# Benjamin M. Tubb & Mary Catherine Elizabeth Caskey

# of

# Alabama & Cherry Ridge, Union Parish, Louisiana

**by Timothy Dean Hudson**

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Benjamin M. Tubb was born between 1816 and 1820 in Alabama. Finding documentation of Benjamin's parents has proved difficult. The best evidence available today comes from a letter written in 1966 by a granddaughter-in-law of William E. Tubb [Billy] (c1814–aft. 1860). The letter identified William and Benjamin M. Tubb as brothers. Documentation from early records of Union Parish, Louisiana suggests that Richard P. Tubb (4 Jan 1824–22 Nov 1883) was another of Benjamin's brothers. Circumstantial evidence points to Benjamin, William, and Richard P. Tubb as sons of Samuel Tubb (c1789–1866), who died in Bibb County, Alabama.

Benjamin M. Tubb married in Perry County, Alabama on 26 November 1842 to Jane Grey. Nothing further is known of Jane Grey, and available evidence suggests that she died within a few years of their marriage.

On 4 December 1845, Benjamin married Mary Catherine Elizabeth Caskey in Macon County, Alabama. Macon lies considerably east of Perry County, suggesting that Benjamin's connection to the Caskey family likely developed through regional Baptist associations or other contacts extending beyond his home community.

Mary Catherine Elizabeth Caskey (Kate) was born about 1830 in Lancaster District, South Carolina, the daughter of John Wagonmaker Caskey (21 Nov 1793–16 Aug 1875) and Margaret McGowen (c1798–aft. 1880). Kate moved with her parents to Alabama in the mid-1830s, and they settled on land near the border between Macon and Pike Counties, the region that today lies in Bullock County.

Since their eldest child was born in Louisiana in July 1847, Benjamin and Kate almost certainly followed her parents from Macon County, Alabama to Union Parish, Louisiana in 1846 or early 1847. Between 1850 and 1860, Benjamin acquired 400 acres of land near the village of Cherry Ridge, in northwestern Union Parish. In 1860, his real estate was valued at $3200 and his personal

estate at $5650, indicating that he had established a successful planting operation. Subsequent records suggest that he emerged from Reconstruction with much of his property intact.

Records from the 1860s and 1870s indicate that Benjamin owned and operated a store near Cherry Ridge. Benjamin died of *"Hart Disease"* (heart disease) in May 1880.

Benjamin and Kate Tubb's family appear in only two censuses between 1850 and 1880. Although court records place them in Union Parish by about 1847, they were not enumerated on the 1850 federal census in Union Parish or elsewhere. However, the 1850 Union Parish Slave Schedule listed *"B. M. Tubb"* as the owner of one enslaved male aged fifteen and one enslaved female aged fourteen. In 1860, they were enumerated on their farm near Cherry Ridge but omitted from the 1870 census (like many white families who lived in Ward 3 of Union Parish Louisiana). The 1880 federal enumeration of the Spearsville area shows Kate and her surviving children living on their farm.

Because Benjamin was omitted from the 1850 and 1870 censuses and no surviving tombstone has been identified, only two contemporary estimates of his age are available. The 1860 census enumerator listed his age as 40, while the 1880 enumerator listed him as aged 64 at his death in May 1880. Both sources record his birth in Alabama.

After her husband's death in May 1880 from heart disease, Kate continued to raise her younger children and operate her farm with assistance from her older sons. In the early 1890s, she began selling her interest in Benjamin's lands. She died sometime after 28 October 1893, when she lived near Cherry Ridge. No record of her precise date of death has been located, but evidence indicates that she had died before 1900. She does not appear in either her own household or in that of any of her children.

Benjamin and Kate's place of burial is uncertain. No cemetery associated directly with the Cherry Ridge community has been identified. Many of their children were buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, and it is believed that Ben and Kate belonged to the Zion Hill Baptist Church. They may have been buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, although no surviving marker or burial record has been located to confirm that conclusion.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## Children of Benjamin M. Tubb & Mary Catherine Elizabeth Caskey

Evidence indicates that soon after their marriage in Alabama, Benjamin and Kate moved with her parents to northern Union Parish, Louisiana, where they were living by 1847 when their first child was born. Within a few years, Benjamin acquired land near Cherry Ridge, where he and Kate spent the remainder of their lives. Their known children are:

