

## ***Descendants of Nancy Swartz and William Spangler through the 3rd generation from John and Elizabeth Ohlweiler Swartz***

**Nancy Swartz**, the middle daughter of **John Swartz** and **Elizabeth Ohlweiler**, was born on 19 February 1808 in Utica, Clark County, Indiana, USA, died on 25 November 1845 in (most likely) Schuyler County, Illinois, USA and was buried in Pulaski Cemetery in Augusta Township, Hancock County, Illinois.<sup>1</sup> *FSID: LWMS-TMZ*

Nancy married **William Spangler**, son of **David Spangler** and **Elizabeth Neale Derische**, on 15 March 1826 in Clark County, Indiana.<sup>2</sup> William Spangler was born on 9 September 1799 in Jefferson County, Kentucky, died 3 February 1863 in (most likely) Schuyler County, Illinois, and was buried in Pulaski Cemetery in Augusta Township, Hancock County, Illinois.<sup>3</sup> *FSID: LWMS-RF7*

They had five known children: **Paulina**, **Margaret Ann**, **Mary Ellen**, **John Milton**, and **Sarah L.**<sup>4</sup>

Nancy's older siblings were all perseverers.<sup>5</sup> They remained in Clark County, Indiana for their entire adult lives and are buried there. Nancy left family and community in Indiana and migrated to the Illinois frontier.

Nancy was 15 when her father died in 1824.<sup>6</sup> Her newlywed brother Jacob became the head of the household as well as administrator of her father's estate.<sup>7</sup> Two years after his death, she married William Spangler, the oldest son of a fellow founding trustee, with her father, of the New Chapel Methodist Church.<sup>8</sup> William was nearly 10 years older, and at the time of their marriage, he was executor of his father's estate.<sup>9</sup> In the 1830 census, their household appears to contain two of Williams' younger brothers, and they lived next door to the

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<sup>1</sup> Pulaski Cemetery (Pulaski, Illinois); FHL 965274 item 1 DGS 7621321. *typed copy of plat records, organized by Range and lot, Nancy's age at death 37 yr, 8 mos, 16 da. Birthdate calculated from age at death in Cemetery records; . Find A Grave, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 10 Feb 2024), Nancy Swartz, memorial number 51282815.*

<sup>2</sup> Clark, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1808 - 1951, A: 154-155, Spangler-Schwartz (*sic*), 1826; FHL microfilm 1,415,852. *For parentage documentation see, Clark, Indiana, Wills book, B: 231 - 232, David Spangler; FHL microfilm 549316 (DGS 7665956), item 2; first portion is in extremely bad condition, faded and stained. Spelling of Elizabeth Derische's maiden name is uncertain. The only record known that gives her maiden name is her Kentucky marriage record and that record can be read as Derch or Dech. The common spelling is based on records of her proposed father.*

<sup>3</sup> Pulaski Cemetery (Pulaski, Illinois); FHL 965274 item 1 DGS 7621321. *typed copy of plat records, organized by Range and lot, William died Feb 3, 1863, age 63 yr, 4 mos, 25 days. Birthdate calculated from death data in cemetery record.*

<sup>4</sup> "Mrs. Margaret Ann Nelson," *Daily Illinois State Register*, 31 Mar 1916, p. 9, col. 1; digital images, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/obituaries/>: accessed 19 Aug 2025.) *Margaret's obituary names her parents, siblings, spouse and children. The only other document that connects any of the children directly to their parents is the obituary of John Milton Spangler which includes a brief biographical sketch. Death of John M. Spangler, The Rushville Times, 10 Mar 1898, p. 2, col. 2; digital images, Community History Archive (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>: accessed 29 Aug 2025.) Numerous articles in the social news section of the Rushville newspapers connect all the siblings as their social activities and travels were reported.*

<sup>5</sup> *Perseverers are second generation families who remain in the location first settled by their migrating parents, as defined by Richard F. Nation in At Home in the Hoosier Hills - Agriculture, Politics, and Religion in Southern Indiana, 1810-1870* (Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2005.)

<sup>6</sup> Indiana, Clark County, Civil Court Partition; Estate of John Schwartz, dec'd, Partition of land, vol 1 pg 301-304, DGS 8054046 images 151+.

<sup>7</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Boone, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 47, Jacob Schwartz; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 16 May 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M19, roll 28; household Free White Males 10-14 – 1 FWM 15-19 – 1 FWM 20-29 - 2 (Jacob and Leonard Swartz - Jacob's brother) Free White Females 10-14 - 1 (Sophia Swartz - Jacob's sister) FWF 15-19 - 1 (Rebecca) FWF 50-59 - (Elizabeth Swartz - Jacob's mother.) Clark, Indiana, Probate Records 1817-1919, A: 204, Administrators of John Schwartz, deceased; FHL microfilm 1,415,965, item 1.

<sup>8</sup> Clark, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1808 - 1951, A: 154-155; New Chapel Methodist Church, "Records of Trustees Meetings," p. 1; Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis; "*Founding list of trustees 29 January 1811; Edward Jacob, John Swartz, Basil Prather, David Spangler, Henry Bottorff, Michal Schwartz, William Patrick, Jeremiah Jacob junr (sic) and Basil R. Prather.*" *David Spangler does not appear to have served more than 1 term as a trustee.*

<sup>9</sup> Clark, Indiana, Civil order books 1853-1921 Order bk B2: 341, 342, 362, 363, 383, Wm. Spangler vs David Spangler heirs for the partition of the real estate, disposed of June 1828; FHL microfilm 2312951 DGS 9073994, item 2 image 219, 475-476, 484-485.

households of his mother and brothers Alfred and Simon.<sup>10</sup> Family ties were clearly important to William and Nancy.

