

Robert Donaldson Allison
by Jackie Mae White Bishop
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When Robert Donaldson Allison was about four years old, his family moved to Middle TN, where they lived in White, Putnam, Smith, and Dekalb counties. From an article in the *Democrat* at McKinney, TX, dated 12-12-1900: Robert Donaldson Allison grew into manhood and became the recipient of numerous civic and military honors at the hands of his fellow citizens. He was a lifetime member of the Methodist church where his funeral was held. In the death of Col. Allison the *Democrat* feels a sense of personal loss. In his declining days the tottering hero honored our office with many visits. He was our intimate friend whose nobility of character and generous impulses of nature we had the best of opportunity to discern. He was the embodiment of integrity, the very soul of honor and truly a leader among men. He loved his county with the unselfish solicitude of a patriot and dared to express his convictions upon every vital issue affecting its welfare. With his means he was generous to a fault. Liberal in his views on questions of church and state, he was ever tolerant and considerate for the opinions of others. Tyranny had no place in his heart or being. After a very brief illness, due to general debility of old age, Colonel Robert Donaldson Allison, McKinney's distinguished and widely known veteran citizen, quietly passed away at the home of his son, Scott, at 2 o'clock Saturday morning. An obit stated "he came from a family of soldiers who took an active part in the Revolutionary War. In that strife his paternal grandfather commanded a regiment of North Carolinians having four sons and two sons-in-law in his command.

His father, Joseph Allison, was a Lieutenant/Captain in the American Revolution and later a member of the legislature and extensive planter of his native state. In 1814 he immigrated to TN.

His grandfather, John Allison, had settled in Orange County, NC before 1755, John's will dated 12-8-1795, indicated he did much buying and selling of land on both Little and Eno Rivers in Orange County. Much of his personal lands were on the Eno and this is where he settled. It is not known when John came to Orange County, but he, Robert and James Allison are found on the 1755 Tax List. As members of Presbyterian families increased so did the need for a church and in 1761, the Little River Presbyterian church was built between the north and south forks of Little River, which became the Allison's home church. His wife, Martha, was known as "Granny Mattie."

Some say his greatgreatgrandfather, John, was brought from England to VA in 1652 by Peter Knight, Northumberland County. Others believe he came from North of Ireland with family to America in 1725 and located on what were termed the "Barrens of Derry," then Chester (later Lancaster, now Dauphin) County, PA where he had 200 acres warranted to him April 15, 1734.

R.D. was a Whig and was elected to the 28th General Assembly of TN, 1849-1851, representing Smith County, TN. He also held several other public offices. He was appointed administrator of his mother (Elizabeth "Besty" Madden Allison) estate in 1858 at Smith Co., TN. He served in the Mexican War, organizing Captain Allison's Co., 1st Tennessee Volunteers; he was made a Colonel in the late 1850's or early 1860's. In the Confederate Army he organized a company that entered service in August 1861. In 1862 he organized Allison's Tennessee Cavalry Squadron in which his son John served under him. John H. was killed in the war. Capt. R.D. Allison's company (F) 24th Tennessee Infantry took part in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Franklin and Nashville-surrendering at Greensboro, NC. Three more sons also served: Captain Joseph B. Allison commanded Mitchell's Tennessee regiment; Captain William Morgan Allison raised a company in Dallas and Tarrant countries, TX for Darnel's Regiment. He was killed in the battle of Atlanta, GA on 7-22-1864; then Scott Allison served under his father in the latter part of the war plus son-in-law James I. Reasonover who was captured and became prisoner of war at Louisville, KY 9-1-1864. R. D. was reportedly wounded six times in battle and gained distinction in numerous battles for his daring and bravery.

Several members of the Allison family of Orange County, NC settled in Collin County, TX between 1867 and 1895. They included Col. R.D. Allison, a half brother, General Joseph Allison, plus Joseph's son, Dr. John J. Allison, grandson William W. Allison and daughter Martha Livingston (Allison) McMenemy.

