Pinckney Odom & Mary Caroline Ward

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Mary Caroline Ward (1 Feb 1818–15 May 1892) was the youngest daughter of Elisha Ward Sr. (21 Feb 1773–5 Aug 1838) and Jane Washington Neeland (15 Oct 1784–aft. 1850). Her birth occurred while her parents lived in Twiggs County, Georgia. When she was only an infant of seven months, her father went to the county seat and state capital at Milledgeville and purchased government land in the new Territory of Alabama. Elisha Ward chose land that lay in south-central Alabama, today in Butler but then in Monroe County.

Sometime during the winter of 1818–1819, Elisha Ward moved his family west from Georgia to Alabama. Mary spent the next ten years living in northern Butler County on her father's farm just a few miles from the only two white settlements in the community: Fort Dale and the county seat of Greenville. However, in about 1828, the agriculturally rich farmland a short distance north in what was then southwestern Montgomery County went up for sale at the Cahaba Land Office. Elisha Ward joined the exodus of Butler County residents who moved there, and in early 1830 the Alabama Legislature carved off this region into Lowndes County.

Elisha Ward only remained in southern Lowndes County for a few years before again heading west. By the mid-1830s, he had settled in eastern Mississippi, along the Alabama border between Sumter County, Alabama and Kemper County, Mississippi. He purchased property in Kemper in January 1836. Although it is unclear where Elisha Ward spent the 1836 growing season, he did live in Kemper during the year 1837. However, sometime during the winter of 1837–1838, Ward and his son-in-law, Elijah Michael Auld, moved their families to north Louisiana to join Elisha's son, David Ward.

Mary Caroline Ward married about 1837, in either Mississippi or Alabama, to Richard H. Gee (1800/1810–27 Jul 1843). Mary and Richard appear to have married just prior to her parents' departure for north Louisiana, and she remained behind in Alabama. We know little about Gee other than he was born between 1800 and 1810, apparently in Virginia. In 1840, he and Mary lived in Sumter County, Alabama beside Benjamin O. and John H. Gee, apparently Richard's brothers. Richard and Mary had two daughters born in Sumter County before they decided to follow Mary's family to north Louisiana. According to a statement made by their daughter Louisa in 1909, Mary and Richard moved from Alabama to Louisiana in 1841, just a few years before Richard H. Gee's premature death on 27 July 1843. Mary managed the affairs of Gee's estate over the next few years with help from her brothers, David and Elisha Jr., as well as her brother-in-law, Elijah Michael Auld.

Along with their two daughters, Mary and Richard had a son born in the early 1840s, but he died between 1847 and 1850.

Mary Caroline Ward Gee married in September 1845 in Union Parish to Pinckney Odom. He was born on 17 April 1820 in South Carolina, reportedly the son of Michael Wellington Odom who lived in Barnwell District. In the 1830s, Michael Odom and his family left South Carolina, and by 1840, they had settled in Madison County, Mississippi. In 1842, *"Pinckney Oadom"* was listed beside *"Jesse Oadom"* on the Madison County Personal Property Tax List, but by 1843, it appears that he and his brothers had left for Union Parish. Pinckney had settled in Union Parish by June 1844, when the police jury assigned him to work on the "river road" along with others living in the eastern portion of the parish along the Ouachita River. This suggests that Pinckney first lived in the far eastern portion of the parish, perhaps near one of the three main river landings in the parish: Port Union, Ouachita City, or Alabama Landing.

Within a few years of their marriage, Mary and Pinckney settled about six miles due north of Farmerville and nine miles northwest of David Ward's farm. By 1850, Pinckney had acquired 160 acres of land, and the 1850 census enumerator valued his farm at about $1000. Odom went to the government land office in Monroe and purchased adjoining vacant land in February 1851 and again in August 1857. At the 1857 purchase, Odom bought 80 acres at only 25¢ per acre.

