

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

First Generation

1. **Ryon W Sowell**, son of **Charles Sowell** and **Molly Wynns**, was born on 27 Aug 1799 in North Carolina and died before 4 Dec 1852 in Maury County, Tennessee.

General Notes: Moved with his father to Tennessee in 1818.

The Bible previously mentioned (see Charles Sowell note) was given to Ryon by his wife Ann on July 4, 1826, and cost \$1.00, which no doubt represented a considerable sacrifice, since at the time several acres of good land could be purchased for \$1.00.

Records inscribed in this Bible in the beautiful handwriting of Ryon W. Sowell indicate he was an educated man and that the following children were born to this union: (see genealogy)

"Ryon's parents are a BIG mystery. Family tradition says his father was Charles Sowell, who died in Maury Co, ca 1839, but I have seen the will and Ryon is not mentioned nor is he in the family Bible." - Bob Pfenning

Research Notes: Here is the proof of Ryon's death. It was in "The Maury Genealogist" Vol 3, No. 2, P. 83 (May 1974) p. 475 of Settlements with guardians, etc (but not the actual vol name and number of the record):

"Inventory and account of sale of Ryan W. Sowell, deceased, on 4 Dec 1852; Mrs. Ann Sowell, bought a geat deal; Jethro Sowell was a purchaser; signed 31 May 1854 by H. C. Sowell, admr. Page 478-9 - Year's allowance for Ann Sowell, widow of Ryan W. Sowell, made 4 Dec 1852. Notice to Ann Sowell, E. K. Smith and wife Elizabeth (who is daughter of Ryan W. Sowell), Mary A. Sowell, Sally Sowell, Lavinda Sowell and Patrick Sowell (the last four of whom are minors) that I will settle estate on 31 May 1854. Notice also to James M. Sowell, N. Firzerald and his wife Adaline (who is daughter of Ryan W. Sowell), also heirs, that estate will be settled."

Ryon died before 4 Dec 1852 and after June 1850 when the US census was conducted which shows him living in Maury County Tennessee.

Ryon married **Anna Smith Letsinger**, daughter of **Andrew Letsinger** and **Unknown**, on 20 Jan 1820 in Maury County, Tennessee. Anna was born on 8 Nov 1803 in North Carolina. Other names for Anna were Ann G., Anna, and Anne.

Marriage Notes: Maury County, Tennessee Marriage Records 1807-1837 shows (back of book copied from original in basement of courthouse) Ryon Sowell married Ann Letsinger Jan 10, 1823.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 2 M i. **James Sowell** was born on 29 Oct 1823 in Tennessee, died on 14 Mar 1905 at age 81, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas.

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

- + 3 M ii. **John Andrew Sowell** was born on 23 Feb 1826 in Tennessee.
- + 4 F iii. **Elizabeth Jerusha Sowell** was born on 6 Oct 1828 in Maury County, Tennessee, died on 24 Aug 1893 in Bastrop County, Texas at age 64, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.
- + 5 F iv. **Adaline Sowell** was born on 13 Jan 1832 in Tennessee and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.
- + 6 F v. **Mary Ann Sowell** was born on 12 Aug 1834 in Tennessee, died on 2 Jul 1873 at age 38, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.
- + 7 M vi. **Rufus Clinton Sowell** was born on 22 Mar 1837 in Tennessee.
- + 8 F vii. **Sarah Melisa Sowell** was born on 22 Aug 1839 in Tennessee.
- + 9 F viii. **Lurinda J. Sowell** was born on 28 Jan 1842 in Williamsport, Tennessee, died on 11 Jul 1939 in Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas at age 97, and was buried in Oakhill Cemetery, Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas.
- + 10 M ix. **Charles Patrick Sowell** was born on 16 Dec 1844 in Tennessee, died on 9 Jan 1936 at age 91, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas.

Second Generation (Children)

2. James Sowell (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 29 Oct 1823 in Tennessee, died on 14 Mar 1905 at age 81, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas.

General Notes: James Sowell moved from Maury County Tennessee to Texas in 1854, coming with the family of his father-in-law, bringing with them equipment, livestock and slaves, and settled in Bastrop County on a large tract of land which he had purchased.

Randolph Walker donated the land for the erection of a church and for a cemetery now known as Ridgeway community.

James Sowell served in the Confederate Army in Green's Brigade of Texas, from 1860 to 1864, returning to his home after the war, broken in spirit, to find his worldly goods dissipated and his family in poor circumstances. He set about the rebuilding of his fortune, experiencing insurmountable obstacles during the reconstruction days. Earnest Sowell remembers him in his childhood as a heart-broken, brooding man, who never recovered from the effects of the Civil War.

