sup> She was the second youngest of the Weatherford children.

On 3 January 1874, at the age of 15, Isabella married John H. Carpenter in Dallas County, Texas.<sup>6</sup> This marriage was short-lived, as Isabella married her second husband, Robert Cisnie Royston, on 16 January 1877 in Van Zandt County, Texas.<sup>7</sup> She was 18 years old at the time of her second marriage.

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<sup>1</sup> "Arkansas, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1819-1870," entry for Henderson Weatherford, IZARD County, 1839, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 1 January 2018).

<sup>2</sup> See Ancestry Public Member Trees, Diana Elder, "Shults\_Kelsey," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/58419748/person/46036323658/facts> : accessed 31 July 2024).

<sup>3</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Morgan County, Missouri, population schedule, Buffalo, p. 270 (stamped), dwelling 726, family 726, Henderson Weatherford household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 408.

<sup>4</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Dallas County, Texas, population schedule, Scyene post office, page 120 (penned), dwelling 834, family 835, H. Weatherford household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 1 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 1292.

<sup>5</sup> Isabell D. Royston, widow of Robert C. Royston, application no. A6942, 1929-1942, pension no. P5893, Record Group 5, Commissioner of Confederate Pensions, Oklahoma State Archives, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City, OK.; digital images, Oklahoma, "Confederate Pension Records Database," *Oklahoma Digital Prairie* (<http://www.digitalprairie.ok.gov>) : accessed 15 July 2016). See also the 1860 census, Isabella age 2. See also, New Mexico Department of Public Health, death certificate 3682 (1942), Isabelle Royston; Vital Records Unit, New Mexico Health and Social Services Department, Santa Fe.

<sup>6</sup> Dallas County, Texas, photocopy of marriage license, Carpenter-Weatherford, 3 Jan 1874, Volume E Page 407, County Clerk, Dallas.

<sup>7</sup> Isabell D. Royston, widow of Robert C. Royston, application, page 1, part 1, application no. A6942, 1929-1942, pension no. P5893, Record Group 5, Commissioner of Confederate Pensions, Oklahoma State

The 1880 U.S. Census provides the last known record of Clemsy Cline Weatherford. She was enumerated in Precinct 3, Wise County, Texas.<sup>8</sup> Isabella, now 22 years old, was living with her husband Robert in Johnson County, Texas, with their young family.<sup>9</sup>

The Henderson and Clemsy Weatherford family has not been located on the 1870 census to provide more information about Isabella before her first marriage. In the absence of this valuable source, learning more about Dallas County, Texas, could provide context for her life and her marriage at an early age.

## Findings and Analysis

### 1860 Census

Reviewing the 1860 census of Dallas County, Texas, provides additional context for the Weatherford family. Isabella Weatherford, aged 2, was first enumerated in this census in Dallas within the household of H. Weatherford.<sup>10</sup>

H. Weatherford, aged 45, was born in Arkansas and worked as a blacksmith. He owned real estate valued at \$400 and personal estate valued at \$600. Clemsey Weatherford, aged 35, was born in Illinois. John Weatherford, aged 14, was born in Missouri. Clemsey D. Weatherford, aged 12, was born in Missouri. Amanda M. Weatherford, aged 9, was born in Missouri. Angeline Weatherford, aged 8, was born in Missouri. Isabella Weatherford, aged 2, was born in Missouri. The ages and birthplaces of the family don't all agree with other census records. Still, the unknown informant likely didn't recall or know exactly which child was born in Arkansas or Missouri.

This census shows the family grouping minus the oldest daughters, Eliza Jane and Mary Ann, who had married by that time. The youngest son, Samuel, had not been born yet. The census also provides Henderson's occupation as a blacksmith. He would not have needed a farm to run

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Archives, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City, OK.; digital images, Oklahoma, "Confederate Pension Records Database," *Oklahoma Digital Prairie* (<http://www.digitalprairie.ok.gov> : accessed 15 July 2016).

<sup>8</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Wise County, Texas, population schedule, precinct 3, enumeration district (ED) 127, sheet 164B (stamped), p.30 (penned), dwelling 215, family, 226, Clemsy Weatherford household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 1 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1333.

