George Thomas Stiles
(c1826–1881)

Son of John Stiles Jr. & Rebecca Cooper

by Timothy Dean Hudson

George Thomas Stiles Sr. was born about 1826 in Tennessee, the first child of Jack and Becca Stiles born after their emigration from Surry County, Virginia. He is undoubtedly one of the young boys listed in the 1830 Franklin County, Tennessee household of John Stiles, and the boy aged 10–15 in his father's 1840 household in Jackson Township, Union County, Arkansas. In 1850, as young adults, George and his younger brother, Rufus, lived with their parents in the adjoining El Dorado Township of Union County [1].

In 1844, Jack Stiles turned sixty years of age, and so he aged out of paying an annual poll tax. He paid his 1844 poll tax, but he was not assessed one in either 1845 or 1846 [2]. This coincided with George's reaching the age of twenty-one years, meaning he now had to pay a poll tax each year.

In 1848 and 1849, George T. Stiles was assessed taxes on his own white poll and on the same number of livestock that John Stiles had been assessed taxes on in 1845 and 1846. This indicates that George now took over as the head of the Stiles household, with their family's livestock in his name [3].

On 13 July 1846, the Union County Court designated the southwestern corner of the county as Brown Township [4]. In late 1850 or 1851, the extended Stiles family all moved from El Dorado/Jackson Townships in the central portion of the county westward into Brown Township.

In early 1852, the citizens of Brown Township elected James Boatright as their constable. Prior to his taking his oath of office as constable, the law required Boatright to post bond to secure his faithful performance of his duties. On Tuesday, 6 April 1852, he appeared in court to post the required $1000 bond, with his brothers-in-law, George T. Stiles and John N. Stiles, serving as his securities. Probably because neither Boatright nor the Stiles brothers owned land or any other substantial property, the Court rejected the Stiles brothers as Boatright's securities. The justices ruled of the Stiles brothers:

> *…which securities are by the Court adjudged to be insufficient, said Bond is therefore hereby by the Court disapproved and rejected.*

To approve Boatright as constable, the Court then issued an order,

> *…requiring the said James Boatwright to come forward forthewith and inter* [sic] *into Bond, with good and sufficient security, as such Constable, according to Law."*

The court clerk later marked this entry as *"Issued,"* seemingly implying that Boatright produced sufficient security and that the Court later approved his bond, after which he began serving as constable [5].

On 17 December 1852, a narrow vertical strip of western Union County, including Brown Township, was combined with portions of other surrounding counties and designated as Columbia County [6]. The creation of Columbia and transition of Brown Township from Union to Columbia created confusion among the county tax assessors. In 1851, neither George T. Stiles, John N. Stiles, nor James Boatright was assessed Union County taxes, but George's brother-in-law, Dennis Mires, and his uncle, Leroy Stiles, were [7]. In 1853, George T. Stiles and his brother, John, and brothers-in-law, Dennis Mires and James Boatright, were all assessed taxes in Columbia County, Arkansas on horses and cattle [8].

For a dozen years after Jane E. Stiles, George's younger sister, married in 1842, the household of Jack Stiles and Rebecca Cooper consisted of themselves and their two youngest sons, George and Rufus. Both young men married in Columbia County within a two-week period in March 1854. George married Mary Ann Legg on March 19th, with the ceremony performed by Justice of the Peace John Monroe Anderson. Just nine days later, Justice of the Peace James M. Barnes married Rufus A. Stiles to Mary Ann Anderson, daughter of John M. Anderson [9].

George T. Stiles' wife, Mary Ann Legg, was born on 18 March 1834 [10], the daughter of Albert Legg (27 Sep 1812–31 Jan 1886) and Ankey Thomas (23 May 1814–18 Dec 1888). In 1850, Mary lived with her parents in Lafayette County that then adjoined Union County to the west. The Leggs probably resided in the portion of Lafayette that became Columbia County in 1852 [11].