On 13 November 1852, Pinckney Odom gave money, goods, and property valued at $163.98 to his neighbor, George W. Sims. In return, Sims signed a promissory note payable to Odom. Despite making several payments on the note, by January 1854 Sims still owed Odom nearly $70. Odom filed suit that month and quickly won judgment against Sims. However, it took him several years to collect the amount Sims owed him. Odom had the clerk of court prepare and the sheriff serve a writ of seizure on Sims' property on 16 September 1854, and the deputy seized a portion of Sims' farm and prepared to auction it. However, due to several technicalities, the sheriff had to cancel that writ.

Odom had the sheriff issue another writ of seizure on 18 September 1855, but still no seizure and sale occurred. Odom authorized the clerk of court to issue a third writ the following June 10th. After consulting with Odom and Sims, Deputy Sheriff C. Edwards persuaded Sims to agree to a twelve month bond, whereby Odom would receive his money, and Sims would have the next year to pay his debt. However, when Sims failed to produce the sufficient security for the bond, Odom *"…orderd a Levy mad* [made]…," meaning that he ordered the sheriff to seize property to auction to raise money. Since Odom stood in judgment of Sims, the sheriff's officials had to comply with

Odom's directive. On August 19th, using his quaint spelling and punctuation, Deputy Edwards reported to the court that he

> *…went and demanded property Simes Refusd to gave any I now Return this exacution & Retain a Copy of the saim…*

However, soon afterwards Edwards managed to convince Sims to find sufficient security to post bond, for on the 29th, Edwards reported to the court that with the consent of Odom's attorney, he allowed Sims to take out *"…a twelve Months Bond I now Return this exacutoon satisfyd fya by the above Bond…"* Thus, Odom finally obtained compensation for the money he gave Sims some four years earlier. Ironically, by 1860 Sims operated a Farmerville hotel valued at $4000, with his personal estate valued at $3755, certainly placing him among the wealthiest of Union Parish residents. It suggests that Sims could certainly have repaid the $70 he owed Odom a few years earlier, so perhaps their legal wrangling resulted from some personal dispute rather than Sims' inability to repay Odom.

On 3 November 1857, merely two months after increasing the size of his farm with the purchase of 80 acres of government land, Pinckney Odom sold his farm of 283 acres six miles north of Farmerville to Robert W. Windes for the incredible price of $2880. One wonders what possible improvements Odom made to the place to justify such an exorbitant sum, as similar acreages went for far less during this era. Presumably, he had constructed a cotton gin, sawmill, or some similar enhancement to his farm that would have significantly increased its value.

Over the next several years, Odom made a number of land and slave purchases which put him in considerable financial debt. After selling their place some six miles north of Farmerville in the fall of 1857, that winter Mary and Pinckney moved their family south about five miles to a location on the northern outskirts of Farmerville. Odom bought 483 acres there from Farmerville physician Benjamin Franklin Dillard on 20 January 1858, paying $500 in cash and promising to pay Dr. Dillard 15 bales of cotton weighing 500 pounds each on January 1st, 1859 and 1860. As Odom's farm produced 13 bales in 1850 and 16 in 1860, he basically promised his 1858 and 1859 cash crops to Dillard. After paying his obligation to Dr. Dillard, Odom decided to move onto an adjoining farm. On 1 December 1859, he bought 357 acres that adjoined his existing farm from John West for $1627; his new plantation was located two miles due north of the courthouse. In payment, Odom gave West two promissory notes for $810, the first due 1 January 1861 and the second on 1 January 1862. Putting himself further in debt that same month, on 31 December 1859, Pinckney bought Major, a seventeen-year-old male slave, from his brother John Odom for $1800 due on 1 January 1860.

Next, Odom disposed of the place he bought from Dr. Dillard, selling the 483 acres on 28 January 1860 to Farmerville merchant and saloon owner Hugh C. Glasson for $2500. Glasson gave Odom $1000 cash and two promissory notes of $750 each due on 1 January 1862 and 1 January 1863. Just two months later, Pinckney purchased Sipp, a fifty-year old male slave, at an estate sale for $305.