<sup>9</sup> The family was enumerated twice, both times in Johnson County. 1880 U.S. Census, Johnson County, Texas, population schedule, precinct 3, enumeration district (ED) 83, sheet 293C (stamped), p.14 (penned), dwelling 161, family 166, Robt Royston household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 28 April 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1313. Second enumeration 1880 U.S. Census, Johnson County, Texas, population schedule, precinct 1, enumeration district (ED) 81, sheet 271A (stamped), p.41 (penned), dwelling 356, family 362, Robert C Royston household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 April 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1313.

<sup>10</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Dallas County, Texas, population schedule, Scyene post office, page 120 (penned), dwelling 834, family 835, H. Weatherford household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 1 Jan 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 1292.

his blacksmith shop. His personal estate would have included his livestock and the tools needed for his profession.

### **Friends, Associates, and Neighbors**

- William Pruitt
- John Scurlock
- Abram Carver

### **Future Research**

Explore the neighbors on the 1860 census for clues as to the choice of this place for their residence in Texas after having moved from Missouri.

## **1860 Tax List**

Henderson Weatherford's 1860 tax list provides a detailed account of his property and tax obligations.<sup>11</sup>

Henderson Weatherford, abstract #590, original grantee William Masters, owned 2 acres valued at 250. He possessed five horses valued at \$300 and nine cattle valued at \$120. Additionally, he had miscellaneous property valued at \$90, bringing his total property value to \$760. Henderson paid a poll tax of \$0.50, a state tax of \$1.45, and a county tax of \$1.01.

As a blacksmith, Henderson required only 2 acres of land to run his business, provide a home for his family, and stables, pasture, and corrals for his cattle and horses.

Although taxed in the same year as the census, the dollar amounts don't completely correlate. The tax amounts are likely more accurate, and the census amounts are estimated.

Additional research in the Dallas County, Texas, tax rolls found no entry for Henderson Weatherford. Perhaps he moved to another county or died soon after the 1860 census and listing.

### **Future Research**

Compare Henderson's tax listing with others in his neighborhood per the 1860 census.

## **The 1870 Census**

The Weatherford family had not been found in 1870 previously, but in this project phase, it was discovered that three of the Weatherford children had either married in Benton County, Missouri, or were living there in 1870.<sup>12</sup> Could Isabella also be found in Missouri?

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<sup>11</sup> "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910," entry for Henderson Weatherford, 1860, image 631, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VY1B-55K> : accessed 24 July 2024).

<sup>12</sup> See Ancestry Public Member Trees, Diana Elder, "Shults\_Kelsey," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/58419748/person/46036323658/facts> : accessed 31 July 2024). See the profiles for Elizabeth Jane, John Wesley, and Susan Louisa Algeline.

Research found the Weatherford family enumerated in the neighboring county of Camden within the household of “Clamsy Welaford,” who was listed as the head of the household. The census details are as follows:

Clamsy Welaford, aged 50, female, white, keeping house, owned \$200 in real estate, \$348 in personal estate, born in Kentucky, and could not read or write. Talitha E. Welaford, aged 12, female, white, was born in Missouri. Samuel H. Welaford, aged 8, male, white, was born in Texas.<sup>13</sup>

2		Edward J	3	m				Missouri
3	47	Welaford Clamsy	50	f	Keeping house	200	348	Kentucky
4		Talitha E	12	f				Missouri
5		Samuel H	8	m				Texas

Figure 1 1870 Census, Clamsy Welaford [Clemsy Weatherford] household, Camden County, Missouri

At first glance, the female named “Talitha E.” is confusing. However, the name Talitha was likely a middle name for Isabella and could have been also spelled Dalitha. Her widow’s pension states her name as Isabell D. Royston. The D may have been for Delitha. Other household details for Clemsey and Samuel H. Weatherford are correct.

Another factor providing solid evidence that this was the correct Weatherford family was the listing of Clemsey’s sister, Mahala Shockley, on the same census page.

