THE NOLEN FAMILY

AN IRISH BLESSING

May there always be work for your hands to do,
May your purse always hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine on your windowpane,
May the rainbow be certain to folow each rain,
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

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HISTORY OF THE NOLEN NAME

The name Nolen is one of occupation. As the name signifies, land is part of their name, perhaps meaning, "owning no land" or possibly "knowing the land", such as a farmer would or one who made a living from the land.

Through the course of time, corruptions and variations in spelling of the name have come about, until we find derived from the original name such spellings as these: Nowland, Noland, Nolan, Nolan, Nolan, Knowland and Nowlen.

A better and perhaps more plausible explanation of the spelling of the name was told to me by a priest at Whitfield. He said the early priests in this section of the country were Irish and they lead lonely lives. They worked hard and long to maintain the faith and minister to the needs of their parishoners. The priest often let the names of those baptised, married or died, accumulate for several months before he entered the records on the church books. When he got ready to bring the records up to date he often had a few "belts of whiskey" to get him in the mood. Sustained by the whiskey, trying to recall a poor memory to the task at hand, and writing in Latin in pen and ink, he sometimes mispelled or made one letter look like another or mixed up a date. When copies were made from the church recors, errors already there were recopied and names often were written a little differently than the original intended name. Historians say that the early Irish peasants were uneducated and they often spelled their names the way they sounded to them, so this might account for so many different spellings of the name Nolen.

The line of Molens came directly from Ireland. They came from County Wexford in eastern Ireland in the town of New Ross, St. Mary's Parish.

In the 1800's there was much political pressure on the Irish people. In the 1840's a potato famine killed hundreds of Irishmen. Hundreds of thousands were forced to leave their homeland. After the famine, shortage of jobs and land caused immigration to continue. Our ancestors were among these early immigrants. Older family members told of young people dying on the way to America and they were buried at sea.

These immigrants probably landed in Baltimore, New York or in Canada and scattered throughout the Atlantic seaboard and eventually were attracted to this area. At this time in history land was plentiful in Indiana. These early immigrants had many hardships and dangers. The Irish are a hardworking people, undaunted by challenges and privations. Their long history of hardship and struggle for independence from England fitted them for their struggles in the new country.

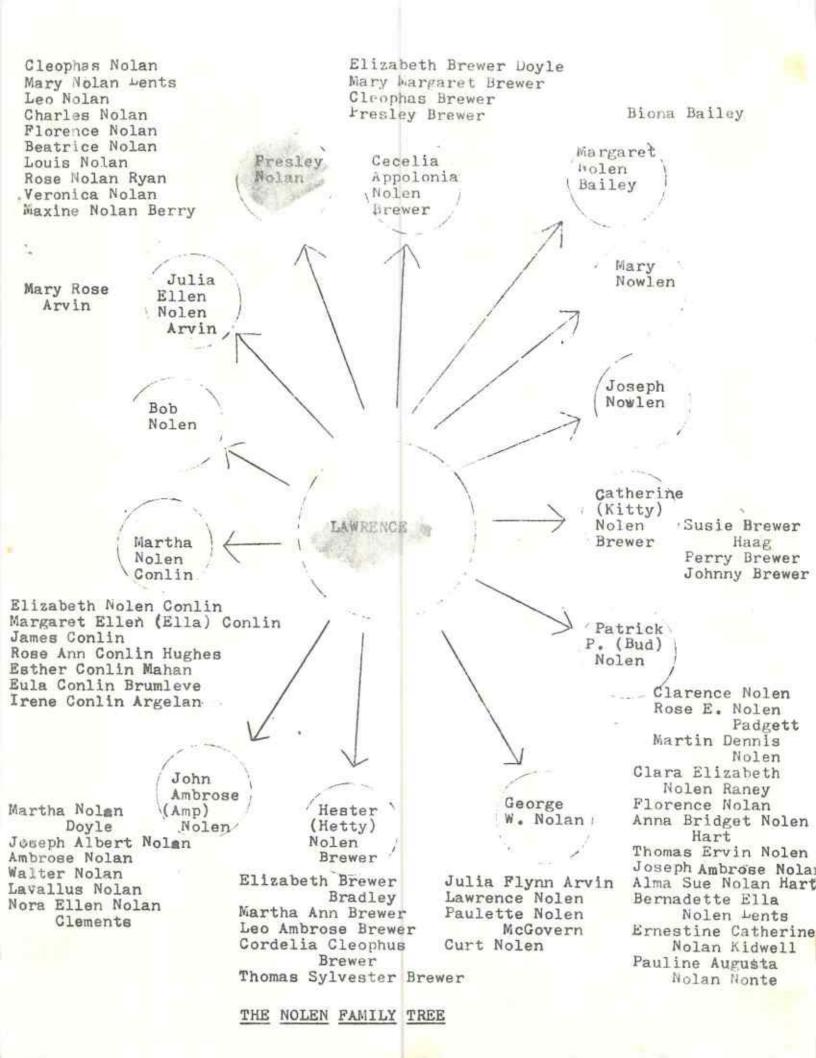
America.