R. D's nephew, Dr. John J. Allison was born in Orange Co., NC 1820/21, son of General Joseph Allison and Martha "Pasty" Woods. He married Mary E. Hinton on 4-1846 in Orange Co. John J. was listed on the 1850 census as a physician; however, he also farmed and served as postmaster of Cedar Grove, NC. He was elected to the Lower House of Representatives of NC, but resigned in 1870, probably because of moving to TX, where he appears on the 1870 census in precinct #1 Collin County, TX.

Another relative of R.D.'s, William W. Allison, was born in Orange Co., NC in 1842. He was the son of Elbridge A. Allison (R.D.'s nephew) and Rebecca Thompson. During the Civil War, William W. served four years in CSA Co. E. 31st, NC Regiment under his uncle, Captain Julius Allison. According to his pension application, he went to Collin County, TX in 1895 and farmed. His cousin, William Jefferson McMenemy, made an affidavit in support of William Allison's pension application, stating that he served in the same company. William J. McMenemy is the son of R.D.'s niece Martha L. Allison McMenemy of Collin County, TX.

R.D. Allison died 12-15-1900 in Collin County, TX and was buried at Pecan Grove Cemetery. At his death, R.D. held the distinction of being the oldest Oddfellow in TX, having been initiated into the order on 9-1-1847. The book,

History of Collin County, TX, by Stambaugh, states that he secured the charter under which the Collin County KKK operated and served as safeguard of rights and property. According to the obituary of R.D., his son, Joseph B., also moved to TX and was presiding elder of the Waco District in the Methodist ministry. R.D. bought and sold numerous lots in McKinney, TX, buying the first one on 4-1868. The 1870 Collin County, TX census lists him as a merchant and his son Scott as store clerk. Scott also bought and sold a number of lots in the McKinney, TX area.

R.D. Allison was born in 25 September 1810 in Orange County, NC; died 15 December 1900 in Collin County, TX; married in TN to Martha Tucker who was born 25 November 1810 in NC and died 22 May 1854 in Smith County, TX. They had 10 children. (Ed. Note: Martha is buried in the Nazarene Church Cemetery at Gordonsville, TN)

After Martha's death, R.D. married Louisa Goodner, widow of Robert Dowell in June 1858 in Dekalb Co., TN. Louisa was born 3-1825, TN, the daughter of James Goodner and Martha Fite. She died 1-1912 in Collin Co. She and R.D. were the parents of 2 children. Her 3 children by her previous marriage – Martha, Amanda and Robert accompanied them to TX.

The parents of R. D. Allison were Joseph Allison, Dr. b. 10-1750 NC or Lancaster Co., PA; d. 8-1826 Gordonsville, Smith Co., TN, md 8-1809 in Orange Co., NC to his second wife, Elizabeth "Besty" Madden who died in 1858. Their other children were: Daniel Morgan md Ellen Nichols; Martha md John R. James. Joseph and his first wife, Jane Donaldson, were the parents of 9 children.

Joseph's parents were John Robert Allison b. 1720 d. 1-1796 in Orange Co., NC, married Martha Hamilton born abt. 1720 possibly in Antrim, Northern Ireland; d. abt. 1825. Their other children were Charles, John R. Jr., James, Hamilton, Nancy md Bury, Peggy md Robinson, **Jennet Jane md James Ray**, Betsy md Drummer, Grizzell, Mary md Thomas Curtis, Martha md Samuel Garat, Elizabeth Agness.

John Robert's parents were William Allison b. abt. 1700 in Ulster, North Ireland or Scotland; d. abt. 1739 Derry township. Lancaster Co., PA md Grizzel Wray born 1694/98 Scotland or Ireland; d. 1794 Orange Co., NC. Their other children were Mary, Joseph md Elizabeth AF Ray, Margaret, Patrick, and Robert.

