

C. W. Fricks in front of his home ca 1930 three miles north of Muskogee, Oklahoma. He purchased the 20 acres on which he built the home. The car belonged to his daughter, Thelma, and her husband, as does the dog sitting on the steps.

Our Fricks and Hensley Families and their Ancestors

By Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG (retired, 2012)

First Generation: Charles W. Fricks and Ida Mae Hensley

harles William FRICKS was born on 15 September 1873 in Walker County, Georgia. He was called Charlie. His younger brother, Edward "Ed" Wiley, gave Charlie's birth date as 15 September 1872, but 1873 is the correct year — based on what Charlie personally said and when he registered for the World War I draft in 1918. In it he gave his birthdate as 15 September 1873, and nearest relative as Ida May Fricks, Muskogee. He signed it: Charles William Fricks. He is described as tall, of heavy build with brown eyes and brown hair. The record¹ is dated 12 Sept. 1918 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, just three days before his 45th birthday.

He arrived in Indian Territory in 1891 along with his parents, N. B. [Napoleon Bonaparte "Teck"] Fricks and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Connally and his siblings — Oscar "Os," Nora, Nancy "Nannie," Walter "Buck," and Edward "Ed." His baby sister, Dora, was born in Indian Territory in October of 1892. The Walker County, Georgia Messenger newspaper, (p. 2, dated: 24 September 1891) reported: "Teck Fricks is soon to start to Indian Territory where he will make his future home with his family."

Napoleon Bonaparte Fricks (father of Charlie) was called "Teck" which is probably why the second grandson by his son, Charlie, was named Teck Pendleton. Charlie's oldest son, born in 1902, was named Homer Napoleon, in

December 2015

honor of the paternal grandfather and Homer B. Spaulding who was mayor of Muskogee at that time, and for whom Charlie had worked.].

The exact date of arrival in Indian Territory of the Fricks family is not recorded, but it evidently was sometime after the death of Charlie's baby brother, 3-yearold Deaby Parks "Parkie" Fricks, who died 28 September 1891 in Walker County, Georgia and was buried in Coulter Memorial Cemetery in Cassandra. However, Ed, the youngest son in the family, in his later years claimed that N. B. Fricks and Charlie "went West in fall of 1890 to Muskogee, and made a crop on the Bird Harris farm in the spring of 1891.The farm being located east of Bacone [College] one-half mile. Then the family moved from Cassander, [Cassandra] Georgia to Indian Territory."

T ince Ed was only about five years old in 1890, it is not likely he remembered this date from his own memory. While it is possible that the N. B. and Charlie came to Indian Territory first, that would have necessitated another trip back to Georgia to get the rest of the family — no doubt an expensive and difficult journey. Some of their Fricks family removed to near McGregor, McLennan County, Texas in November of 1890, including Charlie's grandparents — Davis Fricks and Nancy Riggs.² It is possible that the entire family removed first to Texas from Georgia in 1891 and that N. B. and C. W. Fricks went to Indian Territory and then back to Texas to retrieve the rest of them, except the Georgia newspaper item was published 24 September 1891 and the obituary of Parkie Fricks was published 15 October 1891, noting the child had died 28 September from croup. Ed Fricks might have remembered many things accurately, but his recollection when he was in his 70s probably was incorrect about his father and older brother coming to Indian Territory in 1890.

The father of N. B. Fricks was Davis Fricks and he and his wife left Walker County, Georgia in November 1890³ and settled in McGregor, McLennan County, Texas where some of their other children had settled. It is logical to assume that Ed Fricks mixed up the years of the moves. Another missing bit of information is the mode of transportation they used to travel from northwest Georgia to Indian Territory. We don't know whether it was by train or by wagon or via a combination.

Charlie Fricks, named for his maternal grandfather — Charles William Connally — was about 18 years old when he came to the Creek Nation in Indian Territory. The

population of Muskogee in 1900 was only 4,254. He worked as a farmer, rancher and on various construction jobs such as bridge building and on Muskogee's standpipe reservoir on Tower Hill. His father, N. B. Fricks, was one of the developers of Greenhill Cemetery, it is claimed, and Charlie and his brother [probably Oscar] cleared the land for the new burial site⁴ and they built bridges. Charlie also picked and sold pecans and walnuts and hauled cord wood to various merchants to fire their boilers during the winter. He helped build the wooden bridge north of the original Jobe School, was instrumental in getting the school established (along with Louis Jobe and others). He helped hold the first election in the Reeves Addition of Muskogee County, which was held in a church and later in Jobe School. He continued to assist with the elections until his death in 1958.

Charlie met **Ida Mae Hensley** at a dance at Bacone Indian College (he was a "caller") and they were married 15 October 1899. Her large and extended family had arrived from Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama in 1894,



although some claim it was 1893. They originally set up housekeeping (as it was called then) in a two-room log cabin on the Spaulding Ranch. [Spaulding was Homer B. Spaulding who came to Muskogee in 1884 from Texas and built the Spaulding Bridge, which was the only bridge in the area until 1922. Spaulding was elected mayor of Muskogee in 1902]. Soon after their marriage, in 1900, Charlie obtained a job at Turner Hardware as a tiner and helper.⁵ Later, while Charlie was working on the Spaulding Bridge, a flood caused the hole for the pier on the south end

of the bridge to be filled with water. The water had to be bailed out with a gallon bucket, which took considerable time. However at the bottom of the hole, they found a 32pound flat-head catfish. Ida Mae cooked the fish, along with plenty of cornbread and invited all the neighbors to the fish fry.⁶ For about 20 years Charlie farmed on the place of B. C. Tarvin until he was able to purchase his own small farm just south of the original Jobe School.

Charlie Fricks told me (his granddaughter) that he helped to clear the Greenhill Cemetery. While I was never able to verify, he was of the right age when it was done and it was mentioned in the newspaper article of Muskogee Phoenix (Sunday, Oct. 17, 1982) based on information provided by his son, Teck P. Fricks.

Teck P. Fricks told me in a 1979 interview in Muskogee, Oklahoma, that N. B. Fricks [his paternal grandpa] owned a 12-lot gravesite in Greenhill Cemetery



and helped start the cottonseed oil mill, was one of the original stockholders, and knew Tams Bixby of the Muskogee Daily Phoenix. Supposedly two cemetery lots went to the cemetery for a road as only 10 lots remained at that time of the interview. However, nothing in the probate records of N. B. Fricks indicate any stocks, there's nothing about cemetery lots, and the records only mention some real estate in the City of Muskogee, which was sold in

Teck Fricks

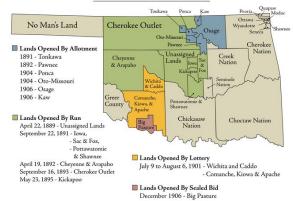
1909 by his widow, Elizabeth (Connally) Fricks.

