James William Rockett & Eudocia Holcombe

of

Jefferson County, Alabama, Lafayette County, Mississippi,

&

Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana

by Timothy Dean Hudson[†]

James William Rockett was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina on 4 June 1792, the son of Richard Rockett II (c1765–2 Sep 1843) and Eleanor Abernathy (1770/1774–1795/1798). We have little information on the first four decades of James' life. He appears to have remained in North Carolina until about 1818, when he moved with his family to Jefferson County, Alabama. In 1830, he lived alone in his own household there. No evidence suggests that he married during his twenties or early thirties.

On 24 February 1831, at the age of almost thirty-nine, James Rockett married Eudocia Holcombe (30 Oct 1809–23 Feb 1879), the daughter of Rev. Hosea Holcombe (20 Jul 1780–31 Jul 1841) and Cassandra Jackson (30 Mar 1780–10 Feb 1848). Eudocia was born near Cross Keys, Union District, South Carolina. Soon after her birth, the Holcombes moved from South Carolina to Lincoln County, North Carolina, where they became acquainted with Richard Rockett and his family. The Holcombes remained there until 1816, when they briefly returned to South Carolina before joining the Rocketts on their trek to Alabama.

For the first decade of their life together, James and Eudocia Rockett lived in Jefferson County, Alabama. In 1840, Rev. Hosea Holcombe traveled west to Lafayette County, Mississippi, and on 10 June 1840, he purchased a 160-acre tract of government land at the Pontotoc Land Office for 25¢ per acre. His land lay in southwestern Lafayette County, along the county line with Panola County. Early the next year, on 13 February 1841, Holcombe returned to the Pontotoc Land Office and paid merely 12½¢ per acre for an adjoining 160-acre tract that lay on the Panola County side of the line.

Rev. Hosea Holcombe almost certainly made these purchases in anticipation of migrating to Mississippi. However, his health was failing. After his last purchase in Mississippi in February

[†]I am extremely grateful to my cousin, Wayne Barrett of Junction City, Louisiana, for sharing his Rockett family research with me in the decades since 1983. He began researching our Rockett ancestors in the early 1950s, and he has shared a wealth of family information with me.

1841, he returned home to Jefferson County, Alabama, where he died on the last day of July 1841. Despite his death, his initial foray into Mississippi laid the foundation for a westward migration of the extended Rockett-Holcombe family network.

Around the time of Rev. Holcombe's death, James and Eudocia Rockett moved to Lafayette County along with many of their extended family. They purchased a 160-acre tract adjoining the land Eudocia's father had bought in 1840, and they farmed there until 1856.

Between 1852 and 1854, the families of two of Eudocia's sisters, Teresa Holcombe Hunt and Frances Holcombe Hayes, left Lafayette County and moved to Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana. Joining them was James and Eudocia's eldest daughter, Laura, who had married her first cousin, Alva Jackson Hunt, the only son of Teresa.

It appears that James and Eudocia had begun making plans to follow their relatives to Louisiana, for they sold their farm in Lafayette County, Mississippi on 30 September 1856. However, they did not depart immediately and apparently continued to live on their old farm after selling it. The delay in leaving Mississippi may reflect illness, financial issues, or pressing family matters.

James Rockett died on his old farm on 22 October 1857, and family members state that Eudocia buried James on their farm. Another tragedy struck the family the following year: James and Eudocia's eldest son, Eliva Nemza Rockett, aged fifteen, died on 28 August 1858. Presumably, he was also buried on the old Rockett farm.

Shortly after her son's death, Eudocia left for Louisiana with her five youngest children, daughters Martha Ann ("Matt") and Mollie, and her three youngest sons Hosea Holcombe, Joseph Cannon, and Thomas Martin Rockett. Eudocia's oldest surviving son, William Henry Rockett, remained behind in Mississippi.

Eudocia Rockett and her children left on their trip to Louisiana in an oxcart. Soon after their departure, Dickerson Royal–the boyfriend of Eudocia's daughter, Matt Rockett–caught up with them. He convinced Eudocia that he wanted to marry Matt, and her mother allowed Matt to return with Royal to Lafayette County, where they married on 10 October 1858. Eudocia and her four youngest children then continued onwards towards Louisiana.

Upon their arrival in Union Parish, Louisiana, Eudocia must have settled a portion of the farm belonging to her sister, Teresa, and husband, Rev. William Hunt. It was located a few miles north of Spearsville, in the northwestern part of the parish. In the early 1860s, Eudocia bought a portion of the Hunt farm or an adjoining tract, and she lived there for the rest of her life.

