

# THE CUMMINGS FAMILY

## CHAPTER 1

Dudlye Belle Cummings, wife of Ronie Rolen Mullins

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Dudlye Belle Cummings was born August 12, 1901 in Guy, Fort Bend County, TX, the daughter of Jefferson Davis Cummings and Sarah Ellen Bell<sup>1</sup>. Sometime prior to 1920 (*need to find out when they went to Mississippi*) the Cummings family moved to Toccopola, Pontotoc County, and MS., where Dudlye grew up and graduated from high school. During her school days, the Cummings family lived out from Toccopola and Dudley rode her horse, Billy, to and from school.

Dudlye became a teacher and was teaching school in Pryor, Oklahoma, about 1924. This was the same time period when "Buck" Mullins was in the oil fields of Texas with her brothers, John and Sanford. Apparently after school that year she returned to her home in Mississippi where she married Ronie Rolen "Buck" Mullins April 9, 1926. Dudlye and Buck were married in Tupelo, MS.<sup>2</sup> After Buck and Dudlye were married, they lived in Pontotoc.

The story of her life as Mrs. Mullins can be found in the Mullins family history. After Buck died in 1960, Dudley remained in Wichita Falls until 1984 when she moved to Carrollton, TX to reside with her son, Phillip and his family. Sometime after Buck's death the home on Glenwood was sold and Dudlye moved into a smaller place on Hayes Street where she lived until she made the move to Carrollton. She lived with Phill until September of 1984 when she had a stroke and was in the hospital/nursing home until the time of her death November 4, 1984.

See  
Cummings File  
on computer  
for Knouse  
data

<sup>1</sup> Birth Certificate in file

<sup>2</sup> Copy of Marriage Certificate in file

## CHAPTER 2

### Jefferson Davis Cummings and Sarah Ellen "Sallie" Bell

Jefferson Davis Cummings was the second husband of Sarah Ellen "Sallie" Bell as she was first married to A. D. "Tinker" Ramsey. Sarah Bell Cummings bible shows J. D. Cummings as being born 1862 in Missouri. We believe J. D. was born May 16, 1860 in Johnson County, MO, possibly in the little town of Holden, Missouri, as his father, Sanford Cummings, was instrumental in the laying out of the town of Holden as we will see in the next chapter.

Jefferson Davis was the son of Sanford and Demaris Mason Cummings. The story has been told that when the grandfather Mason came to see the new baby in the household and found that he had been named Jefferson Davis he called him "a bastard Rebel baby", exited the house and was never seen again. It is easy enough to believe this story as we have had very little luck in finding information on the family of Demaris Mason Cummings.

When J. D. was about five years old (1865) the family moved from Johnson County, MO to Lafayette County, MS. At this time we know very little about the family as they were living in Lafayette County. The next date we pick up with J. D. is October 26, 1897, when he married Sally Bell Ramsey in Shelby County, TX.<sup>3</sup>

Sally Ramsey was the widow of A. D. Ramsey with two sons, Robert and Alexander Ramsey. Both of these boys died of wounds received during their time of service in World War I.

In October 1898, J. D. and Sally added to their family twin boys, Sanford Brooks Cummings and John Howard Cummings. Three years later, August 12, 1901, a girl was added to this family, Dudlye Belle Cummings. (Birth certificate in file)

Shortly after Dudlye was born, the Cummings family moved back to Mississippi and settled in Toccopola, Pontotoc County, and MS. This is where J. D. died in March 1926. Sally Bell Cummings survived this husband by some 17 years having died October 26, 1943, in Wichita Falls, Wichita Co., TX where she was living with her daughter, Dudlye and her family.