Another family story that Teck passed along was that "Two Fricks brothers came from Germany (this has proven to be untrue, as our immigrant ancestors came from Switzerland, but they were Germanic Swiss) — had money and entered into a joint tendency account and were in business together but had a 'falling out,' dissolved the partnership and agreed one would spell name FRICKS and one would spell it FRIX to separate them."

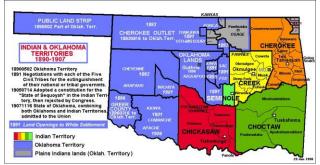
However, this is just a story. It probably was one that was handed down, but it is not true. (Ironically, many American families have this same "changed their name/spelling legend," with varying reasons involved, evidently in an attempt to explain the variant spellings of names, which is so perplexing to modern-day persons who erroneously believe the spelling of a name is fixed and a positive identification modifier.)

Frick, Fricks, Fricke, Frix is a Swiss surname, derived from a short form of any of the Low German forms of Friedrich (a given name); and it also is a habitational name from a place so named in the Swiss Canton of Aargau.⁷ Our immigrant ancestors came from the Swiss Canton of Zurich via Germany and Holland (Netherlands) in 1739.⁸

here's another family story, which claims, "When the Fricks family lived in Georgia they had heard about land in Indian Territory and OKLAHOMA LAND OPENINGS



rumors were that all you had to do was fence it and claim it, but the Indians got 160 acres — and there was no land available" [this is another inaccurate "tale," but a common one among Oklahoma white pioneers. The railroads did hype the" free land" aspect to attract settlers, but that land



was in Oklahoma Territory, not Indian Territory, the latter belonged to the various Indian Nations until 1899.] The map of Oklahoma Land Openings (above) shows the dates land was opened by allotment, by run, by lottery and by sealed bid. None of this land was in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory where the Fricks and Hensley families settled (the Creek Nation is yellow on the above map of Indian and Oklahoma Territories, 1890-1907).

Another family legend was about "Grandma," (don't

know which one) who when the Civil War was over was sitting on a stump crocheting --- the house was all gone." It was told many times but it was never clear to me who "grandma" referred to and as a child, I never thought to ask. [Elizabeth (Connally) Fricks (the mother of Charlie) was 15 when Sherman took Atlanta and marched through Georgia, so she might have been the one]. However, additional genealogical and historical research reveals that the "other grandmother" was Araminta (née Awtrey/Autry) Hensley. She would have been 13 when Battle of Atlanta took place and her family was living in Lithonia District of DeKalb County, Georgia (according to the 1860 federal census), where several battles took place.⁹

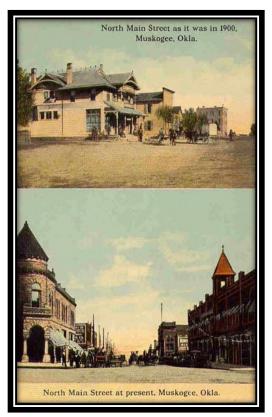
Both mothers of Charlie Fricks and Ida Mae Hensley would have been old enough to have been the person in this family story, but they were only teenagers, so it is possible that the tale might have referred to one of their grandmothers rather than one of their mothers.

I've always felt the story was about Elizabeth Connally - for two reasons, one her family actually lived in Atlanta and secondly she crocheted (she did beautiful work). Atlanta was evacuated, and it is possible that their home was demolished or destroyed during the war. The area where she lived suffered mightily during the Civil War. Her family removed to Walker County before 1866.

da Mae (Hensley) Fricks (my grandmother) was usually quite precise in remembering details and providing names. If it had been her mother or one of her grandmothers, I believe she would have said so.

Supposedly the railroad bought the Fricks land in Georgia - near Lookout Mountain and where Battle of Chickamauga was fought [I have not found land records to prove or disprove these claims.] However, in a letter about the family's move from Cassandra, Georgia to Indian Territory, in 1891, Edward W. "Ed" Fricks¹⁰ provided the reason, Ed was only about five years old when they moved, but probably heard the story from his parents and siblings many times, and his memory appeared to be fairly accurate in 1958.

He wrote, "They [his parents] moved to father's home farm at Cassandra, Georgia [soon after their marriage in 1866] at the foot of Lookout Mountain in Georgia. That was when the father operated a grist mill and a saw mill and cotton gin on his part of the Fricks farm. The power to operate this mills was by a water trace from the Chickamogee [Chickamauga] Creek. [We] lived there and [the] family partly raised there until a railroad split his small farm in two. That was the cause of the sellout and reason to come west to Muskogee, I.T. in 1891."



Charlie and Ida married in autumn of 1899.¹¹ Earlier that year, in February, the Great Muskogee fire destroyed a large portion of downtown. The pictures above show how North Main Street in Muskogee looked in 1900s.

Ida Mae (Hensley) Fricks, told me many times about their wedding, because I often asked. Like most little girls I was interested in her clothing — and 1899 seemed like



ancient history to me then. However, all I can remember is that she said she wore a navy blue wool suit that was "too hot" and a fancy hat with a large peacock feather on it.



While no pictures exist that I know about, these illustrations show an 1899 style outfit and hat, which are probably



similar to what she wore.

Charlie and Ida lived almost long enough to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary, which would have been 15 October 1959, but he died on 15 August 1958 and she died on 5 May 1959.

There was a large celebration of their Golden Anniversary in 1949 when all of their children and many grandchildren and relatives took part (picture below).



Front row, left to right: Mickey Hensley, Ginger Hensley, Ida (holding James Vanderpool), Charlie (holding John Vanderpool), Margaret JoAnn Hensley, and Myra DeVee Vanderpool. **Second** row: Josephine Hensley, Harold Hensley, Lena Miller, Ella (Hensley) Morrison, Lily (Hensley) Brock, Fanny (Hensley) Stevens, Inez (nee Smith), Nancy (Denton) Hensley, A. C. Brock, Henry H. Hensley. **Back row,** Helen (Fricks) Thomas, Mary Jo Vanderpool, (hat visible of Mary (Fricks) Moore), Teck Fricks, Doris (Fricks) Vanderpool, Charlie Stevens, Homer Fricks, Henry Hensley, and Bessie (the cook).

