

*Mugg Family*

**THE BIBLE**

An excerpt from *Some Descendants of John Mugg, Sr., 1765-1837 and wife Rebecca Truax 1769-1844* compiled by Vera Ann Holley and Edward Arthur Zimmerman.

Editor's note: We treasure old family Bibles. A particularly honored one may have a touching story to tell about the person who owned and loved it. On page 743 of her book Vera Holley tells us about one in her family. The A.J. Mugg in her essay was Adoniram Judson Mugg, son of John Mugg, Junior. Annie was Annie Myers. The book from which this page is transcribed is in the Genealogy Room of the Owen County Public Library in Spencer.

A.J. Mugg's beautiful and colorful 12 lb. parlor Bible is bound in heavy red Morocco leather and is in excellent condition except that one of the two clasps is broken and missing. The Bible was published by Bible Publishing House, Syracuse, N.Y., 1885. The first page is inscribed on an ornate page: "Presented to Annie Mugg by A.J. Mugg, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1885." The names and the month are written in beautiful handwriting in purple ink.

In the center of the Bible, pages are provided for records of marriages, births and deaths, and there are two heavy insertable photo pages headed "Family Portraits." One of these pages has space for two 4 1/4 "x 6 1/2" portraits (back to back), and one page has spaces for eight smaller pictures (four on each side); only four of these were filled. The first contained the card photo printed below and is believed to be that of Annie. The space behind that is empty. The four pictures on the second page are earlier tintypes, the first of which is also believe to be Annie at a younger age, possibly at the time of her marriage to A.J. Next to it is the one of A.J., and probably his brother. The two spaces below them were filled with a baby picture of Ivan and a young picture of Ivan at about age 3.

When Annie died at age 27, A.J. was grief-stricken. At some point he left Indiana to go to work in timber cutting in Mississippi in order to earn money for a tombstone for Annie. The stone still stands in Combs Cemetery at Quincy. Sadly, Ivan died two years after his mother, at age 6 1/2. The camelback trunk which A.J. used on his trip remained in the family home until the death of Reuby Mugg when it was sold in the auction of her household goods.



Annie (Myers) Mugg



Ivan Mugg

Vera Holley writes: John Mugg Jr. was born 16 March 1800 in Kentucky, probably in Nelson County. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> child of 9 born to John Mugg Sr. and wife Rebecca Truax Mugg.

Not much is known of the ancestry of his father, John Mugg Sr. (1765-1837). Oral tradition said that he had come



letter from his people in which reference is made to schools. It reminds him that school facilities are a necessary part of every community.

Several children are carrying shingles — in themselves rare things. On these shingles are marked with red kaolin, the letters of the alphabet and the children seek to master their a b c's. Occasionally one plucks his elder by the arm and asks: "What's this letter?" This sight and the letter Bartholomew has received cause him to call the meeting again to order.

Bartholomew — "There's one thing we're overlookin', folks. It's a school buildin' and schoolin' for these children. They're carrin' their shingles with them, trying to master their a b c's an' we ought t' be ashamed of ourselves t' not have a school buildin' an' a reg'lar teacher. Can't we make arrangements t' teach these youngsters? Let's hear f'm Jim Galletly; he's had schoolin' back east an' is good on figgerin'." This letter asks about th' schoolin' at Bloomington, our sister settlement to the south. Let's be up and doing. Hear from Galletly."

Galletly — "I've thought of this thing, folks; I've had just enough schoolin' to make me realize th' value of it. If we can make arrangements for a place t' hold school, I'll agree t' teach a school free gratis fer nothing till we can get a regular teacher. I can give 'em a start on readin', ritin', an' cipherin'."

The Pessimist — "An' don't fergit t' lick em."

Galletly — "Well, th' lickin' part don't appeal t' me as part of an eddication. I don't go much on th' lickin' business."

Pessimist — "Yuh cain't larn 'em nothin' 'thout lickin' 'em. When my boy comes t' school I want yuh t' lick 'im ever' mornin' jist t' show 'im yuh kin. I believe in real eddicaiton. Lickin' an' larnin', says I."

James Steele — "Neighbors, as moderator of the Board of County Commissioners, I think I can safely promise a place for the holding of school. As soon as our splendid new log court house is built it can be used between terms as a school house. And we'll engage James Galletly right now as teacher. Now let's all get home to our work. We thank you for your help here today in the organizing of our county. We are now adjourned."

The company makes exit to the strains of a march played by the band. The County Commissioners head the line of march as the company leaves, the others falling in behind. The last to leave is The Pessimist who shakes his head in doubt over the whole thing. He pauses near the exit, faces the crowd and says: "'Y craky! Yuh got t' lick 'em."

to be continued

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## YAZOO VALLEY LANDS

published in a local newspaper Nov. 24, 1904

### Wm. Fender Returns

#### from Visit to Company's Holdings

Western Mississippi has attracted the attention of Spencer and neighboring investors. A company including a number of Morgan county men have been interested there for some time and the experience has been satisfactory to quite a number of purchasers. Wm. Fender and J. F. Lawson are local members of the company. Mr. Fender has just returned from a visit to the tract of 36,000 acres, to which their company holds title with complete abstract, and is well pleased with the situation. The eastern border of the land lies within two miles of a steamboat landing on the Yazoo river and the Yazoo & Mississippi railroad.

