

Their next stop-over was on Couley Creek in Winn Parish where their daughter, Tennessee, was born in 1868. Tom liked this place where the wild game and turkey was plentiful and decided to stay. They were near an Indian tribe who had befriended them and shared their grain and food. They first lived near and Tom farmed what was later known as the Old Brown Field. Though they remained here to raise their family and for the rest of their lives, Mary never gave up her dream of returning to the hills of Tennessee and of seeing her family there again. She kept in touch through letters and pictures.

Tom's parents settled in the Sardis Community near the present site of Sardis Baptist Church.

Through the next few years the family of Tom and Mary grew to include Emma A., Thomas J. Jr., Columbus W., Amanda Etta, and Annie R. After 1883 the family went to live in Bell County, Texas where some of Mary's family from Tennessee had settled. They lived in a white two-story house that stands today. They eventually returned to Winn Parish where Tom died in 1891.

The children were musically talented. Columbus played violin with the Martin boys, Dick, Pierce, and Joe. Annie and Etta played banjo, guitar, and mandolin.

In later years Mary lived with her children until her death in 1906. The youngest daughter, Annie, had married Joe Martin, a neighbor, and lived on the Brown Place at Couley. Tom and Mary are buried at Old Harmony Cemetery. Most of their children moved away from Couley, some to Texas, but quite a few of their descendants are in Winn Parish today. *by Lenora Martin*

slaves, and left him land poor. Asa B. (1800-1863) and Emily (1805-1875) were both born in South Carolina and died in Alabama. Asa B.'s son Asa Jones Bryant (born 1829, Alabama — died 1869, Louisiana) was married to Mary Drunetta Stevens on April 12, 1853 in Alabama. She was from Georgia. Asa Jones, Ambrose Madison and Jeremiah W. came to Louisiana in 1850.

James Asa Madison Bryant (called Jim) born October 20, 1858, died December 29, 1928. He was born in Winn and died at Hargis, Louisiana in Grant Parish. He was married to Sarah Elizabeth Ann Bedgood, of Goldonna, Louisiana, on January 23, 1879. She was the daughter of John and Sarah Taylor Bedgood. She was born February 22, 1859 and died April 4, 1926. James Asa Madison Bryant had a brother that died very young. His father, Asa Jones, and uncle, Ambrose Madison Bryant were Civil War veterans. They enlisted at Monroe, Louisiana. Asa Jones died soon after the war and his brother Ambrose Madison (called Mat) of Coldwater raised his son James Asa Madison Bryant.

James Asa Madison and Sarah E. Ann Bedgood Bryant had ten children: James William, born October 15, 1881 in Winn Parish, died November 24, 1961 at Hargis, married Ollie McIlwain; Fannie, who died very young; John Henry, born March 18, 1884, died January 18, 1957, Hargis, Louisiana, married Audie Lovell; George Harrison, born January, 1886, died May 14, 1906, Hargis — married Minnie Box; Lethia, born September 19, 1888, died July 29, 1961 at Winnfield, married Ray Allen; Niccis, born September 22, 1890, died February 23, 1975 at Pineville — married Sidney G. Williams; Visie Elizabeth, born September 1, 1894, died December 18, 1979 — married William L. Reeves; Jessie Lee, born September 1, 1896, died November 16, 1960 at Hargis — married Addie Lou Gatlin; Vivian, born December 8, 1899, died 1982 at Colfax — married Jim Jackson; and Edward Deleon, born August 4, 1902, died February 1984, Hargis — married Lottie Brown.

James Asa and Sarah Bryant's eighth child, Jessie Lee, and his wife, Addie Lou Gatlin, had four children: Hershel Lee Bryant, born April 28, 1918, married Edna Mae Vail on October 5, 1940 at Atlanta, Louisiana in Winn Parish; J. W., born November 15, 1920, married Ruth Racine; Bessie Louise, born November 6, 1925, married Oscar Lonnie Young; David Gail, born December 18, 1939, married Laverne Corman.

