

Curtis Terry
Chapter 7 from the book:
James Terry of Tennessee
by Woodford Terry
111 Wilshire Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830- 1986

CURTIS TERRY was born about 1803 in Granville Co., NC, the son of James and Mary Gooch Terry. He married 1stly in Jackson Co., TN, about 1822 Elizabeth Kuykendall, a daughter of Jesse and Jane Hall Kuykendall; and 2ndly in Clay Co., TN, on 29 October 1879 Sarah C. Buford, a daughter of John B. and Nancy Scott Buford.

Curtis and Elizabeth lived in the Smyrna area of what is now Putnam Co., TN. He began to accumulate land there on 22 October 1834 with purchases from heirs of the Jesse Kuykendall estate, including Mathew Kuykendall and others. In subsequent years he purchased adjoining tracts until he accumulated some 500-600 acres.

The federal farm census of 1850 shows Curtis' holding as: land \$1700; farm machinery \$100; 9 horses, 3 asses, 7 cows, 2 oxen, 5 cattle, 25 sheep, 40 hogs, with these animals valued at \$800; and 65 bushels of wheat, 15 bushels of rye, 1200 bushels of corn, and 20 bushels of oats. The 1855 Putnam Co., Tax List shows 500 acres of land valued at \$2000.

During the years of the Civil War Curtis' debts mounted. This plus the loss of his slaves forced him to sell his farm to his son Elijah. About 1870, having divested himself of his earlier farm holdings, he moved to the Hilham area where he acquired about a 100 acres near his youngest son William LaFayette Terry.

Curtis Terry died on 11 September 1883. The place of his burial is uncertain – it could be either at Hilham or Smyrna. Had issue, nine children, all born in Jackson Co., TN.

1. **Elijah Washington Terry** was born 7 April 1823. He married 1stly about 1844 **Sarah**, a daughter of **Garland and Sarah Robinson Anderson**. She died in December 1859 after giving birth to seven children. On 27 September 1860, he married 2ndly Angeline Abigail Campbell Denton Burton, a widow, with two children by an earlier marriage who bore him six children. Elijah served the Confederacy during the Civil War. In about 1870 he moved into the Curtis Terry Farm. He died 5 July 1901 and is buried in Smyrna Cemetery. He had issue, 13 children. *Note: Garland Anderson was the s/o William Anderson & Catherine Shirley. *See Chapter 3 & 4 – ajlambert.com website.*
2. Vincent M. Terry was born in July 1824. He married about 1846, a cousin, Sarah Catherine, a daughter of John Martin and Nancy Terry Dowell. He did not serve in the Civil War but, as was permitted, he paid another man (in land) to serve in his stead, an act that was not well received by some of his neighbors. He owned over 500 acres of land, but the post-Civil War recession, the loss of slaves, and a

- heavy debt forced him to sell about 300 acres, probably at a reduced price. He died in the summer of 1869 after “cradling” (mowing with a large hand scythe) all day. He had taken a cold “shower” at a spring-fed waterfall used for this purpose and died that night after several chills. He was buried in the Terry Cemetery. Had issue, 16 children, many of whom did not live to adulthood.
3. Lavina Jane Terry was born on 22 April 1826. She married Winchester Pearson Dowell. Their home was about five miles north of Cookeville. Their daughter Elizabeth died from an injury inflicted by a cow. Four of their sons moved to Kansas. Lavina Jane died on 31 October 1890 and is buried in the Smyrna Cemetery. Had issue, eight children.
 4. James Braswell Terry was born on 7 November 1831. He married about 1851 Frances Amanda, a daughter of Joseph Pearson. He served in the Civil War, initially in the Confederate Army. When offered the opportunity to recruit his own company and be commissioned as a Captain in the Union Army, he switched his allegiance. This was seen by many as a deliberate and opportunistic act to join what he perceived to be, “the winning side.” This act resulted in his being ostracized by his family and neighbors when he returned home after the war. He then sold his holdings and went with his family, by horse and wagon, to Joplin, MO, to be near his brother Jesse. Upon arrival he learned that Jesse had been a Confederate fatality in the war. Encountering further hostility here, the family moved on, first to Grayson Co., TX, and about 20 years later following the death of his wife, Braswell moved into Indian Territory (now OK). He died in 1903 in Grady Co., OK. Had issue, six children.
 5. Jesse Kuykendall Terry was born on 28 April 1834. He married 1stly Mary Ann, a daughter of Elijah and Jane Johnson Webb. They moved to the Webb City, MO area. After his first wife’s death, he married 2ndly Mary Ann Stevenson. Their descendants still reside in the Joplin-Webb City, MO, area. Had issue, three children.
 6. Louisa Terry was born about 1837. According to family legend she married a Johnson. The 1860 federal census list a John and Louisa Johnson with three Children (Fatima, age 4; Mary Jo age 2, and Nancy age 4 months).
 7. John Claiborn Terry was born on 20 August 1839. He married about 1864 Rebecca Jane Green Garrison, a widow of his friend, John Garrison, who had died during the Civil War, leaving two sons. About 1872 John Claiborne Terry moved the family to Grayson Co., TX. Many of their descendants remained in the area north of Sherman, TX. John Claiborn Terry died on 23 January 1910 and is buried in the Vader Cemetery, Grayson Co., TX. Had issue, seven children.
 8. Mary Elizabeth Terry was born about 1842. She married about 1858 George Washington Johnson. They lived in Clay Co., TN where she died in 1863 during

Childbirth. She is buried in the Buford Cemetery, Clay Co., TN. They had issue, three children.

9. William LaFayette Terry was born about 1845. He married E. Lucinda Fisk at Hilham, Putnam Co., TN. They moved to TX, date in 1883. He married again in TX, his wife's name unknown. He died of a heart attack in 1905 at the Wichita Falls, TX, railroad station. Had issue, six children.

ajlambert.com