William and Nancy began their married life by farming land he had inherited from his father. They sold Nancy's portion of her father's farm to her brother Jacob on 10 April 1830.<sup>11</sup> William engaged in a bit of land speculation when on 1 April 1831, he purchased Lot 76 in the town of Utica from John and Susan Evans, in partnership with his brother in law Adam Koons, for thirteen dollars.<sup>12</sup> A sale deed for that lot does not appear to have ever been recorded. Perhaps the lot was quit-claimed to Adam when William and Nancy migrated out of Clark County. Preparing to move out of Indiana, in 1832, they sold the farmland William had inherited from his father to George Fry, consisting of 64¾ acres with a reserve of "12 or 14 acres" as his mother, Elizabeth's right of dower.<sup>13</sup>

They packed their 3 young daughters, their household goods, a wagon and oxen onto a river boat and followed the burgeoning pioneer river route to West-Central Illinois.<sup>14</sup> They possibly disembarked in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois and travelled east overland to Schuyler County, where they began a new farming life.<sup>15</sup> Nancy and William were part of a large cluster migration from Clark County, Indiana to the area of Illinois where Adams, Hancock and Schuyler Counties met. Over the next decade, at least 2 of Nancy's nieces and 3 of her nephews, all children from her brother John's first marriage, settled in this area as did 2 of William's brothers and his brother in law (and Nancy's cousin) David Epler.<sup>16</sup> Many other names familiar in Clark County records are found during this period in this 3 county corner, Bottorff, Jacobs, Prather, Bennett and Fry members of Nancy's extended family network settled nearby.<sup>17</sup>

About a year after they bought land in Shuyler County, they had twins - a boy and a girl.<sup>18</sup> The birth may have been difficult for Nancy, as they had no more known children. Nancy becomes a shadowy presence in the record. She is undoubtedly the adult female in William's household in the 1840 census, and she was party to a small number of land sales between 1837 and 1841.<sup>19</sup> It also seems likely she joined her husband and family in

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<sup>10</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Charlestown, p. 55, Spangler, Wm; digital images, *Ancestry.com* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 10 Feb 2024); citing NARA microfilm M19, roll 28.

<sup>11</sup> Clark, Indiana, Deed Records, 1801-1901471+, William Spangler and Nancy his wife to Jacob Swartz, 10 Apr 1830; FHL microfilm DGS 7857087, item image 565.

<sup>12</sup> Clark, Indiana, Deed Records, 1801-1901, 26: 543-544, John and Susan Evans to William Spangler and Adam Koons, 1 April 1831; FHL microfilm 1,428,599, item 2.

<sup>13</sup> Clark, Indiana, Deed Records, 1801-1901, 27: 371-372, William and Nancy Spangler to George Fry, 14 Jan 1832; FHL microfilm 1,428,588, item 3. (*This George Fry may be the brother of John Fry, Nancy's brother in law but the identification is speculative.*)

<sup>14</sup> W.R. Brink & Co., editor, *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois with illustrations descriptive of their scenery and biographical sketches....*(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: n.p., 1882), 363.

<sup>15</sup> W.R. Brink & Co., *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*, 363.

<sup>16</sup> *For the histories of John Swartz the second's children see the article on John Swartz and Nancy Prather and their children (insert link); for the immigration of William's brothers and brother in law*

<sup>17</sup> *For migration on the extended family network see [Descendants of John Swartz/Schwartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler](#).*

<sup>18</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 Aug 2025), John Milton Spangler, memorial number 15009069; Stone has first name and middle initial and years. Sarah Spangler Fuqua Grover, Montana, U.S., State Deaths, 1907-2018 (*Ancestry* : [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)) ID: 1,5437::0, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; Helena, Montana; Montana Death Records. Cit. ID: 1,5437::75773763. Sarah and John were twins so the birth date for Sarah provides a birthdate for John. For death date for John see "Sudden Death - John M. Spangler died this morning of heart trouble," *The Rushville Times*, 3 Mar 1898, p. 7, col. 6; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>: accessed 29 Aug 2025.)

<sup>19</sup> Clark, Indiana, Deed Records, 1801-1901, 27: 371-372, William and Nancy Spangler to George Fry, 14 Jan 1832; FHL microfilm 1,428,588, item 3; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, D: 198-199, DGS 8567299 item 2, William Spangler and Nancy his wife to John J. Gash, 24 May 1836; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 25 Jul 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, K: 297-298, DGS 8204082 item 3, image 174-175, William and Nancy Spangler to Asa D. Dolmin/Dalson (?), 26 Jul 1841; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 10 Feb 2024). Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, K DGS 8204082 item 3.: 611, William Spangler and Nancy his wife to George W. McDaniel, 14 Jun 1842; digital images, FamilySearch, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 26 Mar 2024.)

membership within the Methodist Circuit established in the 3 county area around the time the family moved to Illinois.<sup>20</sup>

William was active in his new community - buying and selling land, general farming, working with a small group to layout the town of Huntsville in Schuyler County and doing his civic duty by serving on juries, as a School Trustee and on the Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>21</sup> Shortly after Nancy's death in 1845, their oldest two daughters married<sup>22</sup> and in 1850 the household consisted of 19 year old Mary E. and the 16 year old twins.<sup>23</sup> Something appears to have gone financially wrong around 1850. William began creating land sale deeds that were mortgages.<sup>24</sup> No payments of these mortgages were recorded in Schuyler County land records and William does not appear to have left land to his children on his demise.<sup>25</sup> In 1850 William and the children still living at home were listed as residing in Warsaw, Hancock County, where William as a Nurseryman. On the Agricultural schedule of the same census, he is listed as a general farmer in Schuyler County.<sup>26</sup>

In 1851, William was served with a suit "in ejectment" alleging that his property in Warsaw had no legal title. He was not the only individual named in the lawsuit which appears to have sprung from an inheritance dispute. He and the others named lost their case and forfeited the town lots in dispute.<sup>27</sup> Shortly afterwards William, now in his 50s, took out a chattel mortgage on his household goods.<sup>28</sup> William and John Milton have not been found in the 1860 census, although all indications are that they were still living in the 3-county corner where

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<sup>20</sup> However, there are no extant records for the circuit, which covered several Illinois counties, including Adams, Hancock and Schuyler, from before the 1870s.

<sup>21</sup> Certificate 3194, John I. Gash and William Spangler; General Land Office Records; Bureau of Land Management; digital images, General Land Office, Records ([glorecords.blm.gov](https://www.glorecords.blm.gov) : accessed 10 Feb 2024); W.R. Brink & Co., *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*, 1: 365; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, E: 291, John I. Gash and Mary his wife to William Spangler, 20 Jun 1836; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 10 Feb 2024); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, Bk D: pg 154-155, Samuel Reid and wife Amanda, 25 Nov 1836; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 26 Mar 2024); DGS 8567299 item 3; "Doings at Carthage," *The Warsaw Signal*, p. 2, col. 2; digital images, *Warsaw Public Library - Community preservation site* (<https://warsaw.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 21 Jul 2025); *Grand Jury appointment*. Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, Z: 774-775, Robert Dawson and Nancy his wife to Trustees of Schools, Township 2N 4W, 22 February 1854; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 26 Mar 2024); DGS 8563707 item 2. Recorded 1 December 1857; Hancock, Illinois, Deed Records, 33:440 FHL 954348, DGS 8320215 image 260, Henry and Catherine Stephens to the Board of Trustees of the 1st Episcopal Methodist Church, 5 Jan 1852; digital images, FamilySearch, ([www.familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 23 Jul 2025).

