

# Isabella (Weatherford) Royston

Research Project with AI July 2024

## 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 Tukumcari, Quay County, New Mexico.

## SUMMARY OF KNOWN FACTS

- 4 March 1859: Isabella Weatherford born in Missouri<sup>1</sup>
- 3 September 1860: Residence in Dallas County, Texas<sup>2</sup>
- 3 January 1874: Marriage to John W. Carpenter in Dallas County, Texas<sup>3</sup>
- 16 January 1877: Marriage to Robert C. Royston in Decatur, Wise Co., Texas<sup>4</sup>
- 1884: Moved to Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory with Robert C. Royston<sup>5</sup>
- 2 May 1915: Death of husband Robert C. Royston in Duncan, Stephens Co., OK<sup>6</sup>
- 6 May 1929: Applied for widow's pension in Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>2</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Dallas County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 6, p. 120 (penned), dwelling 834, family 835, H. Weatherford household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 19 September 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1292.

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

<sup>4</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).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

- 18 July 1930: Pension approved from 1 April 1929 in Oklahoma<sup>8</sup>
- 14 August 1933: Inquired about sister's pension from Duncan, Stephens Co., OK<sup>9</sup>
- 1941: Entered Confederate Home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma<sup>10</sup>
- 17 April 1941: Left Confederate Home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma<sup>11</sup>
- 7 May 1942: Death in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma<sup>12</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### ChatGPT Mark Thompson Custom GPT Locality Guide for Genealogists

### Brief Historical Background of Dallas County, Texas (1847-1880)

#### Early Years and Founding (1847-1860):

- **Establishment:** Dallas County was officially established by the Texas legislature on March 30, 1846, shortly after Texas joined the United States. The county seat, Dallas, was founded by John Neely Bryan in 1841, who established a trading post on the east bank of the Trinity River ([Dallas County](#)) ([Dallas History](#)).
- **Growth and Development:** The early years saw a steady influx of settlers attracted by the promise of fertile land and economic opportunities. The county's economy was primarily based on agriculture, with cotton as the dominant crop. The establishment of regular ferry service across the Trinity River in the 1840s facilitated commerce and settlement ([Dallas County](#)) ([Dallas History](#)).
- **Municipal Developments:** By the 1850s, Dallas had grown into a small but significant regional center, incorporating as a town in 1856. Infrastructure developments, including roads and bridges, were essential in connecting Dallas with other parts of Texas and neighboring states ([Dallas County](#)) ([The Portal to Texas History](#)).

#### Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1873):

- **Civil War Impact:** During the Civil War (1861-1865), Dallas County, like much of Texas, was aligned with the Confederacy. The local economy and social structures were significantly impacted by the war, though the county escaped much of the direct devastation seen in other Confederate states ([Dallas County](#)).

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

- **Reconstruction:** The post-war Reconstruction era (1865-1873) brought significant changes, including the emancipation of slaves and the integration of freedmen into the society and economy. Despite challenges, Dallas began to rebuild and expand during this period. Reconstruction policies and the presence of federal troops in Texas influenced the local political and social landscape ([Dallas History](#)).

### **Economic Boom and Railroad Expansion (1870s-1880):**

- **Railroad Arrival:** A major turning point for Dallas County was the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railway in 1872. This development transformed Dallas into a key transportation hub, facilitating the movement of goods and people and significantly boosting the local economy ([Texas Historical Commission](#)).
- **Population Growth:** The railroad spurred rapid population growth and urbanization. New businesses and industries emerged, and the city's infrastructure expanded to accommodate the growing population. By the late 1870s, Dallas was well on its way to becoming one of the most important cities in Texas ([Dallas History](#)) ([Internet Archive](#)).
- **Agriculture and Commerce:** While agriculture remained a vital part of the economy, the post-railroad period saw a diversification of economic activities, including commerce, manufacturing, and finance. Dallas's strategic location and transportation links made it an attractive destination for entrepreneurs and immigrants ([Texas Historical Commission](#)) ([Internet Archive](#)).