Children of Charlie. Fricks and Ida Mae Hensley: 1. Lena Lee Fricks, born 18 August 1900; 2. Homer Napoleon Fricks, born 21 November 1902; 3. Teck Pendleton Fricks, born 6 November 1904; 4. Francis Porter Fricks (named for his maternal grandfather and Chief Porter of the Creek Nation) was born in 1907 and died 16 Nov. 1909 of the



nd died 16 Nov. 1909 of the croup; 5. Nora Thelma "Sanky" Fricks, born 6 August 1910; 6. Mary Buena Fricks, born 14 March 1914; 7. Barbara Helen "Cookie" Fricks, born 20 February 1917; and 8. Doris Jeannie Fricks, born 20 June 1920

Left to Right: Thelma, Mary,(DorischangedherHelen and Doris Fricks, caoriginal middle name of1932.GladystoJeannie

because she hated how some school kids pronounced it —as Glad-ass).

The picture below was taken about 1930. Left to right: Helen, Teck, Mary, Homer, Lena, Thelma and Doris Fricks (in front).



One of Ida's prized possessions was a rubber-tired buggy, which she drove to visit, take care of neighbors in time of sickness and child birth and to go to town to buy supplies.

Here (on right) is an advertisement with a picture of a 1905 model that probably is similar to hers.



Ida Mae, born 18 February 1879 near Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, was the daughter of Francis Marion Hensley (called Marion) and Araminta Rhody Ella Awtrey

(also spelled Autry). She and an extended family of her father's brothers came to Creek Nation, Indian Territory in 1894. When she was about 16 years old, she went to work in the "laundry department" at Bacone College. She was hired (she told me) by Professor Almon C. Bacone (1830-1896), who rode up on a horse at her father's place, which was near the college, and explained



Almon C. Bacone

that he was looking for young people to work at the "Indian College."

December 2015

Ida Mae volunteered and her father told Professor Bacone that she was a good worker. She was an admirer of Professor Bacone and worked there until her marriage in October 1899



Homer N. Fricks, the eldest son of Charlie and Ida, noted in a taped interview about his life that his first car was a 1917 Model T Roadster, (above) which he paid \$670 for brand-new. He earned the money working in the oilfields.

Homer married Virgie Dee Shirley 22 Dec. 1923 in

Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was the daughter of William Henry "Will" Shirley and Martha E. "Mattie" Waymire.



Homer and Virgie Fricks



The eldest child of Charlie Fricks and Ida Mae Hensley



was Lena Lee Fricks. She was born 18 August 1900 near Muscogee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory. Her middle name was in honor of Ida Mae's favorite brother, Lee Hensley. Lena married Sebe Cyril Miller Sr. (1897-1985) in Oklmulgee, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma on 6 September 1923. They

removed to East Texas and settled in Rusk County. They had three children — Sebe Miller Jr., who died in the New London school explosion 18 March 1937; James W. "Jimmy" Miller (born 1933) and Joan Gail Miller (1935-1971).

(1929-1975) who married Don Valverde, and Karen Joy Fricks (1942-) who married Wallace Reed Whatley Jr.

Teck Pendleton "T. P." Fricks was born 6 November 1904 near Muskogee in Creek Nation, Indian Territory. He married first Mildred Inez Smith (1908-1997) on 24 September 1924 in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. By Inez he had three daughters: Norma Jean Fricks (1925-2013) who married William Archie Curtis; Kathleen F. Fricks (1927-

Homer Napoleon Fricks (pictured opposite column)

was born 21 November 1902 near Muskogee in Creek

Nation, Indian Territory. He and Virgie Dee Shirley had four children: Sherman Shirley Fricks (1925-2000) who

married Edrain Dolores Kingsbury; Marvin Leon (1927-2015) who married Gladys May Cooper; Helen W. Fricks

Teck Fricks

1964) who married Woodrow T. Randle; and Lorene Fricks (1931-2012) who married James Wilbur Riddle. Teck and Inez divorced and he married secondly Hellen M. (Watson) Tackett in 1944. No issue.



Francis Porter Fricks (called Porter) was born in 1907 in Muskogee, just prior to Oklahoma statehood, if memory is correct. He was named Francis for his maternal grandfather and Porter in honor of Pleasant Porter (1840-1907), the

Pleasant Porter

principal Creek chief from 1899 until his death. Porter died of the croup 16 November 1909 and is buried in Green

Hill Cemetery near his paternal grandparents.

Nora Thelma (called Sanky) Fricks was born 6 August 1910 in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. She was named for her paternal aunt (Nora Jane Fricks). She died there 13 December 1971. She married first Horace Hamilton in 1924. They divorced. No issue. She later



Thelma Fricks

married Arnold Murray "Jim" Kissinger. No issue.



Mary Buena Fricks was born 14 March 1914 in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. She married first A. B. Salmon 27 May 1932 in Muskogee. They divorced. No issue. She later married James T. Smith (1925-2000). She died 2 June 1981 in Seattle, King County, Washington. No issue.

Mary Fricks

Barbara Helen Fricks (called Helen and nicknamed Cookie) was born 20 February 1917 in Muskogee County,



Oklahoma. She married first James Ernest Brock 30 March 1935, Sallisaw, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma. No issue. She married secondly Charles Christopher Joe Wheeler "Joe" Thomas about 1939. They adopted a son, John Charles Thomas. Joe Thomas was killed in an automobile accident in 1954 near Eufaula, Oklahoma. She married thirdly Marshall Jerald Hammons

Helen Fricks

(1919-2005) 14 January 1956 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. They had one son, Marshall J. Hammons Jr.

Doris Jeannie Fricks was born 20 June 1920 in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. She married first George

Noble Toops Jr. (1913-1997) and they divorced. No issue. She married secondly John Oscar Vanderpool, 29 April 1939 in Wagoner, Oklahoma. They had three children: Myra DeVee Vanderpool and twin sons, James H. and John H. Vanderpool.



Doris Fricks

1



The house above, known as the "Tarvin Place" was where most of the Fricks children were born and/or grew up in Muskogee County, Oklahoma.

The five Fricks sisters are shown below in about 1947. They are left to right: Doris, Helen, Mary, Thelma and Lena.