Irish people are warmhearted and friendly. They are famous for their hospitality and close family ties. Their English was spoken with a soft accent called a brogue and this slowness of speech and accent continues today in our family. They were very strong religiously. Their Roman Catholic faith was carried with them to America and oftentimes this faith was the one thing that kept them going.

Large numbers of young people in Ireland once lived single lives and lived with their parents until over the age of 30, because few could afford to marry and raise families. This accounts for the great age differences in some of the marriages of our ancestors and oftentimes as not, they never married, remaining bachelors or "old maids". beloved by neices and nephews. They were a great help and comfort to their parents and brothers and sisters.

While the Irish were not a beligerent people, they have fought for their country and many gave their lives for its support. Stories are told of their strong mindedness being tested and a "knock-down-drag-out" brawl resulted. Afterward they were friends again.

The Nolens have been a strong race of men and women. The men were tall with red to dark auburn hair and lots of freckles. The women were usually comely, samll boned and much sought after for wives and maids because of their housekeeping ability and devotion to family.



GENERLOGY grand Brants

Lawrence Nowlen, b. Feb 1808, St. Mary's Parish, New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland. d. July 27, 1872; m. Elizabeth (Betsy) Patterson.

- Ch. 1. Margaret 2. Mary, 3. Joseph, 4. Catherine (Kitty),
 - 5. Patrick P. (Bud); 6. George W., 7. Hester (Hetty),
 - 8. John Ambrose (Amp), 9. Martha, 10. Bob; 11. Julia Ellen

(Deelia); 12. Presley; 13. Cecelia Appolonia

grandparent

I. Margaret Nolen Bailey, b. Daviess Co., Ind. July 23, 1847 m. Adam Bailey

Ch. A. Biona Bailey

B. John Bailey

C. another son

II. Mary Nowlen, b. Daviess Co. Ind. Dec. 1849, d. aged 3 yrs. 2 mos. III. Joseph Nowlen, b. Daviess Co., Sept. 1850, d. age 4 yrs. 5 mos.

IV. Catherine (Kitty) Nolen Brewer, b. Daviess Co., Ind. Apr. 13, 1851 m. John Henry Brewer (his second marriage)

Ch. A. Susie Elizabeth Brewer m. Terrance Haag

- Ch. 1. Cecil b. Oct. 1910 m. Mildred Norris
 - 2. infant death
 - 3. Clarence (Teed) 1913 m. Anna Burger
 - 4. Mary (Sister of Providence)
 - 5. John
 - 6. Albert
 - 7. Catherine (nurse) deceased
 - .8. Robert
 - 9. Joseph b. March 1931
- B. Perry Brewer
- C. Johnny Brewer
- V. Patrick P. (Bud) Nolen, b. Oct. 10, 1853, d. Oct. 30, 1929 Daviess County, Ind. m. Mary Ann Nalin May 3, 1881.
 - Ch. A. Lawrence Nolen, b. 1882, d. infancy 1882
 - B. Rose E. Nolen, b. Aug. 3, 1882, d. 1904. m. Charles F. Fadgett Aug. 13, 1903. (died childbirth/tuberculosis.
 - C. Martin Dennis Nolen, b. June 20, 1886, Daviess Co., Ind., d. Jan. 13, 1954. m. Mary Margaret Mullen on June 8, 1915.
 - 1. Mary Lucille