### **Sources**

1. Dallas County Historical Commission. "Welcome to the Dallas County Historical Commission Website." Accessed July 13, 2024. Dallas County Historical Commission ([Dallas County](#)).
2. Brown, John Henry. *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887*. Dallas: Milligan, Cornett & Farnham, 1887. Accessed July 13, 2024. [History of Dallas County \(The Portal to Texas History\)](#).
3. Dallas Historical Society. "Collections & Archives." Accessed July 13, 2024. [Dallas Historical Society \(Dallas History\)](#).
4. Texas Historical Commission. "Dallas County Courthouse." Accessed July 13, 2024. [Texas Historical Commission \(Texas Historical Commission\)](#).
5. Lewis Publishing Company. *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas: Containing a History of This Important Section of the Great State of Texas, from the Earliest Period of Its Occupancy to the Present Time*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1892. Accessed July 13, 2024. [Memorial and Biographical History \(Internet Archive\)](#).

## WORKING HYPOTHESIS

### **Diana's hypothesis:**

Isabella's family moved from Springfield, Missouri, where she was born on 4 March 1858, to Dallas County, Texas, by 3 September 1860, the date of the census enumeration. The Civil War broke out the next year, and Texas joined the Confederacy. This would have affected her family life, with her older brother, John, possibly serving in the military. Reconstruction and the post-Civil War era would have also influenced life in Dallas County.

The research will need to center on Isabella's father, Henderson Weatherford, as the records will be in his name. The family has not been located on the 1870 census, so tax records could perhaps lend clarity to the family situation. There is no listing for precinct 6, so the broad Dallas County tax list could be searched. Henderson worked as a blacksmith in 1860 and perhaps continued the trade. Locating the Weatherford family in 1870 would be helpful.

Isabella married John H. Carpenter on 2 January 1874 in Dallas County, Texas, at the age of 15. He may have traveled to Dallas County on the railroad that arrived in 1872. He may have been a Confederate veteran from any southern state. Their daughter, Mary Clem Carpenter, was born on 3 October 1875. John either died or deserted Isabella by 1877 when she married Robert Cisnie Royston.

### **Claude 3.5 Sonnet: Based on the information provided and sound genealogical methodology, I propose the following working hypothesis:**

Isabella D. Weatherford's early life and marriage prospects were significantly shaped by the economic and social conditions in Dallas County, Texas, during the early 1870s. Born in Missouri in 1858, Isabella likely moved to Texas with her family during her childhood, possibly as part of the post-Civil War migration. The rapidly growing economy and population of Dallas County in the early 1870s, driven by the arrival of railroads and an influx of settlers, created a dynamic environment that influenced Isabella's life choices. This environment may have provided opportunities for young women to marry early, as evidenced by Isabella's first marriage to John H. Carpenter in 1874 at the age of 16. The social and economic instability of the period, combined with the challenges faced by young couples, might explain the short duration of this first marriage and Isabella's subsequent marriage to Robert Cisnie Royston in 1877. These early experiences in Dallas County likely set the course for Isabella's later life, including her moves to Indian Territory and eventually to New Mexico, reflecting the broader patterns of westward migration and adaptation to changing circumstances that characterized many families in the post-Civil War era.

### **Claude GPT's hypothesis: based on the timeline and Dallas County history.**

Isabella D. Weatherford's life and marriage prospects in the early 1870s were significantly influenced by the economic and social conditions prevailing in Dallas County, Texas. Born on March 4, 1858, in Missouri, Isabella moved to Dallas County, Texas, by 1860. The aftermath of the Civil War and the transformative impact of the railroad arrival in 1872 played a crucial role in shaping her experiences. These events not only influenced her personal life but also her marital choices, leading to her first marriage to John H. Carpenter on January 16, 1874, and later to Robert Cisnie Royston on January 16, 1877, in Van Zandt County, Texas.