Eudocia and her sons Hosea and Joe must have joined the Spearsville Baptist Church in 1858 or 1859, although the surviving church minutes do not show the precise date when they joined. On Saturday, 2 March 1861, Hosea asked for a letter of dismission from the church, possibly in preparation for his traveling back to Mississippi to join the same Confederate military company as his older brother.

On Saturday, 3 October 1863, Rev. William Hunt preached at the Spearsville Baptist Church, followed by a church conference. The Church decided to appoint a committee of three women to visit *"Sister Sally Ford"* about a dance she reportedly held at her house. Among the female members appointed to this committee were *"Sister Rocket,"* also identified as *"Sister Rockette,"* who must have been Eudocia, as she was the only adult female Rockett in the vicinity. At the next meeting, Sister Ford acknowledged her mistake, and the church forgave her.

The only other record of Eudocia Holcombe Rockett is a notice dated 5 April 1874 found in the Spearsville Church minutes. This was a treasurer's report submitted to and approved by the church. *"Sister E. Rockett"* gave one dollar towards the amount collected for the paster, while her son Joseph C. Rockett gave $2.75 and Thomas M. Rockett gave $1.25. Evidently, Eudocia remained an active member of the Spearsville Baptist Church for the remainder of her life.

Eudocia Holcombe Rockett died on 23 February 1879, presumably at her home near Spearsville. She was buried in the front portion of Spearsville Cemetery. Her original tombstone was engraved *"Eudocia wife of James Rockett."* In the 1960s, the original tombstone of her son, Joe Rockett, was modified as a replacement tombstone for Eudocia.

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Children of James Rockett & Eudocia Holcombe

The children of James and Eudocia are documented by their family Bible:

1. **Laura Ann Rockett** (13 Jun 1831–13 Jan 1867).
2. **Eliva Nemza Rockett** [male] (31 Mar 1833–28 Aug 1858).
3. [male infant] **Rockett** stillborn on 13 Feb 1835.
4. **William Henry Rockett** (31 Mar 1836–19 Aug 1918).
5. **Martha Ann Rockett** [Matt] (8 Jul 1838–29 Jan 1934).
6. [male infant] **Rockett** stillborn on 5 Jul 1840.
7. **Hosea Holcombe Rockett** (31 May 1842–16 Apr 1914).
8. **James K. Polk Rockett** (1 Nov 1844–7 Apr 1848).
9. **Joseph Cannon Rockett** (14 Nov 1847–11 Apr 1929).
10. **Thomas C. Martin Rockett** [Tom] (15/18 Jul 1849–19/21 Nov 1893).
11. **Mary Cassandra Jane Rockett** [Mollie] (22 Jan 1852–13 Dec 1896).

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Detailed Information on James Rockett & Eudocia Holcombe's Children

1. **Laura Ann Rockett** (13 Jun 1831–13 Jan 1867) married on 25 October 1849 in Lafayette County, Mississippi to Alva Jackson Hunt (2 Apr 1826–5/7 Sep 1862), son of William Hunt (11 Mar 1806–19 Aug 1897) and Teresa Holcombe (1 Apr 1808–6 Apr 1874). Alva was Laura's first cousin, as their mothers were sisters. Laura and Alva Hunt lived on his parents' farm in Lafayette County, Mississippi after their marriage, and they moved with them to Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana in 1854.

   After arriving in Louisiana, Laura and Alva settled on a farm a few miles north of Spearsville with his parents. In early 1862, Alva J. Hunt enlisted in the same Confederate military unit as Laura's brother, Hosea. Alva died of disease a few months later.

   On 9 May 1864, apparently in Union County, Arkansas, Laura married William Elisha Upshaw (28 Feb 1833–8 Jan 1882), son of Richard Upshaw (c1780–1840/1850) and Rebecca Elder (1800/1805–aft. 1862). Laura and both of her husbands are buried in the Spearsville Cemetery, Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