1. **Benjamin Franklin Tubb** [Frank] (15 Jul 1847–12 Dec 1934) married Louisa A. Griffin (17 Aug 1850–24 Sep 1908).
2. **Francis Marion Tubb** (c1852–Apr 1880) married an unknown woman.
3. **G. R. Tubb** [male] (c1854–1860/1880) appeared in his parents' 1860 household but had died without having children by 1880.
4. **M. M. Tubb** [female] (c1856–1860/1880) appeared in her parents' 1860 household but had died without having children by 1880.
5. **John Jesse Tubb** (6 Mar 1858–7 Jan 1928) married Lenora A. Purtle (May 1859–10 Oct 1938).
6. **Sarah Jane E. Tubb** (29 Sep 1859–27 Jun 1940) was the twin sister of Samuel Lysander Tubb. She married George Rufus Williams (4 Oct 1855–4 Apr 1919).
7. **Samuel Lysander Tubb** (29 Sep 1859–12 Aug 1952) was the twin brother of Sarah Jane E. Tubb. He married Elizabeth E. Holloway (Aug 1867–11 Oct 1959).
8. **Ruffin Gallatin Tubb** (c1861–1889/1890) married Frances Alma McCoy [Fannie] (18 Jul 1852–8 Jul 1931).
9. **Sopharona G. Tubb** (16 Apr 1865–4 Jan 1909) married Jesse Benjamin Odom Jr. (1 Mar 1857–18 Oct 1936).
10. **Samantha Tubb** (Aug 1867–1900/1904) married Henry William Dixon [Willis] (Apr 1869–aft. 1910).
11. **Clementine Tubb** (25 Sep 1870–26 Feb 1930) married Stephen Jackson Regan (Reagan) [Steve] (Aug 1860–6 Sep 1941).
12. **Homer Howard Tubb** (18 Sep 1872–8 Jul 1936) married Fannie Eugenia Dumas (13 Nov 1876–26 Nov 1946).
13. **Crawford M. Tubb** (c1874–1881/1893) was alive on 26 November 1881 but had died by October 1893.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## Biographical Sketches of the Children of Ben Tubb & Kate Caskey

Shortly after their marriage in Alabama, Benjamin and Kate moved to northern Union Parish, Louisiana, probably accompanying Kate's parents. Their first child was born there in 1847. They had a total of thirteen known children:

### 1. Benjamin Franklin Tubb

Benjamin Franklin Tubb [Frank] (15 Jul 1847–12 Dec 1934) married on 29 December 1867 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Louisa A. Griffin (17 Aug 1850–24 Sep 1908), daughter of Samuel Griffin (c1799–7 Dec 1850) and Symman P. ? (c1818–1878). Louisa's father was the son of John Griffin and Ann Wortham, and he was a brother to George Wortham Griffin (c1798–c1838), father of Lt. Col. Sidney Henry Griffin, killed during the Siege of Vicksburg.

Frank Tubb was a Baptist minister and farmer. He served as the postmaster of the Louter Post Office from 27 May 1914 until its closure on 27 February 1915. Frank then served as the postmaster of the Laran Post Office from its establishment on 10 October 1916 until 17 December 1929.

His death certificate reports that he died on December 12th as a result of *"Trammatic Pneumonia Labor"* caused when he *"Fell off porch at home."* His obituary in Farmerville's *"The Gazette"* also stated that he died on Wednesday, December 12th, of *"pneumonia, which he contracted after receiving a severe shock from a fall from his porch several days prior to his death."* However, his tombstone records his death on December 8th.

Frank and Louisa Tubb are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Union Parish, Louisiana.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### 2. Francis Marion Tubb

Francis Marion Tubb (c1852–Apr 1880) married an unknown woman during the 1870s who presumably died prior to 1880. He is not the male F. M. Tubb who married M. F. Autrey in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana on 6 October 1874 (Lincoln Parish LA Marriage Book A, p. 136), as that man was Francis Marion Tubb, son of William and Mary B. Tubb of Shiloh. According to the 1880 federal census, the widowed Francis M. Tubb died in April 1880 of *"consumption,"* or tuberculosis.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### 3. **G. R. Tubb**

G. R. Tubb [male] (c1854–1860/1880) appeared in his parents' 1860 household but had died without having children by 1880.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### 4. **M. M. Tubb**

M. M. Tubb [female] (c1856–1860/1880) appeared in her parents' 1860 household but had died without having children by 1880.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### 5. **John Jesse Tubb**

John Jesse Tubb (6 Mar 1858–7 Jan 1928) left Union Parish in the 1870s with a relative, George Washington Tubb, and went to Nevada County, Arkansas. John J. Tubb married on 1 December 1881 in Nevada County to Lenora A. Purtle (May 1859–10 Oct 1938), the daughter of Lawrence Carr Purtle (27 Aug 1821–26 Feb 1906) and Mary A. Billingsley (3 Feb 1827–21 Feb 1904).