The six eldest Fricks grandchildren (first cousins) are shown below in this ca 1936 picture. They are children of brothers Homer and Teck Fricks: Left to right: Norma Jean, Sherman, Kathleen, Leon, Helen and Lorene.





Ida Mae Hensley and Charles W. Fricks (left) at their 50th (Golden) Wedding Anniversary celebration 15 October 1949 near Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Second Generation

Napoleon Bonaparte "Teck" Fricks and Elizabeth C. Connally

Napoleon Bonaparte "Teck" FRICKS was born on 15 May 1846 in Lafayette, Walker County, Georgia. He



served as a teenager in the military (Confederate State Guards) during the Civil War. He was a private, in Company D., 6th Battalion Cavalry of Georgia State Guards. According to his grandson, Charles W. Fricks, Teck was in the Battle of Chickamauga, which took place 19-20 September 1863. He was the son of S. Davis

N. B. Teck" Fricks (1846-1900) Fricks and Nancy C. Riggs.

In 1866 he married Elizabeth C. "Lizzie" Connally evidently in Walker County, Georgia and they made their home there until late in 1891 when they removed to Indian Territory. She was the daughter of Charles William Connally and Elizabeth Jane Peacock.

eck was a Master Mason and part of the Muskogee, Indian Territory Lodge in 1897. He was a stockholder in the cotton mill in Muskogee and a cattle dealer. He owned some of the original lots in the City of Muskogee, obtained from the Creek Nation.

He died of meningitis on 9 March 1900 in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory at age 53. Teck was buried in Lot 17, Block 68, Space 10 in Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory

Elizabeth C. "Lizzie" CONNALLY was born on 28 Aug 1849 in Atlanta, (then in DeKalb County), Georgia County, She died "of senility" on 9 Jan 1932 at the age of 82 in Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma Lizzie was buried on 11 Jan 1932 in Lot 17, Block 68, Space 5, Greenhill Cemetery, Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma. From "The Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men," by H. F. and E. S. O'Beirne (St. Louis, C. B. Woodward Company, 1892) appears the following , Description of 1892 Muscogee —as it was when N. B. Fricks and family arrived.

"Muskogee, one of the most progressive and best located towns in the Indian Territory, is situated on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, in the Creek Nation. It has a population of over 2,000, which is constantly augmented and increased. It is surrounded by a beautiful and fertile country, and is a great trading center. Its buildings greatly surpass those of any in the territory, while its business houses carry larger and more varied stocks of goods.

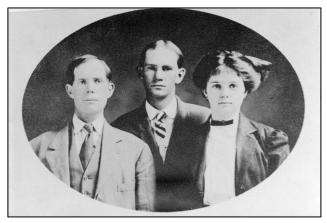
"Muskogee has six general mercantile houses, three large drug stores, one wholesale and retail queensware, hardware and carpet establishment, two jewelry stores, two newspapers, a planing mill and wood factory, one roller flour mill, two gins, two livery stables, five hotels, one of which is the largest in the Indian Territory. It has also a bank, an Indian agency, United States courthouse, three institutions of learning, comprising the Indian University, the Harrell Institute and the Minerva Home.

"Muskogee is looked upon as the central point of religious and educational institutions, so that almost every church is represented. The private buildings are far above the average in towns of the same population, and the society is refined and cultured. A more desirable place to live in can hardly be found in the Southwest than Muskogee, and it will, no doubt, before many years become a thriving city."



Teck and Lizzie arrived in 1892 with six of their children: Oscar, Charles, Nora, Nancy, Walter, and Edwin. Just before the move from Georgia, they had lost their

young son, called "Parkie," to the croup. They also lost their first child, Cora. Their youngest child, Dora Mae, was born 9 October 1892 in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory.



Left to right: Walter "Buck" Fricks, Edwin "Ed" Fricks and Dora Mae Fricks; children of Elizabeth Connally and N. B. Fricks, ca 1910, Muskogee, Oklahoma.



Family legend says that one of the Fricks brothers (Oscar, Walter or Ed) worked on the construction of this electric "Welcome Arch" in Muskogee, but I have found no documentation for the claim. Buck Fricks was a lineman for Western Union Telegraph and is likely the one involved. The arch was built in 1910 and unplugged on 10 May 1915.¹²

On 18 September 1914, Walter "Buck" Fricks was killed in a railroad accident near Wells, McIntosh County, Oklahoma. He was a Western Union Telegraph lineman and unmarried. Family legend is he had been drinking and fell off the train. His brother, Charles, went to claim his badly mangled body. He was buried in Greenhill Cemetery (Lot 17, Block 68, Space 6). His mother was in Chattanooga, Tennessee visiting with her daughter, Dora Mae (Fricks) Buffington at the time.

In 1917, Elizabeth (Connally) Fricks applied for a Confederate widow's pension in Oklahoma and it was granted¹³.

Her oldest son Oscar (called Os) was born about 1870. He married Bettie Harris (widow of Dennis Bushyhead Harris [1877-1912]) on 16 March 1917 in Muskogee. On 12 October 1928, he stepped on a nail and the wound became infected and he died as a result of its poison. He was buried in the Harris Cemetery (also called Hopewell) near Braggs, Muskogee County, Oklahoma. He was survived by his wife, plus a son, Oscar George Fricks, and a daughter, Ruth Fricks. Oscar George Fricks married Dolores J. Brack in 1948 and lived in Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas. Ruth Fricks married Chester W. Ross in 1941 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Bettie (Harris) Fricks married thirdly J. H. Rush in 1940 in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Nora Jane Fricks (1875-1945) married James Abraham Davis 4 May 1895 in Muskogee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory. They had two known children — Lenora Davis and James Francis Davis.

Nancy Carr "Nannie" Fricks (1877-1964) married John Anders (sometimes found listed as Andrews) 2 August 1899 in Muskogee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory. They had several children — Louisa Laura, Norma, David, Elva, Commodore and Jimmie, and lived in the Wagoner and Tulsa, Oklahoma areas.

Edward Wiley "Ed" Fricks was married at least three times, but no known children. He died in Muskogee in 1963.

Dora Mae Fricks (1892-1955) married Paul Fite Buffington Sr. 3 December 1911 in Walker County, Georgia and lived in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee and later in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. They had four sons — Paul Jr., J. Lynn, Lawrence and Charles Buffington.