The oldest son of Jessie Lee and Addie Lou Bryant was Hershel Lee Bryant, and he married Edna M. Vail and they had five children: Gerald Lee Bryant, born October 9, 1942, Winnfield — married Linda Ann William of Houston, Texas; Lessie Mae, born December 6, 1943, Winnfield, married Charles S. Carpenter, Winnfield; William Dale, born January 1, 1950, Winnfield — married Dee Orfanos, New Jersey; Mary Nell, born May 27, 1951, Winnfield — married David Merle Godwin, Natchitoches, Louisiana; Jeffery

Len Bryant, Born January 18, 1963, Winnfield, not married.

Hershel and Edna have seven grandchildren: Stacy and Wendy Bryant; Robin, Troy and Rance Carpenter; and Michelle and Sean Godwin. They have one great-grandchild, Tiffany Dawn Hailey, born July 28, 1983, the daughter of David and Robin Carpenter Hailey. *by Edna Mae Vail Bryant*

## Robert W. and Emma Jones Buce

Robert Wesley Buce was born 10/3/1873 in Shiloh, Louisiana, the son of John Jefferson Buce and Cynthia Ann Harris Buce.

While working in Winn Parish as a railroad civil engineer he met Emma Jones at a party. It was love at first sight and they became engaged on their second date. They were married soon afterwards, 9/16/1902.

Emma Eleanor Jones was born near Dodson 10/8/1877, the daughter of Theodore L. Jones and Minerva E. Walker Jones.

Bob and Emma made their home in Winnfield and he continued working as a civil engineer. A year later, their first child, a daughter, was stillborn, 9/6/1903.

They had three other daughters, all who are still alive in 1983. Mildred was born December 5, 1904 in Shiloh, Louisiana where they had gone to be with his parents for the birth. Soon afterwards they moved to Lake Charles where he became an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company, a position he held for over fifty-one years, until his death January 1, 1956. Another daughter, Hazel, was born August 27, 1906. Soon after her birth they moved back to Winnfield where Evelyn was born March 27, 1909.

The Buce family were involved citizens in Winnfield. They were all very active in the First Baptist Church where Mr. Buce was the treasurer and a deacon for many years. Bob Buce was mayor of Winnfield for several terms, first from 1928 to 1930, then again from 1930 to 1934.

They bought a home in Bastrop in 1945 to be near Evelyn as Emma's health had failed. After she died 10/8/47, Mr. Buce made his home with Evelyn's family until he died.

Mildred married Moses Clark Miller in 1925. They had four daughters. Marilyn and Emma Lou were born in Winnfield and Sara Evelyn and Mildred "Milly" in Louisville, Mississippi. After her divorce from Mr. Miller, Mildred took Milly to live in Jackson, Mississippi, where Mildred continued her business of designing and producing lingerie and wedding clothes. She married S.C. Holmes and after his death, married F.C. Moore. She now lives in a nursing home in Ocala, Florida near Milly.

Hazel married Charles Albert Rivet in 1925. Their son Robert Buce was born in Lecompte, Louisiana and Carolyn was born in Bunkie. After Albert's death in Alexandria, Hazel and her children moved to Shreveport. She married James Donald Flippen and after his death in 1955 moved to California to work and be near Carolyn. She mar-



## James Asa and Sarah Bedgood Bryant

Lewis Franklin Bryant migrated to the colonies from Ireland about 1729. He left a will made out to his wife and children in 1794, probably about the time of his death. It was recorded in Kershaw district Co. S.C. in 1794. He and his wife had these children: Edmond, Lewis, William, Ambrose, Richard, Susannah and Hanner.

This Louisiana line descended from his son Ambrose and his wife Mary Bryant, of S.C. Ambrose migrated from S.C. to Monroe Co., Alabama about 1819-20. His children were: Lewis Franklin, Senta, Asa B., Travis, James and Mary. Then from Ambrose son, Asa B. Bryant and his wife Emily C. Hicks, daughter of Jeremiah K. Hicks, came these 18 children, of Ala.: Mary Amanda, Sicily, Annie Angelina, Ambrose Madison, Asa Jones, Jeremiah W., Arena Rebecca, Nancy, James B., Semencia Livillia, Edmond, Susanna E.E., Isaiah, Augustine Americuns, Hanner, Sofrona Narcissa, and Golden Delane Lebert Bryant.

Asa B. Bryant was a cotton planter and owned many hundreds of acres of land in Monroe County, Alabama. But the civil war took away the Bryant's wealth in money and