   Conflicting Dates – William Hunt's autobiography states, *"Alva J. Hunt, our only child was born April 2, 1826."* However, other family records give Alva's birthdate as March 31st. His modern tombstone gives April 2nd as his day of birth, perhaps taken from Rev. Hunt's autobiography. Alva J. Hunt's military file gives his death on September 5th, but his father's autobiography gives his death date as September 7th. While the discrepancies are relatively minor, it is impossible at this late date to determine which dates are the accurate ones.
2. **Eliva Nemza Rockett** (31 Mar 1833–28 Aug 1858) died as a fifteen-year-old teenaged boy shortly before his mother and younger siblings left Lafayette County, Mississippi. Family tradition states that he was buried on the old Rockett farm in Mississippi.
3. [infant son] **Rockett** was born dead 13 February 1835 in Jefferson County, Alabama.
4. **William Henry Rockett** [Bill] (31 Mar 1836–19 Aug 1918) remained behind in Mississippi when his mother and younger siblings emigrated in 1858. His activities between 1858 and 1861 are unknown. As the Civil War began in early 1861, his younger brother, Hosea, returned from Louisiana, and on Mary 23rd, the brothers enlisted in Co. G, 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. Gideon and Simon Royal, brothers-in-law of Bill's younger sister, Matt Rockett Royal, also enlisted in this company.

   Their unit was immediately sent to Richmond, Virginia, where Bill and Hosea both became extremely sick. After spending several months confined to a hospital in Richmond, they were

discharged in November 1861 and came home to recover. In the spring of 1862, William enlisted along with his brother-in-law, Dickerson Royal, in Co. A, 28th Regiment Mississippi Cavalry. He spent the remaining three years of the War serving in this unit, which was under the command of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

William H. Rockett's birthdate was given as March 28th on his original tombstone, while both his parents' family Bible and death certificate have it as March 31st. His new tombstone also has March 31st as his birthdate.

William Henry Rockett married on 24 February 1869 in Yalobusha County, Mississippi to Mary Catherine Tatum (8 Apr 1848–10 Jun 1910), daughter of John Sampson Tatum (26 Oct 1817–20 Apr 1870) and Jannetta Peterson (26 Oct 1818–29 Jul 1882). William farmed and worked as a carpenter. They lived in Yalobusha County until the 1880s or 1890s, when they moved to Tallahatchie County, Mississippi where Mary's brother, William S. Tatum, lived. In 1904, they moved to Texas to live near their daughter. They returned to Tallahatchie County by 1907, but permanently moved to Harrison County, Texas by 1910. William and Mary Rockett are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas.

5. **Martha Ann Rockett** [Matt] (8 Jul 1838–29 Jan 1934) married on 10 October 1858 in Lafayette County, Mississippi to Richard Dickerson Royal (6 Apr 1836–8 Jun 1912), son of Henry Royal (c1806–3 Jan 1881) and Tilithia A. Boykin (c1817–15 Sep 1881). Matt and Dickerson Royal lived in Lafayette County next to their parents in 1860 after their marriage. In early 1862, he enlisted in Co. A, 28th Regiment Mississippi Cavalry along with Matt's brother, William Henry Rockett. They both served throughout the War.

   After the Civil War, Matt and Dickerson Royal moved across the county line and settled near Water Valley, in Yalobusha County. He farmed and also worked as a carpenter. They are buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Water Valley, Yalobusha County, Mississippi.
6. [male infant] **Rockett** was born dead on 5 July 1840.
7. **Hosea Holcombe Rockett** (31 May 1842–16 Apr 1914) moved with his mother and younger siblings to Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana in the fall of 1858. He and his mother joined the Spearsville Baptist Church late that year or in 1859. On Saturday, 2 March 1861, Hosea asked for a letter of dismission from the church in preparation for his traveling back to Mississippi to join the same Confederate military company as his older brother.

   On 23 May 1861, Hosea, his elder brother, William H. Rockett, together with Gideon and Simon Royal, brothers-in-law of Matt Rockett Royal, officially enlisted in Co. G, 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. The unit was immediately sent to Richmond, Virginia, where both Hosea

and William Rockett became extremely sick. After spending several months confined to a Richmond hospital, they were discharged in November 1861 to come return home to recover.

In the spring of 1862, Hosea enlisted in Co. I, 31st Regiment Louisiana Infantry along with his brother-in-law, Alva J. Hunt. While Alva soon died of disease, Hosea saw action against troops commanded by Gen. W. T. Sherman at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou in December 1862. Hosea was captured at the Battle of Port Gibson in May 1863 and sent as a prisoner of war to a Federal prison. He was paroled in July 1863 and returned home. Hosea remained home on parole from the Confederate Army until early April 1864, when he reported to a parole camp at Vienna, Louisiana. He was exchanged in July 1864 and rejoined his unit. Between then and May 1865, his unit served near Alexandria and Bayou Cotile until they disbanded. While in military service, Hosea lost an eye, and later photographs of him show one eye lid sewed shut.