In the mid-1880s, John J. and Lenora Tubb moved into adjoining Columbia County, Arkansas. They established a farm near Magnolia, where they raised their family and spent the remainder of their lives.

John J. Tubb died near Magnolia, Clay Township, Columbia County on 7 January 1928 of *"Sudden apoplexy."* His son, Newt Tubb, gave the information for his death certificate, and Newt stated that John Jesse Tubb was born at Farmerville, Louisiana.

John J. and Lenora Tubb are buried in the Frazier Cemetery, Columbia County, Arkansas.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 6. **Sarah Jane E. Tubb Williams**

Sarah Jane E. Tubb (29 Sep 1859–27 Jun 1940) was the twin sister of Samuel Lysander Tubb. She married on 20 January 1881 in Union Parish, Louisiana to George Rufus Williams (4 Oct 1855–4 Apr 1919), son of Thomas Washington Williams (4 Mar 1823–18 Dec 1896) and Rebecca Oden (c1827–1860/1864). Rufus lived with his parents in Autauga County, Alabama in 1860 and with his father in Baker (later Chilton) County, Alabama in 1870.

By 1880, Rufus had migrated to north Louisiana and lived in the household of Kate Tubb at Cherry Ridge, probably as a hired farm worker. Sarah and Rufus married the following year and made their home on a farm near Farmerville. Sarah and Rufus Williams are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Union Parish, Louisiana.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 7. **Samuel Lysander Tubb**

Samuel Lysander Tubb (29 Sep 1859–12 Aug 1952) was the twin brother of Sarah Jane E. Tubb. Although his death certificate states that he was born on 29 September *1860*, the 1860 federal census proves that he and Sarah were actually born in the year 1859.

Lysander Tubb married on 17 October 1886 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Elizabeth E. Holloway (Aug 1867–11 Oct 1959), daughter of Jasper Newton Holloway (11 Mar 1818–22 Dec 1888) and Elizabeth Hamrick (4 May 1826–20 Sep 1899). In the latter 1880s, Lysander and Elizabeth Tubb moved to Acadia Parish, Louisiana and settled near Crowley, where he worked as a rice farmer.

Lysander died in the Legion Hospital in Crowley. Lysander and Elizabeth Tubb are buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 8. **Ruffin Gallatin Tubb**

Ruffin Gallatin Tubb (c1861–1889/1890) was listed as one of his father's heirs living in Union Parish on 26 November 1881. He married on 19 December 1886 in Robertson County, Texas to Frances Alma McCoy [Fannie] (18 Jul 1852–8 Jul 1931), daughter of Robert Austin McCoy (13 Mar 1823–22 Jun 1876) and Mary Lurania Perkins (c1828–29 Jun 1876).

In October 1893, neither he nor his heirs were mentioned when his siblings sold the remaining land owned by their father's estate. In 1900, Fannie lived with her brother, physician Dr. Oscar J. McCoy, in Brazos County, Texas. She was listed as a widow who had given birth to no children, but the census enumerator recorded that she had been married for three years. If that census entry accurately reflects the duration of her marriage rather than her widowhood, it suggests that Ruffin G. Tubb died about 1889 or 1890.

Fannie remained a widow for the rest of her life, making her home with her brothers. She is buried in the Woodland Cemetery, Rosebud, Falls County, Texas and shares a joint tombstone with her single brother, Lee Lafitte McCoy.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### 9. **Sopharona G. Tubb Odom**

Sopharona G. Tubb (16 Apr 1865–4 Jan 1909) married on 10 April 1881 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Jesse Benjamin Odom Jr. (1 Mar 1857–18 Oct 1936), son of Jesse Benjamin Odom Sr. (4 Apr 1818–28 Aug 1891) and Mary Ann Jones (18 May 1836–21 May 1917). Sopharona and Benjamin Odom made their home near Farmerville and are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### 10. **Samantha Tubb Dixon**

Samantha Tubb (Aug 1867–1900/1904) married on 23 January 1890 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Henry William Dixon [Willis] (Apr 1869–aft. 1910). In 1900, Samantha and Willis Dixon lived in Ellis County, Texas with their two sons, Talmage and Everett, and their daughter Morta. Willis Dixon worked as a section hand with a railroad company.

Samantha died in the early 1900s, and in 1910, H. W. Dixon lived in Wise County, Texas, with his second wife, Alice, whom he married about 1904. He worked as a section foreman on a *"Steam Rail Road,"* the same occupation that he had in 1900. No further record of Henry Willis Dixon has been located.