- 2. Roy
- 3. Rita
- D. Clara Elizabeth Nolen, b. Jan. 10, 1889 in Daviess Co., Ind., died June 19, 1957. m. Carl Bernard Raney Apr. 17,1917
 - 1. Rose Mary (deceased)
 - 2. Martin Bernard (deceased)
 - 3. Patrick John
 - 4. Donald Austin
 - 5. Veronica Marie
 - 6. Anna May
 - 7. Joseph Carl
 - 8. Celesta Sue
- E. Florence Nolen, b. Mar. 10, 1891, d. Nov. 5, 1905 (diptheria
- F. Anna Bridget Nolen, b. Apr. 20, 1893, Daviess Co., Ind.
 - d. Jan. 8, 1968. m. James Matthew Hart June 10, 1919.
 - ch. 1. Joseph Mark b. Apr. 25, 1920
 - 2. Faul Bernard, b. Aug. 26, 1921, d. July 26, 1967
 - 3. Dorothy Ann, b. May 26, 1923
 - 4. Rose Mary, b. Dec. 1, 1924
 - 5. John Patrick, b. Aug. 9, 1926
 - 6. Pius William, b. Dec. 2, 1927
- G. Thomas Ervin Nolen, b. June 26, 1895 in Daviess Co., Ind. d. Sept. 5, 1971, m. Lucille Carrios, May 29, 1937.
 - ch. l. Marilyn Sue, b. Jan. 5, 1940
 - 2. Mary Loretta, b. Sept. 30, 1943
- H. Joseph Ambrose Nolan, b. Feb. 25, 1898, d. Nov. 19, 1958.
 m. Delphia Lents April 12, 1920; second marriage to Lydia Blackwell
 - ch. 1. Charles Hubert, b. Jan. 30, 1921
 - 2. Eula Louise, b. Oct. 3, 1923
 - 3. Glenn Bernard, b. Apr. 28, 1925
 - 4. Floyd Joseph, b. Dec. 15, 1926
 - 5. Paul Eugene, b. Dec. 14, 1930, d. July 1, 1957
 - 6. Donald Jerome
- I. Alma Sue <u>Nolan</u>, b. July 26, 1900, d. Jan. 28, 1973, married James P. Hart (Junior) in 1929

- J. Bernadette Ella Nolen, b. Nov. 18, 1904, m. Ernest J. Lents, June 18, 1929.
 - ch. 1. Charles E. Lents, b. Sept. 30, 1930
 - 2. Helen Ann, b. Feb. 17, 1932
 - 3. Virginia Theresa, b. Mar. 5, 1935
 - 4. John Fatrick, b. Oct. 26, 1937
 - 5. Elizabeth Louise, b. Sept. 16, 1938
 - 6. Allan Bernard, b. Apr. 14, 1942
- H. Ernestine Catherine Nolan, b. Jan. 5, 1907, m. Francis Adrian Kidwell June 6, 1942
 - ch. 1. Mary Lou. b. Oct. 2, 1943'
- I. Pauline Augusta Nolen, b. April 1, 1909, d. Aug. 1973, m. Ignatius Joseph Nonte (Ned), Sett. 3, 1934
 - ch. 1. Paul Edward, b. Dec. 6, 1935
 - 2. Gerald Martin, b. June 3, 1937
 - 3. Beverly Jane, b. Apr. 28, 1940
 - 4. Barbara Jean, b. Apr. 28, 1940
 - 5. Mary Ann, b. Nov. 18, 1951
- VI. George W. Nolen (Nowlen), b. 1854, m. a widow, Mary Summers Flynn Ch. A. Julia Flynn, m. Dewey Arvin
 - B. Lawrence
 - C. Pauletta
 - D. Curt
 - VII. Hester (Hetty) Nolen, b. Sept. 19, 1856, m. Joseph Marion Brewer, St. Martin's, Whitfield on Jan. 3, 1883.
 - Ch. A. Elizabeth, b. Jan. 4, 1884, m. Lawrence Bradley
 - B. Martha Ann, b. Sept. 16, 1886
 - C. Leo Ambrose Brewer, b. Feb. 18, 1889
 - D. Cordelia Cleophus, Sept. 19, 1891
 - E. Thomas Sylvester Brewer, b. April 14, 1894
- VIII. John Ambrose (Amp) Nolan, b. March 4, 1857, d. m. Jane Surilda Brewer.
 - Ch. A. Martha E., b. 1887, m. James A Doyle Nov. 25, 1901
 - B. Joseph Albert, b. March 29, 1888, m. Mabel Gecelia Hagerty
 Jan. 17, 1891
 - C. Ambrose
 - D. Walter