<sup>22</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940, Ackley-Spangler, 1846; digital images, FamilySearch, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)); Schuyler, Illinois, Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940, A: item 1501, Nelson-Spangler, 1849; digital images, FamilySearch, ([www.familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 13 Aug 2025.)

<sup>23</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Hancock, Illinois, population schedule, not given, p. 323A, dwelling 752, family 753, William Spangler; digital images, *Ancestry.com* ([www.ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 21 Jan 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 109.

<sup>24</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, M: 3-4 DGS 8567301 item 2, image 15-16, William Spangler to John Epler, 15 Mar 1845; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 26 Mar 2024); DGS 8567301 item 2; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, P: 242 DGS 8567302 image 149, William Spangler to Mitchell F. Stevenson, 31 Oct 1849; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 26 Mar 2024.)

<sup>25</sup> William does not appear in extant will or probate records from Hancock Adams or Schuyler Counties, Illinois. FamilySearch microfilm and digitized records for all three counties were reviewed on a page by page basis for the period 1863-1865 and County Clerks were contacted regarding the possibility of unmicrofilmed original records.

<sup>26</sup> Ancestry.com, "U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880," database and images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1276/>: accessed 26 Mar 2024); William Spangler, 1850 Schuyler County, Illinois, Agriculture Schedules, pg 47 & 48; NAID: 2791276; Record Group Number: 29; Record Group Title: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007.

<sup>27</sup> Hancock, Illinois, Circuit court records, 1829-1897 F: 101-102 image 80, Andrews et al vs William Spangler in ejectment from lot 4 block 34 of Warsaw town plat, 2 Jun 1851; FHL microfilm 947497 DGS 8566256, item 2; *this is final court appearance. William Spangler has not appeared despite 3 notices therefore he is declared at fault, and the ejectment will proceed.*

<sup>28</sup> Hancock, Illinois, Bonds & mortgages, 1840-1904, 4 : 352, Wm Spangler to John Hill, 9 Oct 1851; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8566259, Film 954777, image 211" ([www.familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 23 Jul 2025.)

they had been living since 1832.<sup>29</sup> William's whereabouts are not recorded for the rest of his life. At the end of his life, he appears to have owned no land and left no probate-able estate at his death.<sup>30</sup>

When he died in 1863, he was buried next to Nancy in Pulaski Cemetery in Adams County, where they had purchased lots in the 1840s.<sup>31</sup> They apparently never owned land or lived in Adams County, but the cemetery is close to the part of Schuyler County where they originally settled and there are extended family members buried nearby.<sup>32</sup>

William is remembered as a pioneer in county histories and in the obituaries and newspaper articles concerning his children.<sup>33</sup> Nancy is rarely mentioned by name in the same sources, but she is remembered in the obituary of her second daughter and in a brief biography of her son John Milton Spangler published nearly 30 years after her death.<sup>34</sup>

1. **Paulina Spangler** was born 8 May 1827 in Clark County, Indiana, died 27 May 1911 in Huntsville, Schuyler County, Illinois, and was buried in King Cemetery, Huntsville, Schuyler, Illinois.<sup>35</sup> *FSID: LWMS-JH4*

Paulina married **Nathan Ackley**, son of **Hiram Ackley** and **Margaret Lucinda Case**, on 7 June 1846 in Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>36</sup> Nathan was born 16 May 1819 in New York and died 4 April 1889 in Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>37</sup> *FSID: K6QZ-NJ5.*

They had five children: **Louisa Ann**, **Charles**, **Harriett E.**, **Mary Josephine** (died in infancy), and **Rolandus**.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> A wide variety of searches were conducted in Illinois and Clark County, Indiana using variants of first and last names, alternate place of birth and a variety of ages. In Schuyler and Hancock Counties the online census was read line by line for the both counties. It seems likely that the family was simply missed by the census taker, and they were residing in Schuyler County, or perhaps in Hancock County although this is less likely. Mary E. appears on the 1860 census in Schuyler County as a boarder. The twins were both married in Schuyler County, Sarah in 1854 and John in 1860.

<sup>30</sup> See footnote 25 for extent of search resulting in negative findings.

<sup>31</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 10 Feb 2024), William Spangler, memorial number 51282817 and Nancy Swartz, memorial number 51282815; Pulaski Cemetery (Pulaski, Illinois), typed copy of plat records, organized by Range and lot, Lot 4 E 1/2 southside. death information Nancy died Nov 5, 1845, age 37 yr. 8 mo, 16 day; William died Feb 3, 1863 age 63 yr, 4 mos, 25 day; in the SW half of the lot are burials for Alfred and Susan Spangler. Alfred is William's younger brother; FHL 965274 item 1 DGS 7621321. The north half of the lot is occupied by the teen-aged half-brothers of Nathan Ackley son in law of William and Nancy.

<sup>32</sup> Other known members of Swartz kinship network buried in Pulaski Cemetery include Archibald Adams memorial 51282205; multiple members of the Bennett family and members of the Bottorff family – only about 50% of the graves have been memorialized on Find a Grave and research in the 1974 filming of the Pulaski Cemetery records in necessary to discover the remaining graves.

<sup>33</sup> W.R. Brink & Co., *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*, 363; "Death of John Milton Spangler", *The Rushville Times*, 10 Mar 1898, p. 2, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); obituary gives the text of a funeral sermon which included a brief biographical sketch; "Mrs. Margaret Ann Nelson," *Daily Illinois State Register*, 31 Mar 1916, p. 9, col. 1; digital images, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/obituaries/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>34</sup> Andreas, Lyter & Co, *Atlas of Schuyler Co, Illinois*; "Mrs. Margaret Ann Nelson."

<sup>35</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 Apr 2024), Pauline Spangler Ackley, memorial number 14642745; citing Huntsville Cemetery, Huntsville, Schuyler County, Illinois, USA; Maintained by Thomas Spangler (contributor 46837141.)

<sup>36</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940, Ackley-Spangler, 1846; digital images, FamilySearch ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 12 Dec 2024.)

<sup>37</sup> Nathan Ackley, memorial number 142814684; (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial> : accessed April 2, 2024), citing Huntsville Cemetery, Huntsville, Schuyler County, Illinois, USA; Maintained by Julie (contributor 47598974.) For Nathan's parents I am relying on the research of Marilynn Johnson, memorial manager for the memorial page for Hiram C. Ackley (1793–15 Nov 1879), memorial number 120468355, citing Portland Cemetery, Portland, Ionia County, Michigan, USA; Maintained by Marilynn Johnson (contributor 46963419.)

<sup>38</sup> "Mortuary Record - Mrs. Pauline Ackley," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Jun 1911, p. 1, col. 6; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); detailed obituary gives her maiden name, marriage date and spouse and siblings names as well as names of children.