Third Generation

Davis Fricks and Nancy Riggs

S. Davis FRICKS was born on 16 Feb 1813 in perhaps Rabun County, Georgia.² Some sources suggest he was



born in Warren County, Tennessee as that is where his parents were living at the time of the 1820 census. (per Walker County, Georgia Heritage Book, p. 176). He married Nancy C. Riggs, the daughter of Watson Riggs and Temperance Cox; she was born December 1815 in Tennessee. They moved to Georgia and by 1834 were established in Cass (now Bartow) County. Tradition says

S. Davis Fricks (1813-1898)

their first two children, twin girls, were tragically lost when their home burned down.

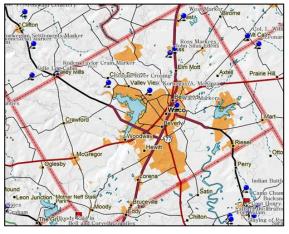
Davis Fricks (his given name is frequently misread to be David and no name has been provided for the initial S) was active in community affairs in Walker County, Georgia. He was elected Judge of the Inferior Court during the 1850s and some time before 1856 he became a Mason. He was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church.

Three of his sons served in the Confederate forces during the Civil War: — William Henry "Harrison" Fricks, Napoleon B. Fricks and Frank (Francis Marion) Fricks. Harrison was killed at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, 23 November 1863 at the side of his brother, Frank. Davis Fricks also lost his younger brothers, Lucellous and Napoleon Fricks, and his nephew, Julian Michael Fricks, in the Civil War. His brother, John, would claim he was a loyal Union man.

After the war, Davis borrowed money from his fatherin-law, and used it perhaps to stock his small grocery store that he operated along with his blacksmith shop. A little notebook has survived in which he wrote up bills and crossed them off as paid. [evidently a family keepsake among some of his Texas descendants].

In 1885 their youngest daughter, Julia, married her cousin, Alexander W. Frix [various members of the family used the Frix and Frick spellings] and the young couple moved first to Arkansas, eventually settling in Texas. In 1890, Davis, age 77 and Nancy, age 75, made the journey to McLennan County, Texas to live near their daughters,

Pamela and Julia, and sons, Francis Marion and Edward. The family of their deceased daughter, Elizabeth's "Lizzie" (who married F. M. Evatt) had also gone to Texas.



Waco, Texas area

Davis Fricks wrote to the editor of the Walker County Messenger (published 12 March 1891) wherein he mentioned that he "left Walker County in November 1890 and came on to Chattanooga, thence to Nashville and thence to Memphis. Then I crossed over the river [Mississippi] into Arkansas, and of all the country I ever saw it looked the worst for every hole that was as big as a horse track was full of water and on the trees was highwater marks and the inhabitants was [sic] Negroes and cotton and rain. Then we crossed to Arkadelphia; thence to Waco, Texas and then to McGregor. Land here is level and rich as you would want it to be . . . all the objection I have is the wind. It's a little too tight for me to admire . . . While at Charley Conley [Connally] (his son-in-law's) I tried to rent a house, but could not. I sent to Moody and paid \$90 for lumber and in 10 days I had built a very good house to live in. Now we are all right so you need not be afraid to come to see me . . . Bosque Creek runs in 50 yards of my house, the clearest water I ever saw. We have a good spring ... Some of the trees have leaves nearly half grown. The cattle all look well. Pastures look very green today. The boys are done sowing oats and are now planting corn. They say they will be get 85 acres planted by tomorrow night, which will be Feb. 26. We have preaching once a month, Sabbath school every Sunday, also prayer meeting every Sunday night."



December 2015

In the June 11, 1896 issue of the Walker County *Messenger*, it was noted that Davis and Nancy had celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Davis died in 1898 and Nancy lived until December of 1912 and died at age 97. Grandchildren recalled that Davis was tall and gray-haired and Nancy was small and could stand under his outstretched arm. She had black hair and eyes and they remember that she "ruled her grown sons" in spite of her age and small size. Davis and Nancy are buried in the Naler Family Cemetery in Moody, McLennan County, Texas. — this information is from the article on Davis Fricks by Mrs. Ardath Katsenis, published in the *Walker County, Georgia Heritage*. Davis Fricks' tombstone in the Naler Cemetery, McGregor, Texas bears the Masonic emblem. His great-grandson, Edward Frix, has his Masonic apron.

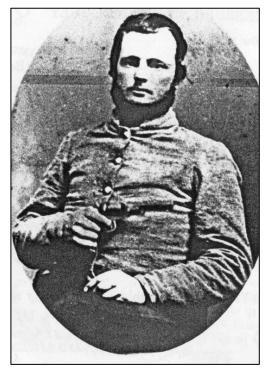
[Editor's Note: Nancy Riggs' birth year is consistently given as about 1815, but the youngest child, Julia, [born in 1863] would have been born when Nancy was about 48 years of age, which seems highly unlikely. It may be that Nancy's age is not accurately given in the censuses]

```
4
```

The children of Davis Fricks and Nancy Riggs were:

- Twin daughters (names not known) who were born about 1835, probably in Cass County, Georgia and who died in a house fire before 1840.
- Francis Marion Fricks, born 8 February 1839 in Georgia; he married Nancy Susan Rogers and removed to Texas.
- William Henry Harrison Fricks, who was born about 1841 in Georgia was killed during the Civil War on 23 November 1863 at Missionary Ridge, Georgia. He was unmarried and a private in the 39th Rgt. Georgia Infantry, CSA.
- Phila Ann Fricks, born 30 August 1843 in Georgia. She married Capt. Augustus L. Culberson in 1862 and they remained in Walker County, Georgia. She died there in 1924.
- Napoleon Bonaparte "Teck" Fricks, born in 1846, married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Connally in 1866 and removed to Creek Nation, Indian Territory in 1892. (See Second Generation).
- Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie" Fricks, born about 1848, married Frederick N. Evatt in 1870. She died there in 1888 and he removed to Texas.

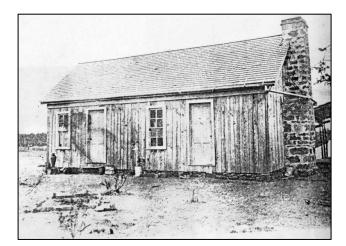
- Sarah L. "Sally" Fricks was born about 1851 and married first Henry Brown; secondly J. M. Shawn; and thirdly Birch Fields. No issue.
- Pamela Antoinette "Dub" Fricks as born in 1853 in Walker County, Georgia. She married Charles Price Connally (1844-1894) in 1884 and they had one child, Frank Jones Connally, born in 1887 in Texas.
- Edward Wiley "Ed" Fricks was born in 1859 in Georgia. He married Cora Pearl Boykin in 1890 and they lived in McLennan County, Texas. They had two daughters and one son. Ed died 2 April 1932 in Waco, McLennan County, Texas.
- Julia Cummings Fricks was born 28 August 1863 in Walker County, Georgia. She married a cousin Alexander Washington Fricks 4 January 1885 in Georgia. They went first to Arkansas and then to Texas, arriving about 1890. She died in Brownwood, Brown County, Texas 18 April 1945. They had about eight children, including a set of twins that died young.