E. Lavallus F. Nora Ellen, b. Nov. 28, 1883, m. Charles Louis Clements April 23, 1912 IX. Martha Nolen, b. Dec. 17, 1858, d. May 12, 1923, m. Thomas Conlin April, 1877 A. Elizabeth, b. May 17, 1878, d. Dec. 10, 1956. m. Francis Ch. Reilly B. Margaret Ellen, b. June 11, 1880, d. Sept. 17, 1953. m. Cornelius Reilly, Oct. 1903 C. James D. Rose Ann, b. Jan. 24, 1884, d. Jan. 1, 1963. m. Bert E. Esther, b. Sept. 23, 1895, d. June 14, 1964. m. John Mahan F. Eula, b. Oct. 25, 1898, m. Robert Brumleve on May 30, 1928 G. Irene, b. Sept. 4, 1901, m. Peter A. Argelan Sept. 28, 1926 X. Robert (Bob) Nolen, b. Apr. 10, 1862, d. Dec. 7, 1899 XI. Julia Ellen Nolen, b. 1862, m. Joe Tom Arvin (his 3rd marriage) A. Mary Rose Arvin (daughter of Joe Tom's 2nd marriage Ch. to Rose Nalin, sister of Mary Ann Nalin) XII. Prestay Notan, b. 1866; d. 1955, m. Emma Pegan D. da 1975 1 Ch. A. Cleophas, d. infancy Grandfarents C. Leo, b. _____, m. Eileen Mills May 24, 1941, d. 1989

Grandfarents D. Charles, died in infancy E. Florence F. Beatrice, died at 16 G. Louis, b. _____, m. Mary O'Brien Oct. 25, 1947 H. Rose, b. _____, m. Clair Ryan I. Veronica, b. 1920 J. Maxine, b. 1922 m. John Berry D. (2)24 1994 XIII. Cecelia Appolonia Nolen, b. _____, d. ____, m. John H.

Ch. A. Elizabeth, b. ____, m. William Doyle

B. Mary Margaret

C. Cleophas
D. Presley

Brewer

ANCEDOTES TOLD BY FAMILY MEMBERS

*Patrick was a farmer. Had a sawmill and an oil well. Had a cane mill for making molasses. He raised his own accordance Mary Ann was a good cook and gardener. She had lots and lots of people to eat at her table. She made her own soap, cured the meat used at home, made hominy, kraut and canned fruits and vegetables. She did all the sewing for her family."

Related to me by Alma Sue Molen Hart about her mother and father.

"My grandmother McCabe used to come to our house and I'd get to light the clay pipe she used to smoke. I'd take a thin stick and light it from the fireplace and puff on the pipe, then give it to her. She was a tiny little woman --her skin was real brown."

Related to me by my mother, Clara Elizabeth Nolen Raney about her maternal grandmother, Bridgett McCabe Nalin.

"In the 1800's three Irish immigrants - Edward, James and Lawrence Nolen, came through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky, crossed the Ohio River and settled in Daviess County, Indiana. James and Lawrence stayed in the Montgomery area. (Lawrence married Elizabeth Patterson. James married Elizabeth Brewer.) Edward went out west, ending up in Texas, where it is told he was hung as a horse thief. There is a county in Texas called Nolan and also a town called Nolanville."

Related to me by Charles Hubert Nolan from an account he had read in a book several years ago.

The following stories were told to me by Cecil Haag, grandson of John Henry Brewer. John Henry was married to Catherine (Kitty) Nolen, sister to Patrick P. Nolen and daughter of Lawrence Nolen.

John Henry's family came from Virginia and settled around Lebanon, Kentucky. Most of the family stayed in Kentucky. John Henry and his brother traveled around a lot and finally settled near Washington, Indiana. Several of his sisters married people in Kentucky and their husbands fought for the Confederacy during the Civil war -this caused quite a split in the family. Cecil remembers as a child hearing his Granddad and older members of the family talking about the Civil War and fighting it over and over. When John Henry and his brother went back to Lebanon to visit, they left Washington early in the morning on a good saddle horse and went as far as New Albany the first day and then on the Lebanon the next day. John Henry was slow-moving and talking-Southern, but he was of "good size". He could not read, nor write, but had a remarkable memory. Cecil said it was like reading a history book to hear him tell his tories.

John Henry worked as a tenant farmer for the Josh Graham family.

Josh was a very rough, heathenistic type of person-his mother was a Cable and bought in the Catholic influence. One day as they were in the fields haying and had all the clover hay in big windrows ready to work it, the sky began to cloud up. The wind rose and lightning and thunder crashed. Old Josh went into a screaming, cussing rage and yelled "Billy God, you're not going to get my hay crop", and he ran to each windrow and set it on fire. The wind soon cleared the field and then the storm blew over and not a drop of rain fell. Old Josh had destroyed the field for nothing.