William's parents were John Allison b. Londonberry, Ireland; d. 1728/47 Donnegal Township, Chester Co., PA, married Janett. Their other children were James md Rebecca, Allison md Charles Ree, Robert, John md Ann, Patrick, Jean md Smith, Margaret md White.

The Allison family migrated mid 1700's from Ireland/Scotland to Derry Township. Lancaster Co., Colony of PA; Orange Co., NC; TN (counties of White, Putnam,

Smith and DeKalb; then to Collin County, TX. Via the Reasonover/Lewis/Fitzhugh branch the family is related by marriage to TX Governor James Throckmorton and some distant relatives can trace us back to Daniel Boone, Robert E. Lee and William B. Travis.

The children of R.D. and Martha Tucker were:

1. Joseph B. b. abt. 1826 TN, d. abt. 1890 West, TX md Martha. Joseph B. was Presiding elder of Waco, TX District in the Methodist ministry, served in the Confederacy as Captain and commanding Co. A, Mitchell's Tennessee Infantry.
(Ed. Note: Some researchers say that Joseph B. md Sarah Reasonover).
2. George b. abt. 1829, TN
3. Jane Elizabeth b. abt. 1831, TN; d. 4-2-1898 md 9-29-1853, Smith Co., TN to E. James L. (Kirge) Reasonover b. 1822 Smith Co., TN. Their children were Molly/Mary b. 9-1856, Nashville, TN; d. 11-1911 Collin Co., TX buried at Houson Cemetary md 12-1878 Collin Co., to Jack O. Lewis; Elizabeth Frances b. 1-1860, TN - d. 1-1950 Dalhart, TX md 1-1881, Collin Co., to John Howard; Robert Don b. 1-1867, TN; d. 10-1958, Chattanooga, TN md Mary Jane/Mollie Oakley; Kate b. 1853/7 md Jarred Parker; Etta J. b. 11-1861- d. 1-1894 md Thomas Goree Oakley; Callie b. 1870; Loutishe b. 1-1869 – d. 7-1952 Dekalb Co., TN md Francis Monroe Hobson; Martha b. 1855.
4. William Morgan b. 7-1833, Smith Co., TN d. 7-1864, Atlanta, GA md 2-1858 TN to Virginia Rachel Dunn b. 3-1837 AL – d. 10-1910 Grapevine, TX. Their children were: Martha M. b. 1-1860, William Frances (female) b. 5-1861, Grapevine, TX – d. 10-1939, Dallas, TX md 12-1884 to William Vance Holt. They moved from TX to Grapevine, TX before the Civil War along with her Parents. William raised a company in Dallas and Tarrant counties, TX for Darnel's Regiment and he was killed in battle of Atlanta, GA.
5. Nancy b. abt. 1835, TN.
6. Mary/Martha b. 1842, TN (may be 2 person instead of 1 with double name).
7. John H. b. 1844, TN – d. abt. 1864, NC. John enlisted in Captain J.S. Dowell's company in Dekalb Co., TX and rose to rank of Captain, commanding a company in his father, R.D.'s Calvary regiment. He died while serving under his father in the Confederate Army during the war and his father brought his body back from NC.
8. Robert Lafayette b. 1846, TN md 3-1869, Smith Co., TN to M.G. Waggoner. Robert was killed during the Civil War at Goldsboro, NC just before Johnston surrendered to Sherman.
9. Scott Winfield b. 5-1848, TN – d. 11-1930 Collin Co., TX md Mary Virginia b.

1845 KY – d. abt. 1903, Collin Co., TX. Their children were Lula B. b. 12-1874, TX; D. b. abt. 1875, TX; John b. 12-1877, TX; Fannie b. 1880, TX; Don B. 5-1883, TX, Scott applied to the State of TX for a Confederate pension in 1930 which was approved 2 months before his death. His death certificate states he was a retired merchant.

10. Sarah Frances b. 1852 md Richard William Keindell.

Children of R.D. Allison and Louisa Goodner Dowell were: James Goodner Allison b. 6-1860, TN – d. 4-1891, Collin Co., TX buried at Pecan Grove Cemetery; Lula D. b. 8-1861, Collin Co., TX buried at Pecan Grove Cemetery.