Household 54 was for Thomas and Mahala Shockey. Thomas Shockey, aged 55, male, white, farmer, owned \$500 in real estate and \$200 in personal estate, was born in Tennessee. Mahala Shockey, aged 50, was female and white, was keeping house, and was born in Kentucky.<sup>14</sup>

With Henderson Weatherford missing from the household, he had likely died in Texas leaving Clemsey a widow still with young children to support. Perhaps she traveled to Missouri to be near her married children and her sister.

The youngest child, Samuel Henderson Weatherford, was named after his father. Traditionally in the south, a child born after the death of their father was given his name. Samuel was born on 22 January 1862, so conception would have occurred about April 1861. With Henderson not named on the 1861 tax list, perhaps he had died sometime between April and January.

### Future Research

Explore the neighbors of the Weatherfords on the 1870 census to discover connections besides Clemsey’s sister, Mahala Shockey.

<sup>13</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Camden County, Missouri, population schedule, Adair, p. 475A (stamped), p. 7 (penned), dwelling 47, family 47, Clamsy Welaford household; imaged, "United States Census, 1870," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7163/> : accessed 24 July 2024).

<sup>14</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Camden County, Missouri, population schedule, Adair, p. 475A (stamped), p. 7 (penned), dwelling 47, family 47, Thomas Shockley household; imaged, "United States Census, 1870," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7163/> : accessed 24 July 2024).

## Dallas County, Texas, History 1860-1874

A modern history of Dallas County provides a perspective of the era when the Weatherfords moved between Missouri and Dallas County, Texas.

### **Summary of “Dallas County,” by Lisa Maxwell, 1971, updated 2021**

Dallas County experienced significant growth between 1850 and 1860, with the population nearly tripling from 2,743 to 8,665. While the slave population increased, it remained lower than in some other Texas counties.

The county’s economy shifted during this period. By 1860, wheat had become a major crop, leading to the construction of numerous gristmills. Livestock farming also changed, with cattle and sheep numbers increasing dramatically while hog production declined.

During the Civil War, Dallas County strongly supported the Confederacy, with 1,300 men joining the Confederate forces. The county’s population continued to grow during the war, partly due to its role as a food-producing center for North Texas and as a safe haven for slaveholders from other areas.

After the war, Dallas County saw further growth and prosperity. The population increased to 13,414 by 1870, with a significant influx of settlers from other Southern states. This migration was driven by the opportunity to grow wheat, which did not require slave labor.

A major turning point for the county came in the early 1870s with the arrival of railroads. The Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1872 and the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1873 connected Dallas County to larger markets and led to the establishment of new communities along their routes.<sup>15</sup>

### **Summary of the Civil War and Reconstruction by John Henry Brown, 1887**

The following contemporary history gives the viewpoint of only twenty years after the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction. The summary reads:

In the mid-19th century, Dallas County, Texas, transitioned from a frontier settlement to a self-sustaining community. The area’s development accelerated after 1849 when an “ably conducted newspaper was established to chronicle events,” marking a turning point in the county’s history. As the region grew, it gained a reputation for being “exceptionally enterprising and progressive,” standing out among other Texas communities.

The outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 had a profound impact on Dallas County. The historical account suggests that when the conflict began, “there were probably not twenty bona fide citizens of Dallas county who were not truly and sincerely southern in feeling and in principle.” The county’s men answered the call to arms in significant numbers, with “perhaps nearly a thousand of the best blood of Dallas county” joining the Confederate forces. These soldiers

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<sup>15</sup> Lisa C. Maxwell, "Dallas County," *TSHA* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/dallas-county> : accessed 22 July 2024); summary by Claude 3.5 Sonnet, 31 July 2024



ranged from “gray-haired sires” to “youths of tender years,” all of whom “went forth and bared their breasts to leaden rain and iron hail.”

The war’s aftermath brought immense challenges. Many Dallas County soldiers did not return, having died in battle or in military hospitals. Those who did come home often bore physical and emotional scars, returning to “the embrace of poverty and desolation and heartbroken wives, mothers or sisters.” The community faced the daunting task of rebuilding, with survivors “faithfully, industriously and peacefully seeking to rebuild the waste places and once more live under their own ‘vines and fig trees.’”