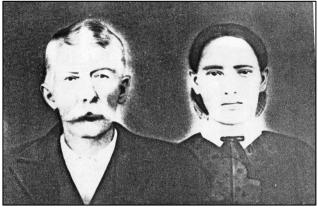
William Henry Harrison Fricks.

He was born about 1841 in Georgia and was killed 25 Nov. 1863 during the Battle of Missionary Ridge (Battle of Lookout Mountain). He is buried in the National Park Cemetery, near Rossville, Georgia. He first enlisted in the 26th Regt., Tennessee Infantry and most of the regiment was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi in September 1862. Following his release, he transferred to Co. E, 39th Regt, Georgia Infantry. His brother, Frank, and several cousins were also in this regiment.





This is the house that Davis Fricks built for his family in ca 1890 in McLennan County, Texas.



Fred N. Evatt and Nancy Elizabeth Fricks

they are younger, seem to exist. The above photograph was taken between 1870 and 1888. Nancy Elizabeth Fricks died in 1888, when she was about 40 years of age. Fred and their four children removed to Texas. They were: Thomas Seldon Evatt (who died in Oregon in 1940); Mary Julia Evatt who married Isaac Mullin; Tincy Evatt who married Sylvanus Godfrey; and Sallie Evatt who married James Curry.

Pamela Antoinette "Dub" Fricks' husband, Charles Price Connally (1844-1894), was the son of Thomas "Cushi" Connally, a Georgia legislator and his wife, Mary C. Jones. Thomas Terry Connally of McLennan County, Texas was also a descendant of that couple.

Additional Connally connections of our family are included in the section about Elizabeth Connally, the wife of Napoleon B. Bonaparte (of 2nd Generation). See later.



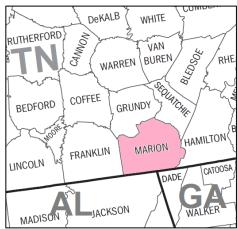
Elizabeth C. Connally (1849-1932) wife of N. B. Fricks

Few pictures of our female ancestors, especially when

Fourth Generation

Henry D. Fricks and Mary Treece

Henry Fricks was born about 1789 in Rowan County, North Carolina. He married Mary Treece by estimate about 1804. Henry followed the family trade of carpentry and building. While no records such as family Bible, have been found to prove the parentage of Henry, he was a chain bearer for Jacob Frick (how the surname is often spelled in North Carolina and Pennsylvania) for 50 acres of land in Surry County, dated 25 Nov. 1805. This was near the property of Michael Treece, the father of Mary Treece and is circumstantial evidence that Henry was the son of Jacob Fricks. Chainbearers were usually close family members or a good and trusted friend or neighbor. Between 1810 and 1813 Henry and Mary left North Carolina and had moved to Tennessee, where their fourth son, Davis (see third generation) was born. There were other moves, probably work related, in Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina.



Henry was in Rabun County, Georgia long enough to be elected a lieutenant in the Georgia Militia, serving from September 1822 to September 1823. Henry and his son, Michael, were fortunate drawers in the 1827 Georgia Land Lottery. In 1830 his residence was listed as Marion County, Tennessee, but they eventually moved to Cass County Georgia (now Bartow). By estimate, Henry died between 1843 and 1845.

Henry and Mary had 15 children. They were:

- Michael Fricks, born ca 1804, died 1872 in Georgia;
- Sarah Fricks, born ca 1806, died 1875 in Arkansas; married John Grayson.
- Pleasant Fricks, born ca 1808; died 1880-1900 in Georgia.
- ✤ John Fricks, born 1809; died 1876 Georgia;

married Sarah Dickson.

- Martin Armstrong Fricks, born 1811; died 1887 in Arkansas; married Sarah D. Jones.
- S. Davis Fricks; born 16 Feb. 1813; died 5 Feb. 1898 in McLellan County, Texas; married Nancy C. Riggs.
- ✤ Joel G. Fricks, born 1816; died 1898 in Georgia. Married Martha Lynn.
- Mary Fricks, born 1817; married William Pearson.
- Permelia Fricks, born 1818; died 1898 in Georgia; married Lorenzo D. Jones.
- Napoleon B. Fricks, [probably the origin of the name that appears in later generations], born ca 1820; died 1861 during Civil War; married Martha Burkhalter.
- Luceleus Fricks, born ca 1821; died during Civil War; married Sarah Ramsey.
- Isaac Fricks, born ca 1822; died in 1850; married Nancy C. Jones.
- Henry Ruben Fricks, born ca 1823; died 1876 in Georgia; married Mary Gartrell.
- Elizabeth "Elisa" Fricks, born ca 1824; married 1) William Madden; married 2) F. M. Bowdoin.
- Marcus Lafayette, "Fate" Fricks, born ca 1825; died 1904 in Georgia; married Mary Ramsey.

The map on the left shows how close Marion County, Tennessee was to northwest Georgia's counties, especially, Walker, where so many of our Fricks families resided.

Map (below) shows some northern Georgia counties ca 1834. At that time, Walker was the northwestern-most county and Rabun the most northeastern one.



Fifth Generation

Jacob Fricks & Eva Elizabeth Earnhardt

Jacob Fricks was born about 1752 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and went to North Carolina as a boy. He is the only Revolutionary War veteran found so far in our Fricks line. Jacob followed what was the family trade and was a "house joiner" or carpenter as well as farmer. In September of 1788 (according her widow's pension application) he married Eva Elizabeth Earnhardt, the daughter of George Earnhardt. Elizabeth Healtshauser stated in 1844 that she was present at the wedding of Jacob and Elizabeth (no relationship between the two women is given). While it is possible that Jacob was married previously since age 36 was a bit older than many men of this generation for a first-time marriage, especially among the German settlers, no other wife has been found. Elizabeth was obviously a young bride of about 17.