Bastrop County, Texas 1846-1865 by Kenneth Kesselus

Page 205

Bastrop Co. Soldiers

Muster Rolls

Bastrop Volunteer Infantry

Formed May 3, 1861

Privates:

James M. Sowell

Page 206

...Summer Of 1861, Company recruited for service in Calvary unit under command of Col. William H. Parsons. Unit attached to Walkers' Texas Division and saw service west of the Mississippi River:

J. M. Sowell

Research Notes: Tomb Stone reads:

James Sowell

TEXAS PVT CO F 19 REGT TEXAS INF

CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

OCT 29 1823 MARCH 14 1905

James married **Sarah Coleman Walker**, daughter of **Randolph Walker** and **Elizabeth Coleman**, on 20 Aug 1846 in Maury County, Tennessee. Sarah was born in 1832, died in 1897 at age 65, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas.

Marriage Notes: Married in Maury County Tennessee

Children from this marriage were:

- 11 M i. **Bradford J. Sowell** was born on 24 Jan 1848 in Maury County, Tennessee, died on 21 Dec 1907 at age 59, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas.
- 12 M ii. **Thomas C. Sowell** was born on 17 Feb 1850 in Maury County, Tennessee.
- 13 M iii. **Tennessee Sowell** was born on 18 Mar 1853 in Maury County, Tennessee.
- 14 F iv. **Texana Sowell** was born on 25 Aug 1855 in Bastrop County, Texas.
Texana married **Ed Rasor**.
- 15 M v. **John P. Sowell** was born on 10 Jul 1860 in Bastrop County, Texas, died on 19 Sep 1954 at age 94, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas. The cause of his death was Complications after falling out of a Pecan tree at age 94. Another name for John was John Patric.
General Notes: Elgin Cemetery Block 1 Lot 61 Elgin, Texas
Inscription reads:
John P Sowell
1860 - 1954
John married **Osceola Keele**, daughter of **John Wesley Keele** and **Mary Goode**, on 30 Dec 1886 in Bastrop, Texas. Osceola was born in 1869, died on 30 Jun 1956 at age 87, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas. Another name for Osceola was Ola Keel.
Marriage Notes: Seven children were born to this union, all boys, two of whom died in infancy.
- 16 F vi. **Rosa Lee Sowell** was born on 2 Aug 1866 in Bastrop County, Texas.
- 17 F vii. **Mary F. Sowell** was born on 5 Apr 1869 in Bastrop County, Texas.

3. **John Andrew Sowell** (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 23 Feb 1826 in Tennessee.

4. **Elizabeth Jerusha Sowell** (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 6 Oct 1828 in Maury County, Tennessee, died on 24 Aug 1893 in Bastrop County, Texas at age 64, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas. Another name for Elizabeth was Lizzie.

Elizabeth married **Enoch K. Smith** on 1 Jul 1847 in Maury County, Tennessee. Enoch was born on 30 Jul 1815, died on 13 Dec 1891 in Bastrop County, Texas at age 76, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

5. **Adaline Sowell** (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 13 Jan 1832 in Tennessee and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

Research Notes: Here is the proof of Ryon's death. It was in "The Maury Genealogist" Vol 3, No. 2, P. 83 (May 1974) p. 475 of Settlements with guardians, etc (but not the actual vol name and number of the record):

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

"Inventory and account of sale of Ryan W. Sowell, deceased, on 4 Dec 1852; Mrs. Ann Sowell, bought a geat deal; Jethro Sowell was a purchaser; signed 31 May 1854 by H. C. Sowell, admr. Page 478-9 - Year's allowance for Ann Sowell, widow of Ryan W. Sowell, made 4 Dec 1852. Notice to Ann Sowell, E. K. Smith and wife Elizabeth (who is daughter of Ryan W. Sowell), Mary A. Sowell, Sally Sowell, Lavinda Sowell and Patrick Sowell (the last four of whom are minors) that I will settle estate on 31 May 1854. Notice also to James M. Sowell, N. Firzerald and his wife Adaline (who is daughter of Ryan W. Sowell), also heirs, that estate will be settled."

Adaline married **Newton E. Fitzpatrick**. Newton was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

The child from this marriage was:

- 18 M i. **John Fitzpatrick** was born on 4 Mar 1869, died in Jul 1873 at age 4, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

6. Mary Ann Sowell (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 12 Aug 1834 in Tennessee, died on 2 Jul 1873 at age 38, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

Research Notes: Residents of Perry County Tennessee in 1860

Mary married **Franklin Culp**. Franklin was born on 1 Sep 1839, died on 31 Aug 1870 at age 30, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

The child from this marriage was:

- 19 M i. **Andrew J. Culp** was born on 5 Mar 1868, died on 18 Oct 1870 at age 2, and was buried in Mt Bethel - Piney Cemetery Bastrop Co. Texas.

