

COCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

# Cast & Purvis Family Connections in Old Itawamba County

*Submitted by Bobbie Duffy Dykes  
Bay City, Texas*

My great grandmother, Frances (Fannie) Mildred Cast was born on 12 March 1849 in Itawamba County. Her parents, John W. and Jane Cox Cast married in Marshall County, Alabama on 7 December 1837 and moved from Marshall County to Itawamba County around 1845. John and Jane's first three children were born in Alabama: Missouri C. Cast, born 1839, married Dowdle; James M. Cast, born 1841 and died in Perryville, Kentucky during his service for the Confederate States; Samuel A. Cast, born 1844; Thomas B. Cast, born 1846, was the first Mississippi baby; Willis Hampton Cast, born 7 June 1847, married 16 September 1875 Lee County, MS to Mildred Leah Sanders; Frances (Fannie) Mildred Cast married 18 January 1866, Itawamba County, to Miles Purvis, son of Sarah Robuck Purvis of Marion County, Alabama; John Taylor Cast, born 1853, married 4 December 1874 to Ann Matilda Miears; Jackson Duff Cast, born 1855, married 26 January 1876 to D.A. Daniel; Emmitt Lafayette Cast born 6 May 1858, married 16 April 1881, Lee County, to Ada Alice Johnson.

The Cast family last appeared in the 1880 Mississippi census and must

have moved to Texas shortly after that, because John Cast died in Texas on 25 February 1887, and Jane died on 7 September 1894 in Texas.

Fannie Cast Purvis stayed in Lee County until after 23 June 1890 when Miles Purvis died. Miles served in Co. E, 41st MS Infantry and returned to Lee County to live the remainder of his life. His burial place is unknown to me, but I believe they lived near her parents and siblings. Miles and Fannie Cast Purvis had the following children, all born in Lee County: Mary I. Lena, born October 1866, married 23 September 1884 to John Sanders; John Benjamin, born 6 August 1869, married 1893 to Alice Singleton; Thomas, born July 1874, married 1896 in Texas to Elina (Dena) Locklin; Maggie Lillia, born July 1877, married 18 August 1891 in Lee County to Farris Wright. Maggie Lillia and Farris stayed in MS and was never seen by her family again; Maud Miller (my grandmother) was born 28 November 1881, married 8 December 1897 to Thomas Altimon Fulcher in Milam Co., TX. Willie was born in 1885 and died 25 July 1895 in Texas. Thomas Altimon and Maud Miller Purvis Fulcher had the following children, all born in Milam Co., TX: James Hubbard, born 17 December 1899 and died 31 January 1971; Hester Belle, born 21 February 1901 and is still living; Barbara Estelle, born 23 February 1904 and is still living and Myrtle Victoria (my mother), born 3 December 1907, married Leo Andrew Duffy on 9 June 1928, and died 11 November 1984.

CAST  
family

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
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human freight in safety, none ever having drowned in the passage. Remember again, that some mighty upheaval of nature or some wonderful undermining washout, may wreck thy life and thy usefulness while ten days would be sufficient to resurrect the old ferry boat again, while thou wouldst lie as some great hulk at sea stranded forever. Let the new come and do its work and receive proper honor, but let not our hearts forget the old, the true and the tried. I have often thought how old Uncle P. Cates would have welcomed the new bridge. After he was ninety, he would leave Fulton horseback, be delayed at the old ferry and still make his way to Tupelo and back the same day. It has also been reported of him that in earlier and more vigorous days, he has gone early to the old ferry, and finding no one to set him over, he "cooned" the ferry rope across the river and got the boat and ferried himself and horse over! I do not vouch for this report, but I know Mr. Cates could do anything anyone else could. If that could be done by anyone but a showman, he could do it.

May we remember for long years to come the good old ferry boat, and may the people of old Itawamba, never have reason to regret the erection of the New Bridge.