Hosea was released from a Federal prison and had returned to Spearsville by late July 1863. On Saturday, August 1st, Hosea rejoined the Spearsville Baptist Church. In mid-1864, someone filed charges against Hosea in the church. At the August church conference, the church considered the charges but forgave him. The charges were probably for nonattendance, as this was about the time he left Spearsville to rejoin his unit after their official exchange.

Hosea Rockett married first on 26 April 1866 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Annie Mae West (21 Jan 1843–2 Oct 1881), daughter of John S. West (20 Mar 1812–8 Apr 1869) and Elizabeth Cooper (c1818–?). Hosea and Annie had six children born before her premature death in October 1881.

Hosea married on 3 September 1882 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Martha Ruth Breazeale (29 Sep 1851–27 Nov 1935), daughter of Hosea Bright Breazeal (5 Apr 1813–19 Oct 1891) and Sarah Elizabeth Mayfield (17 Jun 1819–9 Jan 1888). Martha Ruth had first married on 21 December 1868 in Union County, Arkansas to Henry Harmon Groves (c1848–c1873). He and Martha Ruth had one son, William Andrew Groves (18 Jan 1870–24 May 1921), before his premature death. Martha Ruth and her son lived with her parents until she married Hosea.

After their marriage, Hosea and Martha Rockett lived on his farm near Spearsville and had three children together. Hosea farmed and remained a staunch Democrat during the period in which his younger brother, Joe, ran as a candidate for the Populist Party. Hosea H. Rockett and both of his wives are buried in the Spearsville Cemetery, Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

Conflicting Dates – Hosea H. Rockett was born in Lafayette County, Mississippi soon after his parents moved there from Alabama. There is some uncertainty regarding both the precise day and year of his birth. His parents' family Bible states that he was born on May 30th, but his

tombstone and obituary give his birth on May 31st. When he applied for a Confederate pension in 1908, Hosea gave his birthdate as 31 May 1842 in Lafayette County, Mississippi, and that is the date used here. However, Hosea's original tombstone erected soon after his death was inscribed with the birth year of 1841, presumably an error. His new grave marker erected in 2006 was inscribed with the same year of birth that was on his original tombstone, 1841. However, since Hosea himself gave his birth in 1842, that is the year used here.

8. **James K. Polk Rockett** (1 Nov 1844–7 Apr 1848) died at the age of three years.
9. **Joseph Cannon Rockett** (14 Nov 1847–11 Apr 1929) married about 1868 to Rebecca A. Upshaw (7 Apr 1851–10 Apr 1882), daughter of Alexander Wilson Upshaw (c1826–11 Feb 1883) and Zilleann Frances Barron (9 Nov 1824–c1895). Joe Rockett married on 23 July 1882 to Mary Elizabeth Howell (23 Feb 1857–13 Mar 1945), daughter of James Monroe Howell (c1820–c1870) and Mary Ann Belcher (c1828–?). Joe and Mary Rockett are buried in the Camp Creek Cemetery, while Rebecca is buried in the Spearsville Cemetery, Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
10. **Thomas C. Martin Rockett** [Tom] (15/18 Jul 1849–19/21 Nov 1893) married 11 November 1873 in Drew County, Arkansas to Julia Corner West (Nov 1851–15 Sep 1933), daughter of John S. West (20 Mar 1812–8 Apr 1869) and Elizabeth Cooper (c1818–?). After their marriage, Tom and Julia settled on a farm near Spearsville. He died in 1893 at the relatively young age of forty-four years. Afterwards, Julia raised her children but did not remarry. Tom and Julia Rockett are buried in the Spearsville Cemetery, Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

    Conflicting Dates – Just as with his older brother, Hosea, we have conflicting dates for Tom Rockett's birth and death when comparing the James Rockett family Bible, Tom's tombstone, and family records. His marriage record in Drew County, Arkansas gives Tom's name as *"Thomas C. M. Rockett."* This is the only known source of *"C"* as one of his middle initials.
11. **Mary Cassandra Jane Rockett** [Mollie] (22 Jan 1852–13 Dec 1896) married about 1879, presumably in Union Parish, Louisiana, to Jesse Benton Hayes (15 Jan 1842–15 Apr 1896), son of Edmond Hayes (9 Jul 1805–30 Jul 1882) and Alpha Omega Woolley (22 Jun 1815–1871). Jesse B. Hayes had previously married on 11 November 1869 in Henderson County, Texas to Ellen Ollie Harrell (17 Sep 1847–6 Nov 1875), daughter of Adam Harrell (1800–23 Jun 1881) and Sarah ? (c1806–?). After Ellen's death, Jesse Benton Hayes appears to have remained in Texas until January 1879, when he finished handling the legal affairs of his deceased wife. He then joined his father and siblings in Spearsville, where he presumably met Mollie.