## IDENTIFIED SOURCES

Diana's sources

- [Texas, U.S., Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1820-1890](#) - Ancestry
- 1870 Census for Dallas County - do a focused search for the family.
- [Texas, U.S., Voter Registration Lists, 1867-1869](#) - indexed, can browse for [Dallas county](#)
- [1846-1921 Dallas County District Court Civil Case Witnesses](#) at Dallas Genealogical Society - index of witnesses for cases filed from 1846 through early 1921.
- [1846-1900 Dallas County Deeds](#) at Dallas Genealogical Society - Transcriptions of deed records recorded by the Dallas County Clerk of the County Court between 1846 and 1900.
- [1846–1899 Dallas County Deeds 1846–1899](#), Grantor and Grantee Index - 112 rolls microfilm. Transcriptions are available at Dallas County Deeds at Dallas Genealogical Society.
- [Full-Text Search](#) - Land Records at FamilySearch - index & images; dates, records, and places vary.
- John Henry Brown, *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887*, (Dallas: Milligan, Cornett & Farnham, 1887); digital book *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth14390/> : accessed 13 July 2024).
- Handbook of Texas Online: Dallas County
  - <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/dallas-county>
    - Excellent information about the geography, history, etc.
- Texas and Pacific Railway: In the late 19th century, the Texas and Pacific Railway connected Dallas to major markets in St. Louis and beyond. The railway reached Dallas in 1873, which significantly increased the population and economic activity in the area. This route was crucial for the migration of people and goods into Dallas.
  - Source: [FamilySearch](#) ([FamilySearch](#)).
- Lewis Publishing Company. *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas: Containing a History of This Important Section of the Great State of Texas, from the*

*Earliest Period of Its Occupancy to the Present Time, and Biographical Mention of Many of Its Pioneers, and Also of Prominent Citizens of To-day.* Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1892. Accessed July 13, 2024.

<https://archive.org/details/memorialbiograph02lewi>.

- Dallas County Tax Office: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/tax/>
- Ancestry.com Texas, U.S., Select County Tax Records, 1846-1910: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2339/>
- FamilySearch: Tax rolls for Dallas county, precincts 1-4 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/image/index?owc=https://www.familysearch.org/service/cds/recapi/collections/1827575/waypoints>

Chat GPT's Identified Sources

## Research Strategy for Examining Economic and Social Conditions in Dallas County, Texas, in the Early 1870s

**Objective:** To investigate the economic and social conditions in Dallas County, Texas, during the early 1870s and understand their influence on Isabella D. Weatherford's life and marriage prospects.

**Hypothesis:** Isabella D. Weatherford's life and marriage prospects in the early 1870s were significantly influenced by the economic and social conditions prevailing in Dallas County, Texas. The aftermath of the Civil War and the transformative impact of the railroad arrival in 1872 played a crucial role in shaping her experiences and marital choices.

### Step-by-Step Research Strategy:

#### 1. Historical Context Research:

- Review the "History" section of the *Dallas County, Texas, Locality Guide* for a timeline of major events in Dallas County between 1846 and 1880.
- Examine John Henry Brown's *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887* for detailed historical context and economic conditions.
- Utilize the Handbook of Texas Online entry for Dallas County to understand broader historical and geographical context.

#### 2. Economic and Social Conditions:

- Investigate the impact of the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railway in 1872, utilizing sources such as the Texas Historical Commission and other entries in the *Locality Guide*.
- Explore agricultural records to understand the role of cotton cultivation and its economic impact on local society.