What we know about his Revolutionary War service comes from his application for a pension when he was about 81 years of age;

"State of Illinois, Union County. On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Thomas C. Browne Judge of the Circuit Court of Union County & State of Illinois, now sitting, Jacob Frick a resident of the County & State aforesaid & aged about 81 or 82 years having no record of his age except his own memory, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. This applicant states that at the time of his entering the service he resided in Rowan County North Carolina. That at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, he does not know the month or year, he volunteered under one Captain Windle Miller [sic, Wendell Miller] & was marched immediately to join what was then called the South Army, then lying at a place named Ninety Six. That from this place shortly after his arrival he was marched under the command of the said Captain Miller in pursuit of a large body of Tories who were going to join the Cherokee Indians."

His name also appears as one of the guards for the "Salisbury Gaol, 1778-1779" under Capt. George Henry Berger.¹⁴

Jacob and Eva Elizabeth (probably called Elizabeth as the second name was usually the "call" name of German children) removed to Illinois, arriving in Jonesboro, Union County on Christmas Day in 1823. The reason for the move is speculative, but many of the German and Quaker families began to leave the South about this time. It might have pertained to the slavery issue, but we have no records to verify this.

From the Gazette of Jonesboro, Illinois, 17 June 1871 (reprinted February 16, 1912) reads: "Jacob Fricks, Sr. another fine, worthy one of the other settlers came in 1823 from near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina and settled upon a good piece of land three miles south of Jonesboro, where he lived until his death., which occurred on 26 January 1839 in the 85th year of his life. His amiable wife live with her youngest son on the old homestead until her death, which occurred on 9 September 1852 in the 81st year of her age . . . They raised a large family of sons and daughters. The sons were George, Jacob, Caleb, Isaac, Alexander and Paul. The daughters were Nancy, Susanna, and Catharine.

The children of Jacob Fricks and Eva Elizabeth Earnhardt were:

- Henry D. Fricks, born ca 1789 (although proof is lacking on the exact date and what his second name was is unknown); he died ca 1843-1845 in Cass County, Georgia; married Mary Treece, daughter of a Revolutionary War soldier, Michael Treece, and his first wife.
- George Fricks, born ca 1790; died 1841 in Rowan County, North Carolina; married Elizabeth Earnhart.
- unnamed daughter, born ca 1792 and died young.
- Elizabeth Fricks, born 1795, died 1858 in Benton County, Tennessee; married James McMackin.
- Susannah Fricks, born 1797, died 1869 in Union County, Illinois. Did not marry.
- Catherine Fricks, born 1800, died 1864 in Union County, Illinois; married Peter Caspar.
- Jacob Fricks Jr., born 1801, died 1883 in Union County, Illinois; married Sarah Miller.

- Isaac Fricks, born 1804, died 1840 in Union County, Illinois; married Jemima Baker.
- Caleb Fricks, born 1809, died 1869 Union County, Illinois; married Rachel Beggs.
- Nancy Fricks, born 1811, died 1879, Union County, Illinois; married 1) Peter Eddleman;
 2) Charles Mowery.
- Alexander Fricks, born 1812, died 1852 in Union County, Illinois. Did not marry. No issue.

Our Fricks family was part of the great migration of Germans, Swiss and French into Pennsylvania starting about 1707. In the time period of 1727 to 1775, more than 30,000 persons (non-British) had landed at the port of Philadelphia, including our Fricks gateway ancestor. It is from Pennsylvania that the German immigrants to North Carolina to a great extent came. By the time our Fricks' ancestor arrived in late 1739, the most valuable lands in the Pennsylvania east of the Alleghenies were taken up. However, the proprietors of Carolina offered advantageous terms to settlers, and that plus the climate and fertility of the soil is why so many settled in North Carolina.



They came down what came to be known as the Great Wagon Road — a distance of about 450 miles from Philadelphia to the Yadkin River, bringing their household furniture and farming tools, accompanied by many young unmarried men coming to seek their fortunes.

They settled in largely what is now the North Carolina counties of Alamance, Guilford, Randolph, Davidson,

Forsyth, Stoles, Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, Lincoln, Gaston, Catawba and Burke. They were mostly Lutherans (Calvinists or Reformed) but also there were some Moravians, Catholics, Mennonites, Tunkers and Zwingfelters.

Obviously they had to work hard, but they had their sports and amusements, too and their holidays, their Easter

fun and Kriss Kringle frolics. Historians note that many of their sports and amusements partook more of skill and labor than dissipation and debauchery, such as corn-shuckings, choppings, log-rollings, house-raising, spinningmatches, quiltings, and the like. By hunting deer and



turkey, the squirrel and other game they became expert riflemen.

"In the fall of the year shooting matches were common, the usual prize a quarter of beef or turkey. A witness at court, when asked to fix the date of a certain transaction, replied "at shooting-match time.' They were great fanciers of fine stock and the old German farmer never felt more lordly than when hauling great loads with his sleek team of horses." ¹⁵



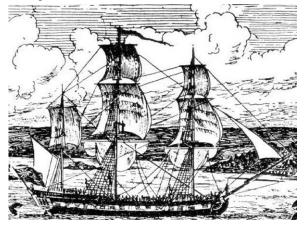
Our immigrant ancestor, Rudolf "Rudi" Fricks stayed in Pennsylvania, but his children went to Rowan County, North Carolina before the Revolutionary War.



6th Generation

Rudolf Fricks and Veronica [----]

Rudolf or Rudi Fricks arrived in Philadelphia on the *Lydia* on 11 December 1739. He probably boarded the ship in Rotterdam after a long journey up the Rhine River from Switzerland. By law, the ship had to stop in England before coming to the American colonies.



We don't know what the *Lydia* looked like exactly, but her captain was James Allen from London and the above picture is similar to ships of the 1730s.

At the time of his arrival in America, the population of the colonies was estimated at only 655,000 and the Moravian Church was founded here by Bishop A. G. Spangenberg (1704-1792). Moravians introduced Saint Nicholas a central feature of Christmas celebration. And, in a bit of historical trivia, this was the time when both men and women began wearing white stockings made of silk or cotton.

Rudolf Frick, along with all males 16 and over were administered the Oath of Allegiance soon after their arrival. Other passengers with the same surname were Johannes and Caspar. Women and children were not listed. Rudolf has been identified because in Switzerland at that time (1734-1744) it was required that each parish report people who had immigrated to the government of Zurich. Rudolf is listed in the pastor's report of 1739 of "persons who have gone from time to time from the Parish Knonau to Carolina and Pennsylvania — Rudolf, son of Felix Frick, deceased, from Uttenberg, an estate in the Parish of Knonau, age 29 years."