After their marriage in the latter half of 1879, Mollie Rockett and Jesse Benton Hayes settled in Spearsville, and he worked as a carpenter in June 1880. Between 1880 and 1889, they moved back and forth between Spearsville and Caledonia, a small community in southern Union County, Arkansas, just a few miles north of Spearsville. By the early 1890s, Mollie began suffering from a mental illness, and she was sent to the Arkansas Lunatic Asylum in Little Rock. This facility later became the Arkansas State Hospital.

Jesse Benton Hayes died at Caledonia in April 1896 and was buried in the Morgan-Wade Cemetery there. Mollie Rockett Hayes died in December 1896 while still a patient at the Arkansas Lunatic Asylum and was reportedly buried in the hospital's cemetery in Little Rock.

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Richard Rockett II & Eleanor Abernathy

Richard Rockett II (1765/1770–2 Sep 1843) was son of Richard Rockett I (1725/1730–c1784) and Mary Abernathy (1740/1748–?). As his father died before he became an adult, and he had a namesake son himself, during his lifetime he was often known as *"Richard Rockett Sr."*

Richard Rockett's birth may have occurred in Virginia before his parents left about 1766, or he may have been born in either Granville or Tryon Counties, North Carolina. Alternatively, if he were born about 1768–1770, then his birth may have occurred after his parents settled in South Carolina.

It appears that Richard's parents spent the 1770s and early 1780s residing in South Carolina, where the Richard Rockett I died in 1784 in Ninety Six District. It is not clear what became of Mary, but their three children John, Sarah, and Richard II returned to live near Abernathy relatives in what had been Tryon County, North Carolina. This area became Lincoln County in 1778. No known record indicates whether Mary settled there with her three children or if she died along with Richard while living in South Carolina.

The three Rockett siblings married Abernathy siblings, the children of James Abernathy (1735/1745–c1784) and Elizabeth Cox (1740/1750–1799). On 15 September 1789, Richard Rockett II married Eleanor Abernathy (1770/1774–1794/1800) in Lincoln County, North Carolina. The precise relationship between James Abernathy and Mary Abernathy, wife of Richard Rockett I, is unknown. Eleanor Abernathy Rockett died in the mid- or latter 1790s, probably just a few years after the birth of her youngest known child, Richard Rockett III (11 Jun 1794–28 May 1882). Sometime before 1803, Richard Rockett married Martha Rose Sadler [Patsy] (1781/1782–Aft. 1842), the daughter of Thomas Sadler Jr. (1743–1793) and Martha Rose (1745/1746–1803).

Between 1789 and 1818, Richard Rockett farmed and operated a ferry across the Catawba River that formed the boundary between Lincoln and Mecklenburg Counties. In 1818, Richard Rockett and his family left North Carolina and immigrated to Jefferson County, Alabama. He farmed there until 1841, when he followed many of his children to Mississippi. Richard and Martha were residents of Lafayette County, Mississippi by December 1842, when he gave his daughter a slave. Richard Rockett died in Lafayette County on Saturday, 2 Sept 1843.

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Children of Richard Rockett II

Richard Rockett had two known wives, Eleanor Abernathy and Martha Rose Sadler. He had twelve known children by his two wives. His children are documented by deeds and his estate records in Lafayette County, Mississippi.

The children of Richard Rockett II include:

Children of Richard Rockett II and Eleanor Abernathy:

1. **Sarah Melvina Rockett** (26 Mar 1790–1847)
2. **James William Rockett** (4 Jun 1792–22 Oct 1857)
3. **Richard Rockett III** (11 Jun 1794–28 May 1882)

Children of Richard Rockett II and Martha Rose Sadler:

1. **Thomas Ware Rockett** (23 Mar 1803–2 Jan 1884)
2. **Edmond B. Rockett** (1805/1808–aft. 1880)
3. **Mary Tucker Rockett** (6 May 1809–10 May 1881)
4. **Rev. Hosea Holcombe Rockett** (c1811–1 Feb 1869)
5. **Martha V. Rockett** (1815–1900)
6. **William J. Rockett** (16 Oct 1816–Dec 1869)
7. **Dr. John Baldwin Rockett** (1817/1822–1 Mar 1885)
8. **Franklin Y. Rockett** [Frank] (c1823–21 Aug 1872)
9. **Robert Latter Rockett** (2 Jul 1824–24 Mar 1895)