In his final prewar purchase, on 30 August 1860, Pinckney Odom bought an entire town block in Farmerville from merchant William A. Glasson for $2000. The Farmerville streets of Washington, Franklin, East, and Jackson bordered the lot Odom purchased. He bought the block entirely on credit, promising to pay Glasson in three installments of $666.66 due on March 1st, 1861, 1862, and 1863. William Cleaton Carr, the first Union Parish sheriff and a lawyer, physician, and lumberman, co-signed Odom's notes to Glasson. It is unclear why Pinckney Odom would purchase such a city block in Farmerville with Carr co-signing his notes. This suggests that they might have planned to open a business of some sort in town, with the Civil War interrupting their plans.

The first indication of Odom's future financial problems appeared prior to the economic devastation visited upon the South by the Civil War. In those days, promissory notes were accepted as legal tender and failure to pay them in full resulted in much litigation. Elizabeth H. Carson Bingham was the daughter of James H. Carson, a wealthy Farmerville merchant who died on 23 September 1859. After her father's death, Bingham possessed notes signed by Pinckney Odom and payable to the Farmerville mercantile firm of Carson & Bayless, in which her father was formerly a partner.

The notes signed by Odom were dated 1 January 1857 and 13 April 1858 for a total of $53.96. Bingham filed suit against Odom in the Union Parish court on 26 March 1861 for nonpayment of the notes. Odom appeared in court that day and confessed judgment. However, it appears he could not pay his note to Bingham, and the court issued a judgment against him the following October 7th. Bingham then had a lien put on Odom's farm, but she pursued no further immediate action against Odom to collect on her judgment, probably due to opening of hostilities with the North.

Considering the strong financial position of Southern farmers due to the extremely high prices of cotton in the latter 1850s and 1860, it is clear that Odom had over-extended himself financially with his real estate dealings of the past few years. The evaporation of the cotton market in 1861 due to the Northern blockade of the South and the April 1862 capture of New Orleans certainly put Odom's finances in disarray.

Pinckney Odom was forty-one years old when the hostilities with the North began, initially too old for military service. Several of his Odom nephews joined the Confederate military in 1861, as did many of Mary's. When it became clear that the war would last longer than one year, the Confederate Congress began deliberations on passage of a Conscript Act in early 1862. Patriotism and the desire to avoid being conscripted (drafted) prompted over three hundred Union Parish men to enlist in the army in the spring of 1862, the majority of them young married men with families.

Britton Honeycutt and Frederick Marion McLelland, the husbands of Louisa Jane and Elizabeth Frances Gee, Mary's two eldest daughters by her first husband, Richard H. Gee, both enlisted in May 1862 in the *"Sparrow Cadets."* This unit soon became Co. I, 31st Louisiana Infantry Regiment. In addition, Pinckney's brother, Benjamin Wellington Odom, joined this unit, serving as an officer. Honeycutt and McLelland served with their unit throughout the Vicksburg Campaign of November 1862–July 1863 and again after its return to service in 1864–1865. However, Benjamin W. Odom died less than a month after his capture at Vicksburg on 4 July 1863.

After the fall of Vicksburg, the regiment's officers recruited heavily in north Louisiana; moreover, the Confederate government now required all men under forty-five to serve in the army. Pinckney Odom enlisted in the 31st Regiment sometime in the fall of 1863 or early 1864. He served with his sons-in-law Honeycutt and McLelland, together with his and Mary's nephews, while their regiment guarded the southern approach of the Red River at Pineville (near Alexandria) until the war ended.

Mary and Pinckney's eldest son was James Marion Odom, born on 6 July 1846. He turned seventeen in July 1863, and reportedly against his mother's wishes, he enlisted in the Confederate service on July 20th. Marion Odom joined Co. B, 1st Battalion Trans-Mississippi Cavalry. His unit performed courier duty between Shreveport and Monroe in the latter part of 1863, with their headquarters in Vienna (southwest of Farmerville, today in Lincoln Parish). Odom's particular station was seven miles west of Vienna, and he remained based there until January 1864. At that time, he and the others were transferred from the Monroe line to the Shreveport–Alexandria line via Natchitoches, and Odom remained stationed on this line throughout 1864, except during U. S. Gen. Banks' army failed invasion of Louisiana in April. In January 1865, Odom's superiors assigned him to work the courier line from Alexandria to Lyons Ferry on the Atchafalaya River just north of Alabama Island. Rising waters from the spring rains forced them back to the high land near Washington, which was his duty station at end of the war in May.