In 1854, George T. Stiles was assessed Columbia County taxes on two horses valued at $200 and three cattle worth $28. His relatives John N. Stiles, James Boatright, Dennis Mires, and Albert Legg also paid taxes that year [12].

Sometime in late 1854 or early 1855, George's sister and her husband, Elisabeth Stiles and Dennis Mires, moved their family southeastward across the state line into Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. Neither Dennis Mires nor his sons were assessed Columbia County taxes in 1855 or 1856, either as residents or non-resident landowners. In 1855, George T. Stiles was assessed taxes on one horse valued at $100, while Boatright's horse was valued at $80, and John N. Stiles' at only $65. George Stiles and James Boatright also paid taxes on cattle that year [13].

By the latter portion of 1855, something prompted the Boatrights to leave Columbia like the Mires had the previous year. They sold their 160-acre tract of land in eastern Columbia County in late 1855 or early 1856 and soon moved across the state line into Union Parish, Louisiana [14].

Although George's sisters had emigrated, his brothers, John N. and Rufus A. Stiles, initially both remained in Columbia County. On 18 February 1856, three months after Jane and her husband sold their land, George T. Stiles went to the Champagnolle Land Office and paid $40 in cash for an 80-acre tract of land about two miles west of Jane's former farm [15]. In 1856 and 1857, George paid taxes on his new tract 80-acre tract of land valued at $240 and on four cattle worth $55 [16].

In 1856 or 1857, the government moved the regional land office from Champagnolle to Washington, Arkansas, and on 28 January 1858, Rufus A. Stiles went there and paid $60 for a 120-acre tract of land located in modern Emerson, Arkansas [17]. George soon decided to follow Rufus to his new location. On 26 December 1857, George and Mary Ann Stiles sold the land he had purchased in February 1856, and on 2 August 1859, he also went to the new Washington Land Office and bought government land near Rufus' [18].

It appears that George T. and Mary Ann Stiles may have left Columbia County between 1858 and 1860. His two brothers remained for 1858 and 1859 and were assessed taxes there, but George was not. In 1860, no Stiles were assessed taxes, although Mary's father, Albert Legg, remained in Columbia County [19].

George was enumerated on the 1860 Columbia County Federal Census, so he may have returned mid-year. He lived in Mississippi Township, with his household adjoining that of Albert Legg [20]. George remained in Columbia during the Civil War and was assessed taxes in 1861, 1863, and 1866 [21].

In about 1861 or 1862, George Thomas Stiles enlisted as a private in Co. D, 15th Regiment Arkansas Infantry. His unit served during the Siege of Port Hudson in 1863, and he was captured there and paroled on July 12th. His activities during the rest of the War following his parole are unknown [22].

After the Civil War, Mary Ann Stiles' parents left Columbia County and moved across the state line into central Louisiana. George and Mary Stiles remained on their farm in Mississippi Township during the latter 1860s and 1870s [23]. Family records indicate that George died there on 12 February 1881 [24].

A few years after George's death, Mary moved with her children a short distance westward, across the Arkansas/Texas state line into Cass County, Texas. She lived there with her son, Shelton

Watson Stiles, between 1900 and 1920 [25]. Mary Ann Legg Stiles died at Hughes Springs in Cass County on 9 March 1927 and is buried in the Dennis Cemetery there [26].

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Children of George Thomas Stiles & Mary Ann Legg

The known children of George T. Stiles and Mary A. Legg include [1]:

1. **John Wesley Stiles** (1854–14 Feb 1940) married on 17 May 1879 in Columbia County, Arkansas to Rebecca Ann Stegall [Becky] (1864–25 Aug 1935), daughter of Beverly Coleman (or Bevin) Stegall. John and Becky Stiles are buried in the Hughes Springs Cemetery, Hughes Springs, Cass County, Texas [2].
2. **Albert J. Stiles** (c1857–aft. 1880) lived with his parents in 1860, 1870, and 1880 in Columbia County, Arkansas. He died sometime after 1880.
3. **George Thomas Stiles Jr.** (25 Nov 1858–27 Sep 1934) married on 15 December 1880 in Columbia County, Arkansas to Mary Frances Walker (20 Feb 1859–29 Sep 1925), daughter of William Henry Robertson Walker (1832–1906) and Susan Jane Overton (1839–1906). George and Mary Stiles are buried in the Dennis Cemetery, Hughes Springs, Cass County, Texas [3].
4. **Sarah J. Stiles** (c1861–aft. 1880) lived with her parents in 1870 and 1880 in Columbia County, Arkansas. She died sometime after 1880.
5. **Mary E. Stiles** [Mollie] (25 Aug 1866–13 Oct 1902) married on 5 January 1887 in Cass County, Texas to William Lee Fulgham (18 Apr 1870–31 Dec 1948). Mollie and William Fulgham are buried in the Dennis Cemetery, Hughes Springs, Cass County, Texas [4].
6. **Sheldon Watson Stiles** (16 Feb 1867–22 Nov 1921) married on 17 February 1899 in Morris County, Texas to Dora Clementine Cox (15 Nov 1883–10 May 1965), daughter of Rufus Napolean Cox (11 Feb 1862–17 Mar 1949) and Mary Lucinda Putnam (3 Dec 1865–23 Mar 1915). Sheldon and Dora Stiles are buried in the Dennis Cemetery, Hughes Springs, Cass County, Texas [5].
7. **Emily Frances Stiles** (c1870–1897) married on 20 February 1887 in Cass County, Texas to John Nelson Hollingsworth (9 Aug 1860–22 Jul 1930), son of John William Hollingsworth (19 Oct 1830–2 Jul 1898) and Nancy Bray Teague (26 May 1828–7 Apr 1901). Emma and John Hollingsworth lived in Cass County, Texas after their marriage and had four children. Family records stated that she died in 1897 and is buried in the Friendship Cemetery, Hughes Springs, Cass County, Texas [6].
8. **Lucy Caroline Stiles** (22 Dec 1871–26 Dec 1918) married on 12 February 1890 in Cass County, Texas to Alexander Granberry (Greenberry) Haywood (9 Sep 1869–7 Oct 1945), son of James Haywood and Jane Chandler. Lucy and Alexander Haywood are buried in the Sardis Cemetery, Cass County, Texas [7].

9. **Ankey L. Stiles** (c1874–aft. 1880) lived with her parents in Columbia County, Arkansas in 1880. Nothing further is known of Ankey.