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<sup>3</sup> Copy of Marriage Certificate in file

## Chapter 3

### Sanford and Demaris Mason Cummings

Sanford Cummings was born in Kentucky August 23, 1818, and moved to Owen County, Indiana, with his family early on in his life. While still a minor child, his mother, Martha Askren Cummings died. William Cummins was named Guardian of Sanford Cummins.<sup>4</sup>

It was in Owen County, IN, that Sanford Cummings married Demaris Mason. This marriage took place August 15, 1839, and the ceremony was performed by Peter Clenger, MG. (At this time we have not been able to find and/or document who the parents of Demaris Mason were)

The first of the children of Sanford and Demaris, William H. H., was born in Owen County. At this time we do not know if their second child Matthew Cummings was born before they left Owen County or after they arrived in Johnson County, MO. We do know that the last five of their children were born in Missouri:

Lafayette b. 1853

David b. 1857

Martha b. 1858

Jefferson Davis b. 1860 (this is the line we are following)

Anna B. b. 1878

Sanford and Demaris moved to Missouri in the early 1850's along with his father, Matthew Cummings, Jr. and his second wife, Anna Christina Hauser. According to land records for Johnson County, Missouri, Sanford and his father, Matthew, dealt very heavily in land. There are records of many purchases or grants. The original of one of these grants, dated February 1854, is in the possession of his Great-granddaughter, Pat Dickey. Copy is in the Cummings files with Great-grandson, Phillip Mullins.

According to the history of Johnson County, and the town of Holden, Missouri, Isaac Jacobs purchased 160 acres of land in 1857, on the proposal of the coming railroad. He joined forces with Sanford Cummings and they platted lots that sold for \$50.00 each. The first lots were deeded August 12, 1858. A building was built on the corner of Olive and Second Street for the purpose of selling merchandise which had been brought by horseback from Lexington, Missouri. This building also housed the post office in 1859.<sup>5</sup>

We do not have documentation to prove when Sanford and Demaris moved to Lafayette County, MS. However, the obituary for their son Lafayette Cummings mentioned that Lafayette had moved to Lafayette County when he was about 12 years of age. (*We probably need to find more information regarding land purchases in Lafayette County since the Cummings were into land dealings wherever they had lived before.*)

Sanford and Demaris are both buried in the Toccopola Cemetery, Toccopola, Mississippi. The headstone for Sanford indicates that he died October 2, 1899. Demaris survived Sanford by some nine years, having died February 3, 1908, according to the dates on her tombstone. The stone also indicates that she was born in Ohio.

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<sup>4</sup> Copy of some of the papers from this Guardianship as well as Sanford's younger brothers and sisters are in the file

<sup>5</sup> "The Golden Years - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" Johnson County Historical Society



## CHAPTER 4

### Mathew Cummings, Jr. and (1) Martha Askren (2) Anna Christeena Hauser

Although not proven at this time, we believe Mathew Cummings, Jr. was born in *Halifax County, VA* July 6, 1777. He was one of eleven children born to Mathew Cummins, Sr. and Elizabeth (*Vance*).

It is believed that Mathew, Jr. moved along with other members of their family to Owen County, Indiana, sometime after 1830. It would not have been any earlier than that as most estimates of the date and place of the birth of the brothers and sisters of Mathew, Jr. indicate they were born in Virginia or Kentucky.

Mathew, Jr. was first married to Martha Askren (*possibly the daughter of John Askren*) in Washington County, KY, December 26, 1809. There were eleven children born to this marriage:

Martha Jane Cummings  
Melissa Cummings  
William Cummings – b. October 28, 1811  
Sarah Cummings – b. September 23, 1813  
Milsery Cummings – b. August 12, 1815  
Sanford Cummings – b. August 23, 1818  
Marilda Cummings – b. Abt. 1820  
Mary Cummings – b. December 1, 1822  
Louisa Cummings – b. January 24, 1824  
George Washington Cummings – b. January 23, 1826  
Elizabeth Cummings – b. January 23, 1828

Sometime while Elizabeth was yet just a baby, and before 1831, Martha Askren Cummings died, leaving Mathew, Jr. with several minor children. Apparently Martha's children stood in line for some inheritance which came from her family which was still in Kentucky. Court Records from Owen County provide Guardianship papers which name the oldest son, William as guardian, at least of Sanford. It is not clear why the son was appointed guardian and not the father of the children.