It is very fertile land and is timbered, some oak trees being eight feet in diameter. The cleared land of the fertile valley, which compares with the famous valley of

the Nile, can be adapted to the raising of any crop known to the temperate zone. The country is on the northern line of the cotton belt and on the southern line of the wheat and corn belt. Corn and cotton are the chief products of the cleared lands at present. Fruit, such as peaches, pears, small fruit and watermelons are extensively raised. Early vegetables are a source of profit. Irish and sweet potatoes are an abundant crop, fortunes having been made shipping to the Chicago market. The raising of diversified crops is recommended, and stock raising is given attention by leading planters now.

Mr. Fender will be pleased to give information to any interested ones and arrangements to visit the land can be made by intending purchasers. The influx of northern capital and home seekers is rapidly developing this region.

to America when he was about 5 years old, that he had been shipwrecked and picked up by a passing ship's captain who raised him until he was about 15 when he left on his own. We believe that John became acquainted with Rebecca Truax (1769-1844) in what was then Bedford County, Pennsylvania (now Fulton Co.), where her family had become members of the old Tonoloway Baptist Church in 1770 (now about 2 miles north of Hancock, Maryland.) The Truax family had first come to America when Philippe de Trieux arrived in 1624 on the *New Netherland*. They were Walloon (similar to Huguenots) fleeing persecution because of their Anabaptist beliefs.

John Sr. and Rebecca were married ca 1789-90 and their first two or three children were born in Pennsylvania. Sometime ca 1795-99 they moved to Kentucky, traveling by flatboat down the Ohio River and apparently following Rebecca's brother, William Truax. They settled in Nelson County where John purchased land in 1805 on Ash's Creek (north of present-day Chaplin and east of Bloomfield). It is interesting to note that Rebecca received an inheritance from her father, Benjamin Truax, at about this time. Perhaps that enabled their land purchase in Kentucky.

In the fall of 1813, John's two older brothers (William and Benjamin) and future brother-in-law (Samuel Pittman, probably a cousin) left with the 10<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia to fight in the War of 1812. They were in the Battle of Thames River, and Benjamin later reported he had seen Tecumseh's mutilated body; but they returned safely. No doubt John must have heard many tales of their adventures. And, at age 13, he probably had to shoulder extra responsibilities during their absence.

In 1823 John Jr. married Permelia "Milly" Milton (b. 1807) in Nelson County. His older brother, Benjamin, had earlier married her sister, Rachel, both being daughters of Richard Milton and wife Sarah Williams. Richard Milton was a descendant of an old Virginia family. The Mugg, Milton, and Truax families had strong ties to the Bloomfield Baptist Church (constituted in 1791 as Simpson's Creek Church). During the 1820s, Truax and Mugg family members began making land entries in Owen County, Indiana. James Boldon and John Wilson, sons-in-law of William Truax, made entries in 1821 and 1822; William Truax, himself, entered 123+ acres in 1823 in Sec. 23 T11 R3 (Wayne Twp.). John Mugg Jr. entered 80 acres for \$100 in 1825 in Sec. 11 T11 R3 (now Taylor Twp). Others also came. In 1826 John Jr. and wife Milly sold for \$125 their 100 acre farm on Salt River in Spencer County, Kentucky (not far from their parents' homes). John Sr. and wife Rebecca sold their farm in Nelson County in 1829 (\$1704 for 142 acres) and followed their children and other kinfolk to Owen County where he also entered new land in the area which later became known as the "Mugg neighborhood." When the two Mugg boys and their Milton wives came to Indiana, they used ox teams and ferried across the Ohio River.

In 1830 John sold his first land entry in Sec. 11, T11, and land ownership continued to change hands for years among the Muggs.

John was acquainted with grief. In 1823, his brother William married, but within a year his wife died and then their baby. In 1824, a Truax cousin Edward was killed by a horse while preparing to move to Indiana. In May of 1829 two of John's younger brothers died, circumstances not now known. On Christmas eve, 1829, his older sister, Mary Pittman, died, leaving young children. In March 1832, his younger brother, Abner, died, leaving a young widow after little more than a year of marriage. Abner's tiny estate reveals that he had been a medical doctor.

In 1829, 1830, and 1837, John was commissioned as an officer in the Indiana State Militia. Around 1836, he and a Kentucky friend, William Combes, built the first frame houses in Taylor Township. In addition to farming, John also "... operated a distillery in an early day, and did a thriving business, buying all the surplus corn in the neighborhood and shipping whisky down Eel River (now Mill Creek) on flatboats. This was in the day when the manufacture of ardent spirits was eminently respectable, and Mr. Mugg, though a sincere Christian and an Elder in the Baptist Church, engaged in the business with a clear conscience, and made a superior article of the 'O-be-joyful.' Mr. Devore succeeded Mr. Mugg, and drove a thriving trade as long as the distillery was in operation." (*Owen County, Indiana 1884*, p. 796).