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Notes

1. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: *"John Stiles Senr;"* #26: John Stiles. 1840 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, p. 222, #9: *"John Styles Senr."* 1850 Union County AR Federal Census, El Dorado Township, p. 236b, Dwelling #419, line #31: Jack Stiles (age: 66; Farmer; born: *"Va"*); #32: Rebecca Stiles (age: 56; born: *"Va"*); #33: *"D. T. Stiles"* [sic] (age: 24; Farmer; born: Tenn); #34: *"Rufus A. Stiles"* (age: 18; Farmer; born: *"Tenn"*). The census enumerator wrote George's initials in a way that make his first initial appear to be a "D."
2. 1843–1844 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339821, 1844, Image 881, #3: *"Stiles John;"* 1845–1846 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339822, 1845, Image #42, #11: *"Leroy Stiles;"* #12: *"John Stiles;"* 1846, Image #86, #18 *"___Stiles"* [0 polls]; #19 *"Leroy Stiles."* The male Stiles with zero white polls in 1846 is John Stiles Jr., as this man paid taxes on similar livestock as John Stiles did in 1845.
3. 1848–1849 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339822, Image #137, #3: *"G. F. Stiles"* [sic]; Image #183, #35: *"G. T. Styles."*
4. Union County AR County Court Record Book A (1830–1846), p. 311 (*"Brown Township established,"* 13 July 1846).
5. Union County AR County Court Record D, p. 226 (James *"Boatwright"* Bond as Constable, 6 April 1852; securities: George T. Stiles, John N. Stiles); LDS Film #8197438, Image #593. The Union County court minutes did not indicate who served as Boatright's approved securities after they initially rejected the Stiles brothers.
6. Baker, Russell Pierce. *Arkansas Township Atlas: A History of the Minor Civil Divisions & each Arkansas County.* Revised ed. Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1987, p. 197. Baker indicates that while in Union County, the township was named *"Browne,"* whereas in Columbia County, it was *"Brown."* The court records describing the township's creation in both counties spelled it as *"Brown,"* and that is the spelling used here.
7. 1851 Union County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8339822, Image #231, #3: *"Dinnis Myers;"* Image #242, #24: Leroy Stiles. It is unclear why George T. Stiles and James Boatright were not assessed 1851 Union County taxes, as other records show them as residents that year.
8. 1853 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, Image #420, #11: *"Jas Boatright;"* Image #437, #11: *"Denis Myres;"* Image #446, #10: *"John M. Styles"* [sic]; #11: *"George Styles;"* LDS Film #8197448, Image #13, p. 6, #15: James Boatright; Image #35, p. 28, #12: *"Dennis Myres;"* Image #60, p. 39, #6: John N. Stiles; #7: George Stiles. Multiple versions of Columbia County tax assessments from the 1850s survive, and references to both are listed.
9. Columbia County AR Marriage Record A (1853–1865), p. 24 (*"George T. Styles"* to Mary Legg, 19 March 1854; performed by J. M. Anderson, J. P.); p. 26 (Rufus A. Stiles to Mary A. Anderson, 28 March 1854; performed by James M. Barnes J. P.).
10. Dennis Cemetery (Hughes Springs, Cass County TX), tombstone of *"Mary Legg Stiles"* (18 Mar 1834–9 Mar 1927).
11. 1850 Lafayette County AR Federal Census, Union Township, p. 176a, Dwelling #136, line #6: Albert Legg (age: 37; Farmer; born: S.C.); #7: Ankey Legg (age: 35; born: S.C.); #9: Mary Legg (age: 16; born: Ala). Drakes Fork Cemetery (Cravens, Vernon Parish LA), markers of Albert Legg (27 Sep 1812–31 Jan 1886) and Ankey Thomas Legg (23 May 1814–18 Dec 1888). It does not appear that Albert and Ankey Legg have actual inscribed markers in this cemetery or are even actually buried there.
12. 1854 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, Image #481, #9: *"James Boatwright;"* Image #504, #5: Dennis Mires; Image #514, #16: George Stiles; Image #515, #10: J. N. Stiles; LDS Film #8197448, Image #152, #9: *"James Boatwright;"* Image #174, #15: Albert Legg; Image #176, #5: Dennis Mires; Image #187, #16: George Stiles; Image #188, #10: J. N. Stiles.
13. 1855 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8197448, Image #234, p. 9, #4: James Boatright; Image #287, p. 60, #17: George T. Stiles; Image #290, p. 63, #3: John N. Stiles.
14. Champagnolle, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #3948, James Boatright, 15 November 1855 ($80 for 160 acres @ $0.50/acre, for the NW¼ of Section 8, Township 18 South, Range 19 West). Columbia County AR Deed & Mortgage Record Book B (1855–1857), pp. 130–132 (James and Jane E. Boatright to Steve Williams, 19 November 1855). The Boatrights sold the precise tract of land that James had purchased four days earlier at the land office.
15. Champagnolle, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #4225, George T. Stiles, 18 February 1856 ($40 for 80 acres @ $0.50/acre, for the W½ of SE¼ of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 20 West).
16. 1856–1857 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, 1856, Image #651, #19: *"John M. Styles"* [sic–John N. Stiles]; 1857, Image #759, #7: *"George Styles;"* Image #751, #13: *"J. N. Styles;"* LDS Film #8624749, 1856, Image #127, p. 119, #18: *"John N. Stiles;"* Image #219, p. 84, #8: *"George Styles;"* Image #234, p. 86, #16: *"J. N. Styles;"* Image #317, #19: *"Jno. M. Stiles"* [sic]; LDS Film #8197448, 1857, Image #506, p. 74, #7: *"George Styles;"* Image #508–509, p. 76, #13: *"J. N. Styles."*
17. Washington, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #13089, Rufus A. Stiles, 28 January 1858 ($60 for 120 acres @ $0.50/acre, for the W½ of NW¼ & SE¼ of NW¼ of Section 14, Township 19 South, Range 21 West).
18. Columbia County AR Deed Record C (1857–1859), pp. 295–296 (George Stiles and Mary Ann Stiles to David M. Emerson, 26 December 1857). Washington, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #14459, George T. Stiles, 2 August