On March 2, 1837, Mathew, Jr. married for the second time, taking as his bride, Anna Christeena Hauser. Five more children were born of this marriage. When Mathew, Jr. died, October 8, 1865, Anna was named as executrix of his estate. Copies of the will and various estate papers are in the file.

Sometime in the mid 1850's Mathew, Jr. and Anna moved, along with his son Sanford and his wife, Demaris, to Johnson County, MO. Perhaps other of his children moved with them as well. Land records indicate that he purchased and sold quite a bit of land in Johnson County before he died in 1865. Perhaps he was involved in the land dealings with Sanford.

Little else is known of Mathew, Jr. at this time.

~~Stopped with 4th child of 2nd Mathew Jr Marriage~~

## CHAPTER 5

### Mathew Cummings, Sr. and Elizabeth (Surname unknown)

Although the exact date and place of the birth of Mathew Cummings, Sr. have not been documented, most people list his date of birth about 1750 and the location of his birth as Virginia or Pennsylvania. Some people believe he was born and lived in Pennsylvania until he was a young man. It is also believed that he married in Pennsylvania. Some others feel that he was born in Halifax County, Virginia. In fact, in the book "Memorial Record of Western Kentucky", in the writings of Marcus L. Cummins, the following statement is made regarding the father and grandfather of Marcus Cummins: "His father was a native of Anderson County, Kentucky, born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, 1786, and was a son of Matthew Cummins, (Sr.) who birth occurred in Halifax County, Virginia, and who was of Irish descent."

*(Need to find documented information as to Mathew Cummings, Sr. birth)*

"At the time the colonists attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression Matthew Cummins joined the American army and fought in the Revolutionary war, loyally aiding in the struggle which resulted in the independence of the nation. He was a weaver by trade and became an early settler of Anderson County, Kentucky, taking an active and helpful part in its pioneer development and progress. There he lived until called to his final rest."<sup>6</sup> He believed so strongly in the war that he enlisted twice. The first service he saw was in Pennsylvania serving under Capt. William Cowan's in Col. Thomas Clark's Regiment. No record has been found of this service to date. Later he transferred into Capt. Thomas Askin's Company in Col. James Dunlap's Regiment from the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania. This was about 1777. Once again no record has been found listing him as a part of this group.

The second service he saw was in Virginia. He enlisted in 1776 and again in July of 1780. He is shown to have been a private according to one book about the Revolutionary War.<sup>7</sup> While fighting in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, Mathew suffered a broken collarbone when a musket ball hit him in September of 1781. About that same time he was captured and held on the prison ship Esk at Charleston until November 1782.

In the mid 1780's Mathew moved with his wife, Elizabeth, and their family to Kentucky. Records of Lincoln County in 1786 indicate that Mathew was living there at that time. The area where they settled later became Franklin County that later became known as Anderson County.

Mathew's trade was weaving.

Six of the sons of Mathew and Elizabeth served in the War of 1812. With those many of their sons serving in the war, the family was fortunate that none of them were injured.

Mathew seems to have had some difficulty collecting his pension from the Revolutionary War. Most of the money that might have been due him was paid to his children after he had died. Application was made for his pension November 13, 1818 in Mercer County, KY. These papers indicate that on October 16, 1820 Mathew was living in Franklin County, KY, and was referred to as Matthew Cummings, Sr. aged 70 with a wife aged 66 & children were all away from home. On August 2, 1839 six of Mathew's nine children received final payment following his death.<sup>8</sup> His Pension Number is

<sup>6</sup> "Memorial Record of Western Kentucky"

<sup>7</sup> "Historical Registry of Virginians in the Revolutionary War, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines 1775-1783" Ed. By John H. Gwathmey, Richmond, VA 1928 (13, 872p)

<sup>8</sup> "Abstracts of Rev. War Pension Files", Page 838

#S35870 VA. Pvt. Matthew Cummins was stricken from the rolls Sept. 20, 1820. He was returned to the rolls November 11, 1823. He died almost a year later on August 8, 1833.<sup>9</sup> Abstract of the pension application of Matthew Cummins, Sr. was received from Carole Cummings Freeman and is in the files, along with copies of the original pension application.