The end of the war began several years of litigation for Pinckney Odom, as his creditors began the process of collecting on the money he owned them. Odom still had not paid John West for his plantation, nor William Glasson for the Farmerville city block. The record-high cotton prices and successful crop yields of the 1860 growing season brought many Southern farmers high returns for the 1860 planting season. This probably explains how Pinckney made his $810 payment to West that had been due 1 January 1861, as well one of the three payments of $666.66 to Glasson. However, the opening hostilities of the war prevented any cotton sales in 1861, explaining why Odom failed to make his remaining payments to West and Glasson. West filed suit against Odom on 4 October 1865, just a few months after the War ended. Pinckney appeared in court that day and confessed judgment to West, but his debt remained unpaid for the next year. The court issued judgment against Odom in February 1866, holding his farm under a special mortgage until he paid West.

William A. Glasson filed suit against Pinckney Odom and William Cleaton Carr on 10 April 1866 for $1333.32. It is unclear how Carr managed to avoid becoming embroiled in this litigation. Odom's attorney, Robert W. Futch, at first responded by requesting dismissal of the suit on the grounds of a very trivial technicality. Futch claimed that the copy of the petition served on Odom was signed by Glasson's attorneys without the obligatory *"Attys"* following their names as it was on the original, rendering it an invalid certified copy of the original petition. Not surprisingly, the Court refused Futch's request, and on September 13th, they summoned Odom to appear in court. On October 6th, Futch answered Glasson's suit by claiming that the notes had *"prescribed."* Prescription is a legal right granting the continued use of real estate without permission if such use has existed for a period of time. In essence, Odom was claiming that although he had not paid Glasson, so much time had now passed with his possessing and using the property that he had a right to its continued usage.

These events put Mary and Pinckney in a precarious financial situation. In an attempt to save their farm and retain possession of their town property, they decided to have Mary petition the Union Parish District Court, requesting that they dissolve of the community of aquets and gains existing between them since their marriage. They also requested that the court decree Mary to have the status of *"femme sole,"* allowing her to own property in her own name, free from Pinckney's creditors. The courts often allowed this practice, after which the husband would somehow transfer the couple's real estate into the wife's name, where it was then protected from foreclosure to pay the husband's debts. Following standard practice, Mary hired Farmerville attorney Robert W. Futch and petitioned the Union Parish District Court:

…when she was married to her said husband she owned in her own right the following mentioned property to wit. One horse worth one hundred & fifty (150) dollars, one Yke [yoke] *of oxen worth seventy five (75) dollars, ten head of cattle worth six dollars per head, thirty head hogs worth four dollars per head. Also, improvements on public land of 30 acres cleared land, and dwelling house & all other necessary buildings worth about two hundred & fifty dollars (250) all of which added together makes six hundred and fifty five ($655.00) dollars worth of paraphernal property which petitioner brought into the marriage with her said husband, and which her said husband assumed control of & used for his own benefit.*

Petitioner represents that her said separate or paraphernal property is endangered on account of the exceedingly embarrassed condition of her said husband's _____ [financial] *affairs. That the disorder of her said husband's affairs is so great that she believes her rights will be lost unless she takes immediate steps to secure them…*

Pinckney hired Farmerville attorney James Etherington Trimble as his legal counsel. On September 3rd, Trimble filed Odom's response to his wife's petition, denying all facts other than their marriage. In response, the court summoned several witnesses, including Mary's brother, David Ward. On October 10th, William A. Glasson filed his opposition to the separation of assets between Mary and Pinckney, as it could deprive him of any chance to fully regain the debt Odom owed to him. Glasson claimed that