The Reconstruction period that followed was tumultuous for Dallas County and Texas as a whole. In 1867, Congress placed Texas under military rule, effectively establishing what the text describes as a "military despotism." This period saw rapid changes in governance, with military leaders given the power to remove and appoint civil officers. The process of reintegrating Texas into the Union was complex and often chaotic, involving multiple conventions, constitutional drafts, and shifts in voting rights.

One particularly contentious aspect of this era was the implementation of "universal suffrage to the late slaves and disfranchisement to probably thirty thousand whites," a dramatic reversal of the pre-war social order. This period of upheaval continued until 1870 when Texas finally ratified the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution, paving the way for the state's full readmission to the Union.

Throughout these trying times, Dallas County, like much of the South, grappled with the profound social, economic, and political changes brought about by the Civil War and Reconstruction, setting the stage for the region's development in the latter part of the 19th century.<sup>16</sup>

These histories provide possibilities for the Weatherford family’s life. With the influx of residents, Henderson Weatherford would have found plenty of work as a blacksmith in 1860. He possibly was among the 1,300 Dallas County men who joined the Confederate Army to fight in the Civil War. Perhaps his hypothesized death in 1861 or 1862 was a result of a military conflict or disease brought on by poor conditions.

### **Future Research**

Henderson Weatherford may have fought for the Confederacy. Military records should be searched to discover any connections.

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<sup>16</sup> John Henry Brown, *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887* (Dallas: Milligan, Cornett & Farnham, 1887) pp. 102-104; digital book, *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph14390/> : accessed 22 July 2024; summary by Claude 3.5 Sonnet, 29 July 2024.

## Newspapers

A contemporary newspaper could provide context for Isabella's 1874 marriage, but few issues survive, and those that do are difficult to read. See Figure 2 below for example.<sup>17</sup> A search of the broad database in *The Portal to Texas History* found no instances of the Weatherford family in the search results.

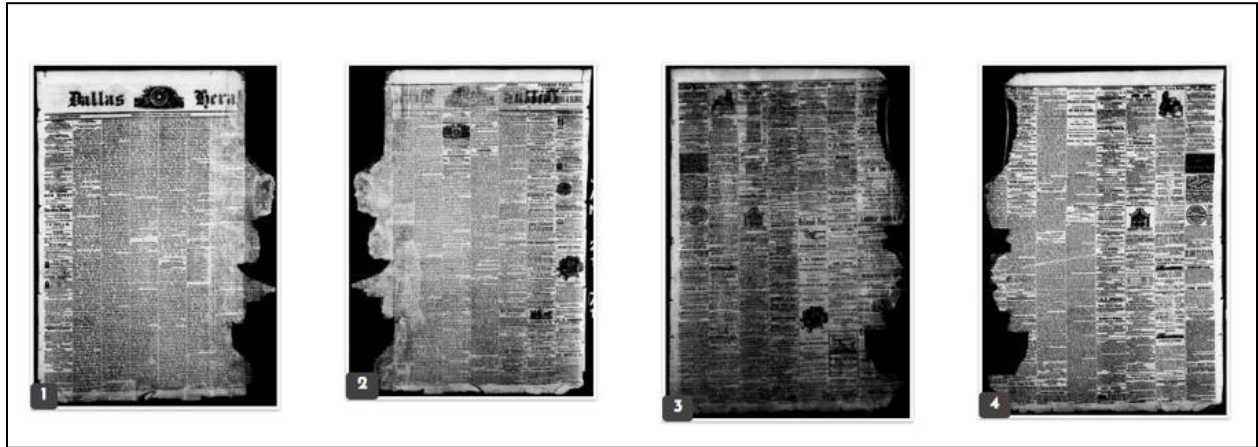


Figure 2 Dallas Herald, vol 18, Ed. 1 Saturday, 21 January 1871

## Future Research

This site could be researched further for details found in contemporary newspapers that would lead context to Isabella's life.