1859 ($20 for 40 acres @ $0.50/acre, for the SW¼ of SE¼ of Section 1, Township 19 South, Range 21 West). George and Mary Ann Stiles sold the precise tract that he had purchased in 1856 at the Champagnolle Land Office.

19. 1858–1860 Columbia County AR Tax Lists.
    - LDS Film #8624749 – in 1858, John N. Stiles (Image #446) and Rufus A. Stiles (Image #452) are listed but not George T. Stiles. In 1860, there are no Stiles assessed taxes in Columbia County.
    - LDS Film #8343026 – in 1859, the only Stiles assessed taxes was John N. Stiles (Image #178). Albert Legg was assessed Columbia County taxes in both 1859 (Image #139) and 1860 (Image #301).
20. 1860 Columbia County AR Federal Census, Mississippi Township, P. O. Palestine, p. 262/48, Dwelling #320, line #29: Albert Legg (age: 47; Farmer; real estate: $1000; personal estate: $200; born: S.C.); #30: Ankey Legg (age: 46; born: S.C.); Dwelling #321, line #39: George Stiles (age: 34; Farmer; real estate: $500; personal estate: $300; born: *"Tenn"*); #40: Mary Stiles (age: 26; born: *"Ala"*).
21. 1861, 1863, 1866 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343026, 1861, Image #517, #16: G. T. Stiles; 1863, Image #715, #5: G. T. Stiles; 1866, Image #877, #7: G. T. Stiles.
22. Compiled Military Service Record, G. T. Stiles (private), Co. D, 15 (Johnson's) Arkansas Infantry (Confederate), Civil War.
23. 1870 Columbia County AR Federal Census, Mississippi Township, P.O. Magnolia, Ark., p. 447b/19, Dwelling #115, line #11: George T. Stiles (age: 43; Farmer, real estate: $320; personal estate: $200; born: Tennessee); #12: Mary Stiles (age: 36; born: Alabama). 1880 Columbia County AR Federal Census, Mississippi Township, ED #43, p. 207b/1, Dwelling #6, line #36: George T. Stiles (age: 53; Farmer; born: Tennessee; parents: *"Va"*); #37: Mary A. Stiles (age: 45; wife; Keeping house; born: Alabama; parents: *"S.C."*).
24. The precise source of the death date of George Thomas Stiles is unknown, other than from family records. No Columbia County court record has been found to confirm it.
25. 1900–1920 census listings of Mary Ann Legg Stiles:
    - 1900 Cass County TX Federal Census, Justice Peace Precinct No. 2, ED #21, p. 169b/9, Dwelling #150, line #51: Shelton W. Stiles (age: 31; born: Feb 1869; married 1 year; Farmer; born: Arkansas; land owned freely); line #52: *"Tora Stiles"* (age: 16; born: Nov 1883; wife; one child, one living; born: Alabama); #53: *"Mary Stiles"* (age: 67; born: Jan 1832; widowed; 9 children, 5 living; born: Alabama; parents: Alabama).
    - 1910 Cass County TX Federal Census, Justice Precinct 2, Hermitage Voting Precinct, ED #29, p. 92b/6, Hughes Springs Road, Dwelling #113, line #81: Wat S. Stiles (age: 43; married: 10 years; born: Arkansas; Farmer; farm land owned); #82: Dora C. Stiles (age: 26; wife; 3 children, 3 living; born: Alabama); #86: Mary A. Stiles (age: 76; mother; widowed; 9 children, 4 living; born: Alabama; parents: South Carolina).
    - 1920 Cass County TX Federal Census, Justice Precinct 2, ED #34, p. 102b/1, Dwelling #16, line #78: Shelton W. Stiles (age: 52; born: Arkansas; Farmer; home owned); #79: Dora C. Stiles (age: 35; Wife; born: Alabama); #83: Mary A. Stiles (age: 87; Mother; widowed; born: Alabama).
26. Texas Department of Health, Death Certificate #7952, 1927, *"Mrs. Styles,"* Hughes Spgs, Cass County (born: 1834; died: 9 Mar 1927; age: 93 years; occupation: *"House Wife;"* cause of death: *"Old age;"* burial: *"Denis Cemetery;"* burial date: 10 March 1927; all other question marked as *"D.K."* Dennis Cemetery (Hughes Springs, Cass County TX), tombstone of *"Mary Legg Stiles"* (18 Mar 1834–9 Mar 1927).