R.D. and Martha Allison's daughter, Jane, married E.J./James L. (Kirge) Reasonover. Their daughter Molly/Mary married Jack O. Lewis and their children were Maud, Etta, Lula Mae, Gabe, Bessie Bertha, Deewit, Clark, Fred, Jack and Lena Mae. The first immigrating Reasonover was Matthias, wife and 3 children in 1708 from Palatine Valley, Germany to London, England to Craven & Jones Counties, NC then finally to Greenville Co., SC to Warren and Smith Counties, TX to Collin Co., TX after the Civil War.

(1a) Mary/Molly Reasonover was born 9-1856, Nashville, TX – d. 11-1911 Collin Co., TX md 12-1878 Collin Co., to Jack Oliver Lewis who was born 1853 Collin Co. and died 1932 Collin Co. Molly/Mary and Jack O. Lewis raised their children in Collin Co., TX. Jack O. was an industrious and successful farmer with Molly making life easier for her family by doing the many things required of pioneer women – raising/training/teaching the children, cooking, cleaning, laundry, sewing, gardening, picking wild fruit, canning, smoking meat, helping husband with his chores as needed (planting, caring for stock, etc.), keeping the family happy and content through hard times, looking forward to church and community gatherings, etc. but all possible because of love of God and family. The children and grandchildren were doing their share of the work on the farm plus lots of fun with the neighboring children. They were highly respected – having many church and community friends. Their house had the breezeway as most did at the time. The family loved music, singing and playing various musical instruments with Jack always singing, "The Old Grey Mare, She Ain't What She Used to Be." During the World War I Jack was told he had four boys at home, he could choose one of them to stay and the others would go. He couldn't choose; therefore, Jack Jr. was drafted with Dee and Clark volunteering. They were all stationed in Germany and/or France. The family has Dee's WWI memorabilia. Such a loving family that has remained close knit by having yearly reunions.

Molly and Jack O. Lewis' daughter, Bessie Bertha, md Richard Sanders and their children were Earl Jack, Homer Richard, Rossie 'Neoma', and Fred Dee "Bud". Richard worked in the oilfields in OK around Oilton, Bristow, Earlsboro, Shawnee, Cordell and South Burns with his wagons and teams of Clydesdale horses with Bessie's brothers, Dee, Clark, Fred and Jack. Richard lost his

hearing in the oilfields – therefore, he went into farming. After loosing several crops plus the depression, they moved to a farm near son Bud in Grayson Co., TX. Bessie was a remarkable wife and mother keeping her family together with her warmth and varied abilities as a homemaker. The family loved music – singing and playing various musical instruments. Bessie and Richard Sander's daughter, Rossie 'Neoma' md Basil Lowell White and their children were: Joye, June, Jackie Mai and James "Jimmy".

Story written by grgrgranddaughter, Jackie Mae (White) Bishop

Similar stories of this family may be seen in the book published in 1998 by Minnie Champ, Collin County, Texas Family Volume II.

Sources:

1850 Tennessee Census

1860 Dekalb, Tennessee Census

Overton Co., Tennessee Genealogical Records

(R.D. Chairman of Co. Court 2-1854)