…the said claims set up by the sd. Mary C. Ward wife against the sd. Odom her husband in the suit… are fraudulent and… are argued in said suit with a view to procure a judgment & inferred it against the property of sd. Odom & thereby secure said property from the pursail [sic] *of petitioner & other creditors of sd. Odom & thus deprived them out of their just rights.*

Wherefore petitioner prays that he may be permitted to intervene in said case, that both plaintiff & defendant therein, the sd. Mary C. Ward & the sd. Pinckney Odom may be cited to answer hereto & that the demands of sd. plaintiff in said suit be rejected & suit dismissed…

Of course, literally Glasson was right: the only purpose of the Odoms' suit was to prevent the loss of their farm and the city lots. Both of their lawyers filed their responses to Glasson's petition, and both denied his claims. The court ruled differently, however, allowing West and Glasson to proceed with their attempt to collect on their judgments against Odom.

The next week on October 17th, Union Parish Sheriff Wesley W. Guthrie seized Odom's farm in preparation for auctioning it to pay his debts. Guthrie had the property appraised on November 28th, resulting in a valuation of $1785. Sheriff Guthrie attempted to auction the property on the first Saturday in December 1866, but he received no acceptable bids, so no sale occurred. By this time, John West had left Union Parish and moved to Drew County, Arkansas, and he transferred his rights in the case to William C. Hall. To force a collection of the money Odom owed on the West note, Hall filed suit against Odom on 3 April 1867. Since he realized that he would soon be evicted

from his farm, by this time Pinckney Odom had temporarily moved to Ouachita Parish. Although the records do not precisely indicate the dates on which the sale occurred, sometime after this the sheriff held another auction and sold Pinckney and Mary's farm. With the judgment satisfied, Hall requested dismissal of his suit against Odom on 11 April 1868.

Several of Mary and Pinckney's close relatives also suffered from financial problems during the postwar era, including their daughter, Louisa Jane Gee, and her husband, Britton Honeycutt, and Mary's nephew, Jack Ward. Both of these couples also filed similar court petitions for dissolution of their marital community of acquets and gains in attempts to prevent the loss of their farms, but both of their attempts succeeded. A year before her parents filed their petition, Louisa Honeycutt informed the court that Britton was insolvent and owed her $700 that she brought into their marriage. The court granted her request to dissolve the community of acquets and gains and issued judgment to her for $700. The sheriff seized the Honeycutt farm and auctioned it, at which time Louisa offered the highest bid and hence their farm was now in her name. Jack Ward and his wife went through a similar process. Both the Honeycutts and Wards managed to salvage their family farms by preempting their creditors. The Odoms lost theirs because there were already outstanding judgments against Pinckney in the Union Parish courts. The court took no further action on Mary's request to dissolve her community with her husband. Since they had already lost their valuable farm, on 11 April 1868 Mary petitioned the court to dismiss the case at her cost.

During the winter of 1866–1867, Pinckney and Mary Odom vacated their farm just north of Farmerville, temporarily moving to Ouachita Parish. We do not know how long they remained there, but apparently at most for the 1867 growing season. Pinckney still paid his 1867 poll tax in Union Parish, but he did not pay taxes on any livestock. Records indicate that they grew crops in Union Parish in 1868, and Pinckney paid taxes on livestock valued at $325.

Pinckney and Mary Odom settled on a farm located about one-half mile south of their previous plantation, just about one mile north of Farmerville. That November, Odom purchased the 120-acre farm on which he lived from Martin V. Gipson for $325 in cash. In 1868 he raised 200 bushels of corn, and in 1869, his farm again produced 200 bushels of corn but also 4 bales of cotton. For the 1870 growing season, Odom had forty-five acres in cultivation, planting fifteen acres in cotton and thirty in corn. He increased his farm by an additional 40 acres in the spring of 1873, paying William R. Turnage $166.66 for the property with $100 in cash and his note due 1 January 1874 for the remainder. He undoubtedly paid this note, as no one else filed suit against Odom following the financially devastating events of 1865–1868.