Paulina was 18 when her mother Nancy died. Roughly 6 months later she and Nathan, 12 years her senior, were married. The couple established their first home in the Ellington area of Adams County, where they appeared in the 1850 census.<sup>39</sup> By 1855, they had relocated to Huntsville in Schuyler County, where they would build their permanent home.<sup>40</sup>

Nathan Ackley demonstrated considerable talent as a farmer and landowner. His land acquisitions began in 1852 when he obtained a General Land Office patent for forty acres, the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 in Section 27, Township 2 North, Range 4 West.<sup>41</sup> That same year, he purchased additional land from Daniel and Ailey Lourderback, acquiring the N 1/4 or NE 1/4 of Section 28.<sup>42</sup> The Ackley's land transactions reveal a pattern of careful accumulation and occasional strategic sales. In 1855, Nathan and Paulina sold the Lourderback acreage to Robert McClain, but within weeks Nathan purchased additional nearby land from Fleming Burke and his wife Sarah.<sup>43</sup> Over the following decades, he continued to expand his holdings, buying land from William H. Burke in 1867 and forty acres from Jesse V. Burke in 1876.<sup>44</sup>

On the 1860 agricultural census of Schuyler county, Nathan is shown farming half his 80 acre holdings as a general farmer with horse, cattle and hogs valued at around \$650 and with crops of wheat and corn predominating.<sup>45</sup> His interest in and skill at breeding and raising livestock was publicly recognized in October 1871 when his eight-year-old bull won second premium at the Schuyler County Fair.<sup>46</sup>

Life was not without difficulties. During the Fall of 1857 the family welcomed a baby daughter, Mary Josephine who died less than a month after birth.<sup>47</sup> In 1863, Nathan registered for the Civil War draft in Huntsville.<sup>48</sup> While

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<sup>39</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Ellington, p. image 8 of 35, dwelling 50, family 51, Nathan Ackley; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025); citing NARA microfilm M432; *Page number is unreadable but in upper left corner is handwritten 8 very close to edge of page. Previous page is stamped 68 and has a handwritten number of 1357, following page is stamped 69 with a handwritten number of 1379.*

<sup>40</sup> 1855 State Census, Hancock, Illinois, population schedule, Huntsville, p. 50, dwelling -, family 17, line -, Nathan Ackley; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025).

<sup>41</sup> Document 60209, Nathan Ackley; General Land Office Records; Bureau of Land Management; digital images, General Land Office, "U.S., General Land Office Records, 1776-2015," Records ([glorecords.blm.gov](http://glorecords.blm.gov) : accessed 2 Apr 2024.)

<sup>42</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 856704 item 2 Bk O: 139 image 85, Daniel Lourderback and wife to Nathan Ackley, 21 June 1852; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 11 Aug 2025).

<sup>43</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8567306 item 2 BK X: 23-24, image 15-16, Nathan Ackley and Paulina his wife to Robert M Cain, 12 Jul 1855; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 2 Oct 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8567306 item 1 Bk W: 461-2 image 180-82, Fleming Burke and wife to Nathan Ackley, 18 Apr 1855; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/20185>: accessed 2 Oct 2025.)

<sup>44</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8567313 item 2 Bk 38: pgs 76-77 image 41-42, Wm H Burke and wife to Nathan Ackley, 23 Dec 1867; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851>: accessed 2 Oct 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8567316 item 3 BK 45: 301 image 186, Jesse V. Burke to Nathan Ackley, 28 Oct 1876; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851>: accessed 2 Oct 2025.)

<sup>45</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, agricultural schedule, Huntsville, p. 47, line 25, Nathan Ackley; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 2 Apr 2024); citing NARA microfilm M653; U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880.

<sup>46</sup> "Premiums Awarded at the Schuyler County Fair," *The Schuyler Citizen*, 12 Oct 1871, p. 2, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>: accessed 7 Aug 2025)

<sup>47</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 Jul 2025), Mary Josephine Ackley, memorial number 17431644; *There is no photo of a stone however the memorial has full dates of birth and death and she is linked to parents and siblings.* Memorial created by Thomas Spangler contributor #46837141; "Mortuary Record - Mrs. Pauline Ackley," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Jun 1911, p. 1, col. 6; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *detailed obituary gives her maiden name, marriage date and spouse and siblings names as well as names of children.*

<sup>48</sup> U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865, digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,1666::0. Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863-1865; NM-65, entry 172, 620 volumes. Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War), Record Group 110. National Archives, Washington D.C.

there is no evidence he saw actual service, the war years brought other burdens. Nathan appeared on IRS Tax Assessment lists in both 1863 and 1865, being taxed on a stallion (probably standing as stud) and a carriage, which provides additional evidence of his success as a stock man and farmer.<sup>49</sup> Both of their sons were too young to serve, so the family was spared that worry and they prospered as the nation began its difficult process of reconstruction.

In December 1873, a frightening incident occurred when Nathan's horse ran away. Paulina was thrown from the buggy, dislocating and fracturing her left arm.<sup>50</sup> This accident at age forty-six may have been particularly challenging for Paulina who was the mother of teenagers, though she apparently recovered fully. Nathan also faced legal challenges. In 1874 and 1875, newspapers reported that verdicts involving Nathan Ackley were upheld on appeal, the nature of the case (or cases) and the penalties remain unclear from the available records.<sup>51</sup>

Despite the limitations of nineteenth-century travel, the Ackleys maintained strong family connections with kin far away. In August 1874, "Mr. Nathan Ackley and daughter left this week for a visit among relatives in New York,"<sup>52</sup> suggesting that the family had maintained ties to Nathan's birthplace even after decades in Illinois. Paulina appears frequently in newspaper notices visiting relatives and friends living nearby. In December 1883, "Mrs. Margaret Nelson and Nathan Ackley's family spent Thanksgiving with relatives in Bowen, Adams County."<sup>53</sup> In 1890, the paper noted "Mrs. Ackley and Mrs. Fuqua visiting."<sup>54</sup> In 1896, "Mrs. Ackley and Mrs. Nelson return home" was noted, and in 1899, "Mrs. Ackley visiting relatives" appeared in the local news.<sup>55</sup> These brief notices paint a picture of an active woman with a wide social network.

Nathan Ackley died on 4 April 1889 in Schuyler County at age sixty-nine.<sup>56</sup> The settlement of his estate reveals the complexity of his land holdings. An appraisal and inventory were presented to court on 6 May 1889, and claims on the estate were accepted on 5 August 1889.<sup>57</sup> In November 1889, the heirs of Nathan Ackley,

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<sup>49</sup> U.S., IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918, digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,1264::0, May 1863, Division 4, Collection District 9, State of Illinois. Records of the Internal Revenue Service. Record Group 58. National Archives, Washington, DC; U.S., IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918, digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,1264::0, Annual list, Division 4, Collection District 9, Illinois, 1865. Records of the Internal Revenue Service. Record Group 58. National Archives, Washington, DC.