History of Hamilton County & Chattanooga, TN, Vol I

History of Smith County, TN

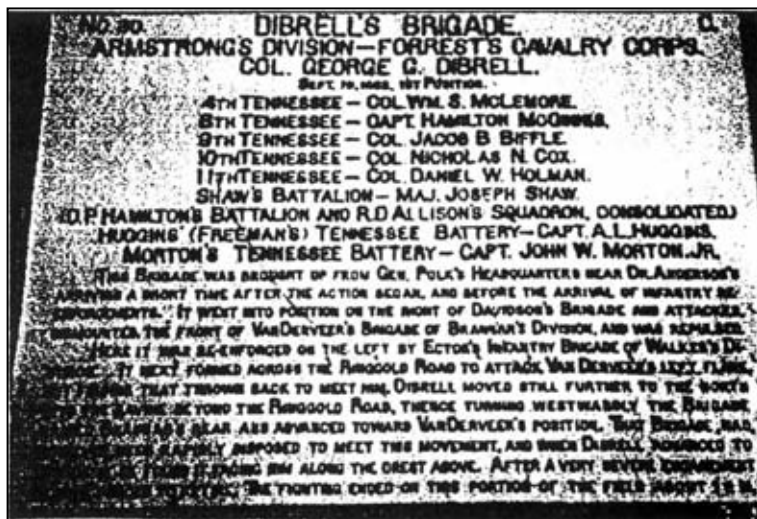
Confederate Veteran Vol. 9 by S.A. Cunningham, Nashville, TN

Biographical Directory of Tennessee General Assembly Vol. I (1796-1861)

Inscription from Pecan Grove Cemetery, Collin County, Texas

Democrat Newspaper, McKinney, Collin County, Texas 12-20-1900

Book – Collin County, Texas Families, Fol. I and II by Minnie Champ



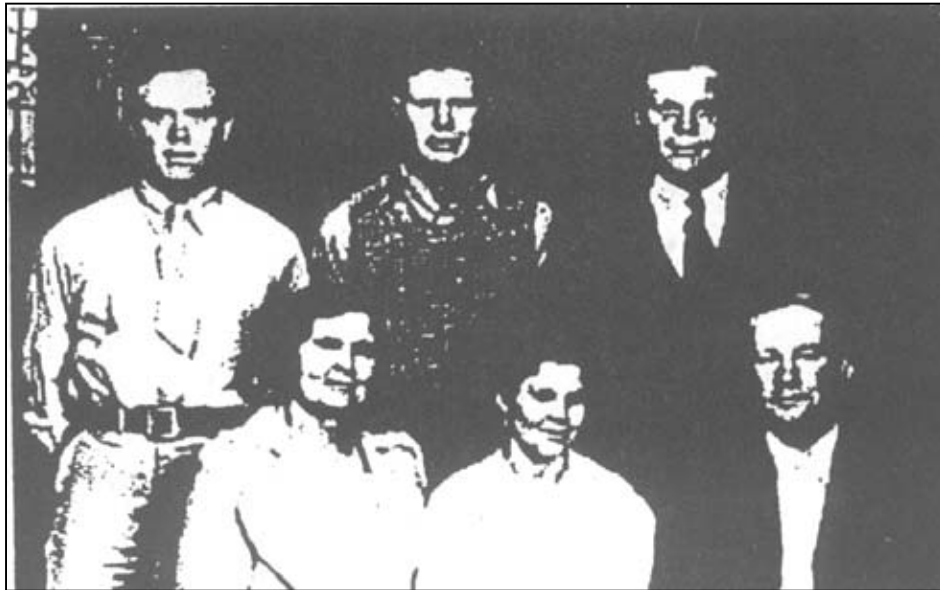
Picture of marker in Chickamauga Nat'l Military Park taken by Robert Harris, greatgrandson of R.D Allison.



Mary Jane/Molly & R.D. Reasonover



Mary/Molly (Reasonover) & Jack O. Lewis Family



Molly/Mary and Jack O. Lewis daughter Bessie Bertha married Richard Sanders and their children were: Earl Jack, Homer Richard, Rossie 'Neoma', and Fred Dee "Bud".

Source: The Political Graveyard: <http://politicalgraveyard.com/geo/TN/PU.html#LIVED>
Allison, Robert D. (1810-1900) of Gordonsville, Smith County, Tenn.; McKinney, Collin County, Tex. Born in Orange County, N.C., September 25, 1810. Colonel in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War; member of Tennessee state house of representatives, 1849-51; colonel in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Died in McKinney, Collin County, Tex., December 5, 1900. Interment at Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney, Tex.

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