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Detailed Information on the Children of Richard Rockett II & Eleanor Abernathy

1. **Sarah Melvina Rockett** (26 Mar 1790–1847) married on 26 March 1807 in Lincoln County, North Carolina to William Abernathy (c1776–Jun 1846), reportedly the son of Miles Abernathy. They moved with her family about 1818 to Jefferson County, Alabama, and in the early 1840s, they settled in Pontotoc County, Mississippi.
2. **James William Rockett** (4 Jun 1792–22 Oct 1857) married on 24 February 1831 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Eudocia Holcombe (30 Oct 1809–23 Feb 1879), daughter of Rev. Hosea Holcombe (20 Jul 1780–31 Jul 1841) and Cassandra Jackson (30 Mar 1780–10 Feb 1848). About 1841, they moved to Lafayette County, Mississippi, where they remained until James' death in 1857. The following year, Eudocia and her youngest children moved on to Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana. James Rockett is buried on his old farm in Mississippi, but Eudocia is buried in the Spearsville Cemetery.
3. **Richard Rockett III** (11 Jun 1794–28 May 1882) was known in his lifetime as *"Richard Rockett Jr."* He married on 11 January 1821 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Mary Abernathy (10 Apr 1805–14 Aug 1822). Richard Rockett married on 22 February 1825 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Martha Giffen McClure (14 Jun 1807–4 Jun 1874), daughter of John McClure (11 Jan 1759–27 Apr 1837) and Nancy B. Young (c1780–c1826). Richard and Martha Rockett are buried in the Union Baptist Cemetery, Jefferson County, Alabama.

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Detailed Information on the Children of Richard Rockett II & Martha Rose Sadler

1. **Thomas Ware Rockett** (23 Mar 1803–2 Jan 1884) married on 30 October 1835 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Sarah Wallace Martin (10 May 1817–15 Nov 1893), daughter of Col. John Martin. Thomas and Sarah Rockett spent their lives in Jefferson County, Alabama while most of his siblings emigrated. He and his brother, William, were partners in a mercantile firm until 1844, and Thomas farmed from then until the 1860s. He again operated a mercantile firm from the 1860s until the 1880s. Thomas and Sarah Rockett are buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.
2. **Edmond B. Rockett** (1805/1808–aft. 1880) married on 11 October 1832 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Lucy Riley (c1812–8 Dec 1842). Edmond married on 23 October 1845 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Catherine Dickinson (1818/1820–aft. 1880). Edmond and Lucy had four children, while Edmond and Catherine had two children.

   Edmond and Catherine Rockett lived in Jefferson County, Alabama in 1850 near his brothers. In the 1850s, they moved to Columbia County, Arkansas. They lived in the portion of Columbia that became Nevada County in 1871. Both Edmond and Catherine died there sometime after 1880.
3. **Mary Tucker Rockett** (6 May 1809–10 May 1881) married on 12 April 1838 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Dr. Alva Jackson Holcombe (26 Mar 1804–7 Oct 1868), the son of Rev. Hosea Holcombe (20 Jul 1780–31 Jul 1841) and Cassandra Jackson (30 Mar 1780–10 Feb 1848). After their marriage, Mary and Alva Holcombe lived in Jefferson County, Alabama. He became active in the Alabama Baptist Convention like his father, and at the meeting held at Greensboro in November 1840, the members elected him as secretary. Alva also became a medical doctor.

   Mary and Alva Holcombe moved with her father to Mississippi about 1841 and initially settled in Panola County. In the 1840s, Alva became active in local Whig politics and with the Panola County Baptist Association. In the 1850s, they moved to Yalobusha County and settled near Water Valley, where he died in 1868 and she in 1881.
4. **Hosea Holcombe Rockett** (c1811–1 Feb 1869) was a Baptist minister and reportedly attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He moved with his parents to Mississippi about 1841 and settled in Lafayette County, Mississippi. About 1840–1842, he probably in Lafayette County, Hosea married Mary E. G. Joiner (c1816–Jun 1865), the widow of John

Wadken Hewlett (?–c1840). Hosea and Mary raised her daughters from her first marriage and their own give children.