In 1823 Mugg/Truax relatives had been instrumental in founding the Little Mount Baptist Church in Wayne Twp. In 1838, John Jr. was licensed to preach; in 1840, he was ordained at the Little Mount Baptist Church; and in 1842 he was called to be pastor there. He served there for many years and helped to organize new churches at: Freedom, Mill Creek (Cuba), Little Flock now called New Union (Morgan Twp.), Gosport, and Quincy. He has also been mentioned as among the early pastors at Stilesville in Hendricks County where a church was built in 1840.

Again, death was a part of life. Two of John's small sons died in 1837 and 1838, his father in 1837, his brother William in 1839, and his mother in 1844, all but his brother buried in the Little Mount Church cemetery. John's wife, Milly, died in 1848 at the birth of their 9<sup>th</sup> child; and that baby died a few months later. Then on Dec. 30, 1848, his daughter, Sally Hays, died in Illinois, age 21, with two young children. His younger sister, Elizabeth Young, died in 1852 and is buried at Little Mount.

In Oct. 1848, John married Fanny Fiddler, born in 1825 in Kentucky (probably Bullitt Co.), the daughter of William Fidler and Catherine Cunningham. John Jr. and wife Fanny had 4 children together, son Benjamin following him into the Baptist ministry. John's youngest brother, Simeon, became a Baptist minister in Howard Co., Indiana and afterwards served in Texas ca 1850.

In March 1848, Elder Mugg had requested the Little Mount Church to release him as pastor, which they did and called Elder Robison for 6 months. One wonders what happened; but it becomes more understandable when you look at the chronology of his life. On Feb. 2, 1848, his wife Milly died the same day his baby Joseph was born. Grieving for his wife and with a new baby to care for without a mother's milk must have been wrenching. Then the baby died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (both buried at Little Mount). Robison must have been a wise and understanding man since he soon requested the church to rescind his call, and at the August meeting Elder Mugg was called again. Perhaps Robison felt that John needed to come back and then talked him into it. I have sometimes wondered how John reacted to that double loss; now I think I have some clue. After he married Fanny, a new life began again and daughter Nancy was born the following August (1849). But, to complete this 1848 "anno Horribilis," his daughter Sally died Dec. 30, in Illinois age 21 with 2 small children. It would have taken a while for him to learn of it.

It is hard for me to imagine Fanny's position: married at age 23 to a man 25 years older than she, pregnant almost immediately, trying to be a good stepmother to 4 children ages 18, 10, 7, and 3.

In 1853 the town of Quincy was platted in Taylor Township, just north of the Mugg farms. About 1858, John and Fanny moved their membership to the new Quincy Baptist Church, and he soon became pastor where he served until he died, 15 Dec. 1867. According to the brief Centennial History of the Quincy Baptist Church, he preached "one Saturday and two Sundays per month for a salary of \$100 per year." (Elder James Beaman was also listed as one of the two "first pastors"). John was buried at Little Mount as he had requested, as near as possible to the spot where he had first preached. His stone monument was shaped in the form of his former pulpit with an open Bible on top. The top of the stone pulpit with its Bible has fallen off and lies on the ground nearby.

Elder John Mugg was survived by his wife, Fanny, and 9 of his 13 children: John M., Richard, Martha, Emily, W. Riley, Nancy, Benjamin F., Mary F., and Adoniram Judson. Three children died young: Thomas, James M., and Joseph. Fanny died on 27 Oct. 1895 and was buried at Combes Cemetery south of Quincy with her second husband, William Davis.

Personally, I think the greatest influence on the life of John Mugg, Jr. was his mother, Rebecca Truax Mugg, and her strong Baptist roots. I'm glad she lived to see him ordained. She must have been an amazing woman.

*Vera Ann Holley*

229 Gilbert Avenue  
Beech Grove, IN 46107

### **Adam, George, and Albert Fiscus**

**are brothers**, the only sons of Levi Fiscus that live in Marshall county, Iowa. They were born on a farm in Owen county, Indiana, and lived with their father, who taught them in early youth, that "honesty is the best policy."

Ad. is a large, lively man, always finds something to do. He is apt at most anything in the shop. He says the time is near, when he expects to spend most of his time among the animals, as he is a veterinarian or veterinary surgeon. I have the privilege of seeing many specimens of his work; he has a sheep of which he took off its right fore leg, close to the body, and it is quite well and healthy. Mr. Fiscus frequently assists Dr. Burroughs in human amputations, club-foot operations &c.

George is a muscular man and one who is not ashamed to "earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. He weighs 177 pounds and is in perfect health.

Albert is large to his size, full of energy and rather comical; he is 21 years of age and weighs from 172 to 180 pounds; he is now equipped for farming, having taken the last essential recently - a wife.

written by F.R. Nugent

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