Pinckney Odom's finances seemingly recovered during the 1870s, as tax records show him cultivating his farm about one mile north of Farmerville and paying his taxes each year. He did have a much smaller planting operation in the 1870s or 1880s than he did prior to the war. In 1880 he had 40 acres in cultivation whereas in 1860, he had 160 acres.

We know little of Mary and Pinckney's later years. Mary's two eldest daughters by Richard Gee remained in Union Parish, but in the 1870s, her two daughters with Pinckney left Union Parish in the 1870s and moved to Ouachita and Lincoln Parishes. Their three sons all prospered: Marion as a farmer, Randall as a lawyer and politician, and John Pinckney as a farmer and politician. In the spring of 1892, Mary and Pinckney either visited and moved to western Union Parish near where her daughter, Elizabeth Frances Gee Bailey, and son, James Marion Odom, lived. She died there on 15 May 1892 at the age of seventy-four years. A New Orleans newspaper published this notice of her death on May 25th:

> *Mrs. Pinckney Adam* [sic], *an old and highly respected lady of Farmerville, died in that town recently.*

Mary Ward Odom is buried in the Alabama/Weldon Cemetery west of Shiloh near the Claiborne Parish line.

After Mary's death, Pinckney returned home to his old farm two miles north of Farmerville. On 31 October 1894, the Farmerville *"Gazette"* reported that

> *Mr. Pinckney Odom, an old and estimable citizen of this parish, is suffering from a long and protracted spell of sickness at his home two miles north of town. It is the hope of his friends that his sickness may disappear and that he may regain good health again.*

He had recovered somewhat within a few weeks, as this notice from the paper of November 21st reported:

> *Though yet being far from well we are pleased to state that the condition of Mr. Pinckney Odom has slightly improved.*

However, the improvement did not last long, for by the next week the paper stated:

> *We have been informed that the condition of Mr. Pickney Odom, who has been sick for several months, is quite critical. Unless there is a change for the better soon, he can not live many days.*

Pinckney died on 4 December 1894, as reported in the issue of the *"Gazette"* of December 12th:

> *Mr. Pinkney Odom, who has been in poor health for several months, passed quietly away at his home two miles north of town Tuesday evening and is buried with appropriate Masonic ceremonies in the cemeterry* [sic] *at this place Wednesday evening. The deceased was seventy-six years old at the time of his death and has spent the most of his days in this parish. He was an*

upright and valuable citizen and leaves three sons to mourn his death. To the grief stricken relatives we extend our sympathy.

Pinckney Odom's tombstone in the Farmerville Cemetery carries the incorrect date of death. It was inscribed with the date of death of 24 November 1895, whereas the newspapers prove he died in December 1894.

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Children of Mary Caroline Ward

Mary Caroline Ward had children by both of her husbands. The known children of Mary Caroline Ward and Richard H. Gee include:

1. **Louisa Jane Gee** [Lou] (9 Jan 1839–30 July 1917) married on 2 December 1856 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Britton Honeycutt [Brit] (7 Jan 1832–13 Feb 1908), son of John Honeycutt Jr. (c1779–24 Mar 1857) and Mary Feazel (c1800–Mar 1863). Louisa Gee and Britton Honeycutt are buried in the Farmerville Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
2. **Elizabeth Frances Gee** (25 Apr 1840–24 Feb 1926) married in 1860 or 1861 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Frederick Marion McLelland (17 Jan 1834–22 Mar 1870), son of James McLelland Jr. (c1780–1834) and Ellen Brazeal (13 May 1804–21 Mar 1884). Elizabeth Gee married on 14 August 1873 to Thomas N. Bailey (20 Dec 1850–13 Mar 1920). Elizabeth Frances Gee and both of her husbands are buried in the Alabama/Weldon Cemetery near Bernice.
3. **Jeremiah Darey Gee** (1841/1842–1847/1850) died as a young child.