5. **Martha V. Rockett** (1815–1900) married on 29 October 1835 in Jefferson County, Alabama to Jacob Herrod Baker (14 Apr 1809–9 Apr 1861), the son of George Baker (25 Nov 1782–1850/1860) and Mary Robertson (c1772–1840/1850). After their marriage, Martha and Jacob Baker settled in Jefferson County, Alabama, where he operated a school. After his death, Martha moved her children to Shelby County and lived on the farm of her youngest brother, Robert L. Rockett. In the 1870s, she moved her family to south Florida and settled at Jensen Beach, then located in Brevard County. One source claims she died there in 1891, but her tombstone in the All Saints Cemetery is inscribed with 1900 as her year of death. She and most of her children are buried there, located in Jensen Beach, now in Martin County, Florida.
6. **William J. Rockett** (16 Oct 1816–Dec 1869) married in the late 1830s to Harriet Taylor Martin (c1819–c1890), daughter of Col. John Martin. William and Harriet remained in Jefferson County, Alabama after his father and many of his siblings moved their families to Mississippi in 1841. He farmed and worked as a merchant. Until 1844, he was in partnership with his older brother, Thomas W. Rockett, in the mercantile business in Jefferson County. Afterwards, he moved to Shelby County, where he worked as a clerk in Montevallo before moving to Elyton.

   In 1860, William and Harriet moved their family to Arkansas, where their youngest daughter was born in July 1863. They apparently settled in Ouachita County, Arkansas, perhaps near Camden, where their eldest son enlisted in the Confederate Army. A family history stated that after their arrival in Arkansas, *"being despoiled of all his personal property by the Federals in 1863 he removed first to Homer & afterwards to Minden La."* In the latter half of 1869, William and Harriet lived in what was then Claiborne Parish, apparently living in the portion that became Webster Parish in 1871. William J. Rockett worked as a bookkeeper when he died there in December 1869 of chronic diarrhea. It is not known where Harriet lived after William's death, but it appears that she died in Webster Parish, Louisiana shortly prior to December 1891.
7. **Dr. John Baldwin Rockett** (1817/1822–1 Mar 1885) reportedly first married to Elizabeth Harrell, but nothing is known of her. John married in the latter 1840s to Mary Ann Moore (c1830–1870/1880). John and Mary Ann Rockett settled in Chickasaw County, Mississippi by the latter 1840s, where John worked as a medical doctor. It is not known what formal medical training, if any, that he had received, but he practiced there for at least thirty-five years. His

date of death was supplied to family researchers in the 1960s, but its original source is unknown.

8. **Franklin Y. Rockett** [Frank] (c1823–21 Aug 1872) remained single. He worked as an attorney and newspaper editor in Panola County, Mississippi before moving to Memphis, Tennessee in the 1860s. Frank Y. Rockett is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Shelby County Tennessee.
9. **Robert Latter Rockett** (2 Jul 1824–24 Mar 1895) married Louisa Mary Camp (1834–1911). They lived in Bibb County, Alabama in the 1840s–1860s, and in Shelby County, Alabama from the 1860s until after 1880. In about the early 1890s, they moved to Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas to live near their children. Robert L. Rockett and Louisa Camp are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

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Richard Rockett I & Mary Abernathy

Richard Rockett (1725/1730–c1784) was born in either Henrico or Goochland County, Virginia, son of Baldwin Rockett (c1681–1731) and Anne Ware (5 Jan 1695–aft. 27 Sep 1780). Richard's father died when he was a small boy. His mother remarried in the 1730s, and St. John's Church in Henrico Parish apprenticed Richard in February 1744. Richard Rockett was chosen as the clerk of the Vestry of St. John's Church, Henrico Parish in Henrico County Virginia on 16 Nov 1749. He was paid 986 pounds of tobacco for his service in 1749/1750. He was again paid 1345 pounds for his service in 1751 and 1752. Richard Rockett resigned as clerk of the Vestry at the end of 1752.

Richard Rockett left Henrico County after 1755 and bought land in Mecklenburg and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia, remaining there until at least 1764. This area lay opposite the boundary between North Carolina and Virginia, so it adjoined Granville County, North Carolina. Richard Rockett married Mary Abernathy, daughter of Robert Abernathy, in Granville County, North Carolina on 27 June 1763.

Little else is known of Richard and Mary Rockett, but the migrations of their children and Abernathy relatives help outline their probable path through the Carolina backcountry. Their son John Rockett served in several military units during the Revolutionary War fighting for the Patriots, and in his pension application, he stated that his father left Virginia and moved into North Carolina and South Carolina.