7. Rufus Clinton Sowell (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 22 Mar 1837 in Tennessee.

8. Sarah Melisa Sowell (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 22 Aug 1839 in Tennessee. Another name for Sarah was Sally M.

Research Notes: 1860 Maury County, TN Census

Household #1544 - Anna Sowell - 60 yrs, female, farmer, born in North Carolina

L. J. 19 yrs, female, born in TN

Patrick 15 yrs, male, farmer, born in TN

Household #1545 - T. S. Stallings - 25 yrs, male, farmer, born in TN

Sarah 22 yrs. Female, born in TN

Anna 3 yrs. Female, born in TN

May have come to Texas with Anna Sowell in the later part of 1860.

Sarah married **Thomas S. Stallins** before 1857 in Tennessee.

The child from this marriage was:

- 20 F i. **Anna Stallins** was born in 1857.

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

9. Lurinda J. Sowell (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 28 Jan 1842 in Williamsport, Tennessee, died on 11 Jul 1939 in Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas at age 97, and was buried in Oakhill Cemetery, Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas. Another name for Lurinda was Lou.

General Notes: John M. Perry married Lurinda "Lou" Sowell on 7 January 1865 in Bastrop County, Texas. Lou was born 28 January 1842 Williams Port (or Columbia), TN to Ryon W. & Ann G. (Letsinger) Sowell.

Obituary - 1939

In the passing away of Mrs. Lou J. M. Perry on July 11th Smithville and Bastrop County have lost their oldest citizen. Mrs. Perry had reached the wonderful age of 97 years, 5 months and 15 days. She was born at Columbia, Tennessee in the year 1842 and came to Texas with her family in 1852, settling near Bastrop. She was married to John M. Perry in 1863 who, in the War between the States, served in Parson's brigade under Captain Highsmith.

She is survived by five daughters, Mrs. F. Moore of Columbus, Mrs T.W. Maxwell of Boling, Mrs. Lulu Williams, Mrs Callis Brewer and Mrs. V.S. McGowan all of Smithville and two sons, J. E. Perry of Floydada and Lon Perry of Smithville, 15 grand-children and 18 great-grandchildren.

The following grand sons acted as pall bearers: A.R. Maxwell, T.W. Maxwell, Lyt Maxwell, Pomp Perry, Ivan Perry and Euel Jenkins.

Funeral services were held at the family residence here in Smithville Wednesday afternoon, July 12th, with the Rev. Woodrow Jones officiating. Burial took place at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Thus has passed from us a citizen that truly has performed a noble and worthy life here among our people. Coming to Texas as a mere child, this girl grew up during the times of much pioneer work. People were coming to Texas from many sections of the nation, and when they arrived they generally stayed and helped to build a community, and Mrs. Perry is one of those who stayed among the rest of our people and did her full part in bringing about a more modern civilization here in Bastrop county. We are saddened at her departure, but her life and her efforts among us are duly appreciated by all who love and admire the history of our country.

Research Notes: 1860 Maury County Census
Household #1544

Anna Sowell - 60 yrs. female, farmer, born in North Carolina

L. J. 19 yrs. female born in TN

Patrick 15 yrs. male, farmer, born in TN

This indicates that Lurinda did not come to Texas until 1860. Also see Case of Franklin Culp and wife vs. James Sowell under "references". 1860 agrees with Charles Patrick Sowell's obituary.

Lurinda married **John Montgomery Perry** on 17 Jan 1865 in Bastrop County, Texas. John was born on 26 Dec 1836 in Montgomery County, Alabama, died on 8 Jun 1920 in Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas at age 83, and was buried in Oakhill Cemetery, Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas.

Marriage Notes: Nine children

10. Charles Patrick Sowell (*Ryon W¹*) was born on 16 Dec 1844 in Tennessee, died on 9 Jan 1936 at age 91, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas. Other names for Charles were Pat, and Patrick.

General Notes: Charles Patrick Sowell, came to TX - I think it was about the time of the Civil War, maybe right after it and settled in Bastrop Co. Bob Pfenning

Tonbstone reads:
C P Sowell

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

Dec 16 1844

Jan 9 1936

UNCLE PAT SOWELL, ELGIN'S LAST CONFEDERATE

VETERAN PASSES AWAY IN AUSTIN

Charles Patrick Sowell, lovingly known by scores as "Uncle Pat", passed on to his last reward Thursday morning, January 9th, 1936 at 6:00 o'clock at the State Confederate Home in Austin after having been confined to his bed for the past five an a half months. Uncle Pat had been unusually hale and hearty for one of his advanced years until early last year when the infirmities of old age claimed his health. Prior to that time he walked the distance from his home to the business district each day and took keen interest in meeting his many friends and enjoying "...walk" chats. He also attended meetings and programs of William Owens Chapter U.D.C. , occasionally and when prevailed upon would give interesting stories of his experiences when a member of Company E, 33rd Texas cavalry in the Confederate army. He was well-read and kept enlightened on the important current events of county, state and nation. He was strong in his beliefs and staunchly supported the principles for which he stood.