- Examine court records, probate records, and tax records to gain insights into the economic conditions and social hierarchy.
3. **Population Growth and Urbanization:**
- Analyze census records from 1860 and 1870 to track population growth and demographic changes. The U.S. Federal Census records from 1850, 1860, and 1870 will be crucial here.
  - Study land records to see patterns of land ownership, sales, and transfers which could indicate economic conditions.
4. **Social Influence and Marriage Prospects:**
- Review marriage records from Dallas County, especially focusing on the marriage of Isabella to John H. Carpenter in 1874 and to Robert Cisnie Royston in 1877.
  - Examine local newspapers (accessible via the Portal to Texas History) for announcements, social events, and economic news that could provide insights into the social fabric of the time.
5. **Migration and Settlement Patterns:**
- Investigate migration routes, such as the Central National Road of the Republic of Texas and the Texas and Pacific Railway, to understand the movement of people into and out of Dallas County during the period.
  - Utilize maps and geographical resources to visualize settlement patterns and infrastructural developments.
6. **Repositories and Online Resources:**
- Utilize resources from the Dallas Public Library - Genealogy & History Division and the Dallas County Archives for primary documents and additional context.
  - Leverage digital archives like FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, and the Portal to Texas History for access to vital records, land records, and historical documents.
7. **Specific Sources to Consult:**
- FamilySearch Wiki: [Dallas County, Texas Genealogy](#)
  - Texas State Library and Archives Commission: [Dallas County Records](#)
  - Dallas County Historical Commission: [Dallas County Historical Commission](#)
  - *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas* (Lewis Publishing Company, 1892)
  - Dallas Genealogical Society: [Dallas Genealogy](#)

By following this research strategy, you can systematically explore the economic and social conditions of Dallas County, Texas, during the early 1870s and understand their influence on Isabella D. Weatherford's life and marriage prospects.

# PRIORITIZED RESEARCH STRATEGY

Diana

## History of Dallas County, Texas

- John Henry Brown, *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887*, (Dallas: Milligan, Cornett & Farnham, 1887); digital book *The Portal to Texas History* (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph14390/> : accessed 13 July 2024.
- Lewis Publishing Company. *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas: Containing a History of This Important Section of the Great State of Texas, from the Earliest Period of Its Occupancy to the Present Time, and Biographical Mention of Many of Its Pioneers, and Also of Prominent Citizens of To-day*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1892. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://archive.org/details/memorialbiograph02lewi>.
- Handbook of Texas Online: Dallas County
  - <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/dallas-county>

## Portal to Texas History: Dallas Newspapers Collection

- Local newspapers from the 1870s will offer contemporary accounts of economic conditions, social events, and community life in Dallas County. This will provide a rich context for understanding the environment in which Isabella lived.
- [Portal to Texas History: Dallas Newspapers](#) **Didn't do.**

## Census research for Henderson Weatherford

- ~~[Texas, U.S., Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1820-1890](#)~~ Ancestry **NIL for Henderson Weatherford, found other Weatherfords in the 1860 slave schedule, the 1890 veterans schedule, and an 1846 tax list**
- 1870 Census for Dallas County
  - ~~[Ancestry](#)~~ **Located Clemsy, "Telitha (Isabella), and Samuel H "Welaford" in Camden County, Missouri**
  - ~~[FamilySearch](#)~~
- ~~[Texas, U.S., Voter Registration Lists, 1867-1869](#)~~ indexed, can browse for [Dallas county](#). **Negative search for Henderson Weatherford**

## Tax research for Henderson Weatherford

- Ancestry.com Texas, U.S., Select County Tax Records, 1846-1910: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2339/>
- FamilySearch: Tax rolls for Dallas county, precincts 1-4 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/image/index?owc=https://www.familysearch.org/service/cds/recapi/collections/1827575/waypoints> **Found the record for Henderson Weatherford in 1860 but not after.**



## Migration to Dallas County, Texas

- ~~Texas and Pacific Railway: In the late 19th century, the Texas and Pacific Railway connected Dallas to major markets in St. Louis and beyond. The railway reached Dallas in 1873, which significantly increased the population and economic activity in the area. This route was crucial for the migration of people and goods into Dallas. Source: [FamilySearch \(FamilySearch\)](#).~~
- ~~<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/texas-and-pacific-railway> Done-- did further research and found a plausible route from Missouri to Dallas.~~