This coincides with the migration of the extended Abernathy family, who began leaving Granville County in the mid-1760s and moving westward into Tryon (now Lincoln) County. There is evidence that Richard and Mary Rockett lived there briefly. In 1768, Robert and Sarah Abernathy sold land in Tryon County described as the former property of the Rocketts. This suggests that Richard and Mary moved with the Abernathys to Tryon County, lived there briefly about 1766–1768, and then moved on to Ninety Six District, South Carolina. This short-term settlement pattern followed by outward migrations is typical of families navigating the shifting frontier during the 1760s and 1770s.

Records of South Carolina during this period are exceedingly sparse, so it is not surprising that we have no records of Richard and Mary after 1768 since it appears they lived in South Carolina during the 1770s. We know that Richard Rockett died in Ninety Six District, South Carolina about 1784. It is not known what happened to Mary Abernathy Rockett. Their three children moved from South Carolina back to North Carolina, where many Abernathys had remained. Presumably, the Rockett children returned to North Carolina to live near relatives. Mary may have died in South

Carolina about the time Richard did, or she could have taken her three young children from there to join relatives in Lincoln County, formerly Tryon.

The three Rockett children married in Lincoln County between 1787 and 1789 to three siblings, the children of James Abernathy (1735/1745–c1784) and Elizabeth Cox (1740/1750–1799). The three known children of Richard Rockett I and Mary Abernathy:

1. **John Rockett** (16 Apr 1764–May 1848) married on 11 January 1787 to Sarah Abernathy (1760s–1840).
2. **Sarah Rockett** (1765/1770–1863) married on 11 January 1787 to James Abernathy Sr. (c1765–c1829).
3. **Richard Rockett II** (1765/1770–2 Sep 1843) married on 15 September 1789 to Eleanor Abernathy (1770/1774–1795/1800).

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Baldwin Rockett & Anne Ware

Baldwin Rockett was born in early 1681 in St. David's Parish, Exeter, Devonshire County, England, the son of Trustram (or Tristram) Rockett. Baldwin was christened on 10 April 1681, but the christening record failed to identify his mother.

Baldwin Rockett appears to have married first to Mary and lived in London, where their sons John Rockett was born on 12 March 1706 and William Rockett on 11 June 1708. Nothing further is known of Mary and John, but William Rockett was apprenticed out in 1724. It is not known for certain that this was the same Baldwin Rockett, but the name is rare enough that it probably was. If so, Baldwin Rockett apparently had little to do with his son William, given that he was apprenticed out while his father was alive.

By about 1710, Baldwin Rockett either moved to or made regular trips to the Virginia Colony. After his arrival in Virginia, an early portrayal described him as a *"seafaring man,"* and records show that he served as the captain of a ship and engaged in other maritime activities. The area of Richmond, Virginia near the James River became known as *"Rocketts"* or *"Rocketts Landing"* after him, suggesting that he owned the waterfront property along the James River in Richmond. The inventory of his estate indicated that he owned a substantial number of exotic articles, allowing him and his family to enjoy an upper-middle class lifestyle.

Baldwin Rockett married between 1710 and 1715 in Virginia to Anne Ware (5 Jan 1695–aft. 27 Sep 1780), daughter of Rev. Jacob Ware (1655–Jul 1709) and Susannah Adams (1670/1675–1735). They had five known sons:

1. **Ware Rockett** (1715/1720–aft. 1756) reportedly married Mary Poindexter. They had two children, Sarah Rockett (26 Jul 1754–c1832) and Francis Ware Rockett (30 Dec 1756–Jan 1777). Ware Rockett served in the army of Col. George Washington during the French and Indian War (1754–1761) and fought at the Battle of the Meadows (or Battle of Fort Necessity) on 3 July 1754, Washington's first military engagement.
2. **Francis Rockett** (1715/1725–c1748) reportedly returned to England and died there in 1748.
3. **Baldwin Rockett Jr.** (1715/1730–c1782) remained in Henrico County, Virginia and died there about 1782.
4. **John Rockett** (1715/1730–aft. 1755) entered the maritime industry like his father and later served as a ship captain. He settled in New York and died after 1755.
5. **Richard Rockett I** (1725/1730–c1784) was the youngest son of Baldwin and Anne Rockett, still underage in 1744. He moved to Mecklenburg County, Virginia by the 1760s and married

on 27 June 1763 in Granville County, North Carolina to Mary Abernathy (1740/1748–?), daughter of Robert Abernathy.

Baldwin Rockett signed his will on 20 February 1730/1731, making bequests to his wife, Anne, and their five sons. Anne filed his will with the Henrico County Court on the first Monday in July 1731, and so he had died between February 20th and early July 1731. After his death, Anne remarried Abraham Crowley and lived until after 27 September 1780.

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