### Part III Notes

From the 1860 Itawamba County Census:

Walten, William	38	Farmer	TN
Sarah	29		TN
James	10		TN
William	5		MS
John	2		MS

There was no success in finding John Charles in the 1850, 1860 or 1870 Itawamba County and Lee County census records. There was only one Charles Family listed in the Itawamba 1860 census:

Charles, Arthur	40	Farmer	SC
Nancy	39		AL
David	8		MS
John	5		MS
America	3		MS
Wiley Hartwell	14		MS

According to probate records of Itawamba County, this family was living in Bell Station, Tennessee in 1873, when a will was probated.

In the Chesterville Cemetery in present-day Lee County (old Pontotoc County) is the following monument:

Mary Ann, wife of J. Charles  
 April 6, 1814 -- November 12, 1866

counter attack by a brigade of fresh Federal troops under Sullivan.

The battle was over in about two hours. The Confederates were in retreat and withdrew with as many troops, guns and supplies as they could. The 43rd Mississippi lost 225 killed, wounded and missing during the two-day battle.

Martha Bell at home with her four children, including ten-week old Thomas, received the sad news of her husband's death. Times were tough for Martha. She did the best she could for the remainder of the war, surviving on the farm.

In 1865, thirty year old Martha married fifty-four year old William Fisher. They had a son, Henry, in 1866 and a daughter, Martha, in 1869. In 1876, Martha, her six children and mammy, who had remained with the family, plus mammy's son, made their way to Coryell County, Texas in covered wagons. Mammy's son was about the same age as John Thomas.

They settled at Fort Gates near what is now the town of Gatesville. I am Martha's great-grandson by way of her youngest Bell son, John Thomas. I am honored to call Thomas William and Martha Nemesis Bell my ancestors.



### *Frances Mildred Cast*

Frances (Fannie) Mildred Cast was born on 12 March 1849 in Itawamba County. She was the daughter of John W. and Jane Cox Cast. She married Miles Purvis on 18 January 1866 in Itawamba County. Please see page 20 of this issue for a history of this family.

*Submitted by Bobbie Duffey Dykes*

*Share your photographs of your Itawamba County ancestors with others but sending a copy to the society for publication in Itawamba Settlers. Please do not send original photographs. Send only reprints of the original photos. Send photos to: PO Box 7, Mantachie, MS 38855*

Abstracted by Etoyle Comer Grissom, Mantachie, Mississippi
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235	ELISHA STACY JUDITH L. IVY	13 DEC 1855	
236	JOHN W. LYNN MARTHA J. OLIVER	JAN 1856	M. W. Mc
237	JOHN A. BEACHUM ISABELLA ALLEN	13 DEC 1855	JOHN HOOD
238	E. C. MURPHEY ELIZABETH A. McCULLOCK	06 DEC 1855	D. McCLUNG
238	JOHN T. WATSON JANE GILLMORE	25 SEP 1855	W. THOMPSON
239	SAMUEL BAILEY MARY ANN SARTAN	23 DEC 1855	WILLIAM BENSON
239	JAMES M. LAWRENCE TABITHA H. HAAS	07 AUG 1855	W. M. ALLEN
240	JOSIAH J. ROBERTSON SARAH E. MILLER	12 JUL 1855	W. M. ALLEN
241	CHARLES KNIGHT CAROLIN HESTER	22 NOV 1855	W. PALMER
242	CALVIN MARTIN ARZILLA SAMPLES	27 SEP 1855	WILLIAM PHILLIPS
242	ROBERT E. HOUSTON SARAH R. WREN	07 SEP 1855	D. N. WINFREY
243	WILLIAM G. SPANE EMILY ENGLE	19 JUL 155	L. COOK
244	CALVIN LINTON SUSAN AIKIN	30 DEC 1855	C. WHITTEN
245	JAMES L. McDANIEL SARAH C. WALKER	17 APR 1855	R. W. PALMER
245	JOHN WILLIAMS MARY A. P. J. BLARERS	01 JUL 1855	BENSON
246	COLOMBUS BETTIS JANE FORRESTER	02 JUL 1855	
247	JOSEPH WATSON SARAH E. TAYLOR	DEC 1855	