## 1873 Transportation Between Texas and Missouri

Knowing that Isabella Weatherford, as a young girl, moved to Missouri with her family in 1870 and then back to Texas in 1874 for her marriage, looking at possible migration routes could help understand a possible route.

### Texas and Pacific Railway by George C. Werner, 1876

In 1873, the Texas and Pacific Railway, chartered in 1871, played a significant role in Dallas's development as a major transportation hub. Construction of the various lines was commenced by the California and Texas Railway Construction Company in October 1872, and the 125 miles between Longview and Dallas was placed in service on July 1, 1873.

This connection linked Dallas to the existing line between Marshall and Texarkana, effectively connecting the city to the national rail network. The railway further expanded its reach from

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<sup>17</sup> Dallas Herald, Vol 18, Ed. 1 Saturday, January 21, 1871; digital images, *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph294600/m1/?q=Dallas%20County> : accessed 29 July 2024).



Dallas, as the line from Eagle Ford (Dallas) was extended to Fort Worth on July 19, 1876, solidifying Dallas's position as a key junction in the Texas railroad system.

Dallas continued to benefit from the Texas and Pacific Railway's growth and operations throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The company maintained a significant presence in the city, owning a one-eighth interest in the Union Terminal Company at Dallas. This involvement in local infrastructure underscored the railway's commitment to the city's transportation needs. As the Texas and Pacific Railway expanded and merged with other lines, Dallas remained an important point in its network, contributing to the city's economic growth and its emergence as a major commercial center in Texas.<sup>18</sup>

### **Osage River and Steamboats**

Rivers were an important part of migration paths and the primary river in Camden County was the Osage River. It played an important role in transportation and commerce in Camden County, particularly before the advent of railroads. The river system played a crucial role in the early development and settlement of the area.

It traverses the entire northern section of the county for about 60 miles and was navigable for vessels of light draft as far up as Linn Creek for about nine months of the year. Before railroads were constructed, it was navigated quite extensively. Steamboats navigated the Osage up to Linn Creek about six months in the year. When water was too low for steamboats, goods were shipped on flatboats propelled by hand. The state appropriated \$50,000 in 1855 to improve navigation on the river.<sup>19</sup>

The Weatherford family may have used the Osage River as part of their migration path. With Isabella residing in Camden County, Missouri, in 1870, perhaps the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railway to Dallas was a motivation to return to Texas. The family could have traveled by steamboat and another railroad to Texarkana, Arkansas, where they could board the train. Figure 3 marks in yellow the completed rail line from Texarkana to Dallas.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> George C. Werner, "Texas and Pacific Railway," published 1976, last updated July 16, 2016, *Texas State Historical Association* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/texas-and-pacific-railway> : accessed July 24, 2024); summary by Claude 3.5 Sonnet, 29 July 2024.

<sup>19</sup> *Goodspeed, History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent Counties, Missouri* (Chicago: Goodspeed, 1889); digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/439170-history-of-laclede-camden-dallas-webster-wright-texas-pulaski-phelps-and-dent-counties-missouri> : accessed 24 July 2024).

<sup>20</sup> G.W. & C.B. Colton & Co, and Texas & Pacific Railway, "Texas and Pacific Railway and its Connections," (New York, 1876); image, Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/item/98688822/> : accessed 24 July 2024).