<sup>50</sup> "Jottings from Huntsville," *The Rushville Times*, p5, col. 3; digital images, *Community Preservation Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 7 Aug 2025.)

<sup>51</sup> "Proceedings of the Circuit Court," *The Rushville Times*, 7 Nov 1874, p. 5, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *William H. Ross vs Nathan Ackley, appeal, dismissed at plaintiffs cost*; "Proceedings of the Circuit Court," *The Rushville Times*, 15 May 1875, p. 4, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *R. P. Watters vs. Nathan Ackley, appeal dismissed*.

<sup>52</sup> "Jottings from Huntsville," *The Rushville Times*, 22 Aug 1874, p. 1, col. 3; digital images, *Community Preservation Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025.)

<sup>53</sup> "Personal - Mrs. Margaret Nelson...," *The Rushville Times*, 6 Dec 1883, p. 8, col. 1; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>54</sup> "Huntsville (news)," *The Rushville Times*, 17 Apr 1890, p. 4, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025.)

<sup>55</sup> "Bainbridge (News)," *The Rushville Times*, 23 Jul 1896, p. 3, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); "Mrs. Ackley and sister Mrs. Nelson, of Rushville, returned home Friday after a visits with Mrs. A.'s daughter Mrs. W. H. Reeve;" "Pine Grove (News)," *The Rushville Times*, 27 Jul 1899, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); Mrs. Pauline Ackley of Rushville is visiting relatives in this vicinity."

<sup>56</sup> *Find A Grave*, Nathan Ackley, memorial number 142814684.

<sup>57</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, F: 414 image 235, Nathan Ackley; FHL microfilm 1311624 DGS 4704751, item 2; *The book does not contain an entry for the appointment of Rolandus Ackley as administrator although he clearly was appointed before 1891*; Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, F: 429 image 242, Nathan Ackley; FHL microfilm 1311624 DGS 4704571, item 2.

including Paulina, sold several parcels of land to Louisa Davis and William L. Alexander.<sup>58</sup> The administrator presented a report of public and private sales of goods and chattels in February 1890, and final settlement was approved on 4 May 1891.<sup>59</sup> Following Nathan's death and the final settlement of his estate, Paulina relocated about 5 miles away, from Huntsville to Rushville. In June 1892, the newspaper noted, "Mrs. Ackley moves this week to Rushville" This move brought Paulina and her sister Maragret Nelson, also widowed, into the same household."<sup>60</sup> Despite her advancing years, Paulina remained active. She traveled to visit relatives, attended social gatherings and maintained her involvement in church activities.<sup>61</sup> In 1906, Paulina and Margaret sold their residence on East Jefferson Street, suggesting Paulina was simplifying her affairs as she entered her eighties.<sup>62</sup> She remained in Rushville for a couple of years and remained active in the Methodist Church there.<sup>63</sup> According to her obituary, she moved in with her daughter and son in law, Harriett and Henry Reeves, in about 1908 but the household has not been found on the 1910 census.

Paulina Spangler Ackley died 27 May 1911 in Huntsville, Schuyler County.<sup>64</sup> Her obituary was published on 1 June 1911 in Rushville.<sup>65</sup> She was buried in King Cemetery in Huntsville, beside Nathan.<sup>66</sup> Four of their five children survived her.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8657321 item 3 BK 56: 433-4 image 244-5, Heirs of Nathan Ackley to Louisa Davis, 25 Mar 1890; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *heirs in order of signing -Charles Ackley, Pauline Ackley, Rolandus Ackley, Harriett Reeve, Wm. H. Reeve, Martha J. Ackley*; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8567321 item 3 Bk 56: 467-8 images 261-2, Heirs of Nathan Ackley to William L. Alexander, 19 May 1890; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *heirs (in apparent order of signing) Charles Ackely, Louisa Davis, Paulina Ackley, James Davis, Rolandus Ackley, Alice Ackley, Martha J. Ackley, Harriet E. Reeve, William H. Reeve.*

<sup>59</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, F: 465 image 260, Nathan Ackley; FHL microfilm 1311624 DGS 4704751, item 2; Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, F: 560 image 308, Nathan Ackley; FHL microfilm 1311624 DGS 4704751, item 2.

<sup>60</sup> "Pine Grove (News)," *The Rushville Times*, 23 Jun 1892, p. 3, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *Mrs. Ackley moves this week to Rushville where she has planned and built her a nice home in which to spend her declining years. We are sorry to lose mother Ackley*; "Personal Items," *The Rushville Times*, 23 June 1892, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *"Mrs Nelson and Mrs Ackley, of Huntsville township, moved into their new home in the eastern part of the city on Tuesday."*

<sup>61</sup> "Local Jottings," *The Rushville Times*, 18 Jul 1895, p. 3, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); "James Thompson has rented Mrs. Ackley's farm...."; "Missionary Meeting," *The Rushville Times*, 7 Jul 1904, p. 1, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *"The Women's Foreign Missionary society will meet in the Sunday School room of the M. E. Church....The following is the program: Opening Song and Devotional Exercises, Mrs Ackley...."*; "Pine Grove (News)," *The Rushville Times*, 30 Mar 1905, p. 9, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *"Mrs. Pauline Ackley and daughter Mrs. Hattie Reeves, are visiting relatives here this week."* "Big Damage from Sleet," *The Rushville Times*, 18 Feb 1909, p. 1, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); 5th paragraph *"...A big locust tree in Lewis Babcock's yard toppled over under the heavy weight of ice and Mrs. Ackley, who was on her way to church had a narrow escape from serious injury as she had just passed by when the tree came crashing down..."*

<sup>62</sup> "Local News - Z. L. Milby....," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Feb 1906, p. 12, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* ([https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com](https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/) : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>63</sup>

<sup>64</sup> "Mortuary Record - Mrs. Pauline Ackley," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Jun 1911, p. 1, col. 6; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025); *detailed obituary giving maiden name, marriage date and spouse and siblings names as well as names of children (except for first child who died as infant.) No parents' names are given but it is stated she was born in Clark County, Indiana.*

<sup>65</sup> *Find A Grave*, Pauline Spangler Ackley, memorial number 14642745.

<sup>66</sup> "Mortuary Record - Mrs. Pauline Ackley."

<sup>67</sup> *Find A Grave*, Pauline Spangler Ackley, memorial number 14642745.