## Chat GPT

## Prioritized Research Strategy with Key Sources

1. **John Henry Brown's *History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887***
  - **Reason:** This source provides a comprehensive account of Dallas County's early years and development, including the economic and social conditions during the 1870s. It will offer detailed historical context and specific events that shaped the county.
  - **Link:** [History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 to 1887](#)
2. **U.S. Federal Census Records (1860, 1870)**
  - **Reason:** Census records will provide demographic information, population growth, and economic data about households in Dallas County. This data will help understand the social structure and economic conditions during the early 1870s.
  - **Link:** 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Dallas County, Texas
  - **Link:** 1870 U.S. Federal Census - Dallas County, Texas
3. **Dallas County Marriage Records (1837-1965)**
  - **Reason:** Marriage records will provide details about Isabella Weatherford's marriages to John H. Carpenter and Robert Cisnie Royston. These records will offer insights into social connections and family structures during the 1870s.
  - **Link:** [Texas. County Marriage Records, 1837-1965](#)
4. **Portal to Texas History: Dallas Newspapers Collection**
  - **Reason:** Local newspapers from the 1870s will offer contemporary accounts of economic conditions, social events, and community life in Dallas County. This will provide a rich context for understanding the environment in which Isabella lived.
  - **Link:** [Portal to Texas History: Dallas Newspapers](#)
5. **Texas State Library and Archives Commission: Dallas County Records**
  - **Reason:** This source provides access to a variety of primary documents, including land records, court records, and probate records. These records will

offer detailed insights into economic conditions, land ownership, and legal matters in Dallas County during the 1870s.

- **Link:** [Texas State Library and Archives Commission: Dallas County Records](#)

## Research Steps:

1. **Start with John Henry Brown's *History of Dallas County, Texas*:**
  - Read through the sections covering the 1860s and 1870s.
  - Note key economic and social events that could have influenced Isabella Weatherford's life.
2. **Analyze Census Records (1860, 1870):**
  - Extract data on population growth, household compositions, and occupations.
  - Compare changes between the 1860 and 1870 censuses to identify trends.
3. **Review Dallas County Marriage Records:**
  - Locate the marriage records of Isabella Weatherford to John H. Carpenter (1874) and Robert Cisnie Royston (1877).
  - Examine any associated documents for additional context and details.
4. **Explore Local Newspapers via the Portal to Texas History:**
  - Search for articles, announcements, and advertisements from the early 1870s.
  - Focus on economic news, social events, and community issues relevant to Dallas County.
5. **Consult the Texas State Library and Archives Commission:**
  - Access and review land records, court records, and probate records from the 1870s.
  - Investigate any references to the Weatherford and Carpenter families, as well as general economic conditions.

## FINDINGS & ANALYSIS - RESEARCH REPORT

### Outline:

1. Objective
2. Limitations
3. Results summary
4. Background information
  - a. 1850 census
  - b. 1860 census
  - c. 1874 and 1877 marriages
5. Findings and analysis
  - a. 1870 census
  - b. 1860 tax list for Henderson Weatherford

- c. Correlation and evidence of his probable death after Samuel's conception
  - d. Civil War and Reconstruction in Dallas Co., TX
  - e. Migration between Missouri and Texas
6. Conclusions
  7. Suggestions for future research

This template was created by Nicole Dyer and Diana Elder. They can be reached by emailing [Nicole@FamilyLocket.com](mailto:Nicole@FamilyLocket.com) and [Diana@FamilyLocket.com](mailto:Diana@FamilyLocket.com).

A link to this template is found in the book "Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide," and at FamilyLocket.com in the following article:

<http://familylocket.com/doing-a-genealogy-research-project-from-start-to-finish/>

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