<u>Children of George Thomas Stiles & Mary Ann Legg</u>

1. Documentation of the children of George Thomas Stiles and Mary Ann Legg comes from the 1860–1920 federal census records referenced earlier.
2. Columbia County AR Marriage Book E (1878–1882), p. 141 (*"John W. Styles"* to *"Miss Becky A. Stegal,"* 17 May 1879). Hughes Springs Cemetery (Hughes Springs, Cass County TX), tombstones of *"J. W. Stiles"* (1854–1940) and *"R. A. Stiles"* (1864–1935). Texas Department of Health, Death Certificate #10170, 1940, *"John Wesley Stiles,"* Jefferson, Marion County (age: 85 years; death: 14 Feb 1940; widowed; spouse: Rebecca Ann Stiles; occupation: Farmer; birthplace: *"Magnolia Ark;"* parents: unknown).
3. Columbia County AR Marriage Book E (1878–1882), p. 349 (George T. Stiles to *"Miss Mary F. Walker,"* 17 December 1880). Dennis Cemetery (Hughes Springs, Cass County TX), tombstones of *"George Thomas Stiles"* (25 Nov 1858–27 Sep 1934) and *"Mary Frances Stiles"* (20 Feb 1859–29 Sep 1925).
4. Dennis Cemetery (Hughes Springs, Cass County TX), tombstones of *"M. E. Wife of W. L. Fulgham"* (25 Aug 1866–13 Oct 1902) and *"W. L. Fulgham"* (18 Apr 1870–30 Dec 1948).
5. Morris County TX Marriage Book D, p. 7 (*"Mr. S. W. Stiles"* to *"Miss Dora Cox,"* 17 February 1899). Dennis Cemetery (Hughes Springs, Cass County TX), tombstones of *"Shelton W. Stiles"* (16 Feb 1867–22 Nov 1921) and *"Dora C. Stiles"* (15 Nov 1883–10 May 1965).
6. Texas Department of Health, Death Certificate #34964, 1930, *"J. N. Hollingsworth,"* Highlands, Harris County (born: 9 Aug 1860; died: 22 July 1930; widower; retired; parents: not known; burial: White Cemetery, 23 July 1930). John

N. Hollingsworth remarried on 20 December 1899 in Cass County to May Ellen Gholson (9 Oct 1879–16 May 1904). He is buried in the Sterling White Chapel and Cemetery, Highlands, Harris County, Texas.

7. Sardis Cemetery (Sardis, Cass County TX), tombstones of *"Lucy C. Haywood"* (22 Dec 1871–26 Dec 1918) and *"A. G. (Alex) Haywood"* (9 Sep 1869–7 Oct 1945).

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