2. **Margaret Ann Spangler** was born 29 Jul 1829 in Clark County, Indiana, died 28 Mar 1916 in Mt. Sterling, Brown County, Illinois and was buried in Huntsville Cemetery, Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>68</sup> *FSID: LWMS-VVB*

Margaret married **William Sales Nelson** on 22 May 1849 in Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>69</sup> William was born 24 Jan 1825 in Alabama, died 8 Mar 1878 in Huntsville, Schuyler County, Illinois and was buried in Huntsville Cemetery, Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>70</sup> *FSID: LWMS-VVB*

They had 6 children: **Nancy Ann**; **William H.**; **Edmund Downey**; **Thomas E.**; **unnamed son** (died in infancy); **John Spangler**.<sup>71</sup>

Margaret's family was among the earliest settlers in Schuyler County, Illinois, arriving in 1832 when Margaret was only three years old.<sup>72</sup> William Sales Nelson's origins are uncertain. Records state he was born on 24 January 1825 in Alabama.<sup>73</sup> However, his parentage remains undocumented despite numerous online tree's assertions. What brought young William from Alabama to Illinois, and when he arrived, remains unknown. By 1848, however, he had established himself sufficiently in Schuyler County to acquire land.

William and Margaret married when she was nineteen and William twenty-four.<sup>74</sup> The young couple immediately set about building a farming life. William had obtained his first forty acres through a government land entry on 20 December 1848, before his marriage, acquiring the NE¼ NW¼ of Section 3, Township 33 North, Range 11 East.<sup>75</sup> Over the following decades, the Nelsons systematically expanded their holdings through strategic purchases and sales. In April 1853, William purchased four lots in the town of Huntsville itself (lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of block 17), probably speculating in land as was common in the area at that time.<sup>76</sup> The pattern of their land dealings reveals both ambition and careful management. They bought land in 1859 from James and Alice Rigney, in 1860 from E. J. and Tabitha E. Sims, in 1869 from Joseph C. and Sarah E. Asbury, and as late as May 1877—less than a year before William's death—from George B. and Margaret Calvin.<sup>77</sup> Simultaneously, they sold

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<sup>68</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 Aug 2025), Margaret Ann Spangler Nelson, memorial number 102261569; *stone only gives middle initial. Stone gives full birth and death dates.*

<sup>69</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940, A: item 1501, Nelson-Spangler, 1849; digital images, FamilySearch, ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 13 Aug 2025.)

<sup>70</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 Aug 2025), William Sales Nelson, memorial number 102259893; *Stone does not give full middle name, just an initial. Stone provides death date and age at death, so birth data is calculated.*

<sup>71</sup> "Funeral of Mrs. M. A. Nelson," *The Rushville Times*, 6 Apr 1916, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>: accessed 19 Aug 2025.) *Exceptionally detailed obituary gives parents, spouse and children's names as well as much biographical information. 3 of their 6 children were alive when their mother died.*

<sup>72</sup> W.R. Brink & Co., *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*, 363.

<sup>73</sup> *Find A Grave*, William Sales Nelson, memorial number 102259893; 1850 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, population schedule, Huntsville, p. 368, dwelling 1, family 1, William S. Nelson; digital images, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 13 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 128.

<sup>74</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, marriage register, A: item 1501, Nelson-Spangler, 1849.

<sup>75</sup> State of Illinois, Illinois, U.S., Public Land Purchase Records, 1813-1909 *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,3780::0, NE1/4 NW1/4 S3 T33N R11E 40 acres.

<sup>76</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 29 : 419-20 215-16, John and Malvina Anderson to William S. Nelson lots in Huntsville, 17 Apr 1861; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567309 item 2," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025.)

<sup>77</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 30: 412-3 image 212, E. J. and Tabitha E. Sims to William Nelson, 27 Apr 1863; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567310 item 2," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 39: 362 image 74, Joseph C. and Sarah E. Asbury to William S. Nelson, 16 Apr 1870; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567314 item 1," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 46: 459 image 263, George B. and Margaret Colvin to William S. Nelson, 8 May 1877; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567317 item 2," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025.)

town lots in Huntsville between 1856 and 1859, perhaps consolidating their holdings or providing for capital needs.<sup>78</sup>

Despite the demands of farming and his growing family, William Sales Nelson participated actively in local governance. He was elected to the Schuyler County Board of Supervisors and served from 1861 to 1864, representing Huntsville during the critical years of the Civil War.<sup>79</sup> These were the 8th through 10th Boards of Supervisors since township organization had been adopted in September 1854, making William part of the township's early governing structure.

In May 1873, William participated in a land transaction involving two local churches. He joined with Henry Alphin and Hiel C. Stevenson of the Presbyterian Church, as well as Robert Golden and brother in law Nathan Ackley of the Christian Church, in a sale of surplus Church land to William G. Dewey and William H. H. Rader.<sup>80</sup> His participation in the transaction on behalf of the Presbyterian Church suggests that he and Margret were active members in that Church.

Beginning in 1873, William's health began a slow, agonizing decline. His obituary would later describe "5 years of suffering from undiagnosable illness," a mystery that baffled local physicians.<sup>81</sup> As his condition worsened, the family took on debt; on 1 May 1877, William and Margaret mortgaged substantial property to John C. Bagby as trustee, including the N½ SW¼ of Section 1 and N½ SW¼ of Section 11 in Township 2 North, Range 4 West.<sup>82</sup> Whether this mortgage related to medical expenses, agricultural needs, or other financial pressures is unclear, but it suggests the strain of William's prolonged illness.

William died on 8 March 1878 at age fifty-three.<sup>83</sup> A post-mortem examination, reported in the local newspaper on 15 March, finally revealed the cause of his mysterious suffering: "pressure upon the viscera by a preternatural growth... destroying stomach and liver function."<sup>84</sup> In modern terms, William likely died of cancer, though that word was not yet in common medical usage in rural Illinois. His obituary, published on 22 March 1878, emphasized his Christian faith during his long illness but provided remarkably little biographical detail, mentioning neither his birthplace, his parents, nor even the names of his wife and children.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, Y: 506 image 167, Wm S. and Margaret A. Nelson to Isiah Lawson, 17 Oct 1856; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567307 item 3," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025); *lots 3 and 4 in town of Huntsville*; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 27: 420-22, William S. and Margaret Nelson to George P. Sidner, 14 Apr 1861; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567309 item 2," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025) *4 lots in Huntsville*; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 30: 404-5 image 263, William S. and Margaret A. Nelson to Andrew J. Mead, 25 Apr 1863; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567310 item 2," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025) *lot 1 block 17 in Huntsville*; Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 27: 417 image 215, William S. and Margaret A. Nelson, digital images, FamilySearch, "8567308 item 2," (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 12 Oct 2025) *Lot 6 block 7 Huntsville*.