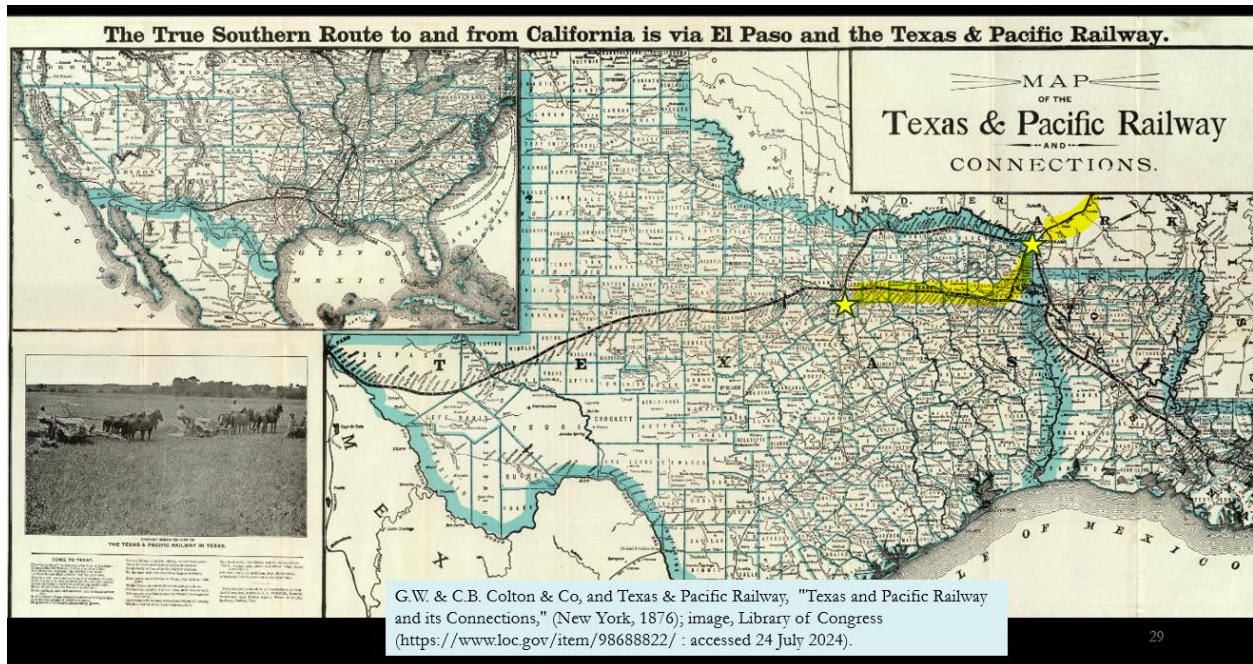


Figure 3 G.W. & C.B. Colton & Co, and Texas & Pacific Railway, "Texas and Pacific Railway and its Connections,"

## Future Research

Continuing to research possible migration routes could find the best route the family could have taken.

## Conclusion

This research project successfully examined the economic and social conditions in Dallas County, Texas, in the early 1870s and their influence on Isabella D. Weatherford's life and marriage prospects. The report met its objective by tracing Isabella's family history from Arkansas to Missouri and Texas, providing context for her early marriages through census records, tax lists, and historical accounts of Dallas County during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods.

Specific findings included:

1. The 1860 census of Dallas County, which provided details on Henderson Weatherford's occupation as a blacksmith and the family's property values.
2. Henderson Weatherford's 1860 tax list, revealing his property holdings including 2 acres of land, 5 horses, and 9 cattle.
3. The crucial discovery of the family in the 1870 census in Camden County, Missouri, under the name "Clamsy Welafor," which filled a significant gap in understanding Isabella's movements before her first marriage.

4. Historical accounts of Dallas County from 1860-1874, including both contemporary (1887) and modern (1971/2021) perspectives, which offered insights into the economic, social, and political climate Isabella would have experienced.

5. Information on the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railway in 1873, providing context for the family's possible return to Texas from Missouri.

The report also explored potential migration routes that could explain the family's movements between Texas and Missouri, shedding light on the transportation options available to Isabella and her family during this period, including the use of the Osage River and newly completed railways. While some questions remain unanswered, this research has significantly expanded our understanding of Isabella's early life and the factors that may have influenced her two marriages in the 1870s.

## Future Research Suggestions

1. Explore the neighbors on the 1860 census for clues about the Weatherford family's choice of residence in Texas.
2. Compare Henderson Weatherford's 1860 tax listing with that of others in his neighborhood.
3. Investigate the neighbors of the Weatherfords on the 1870 census to discover connections beyond Clemsy's sister, Mahala Shockey.
4. Search for military records to determine if Henderson Weatherford fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War.
5. Further research contemporary newspapers in The Portal to Texas History for context on Isabella's life and times.
6. Continue researching possible migration routes to determine the best path the family could have taken between Texas and Missouri.