The known children of Mary Caroline Ward and Pinckney Odom:

4. **James Marion Odom** [Marion] (6 Jul 1846–20 Feb 1926) married 9 February 1868 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Sarah Jane Dean [Sudie] (11 Aug 1852–25 Jul 1884), daughter of former Union Parish sheriff William Deanes (c1822–Apr 1863) and Frances Ann Lee (5 Oct 1830–5 Jul 1853). Marion married on 13 December 1888 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Mary Emma Smith (18 Jul 1852–11 Sep 1945), daughter of William Pinkney Smith (20 Jan 1827–25 Aug 1883) and Nancy Caroline Thomaston (2 Feb 1827–18 Nov 1910). Mary Emma had first married Andrew Jackson Bennett (21 Feb 1839 – 25 Sep 1884).

   Marion Odom and Mary Emma Smith are buried together in the Alabama–Weldon Cemetery near Bernice. Sarah Jane Dean Odom is buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, both in Union Parish, Louisiana.
5. **Martha Ann Odom** (Oct 1848–20 Oct 1890) married on 21 September 1865 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Jefferson Blankenship Rossitter (6 Apr 1845–28 Feb 1893), the son of George Rossitter (5 May 1799–3 Sep 1880) and Elizabeth Ann Blankenship (3 Jan 1813–22 Jul 1863). Martha and Jefferson Rossitter moved to Ouachita Parish, Louisiana in the 1870s and died there.
6. **Benjamin Odom** (c1851–1860/1870) died sometime after 1860, apparently as a youth.
7. **Eliza Alice Odom** (25 Apr 1853–13 May 1934) married about 1873 to Isaiah Brazzeal (18 Nov 1848–14 Mar 1917), son of Gordon Brazzeal (12 May 1812–28 Jun 1894) and Mary Slaytor (7

Aug 1810–23 Sep 1863). Eliza Odom and Isaiah Brazzeal are buried in the Corinth Cemetery located in Section 16, Township 20 North, Range 4 West, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana.

8. **Randall Hunt Odom** [Hunt] (1856–8 Apr 1928) appears to have remained single. In 1880, he lived with his parents in Farmerville and farmed. He became a lawyer in the early 1880s, was elected as Farmerville's mayor in March 1883, and practiced law in Farmerville by 1884. On 18 May 1898, at the age of forty-two, Randall Hunt Odom enlisted as a private in Co. C, 1st Louisiana Infantry in New Orleans for service in the Spanish-American War. He served until discharged on 3 October 1898 and later received a pension for his military service.

   Hunt Odom left Union Parish and moved to Lake Charles by early 1885, and in 1889, he was appointed as a notory public for Calcasieu Parish. He returned to north Louisiana by the early 1900s and settled in Bastrop, in Morehouse Parish. The Morehouse Parish citizens elected him as their state senator in 1908. While serving in the Louisiana Senate, Odom pushed through a plan to split Calcasieu Parish into several smaller parishes, resulting in the creation, in particular, of Allen Parish. Hunt served as legal counsel to the Parish of Allen in court challenges following the division. In the 1910s, Odom served as the Mayor of Kinder, Louisiana. In 1920, Odom worked as a lawyer in the town of Kinder and lived in a boarding house.

   Randall Hunt Odom was admited to the military hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas on 9 September 1927. At that time, he lived in Oberlin, Louisiana and listed his nearest relative as Judge Fred M. Odom of Shreveport, son of Marion Odom. Hunt Odom died at Leavenworth and is buried in the Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth County Kansas.

9. **John Pinckney Odom** (22 Apr 1857–21 May 1922) married on 16 January 1889 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Alice D. Pearson (22 Dec 1866–4 Jul 1926), daughter of Jesse Mercer Pearson (27 Jan 1839–13 Jul 1912) and Susan Amanda Meritte (25 Sep 1846–31 Dec 1912). John P. Odom worked as a farmer for his entire life, but he invested much of his energy in Democratic Party politics. For many years, he served as a clerk of registration for local elections, election commissioner, and supervisor of elections. In 1903 he was elected to the Union Parish Police Jury, serving as Police Jury President between 1904 and 1908. John P. Odom and Alice D. Pearson are buried in the Farmerville City Cemetery.

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