He was a Baptist by faith and was a strong, noble character. He was a kind father, a loving brother and a friend to be relied upon. He loved company and each year his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren gathered at this home to celebrate with a birthday dinner and hold open house all day in order that his friends might call and renew their bonds of friendship, these occasions being treasured by him as the happiest days of his old age.

In the early days of Elgin he was one of our most prominent and progressive business men, and for over half a century had been an influential and worthy citizen, one who took pride in seeing his town forge ahead. He was held in high regard by everyone and numbered his friends by the scores. A good many years ago he retired from business and had resided at the family home in east Elgin, where, a grandson and wife, Mr. & Mrs. Ollie Pfeiffer, look after his comfort, until July of last year, when he entered the Confederate home in Austin.

Mr. Sowell was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Rhyne W. Sowell and was born Dec 16, 1844 in Murray county, Tennessee. He came to Texas in 1860, with his parents, settling in Williamson county, at Florence. From there the family went to Piney, near Bastrop, where Mr. Sowell joined the Confederate army in 1861. His company was composed principally of Bastrop county men whose part in that great conflict has given our county a prominent part in the compilation of valuable historical facts passed down first hand from those veterans.

Uncle Pat was married to Adeline Erwin of the Piney community and she preceded him in death in 1917. Surviving are three children of that union, Mrs. Ida Pfeffer, Elgin, Gus Sowell, McDale and W. T. Sowell of Round Rock, 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren, and one sister, Mrs. Lou Perry, of Smithville.

Following his death Thursday the body was brought overland to Elgin by J. C. Miller, undertakers, to the Miller Funeral home, where it lay in state until the funeral at 10:00 a.m. Friday. Large American and Confederate flags in floor standards stood furled at either end of the bier and resting against it in front was the conventional U.D.C. wreath, fashioned of red, white and blue flowers, across which was spread a small Confederate flag.

The Rev. G. M. McNeilly pastor of the First Baptist Church was in charge of the last rites

Descendants of Ryon W Sowell

and delivered a beautiful oration, Rev. McNeiller read the lesson from an old leather bound bible, published in 1824 and purchased in 1779 by the deceased's father and treasured by members of the family for many years. The choir sang "Nothing Between," by request, and other appropriate songs.

Supt. M.M. Watson, to show the schools' deep appreciation of the historical significance of the passing of Elgin's last Confederate soldier, delegated Miss Nell Owens, one of the teachers, and ten members of the Senior Class to represent the high school as a tribute to the confederacy; while Miss Modene Griffin, principal of the grammar school, brought twelve boys and girls, and little Miss Mary Neill Carter, mascot of William Owens Chapter of the U.D.C., all descendants of Bastrop County pioneers, to represent that school. These "honor guards" stood near the casket throughout the service at the chapel.

Pall bearers were six grandsons: Sam and Adolph Sowell, Pat, Louie, Ollie and Lonnie Pfeiffer.

Honorary pall bearers were W. B. Byers, Joe Sharp, C. K. Davenport, George Pate, Oscar Byrd, Will Standifer, Coot Hardwick, D. H. Speir and Dr. G. T. King, all of Elgin, Charley Cottingham of Agua Dulce, R. Walter Davis and D. B. Camp of Austin.

Interment was made in the Elgin Cemetery.

PAT SOWELL, LAST CONFEDERATE SOLDIER IN BASTROP COUNTY DIED

Pat Sowell, 91, the last Bastrop county survivor of the Confederate army and a long time resident of Elgin, died early Thursday at the State Confederate home in Austin.

Funeral services were held from the Miller Funeral home last Friday.

Mr Sowell was a member of Company E, 33rd Texas cavalry of the Confederate State army.

He was born in Murray county, Tenn.

Mr. Sowell was admitted to the state Confederate home at Austin July 23, 1935.

CARD OF THANKS

We thank our friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness shown us during the illness and at the death of our beloved father, for the beautiful floral offerings and the many words of comfort spoken at a time when they mean so much. We also thank Rev. McNeilly for his words of consolation, and Drs. King and Fleming who administrated to him previous to his entering the Confederate Hospital.

Mrs. Thomas Pfeiffer, Gus Sowell, and Tom Sowell
Obtained from Elgin, Texas Depot Museum
February 2005

Charles married **Minerva Adaline Erwin** on 8 Feb 1866. Minerva was born on 30 Jun 1844 in Maury County, Tennessee, died on 31 Jan 1917 at age 72, and was buried in Elgin Cemetery Elgin, Texas.

Marriage Notes: Four Children