The known children of Samantha Tubb and Henry Willis Dixon:

a. **Acy Talmage Dixon** (22 Nov 1890–18 Apr 1976) married in 1909 to Frances Giddy Frie (26 Nov 1892–17 Dec 1975). They divorced by 1917, when she remarried to James Benjamin Addington (10 Feb 1891–21 May 1941). When he registered for the draft in 1918, Acy worked as a *"Track Forman"* [foreman] for the Okla Union Tracton Co., and his address at that time was 210 E 1st Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1942 when he registered again for the draft, he lived in Wichita Falls, Texas. Acy Talmage Dixon is buried in the Crestview Memorial Park, Wichita Falls, Texas (Garden of Meditation Block G, Lot 4, Space 1). Frances Frie Addington is buried next to her second husband in the Mount Olivet Cemetery, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Known children of Acy T. Dixon and Frances Frie:
    i. DeWitt Talmage Dixon (7 Mar 1910–20 Dec 1965) married Janie K. Riddle (31 Jan 1917–27 Dec 1992), buried in the Sunny Land Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.
    ii. Lester Wade Dixon (25 Jul 1912–20 Feb 1988) married on 20 January 1933 to Leora Ellen Pevey (7 Aug 1912–20 Apr 1998), he reportedly died in Liberty Farm, Dixon, Solano, California.
b. **Everett Graves Dixon** (5 Jan 1893–26 Mar 1986) registered for the draft in 1917 as a single man. He worked as a farm laborer near Fisher, Oklahoma. He married about 1918 or 1919 to Bertha Alice Smith (4 Mar 1900–9 Jul 1996), daughter of Charles July Smith (28 Sep 1869–3 Dec 1956) and Rhoda Jane Miller (18 Aug 1869–16 Jun 1951). In 1920, Everett and Bertha lived near McKinney, Collin County, Texas, and he worked as a laborer doing *"odd jobs."* When he registered for the draft in 1942, he lived in Siloam Springs, Benton County, Arkansas, and worked as *"Farming & Stock."* Everett and Bertha Dixon are buried in the Resthaven Park West Cemetery, Glendale, Maricopa County, Arizona.
c. **Myrtle Dixon** [Morta] (c1895–aft. 1920) may be the *"Miss Myrtle Dixon"* who married on 15 February 1910 in Wise County, Texas to James W. Crawford. They lived in Wise County in 1910, the same county in which her father, H. W. Dixon, lived with his second wife. James Crawford worked as a railroad hand in 1910. In 1920, Myrtle and James lived in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, where he worked as a general laborer.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 11. **Clementine Tubb Reagan**

Clementine Tubb (25 Sep 1870–26 Feb 1930) married on 14 May 1885 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Stephen Jackson Regan (later Reagan) [Steve] (29 Aug 1860–6 Sep 1941), son of William Daniel Regan (Apr 1825–1904) and Nancy Cessum Beaird (c1827–27 Apr 1894).

Clem and Steve Reagan spent most of their married life sharecropping near Spearsville and Marion before later moving to Shiloh. In late 1929, Clem went to Farmerville to visit her daughter, where she suddenly became ill with heart problems. She died at her daughter's home in Farmerville.

Clem and Steve Reagan are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Union Parish, Louisiana.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 12. **Homer Howard Tubb**

Homer Howard Tubb (18 Sep 1872–8 Jul 1936) was apparently born in 1872, even though his death certificate gave his date of birth as 18 September 1871. The informant on his death certificate also made significant errors in providing his biographical data, listing his parents as John Tubbs and Sarah Thomas even though the 1880 federal census and extensive legal documents in Union Parish conclusively prove that he was the son of Benjamin M. Tubb and Kate Caskey. Since his tombstone and federal censuses give the year of his birth as 1872, it appears that the conflict with the birth date given on his death certificate should be disregarded.

Homer H. Tubb married on 26 March 1891 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Fannie Eugenia Dumas (13 Nov 1876–26 Nov 1946), the daughter of John Thomas Dumas Sr. (Oct 1845–6 Jan 1931) and Martha A. Hammons (c1854–31 Dec 1886). Homer H. and Fannie Tubb are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Union Parish, Louisiana.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 13. **Crawford M. Tubb**

Crawford M. Tubb (c1874–1881/1893) was alive on 26 November 1881, when court records listed him as one of his father's heirs. However, he had died by October 1893, when his siblings sold the remaining land owned by their father's estate.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