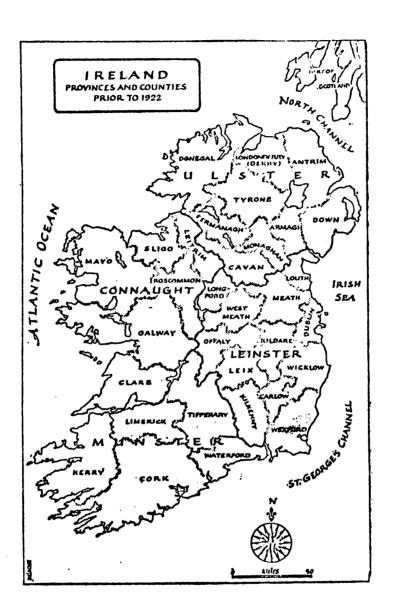
(Josh was a forebear of the Graham Farms Grahams).

When Catherine Nolen and John Henry were first married. Patrick (Bud) stayed with them and worked a farm at Hyatt's Crossing. They became very good friends.

Another time a platform dance was held in the community to raise some money for some cause. John Henry was an excellent fiddler and usually contributed the music. At this dance he was the fiddler and Patrick (Bud) collected the money (5¢ a dance)--"nickle on the corner". Everything went well until two rough characters decided to dance without

paying. After the second dance, Pat Nolen went up and asked them to pay the 10¢ they owed or leave. They refused. Pat then went to John Henry and told him the circumstances. John Henry told him to tell them to leave the floor. Pat said, "you tell them". John Henry laid down his fiddle and ambled over and asked them to leave or pay. And if they didn't do something pretty quick he'd help them leave. His slow speech amused them until they looked at his size, they then decided to leave. Pat said, "Now John, if I'd said that to them I'd be laying out there in the crowd."

Grandma Brewer also told him that her father's family, the Nolens, did not all come over to America. The old folks stayed in Ireland, in County Wexford. The younger members, sons, came to America because of the potato famine in Ireland. They came up around Washington, Cannelburg and the Corning areas, in Indiana.



OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Isham Roe Towles, CSA

Isham Roe Towles, [pictured here] oldest son of Sarah Ann Robinson and Toliver Towles, was born on 6 March 1834 in Chambers Co, Aalabama. Toliver Towles, son of William and Betty Ann Roe Towles, was born on 7 Jan 1800. He first married about 1829, Eleanor Clark, while still in SC. She bore two known children. Toliver married secondly to Sarah Ann Robinson. Daughter of Isham Robinson and wife Mary Wilson, Sarah Ann was born on 3 March 1813 in Edgefield District, South Carolina, and died on 15 Jan 1899 in Chambers Co, Alabama.

In Chambers County, Isham attended the school held at Union Church where his family worshipped.

When only 17 years old, he married Laura Anne Nolen, also 17, on 2 December 1851. These childhood sweethearts remained deeply in love till his death in the War Between the States, and Laura was devoted to his memory, never remarrying, for another 36 years.

In 1854, they moved to Texas with Laura's parents and all of her siblings' families. These families initially settled near Starrville in Smith County. Isham purchased 320 acres from L.E. & Mary A. Harkey, for \$600, on 8 November 1854. Some of the land was later sold to Julius Adonald Kay.



Sarah Ann Elizabeth was their first child and only daughter, born 13 February 1853 in Chambers County. After the move to Texas, three sons were born—Toliver on 1 February 1855; Isham Roe/David 8 March 1859; and Isaac Beauregard on 6 August 1861. 合合合合合合

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In his sister's family Bible, Isham/David is named Isham Roe, Junior, but on the 1860 Smith Co, TX, census, he is called David. He is called Isham on the 1880 and 1900 censuses. His tombstone at Starrville calls him David Roe (Isham) Towles.

Isham Roe, Sr, at age 28, enlisted as Private, Co. G, 11 TX Infantry, Confederate States of America, on 6 May 1862. His brother-in-law Jacob Lewis Henry Stillwell was Captain of this Company and was then recruiting at Starrville. Four other brothers-in-law were also in this company. Isham was appointed 1st Sgt. on 20 Nov 1862. He died near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on 30 Jan 1863 of a "congestive chill." His gravesite is unidentified. His sons Toliver and Isaac both died within six months. His widow Laura Anne lived till 1899.

Four Nolen Brothers, CSA (and brothers-in-law)

Isaac and Elizabeth Coleman Nolen arrived in Smith Co, TX, in 1854. Accompanying them were their ten children, four of whom were already married and had their own families.