Caspar and Johannes Frick (sons of Ulrich Frick) probably were related to our Rudolf, but they were not brothers to him. Caspar died soon after arrival, but Rudolf and Johannes settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in the township of Milford. Later he is found a member of the Tohickon German Reformed Church in Bedminster and it is believed he married his wife, Veronica, about this time. Her maiden name has not yet been determined.



Rudolf appears on a 1758 "List of Heads of Families who in Great Swamp Belong to the Congregation of the Rev. George Michael Weiss."

This congregation was in Lower Milford near the border of Philadelphia County, but today is in Montgomery County. The baptism records for the oldest two sons of Rudolf and Veronica have not yet been found. Their third son, Mathias, was baptized on 22 June 1760 at the New Goshenoppen Reformed Congregation in Upper Hanover Township in Philadelphia County. Rudolf either died prior to 1779 (he does not appear on tax rolls of Bucks County for that year) or went with his sons to North Carolina, although no record of him has been found there yet. It is believe that Veronica died in Pennsylvania sometime after 1768.

Children of Rudolf Fricks and Veronica [----] were:

- Heinrich "Henry" Fricks, born ca 1750 probably in Bucks County, Pennsylvania; married Sarah [—?--], and died about 1801 in Rowan County, North Carolina.
- Jacob Fricks, born ca 1752, probably in Bucks County, Pennsylvania; married Eva Elizabeth Earnhardt; died 1839 in Union County, Illinois.
- Matthias Fricks, born 1760 in Pennsylvania; married Regina Rachel Kaler; died 1833 in

Rowan County, North Carolina.

- George Fricks, born ca 1765 in Pennsylvania; died after 1830, probably in North Carolina.
- Anna Fricks, born 1768 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania; no additional information.



Zurich is in the northern part at top of Lake Zurich

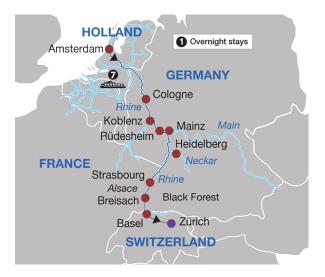
Rudolf Fricks was the son of Felix Fricks who was born in 1669 in Canton Zurich, Switzerland and married there in 1695 to Barbara Grob (Gross).While I have some information about our Fricks ancestors in Switzerland, it is mostly genealogical (born, married and died) and little biographical information. At one point several of us hired an archivist in Switzerland to trace this line of Fricks back as far as possible.

Our line goes from Felix and Barbara to a Jacob Fricks, born 1615 who married in 1653 to a Verena Gilgin. That Jacob Fricks was the son of Oswald Fricks, born ca 1585 who married Catharina Gallmann about 1607 and died before 1634 in Switzerland.

Oswald Fricks was the son of a Gorius Fricks (ca 1585-1599), who was the son of Heini Fricks (ca 1510-1545), who was the son of Klein-Rudolf Fricks (ca 1470-after 1515), who was the son of a Heinrich Fricks, born before 1455 in Switzerland and died there about 1489.

Thus our Fricks (no matter how the surname was spelled and you will find many variations both in American and European records) has been traced to about 1455, which is quite a genealogical accomplishment. This research has been done by a number of people, including the Zurich archivist we hired because none of us could read Medieval Latin or had access to all the available records — at that time.

During the 18th century when our immigrant ancestor left Knonau Parish near Zurich, there were oppressive laws designed to protect the rights and privileges of the aristocracy and prevent the poor folks from improving their condition. There also were crop failures and economic depression; all of which caused many Swiss citizens to leave for America. The government tried to stop them with dire warnings of hardships and dangers and then, with restrictive laws that heavily taxed the property of immigrants. Some sold their property secretly and left secretly to avoid this. It is estimated that 65,000 Swiss came to America during the 1730s and 1740s. The map below shows the Rhine River route our ancestor probably took.



Endnotes:

¹¹ U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005. Original data: United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. M1509, 4,582 rolls. Imaged from Family History Library microfilm.

2. Letter to editor of Walker County (Georgia) *Messenger* from Davis Fricks, published 12 March 1891.

³ Letter to editor of Walker County (Georgia) *Messenger* from Davis Fricks, published 12 March 1891.

⁴ C. W. "Dub" West, *Turning Back the Clock* (Muskogee, Oklahoma: Muskogee Publishing Company, 1985), p. 122.

⁵ 1900 U.S. census, population schedule, Muscogee [Creek] Nation, Indian Territory, Township 15, Range 18 East. T623, Roll 1854, ED 62, pp. 28A-B. . Charles and Ida Fricks are enumerated in the household of her parents, Francis Marion Hensley and Araminta (Awtrey). Charles is listed as farm laborer.

⁶ ibid.

⁷ Dictionary of American Family Names, Patrick Hanks, editor, Volume one A-F. Oxford University Press, 2003.

⁸ Adrath Edwards Katsenia, editor, *The Frick, Fricks, Frix Family of the South* (Tujunga, California: n.p. ,January 1984), p.12.

⁹ Discover DeKalb (County, Georgia). <u>http://visitatlantasdekalbcounty.com/civil-war-in-dekalb-county/</u> ¹⁰ Letter to H. N. Fricks from Edward W. Fricks in 1958 regarding the history of Fricks family and its move to Indian Territory from Walker County, Georgia (photocopy in files of the compiler, 2015).

¹¹ Indian Territory Marriage Records, 1890-1907: County Clerk's office, Muskogee County, Oklahoma Courthouse, Muskogee, Book H, p. 475. Marriage of C. W. Fricks and Ida M. Hensley 15 October 1900.

¹¹ Wally Waits Blog. 10 Feb. 2011 and 16 Feb. 2011. http://www.muskogeehistorian.com/2011_02_01_archive.html

12 Ibid.

¹³ Oklahoma, Confederate Pension, #2577, application #3576, Reel 9. Elizabeth C. Fricks; Spouse: N. B. http://www.odl.state.ok.us/oar/archives/collections.htm

¹⁴ Rowan County, North Carolina. Guards for Salisbury Gaol, 1778-1779, from original records in North Carolina State Archives, published by James L. Douthat, Mountain Press, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, 1997.

¹⁵ History of the German Reformed Church in North Carolina Welker, Rev. George Wm., 1817-1894 Volume 8, Pages 727-757