<sup>79</sup> W.R. Brink & Co., editor, *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois with illustrations descriptive of their scenery and biographical sketches....* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: n.p., 1882), pgs 92-4.

<sup>80</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, DGS 8567314 item 3 Bk 41: 314 image 177, lots in Huntsville, signed 3 May 1873, recorded 7 Nov 1873; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 11 Aug 2025.)

<sup>81</sup> "Jottings from Huntsville," *The Rushville Times*, 15 Mar 1878, p. 5, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>: accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>82</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 50: 119 image 89, William S. and Margaret A. Nelson to John C. Bagby, 9 Jul 1877; digital images, FamilySearch, "DGS 8567318 item 4," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 20 Oct 2025.) *For and in consideration of the full payment to Geo. B. Calvin of the amount secured by the annexed Trust Deed I hereby release and quit claim to the heirs of Willaim S. Nelson, by whom said payments was made, the real estate described in said Trust Deed, and forever cancel, release and discharge the same of record. Dates the 1st day of May 1879. John C. Bagby, trustee.*

<sup>83</sup> *Find A Grave*, William Sales Nelson, memorial number 102259893.

<sup>84</sup> "Jottings from Huntsville."

<sup>85</sup> "Obituary," *The Rushville Times*, 22 Mar 1878, p. 4, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

The Nelsons family history was marked by family tragedy. An infant son died on 2 May 1857.<sup>86</sup> Twenty years later, on 27 July 1877, their son Thomas E. Nelson died.<sup>87</sup> The death of Thomas just months before William's own demise must have been particularly devastating. Father and sons were memorialized in the same cemetery, permanent reminders of the fragility of life.

William's will, registered and submitted for probate on 15 March 1878, named Margaret as heir, ensuring her financial security.<sup>88</sup> The settlement of William's estate proceeded formally through the probate system. A notice appeared in the newspaper on 19 April 1878, announcing William S. [sic] and Edmund D. Nelson as executors.<sup>89</sup> Claims were decided on 20 May 1878, an inventory and appraisal submitted on 17 June 1878, and the final report of the executors filed on 14 March 1880.<sup>90</sup>

Margaret Ann Nelson was forty-eight years old when William died, and she would live another thirty-eight years. The 1880 census found her still in Huntsville Township, beginning her adjustment to life as a widow and landowner.<sup>91</sup> She was an active farmer or manager of her property. A newspaper notice in November 1883 reported that "Mrs. Margaret Ann Nelson [was] making important improvements to her house."<sup>92</sup> In August 1895, the local paper noted that "Jas. N. Ritchey has leased a 260 acre farm of Mrs. Margaret Nelson in Huntsville township."<sup>93</sup> By 1900, Margaret had moved to Rushville, where she lived with her older sister Paulina Ackley, also a widow.<sup>94</sup> In February 1906, she and Pauline sold their residence on East Jefferson Street.<sup>95</sup> While Paulina remained in Rushville, Margaret moved in with family in nearby Mt. Sterling, Brown County. The 1910 federal census found Margaret living in the household of her son-in-law William Croxton.<sup>96</sup> She also lived with son John S. Nelson.<sup>97</sup> Margaret had faced health challenges that perhaps were affecting her ability to live without assistance.<sup>98</sup>

Margaret suffered another significant loss on 1 June 1911 when her sister Pauline Ackley died.<sup>99</sup> The two sisters had been close throughout their lives, spending holidays together, living together in their widowhood, and

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<sup>86</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 Apr 2024), Infant nelson, memorial number 102261890; *shares stone with parents William S. Nelson and Margaret A. Nelson and brother Thomas E. Nelson. stone gives actual birth and death dates.*

<sup>87</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 Aug 2025), Thomas E. Nelson, memorial number 102261738; *stone contains birth and death dates and parents' names. Shared stone with deceased infant brother.*

<sup>88</sup> Illinois, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1772-1999, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 Sept 2025) ID: 1,9048::0, Cit. ID: 1,9048::2322721. Illinois County, District and Probate Courts.

<sup>89</sup> "Probate Notice," *The Rushville Times*, 19 Apr 1878, p. 4, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>; accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>90</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, F : 578 image 319, William S. Nelson; FHL microfilm 1311622 DGS 4704750, item 3; Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, F item 3: 5 image 30, William S. Nelson; FHL microfilm 1311622 DGS 4704750, item 3; Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926, A: 621 image 329+, William S. Nelson; FHL microfilm 1311628 DGS 4704756, item 1.

<sup>91</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, population schedule, Huntsville, enumeration district (ED) 269, p. 403D, dwelling n.a., family 27, Nelson Margaret; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 30 Oct 2025); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 250.

<sup>92</sup> "Personal - Mrs. Margaret Nelson making important improvements," *The Rushville Times*, 8 Nov 1883, p. 8, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>93</sup> "Local Buffet - Jas. N. Ritchey has leased a 260 acres farm from Mrs. Margaret Nelson," *The Rushville Times*, 22 Aug 1895, p. 7, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>94</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, population schedule, Rushville, enumeration district (ED) 80, sheet 10, p. A, dwelling 228, family 240, Nelson Margaret; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 13 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 344.

<sup>95</sup> "Local News - Z. L. Milby...," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Feb 1906, p. 12, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>; accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>96</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Brown, Illinois, population schedule, Mt. Sterling, enumeration district (ED) 8, sheet 12, p. A, dwelling 283, family 275, Croxton, William; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 13 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm T624, roll 231.

<sup>97</sup> "Personal - Mrs. Margaret Nelson and son John S. Nelson," *The Rushville Times*, 24 Jul 1913, p. 8, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>98</sup> "Huntsville - Mrs. Margaret Nelson," *The Rushville Times*, 29 May 1890, p. 3, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025.)

<sup>99</sup> "Mortuary Record - Mrs. Pauline Ackley."

jointly owning property. Paulina's death meant Margaret had outlived not only her husband and two children but all her siblings.