Elizabeth was born on 6 April 1807 to David Roe Coleman and his wife Edith Beam in Fairfield Co, SC, near the village of Feasterville. Isaac's parents were Stephen Nolen III, a Revolutionary War veteran from Frederick Co, VA, and his wife Mary Smith. They lived on a a branch of the Broad River in.

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Elizabeth and Isaac's second son, Andrew Jackson Nolen, died in 1855 and was among the first 3 or 4 buried in what later became the Starrville Cemetery. Their youngest son Wade Hobson "Bussy" Nolen, born 1846, was considered too young to enlist.

The eldest of Isaac and Elizabeth's sons was **Robert Wilson** "Witt" Nolen, born 29 Feb 1829, near Indian Springs, Ga. He married Sara Catherine Darden in Chambers Co, AL, on 16 Oct 1851. Sara died between 1863 and the 1870 census, supposedly in Upshur Co. They had three known children, all born in Upshur Co, TX.

Witt served the Confederacy for five months in Co. G, 11th TX Infantry, before being replaced by a substitute.

The 1870 census located him in Smith Co, TX, in the same household as his sister Laura Anne Towles who was widowed during the War. Three children are shown for Witt and two for Laura.

Witt moved to Canton, Van Zandt Co, TX, before 1880. Witt signed his will on 14 Feb 1890 at Canton. He died about 1892, but his burial site has not been located.

Isaac Henry "Ike" Nolen was born on 19 May 1839, the first child born in Chambers Co, Al. After arriving in TX, he married Sarah Elizabeth Clinkscales on 20 Nov 1860. Born 23 July 1843 in Abbeville Dist, SC, she was the daughter of John B. and Jane Kay Clinkscales. Ike served for three months as Private, Co. G, 11th TX Inf. during the War. He received a disability discharge for having hemorrhoids. He and Sarah had six children.

Sarah Clinkscales Nolen died on 29 Dec 1876 and was buried near her parents in the Harris Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, southwest of Winona, Smith Co, TX. Ike's grand-daughter, Dixie Richardson, related how he lost both hands in a sawmill accident and was operated on without anesthesia at Mineola, TX. He managed to function effectively for many years thereafter, serving as Tax Assessor of Smith Co. in 1886-1888 and 1890-1892, and County Treasurer, 1892-1893. He died 2 Dec 1904 and was buried beside Sarah.

John Roe Nolen was born on 31 Dec 1841 in Chambers Co, AL. He, too, served in Co. G, 11th TX Inf, as a Sergeant for the CSA. From at least 4 Nov 1863 through Feb, 1864, he was "detailed as nurse in hospital Opelousas, La." After the War, he married Laura A. Whitmore on 5 Feb 1867 in Smith Co, TX. John served as Postmaster at Winona from 2 Jan 1878 to 24 Sept 1878. John and Laura had six children before he died on 19 Jan 1879 and was buried at the Starrville Cemetery.

Albert Alexander Nolen was born in 1843 in Chambers Co, Al, and enlisted as Private in Co. G, 11th TX Infantry, CSA, on 14 April 1863. He married Arabella Baskin and had three sons, but Albert died in 1873 and was buried at Starrville. Arabella and the sons, Oscar Lee, Albert Sidney and George Tate Nolen, moved to Canton, Van Zandt Co, TX, to live with her parents.

Mary Edith Caroline Nolen, "Carrie," a sister to these Nolen men, was born on 3 March 1832, also near Indian Springs, Ga. She married Jacob Lewis Henry Stillwell (1830-1863) on 6 Sept 1849 in Chambers Co, AL. He served as Captain in Co. G, 11th TX Infantry. He died on 3 Nov 1863 at the Battle of Bourbeaux, LA, and was buried there.

Near the end of the War, Union cavalry stopped for a drink at the family well. Carrie---all 80# of her---turned them away because the Yankees had killed her husband. (Story per her great-niece Dixie Richardson.) She died in 1892.

Daughter Elizabeth Coleman Nolen was born on 3 Jan 1837 near Indian Springs, GA. On 6 April 1859 she married Erasmus Perkins Moore who was a school teacher and lawyer. He served the Confederacy in Co. B, 10th TX Cavalry and died in 1873 due to wounds suffered during the War.

Laura Anne Nolen Towles was another daughter of his family, but she and her husband Isham R. Towles were discussed in a separate article.

- Submitted by Dr. Karen Kay Esberger