Margaret Ann Spangler Nelson died on 28 March 1916 in Mt. Sterling, Brown County, at age eighty-six.<sup>100</sup> Her death occurred during World War I, in an America transformed almost beyond recognition from the frontier Illinois of her childhood. She was buried in Huntsville Cemetery in Huntsville Township, Schuyler County, returning to the community where she and William had built their life together.<sup>101</sup>

3. **Mary Ellen Spangler** was born 3 Dec 1830 in Clark County, Indiana, died 5 May in Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois, and was buried in Rushville Cemetery, Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>102</sup> *FSID: KHXW-TN7*

Mary Ellen married, as his second wife, **James Stone**, son of **George W. Stone** and **Elizabeth Holmes**, on 2 May 1872.<sup>103</sup> James was born 27 Sept 1817, in Licking County, Ohio, died 23 Aug 1898 Belle Plaine Sumner County, Kansas, and was buried in Belle Plaine Cemetery, Belle Plaine, Sumner County, Kansas.<sup>104</sup> *FSID: L1T2-SXD*

### They had no children

Unlike many women of her era who moved directly from their father's household to marriage, Mary Ellen had a period of economic independence. She was enumerated in her father's household in the 1850 census,<sup>105</sup> but by 1860, at age twenty-nine, she was living as a boarder in Huntsville, Schuyler County, Illinois and working as a milliner.<sup>106</sup> We do not know where Mary was apprenticed as a milliner or if she ever set up a business of her own. She cannot be located in the 1870 census, either in her own household or with siblings, nor does she appear in the Illinois state censuses of 1855 or 1865.<sup>107</sup>

When Mary Ellen Spangler married James Stone, as his second wife, in Schuyler County, Illinois, it was an atypical marriage for the time.<sup>108</sup> Mary was approximately forty-eight years old and had an occupation outside

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<sup>100</sup> "Funeral of Mrs. M. A. Nelson," *The Rushville Times*, 6 Apr 1916, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025); "Mrs. Margaret Ann Nelson," *Daily Illinois State Register*, 31 Mar 1916, p. 9, col. 1; digital images, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/obituaries/> : accessed 19 Aug 2025).

<sup>101</sup> *Find A Grave*, Margaret Ann Spangler Nelson, memorial number 102261569.

<sup>102</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 Aug 2025), Mary E. Stone, memorial number 89282935; *stone gives full birth and death dates*; "Death of Mrs. Mary E. Stone," *Belle Plaine News*, 9 May 1901, p. 5, col. 2; digital images, *Newspapers.cm* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 21 Aug 2025); "Mary E. Spangler was born in Clark county, Ind., Dec 31 1830 and died in Rushville, Ill, May 5 1901 at the age of 70 years, 4 months and 8 days..."

<sup>103</sup> Illinois, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1800-1940, Stone – Spangler Schuyler County 1872, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 8 Sept 2025) ID: 1,61370::0; Clerk of the Circuit Court, "Illinois, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1772-1999," database, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 10 Aug 2025), George W. Stone 1844; Chancery Case Files, 1827-1854; Adams County, Illinois. *This is the only record found that links James to his parents*

<sup>104</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 Aug 2025), James Stone, memorial number 16309769; *stone gives full birth and death dates. For place of birth see*: 1880 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Keokuk Junction, enumeration district (ED) 18, p. 289c, dwelling 151, family 152, Stone James; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 20 Oct 2025); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 174.

<sup>105</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Hancock, Illinois, population schedule, not given, p. 323A, dwelling 752, family 753, William Spangler; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 21 Jan 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 109.

<sup>106</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, population schedule, Huntsville, p. 285, dwelling 1850, family 1855, Mary Spangler; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 20 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 228; Mary Spangler, age 29 born IN, occupation milliner. Living in the household of Charles and Elizabeth Robertson. *Charles born KY, perhaps he was distant kin via either the Spangler or Swartz families.*

<sup>107</sup> See footnote 29 regarding search for William Spangler and his 3 younger children in the census from 1855 through 1865. Similar census searches were conducted for Mary Ellen in the 1870 census.

<sup>108</sup> Illinois, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1800-1940 (Ancestry : [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)) ID: 1,61370::0

the home. James was about sixty-one and a widower with no living children.<sup>109</sup> This was a marriage of two mature, independent individuals who had lived full lives before joining together.

James Stone practiced as a physician and operated a drugstore, part of the overlapping medical and pharmaceutical professions common in small-town nineteenth-century America.<sup>110</sup> As a pharmacist James maintained both a prescribing and dispensary practice.<sup>111</sup> James was also a farmer, owning 80 acres in Section 33 of Honey Creek Township, Adams County, Illinois.<sup>112</sup> His immediate neighbor was Joshua Bottorff, who was a cousin of Mary's on her mother's side.<sup>113</sup>

In October 1872, he and Mary sold the farmland to Stephen V. Brewer, with the deed stipulating that the grantee assume three deeds of trust totaling one thousand dollars with interest from October 1, 1872.<sup>114</sup> This was not a simple sale but a transaction that transferred both property and debt.

James and Mary were living in Keokuk Junction, Adams County, in 1880 where James continued his pharmaceutical work.<sup>115</sup> James mortgaged their property at least twice between 1872 and 1880, likely to cover the cost of his druggist stock. Each time he successfully paid off the mortgage.<sup>116</sup> Evidence from probate filings indicates James often had to wait long periods for payment for his medical and pharmaceutical services to his neighbors.<sup>117</sup> Three years later, in February 1883, a local newspaper announced that "Mrs. D. S. McLintock has purchased the residence of James Stone of Golden," while the same page advertised James's druggist stock for sale.<sup>118</sup> The village of Keokuk Junction had recently been renamed Golden, and the Stones were preparing for their next move. In February 1883, just before their move to Kansas, James and Mary sold their remaining property in Golden to Laban Cain.<sup>119</sup>

At ages sixty-six and fifty-three respectively, James and Mary relocated to Belle Plaine, Sumner County, Kansas. A local newspaper account later explained that James "moved to Kansas about ten years ago for the benefit of his health, which had been poor for some time."<sup>120</sup> Kansas, with its drier climate, was widely promoted as

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<sup>109</sup> Illinois, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1791-1850 (Ancestry : [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) ) ID: 1,2086::0, Stone - Stewart, 29 Feb 1844, Adams County. Dodd, Jordan, Comp.; 1850 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Honey Creek Township, p. 110a, dwelling 31, family 31, James Stone; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 31 Oct 2025); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 97. *Household includes, Sarah A., age 25 inferred wife and Augusta, age 6 inferred child. The family has not been found in the 1860 or 1870 census. Sarah died 25 Feb 1870 (Find A Grave, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 31 Oct 2025), Sarah R. Stone, memorial number 166660846.) Augusta may have died young, no marriage or burial record has been found for her in Adams, Hancock or Schuyler Counties and no mention of her is made in the probate proceedings for James in Sumner County, Kansas.*

<sup>110</sup>"Local Miscellany - Mrs. D. S. McLintock..." *Camp Point Journal*, 8 Feb 1883, p. 5, col. 1; digital images, *Camp Point Historical Society* (<https://camppointil.historyarchives.online/home> : accessed 20 Aug 2025.)

<sup>111</sup> Adams, Illinois, Estate records, ca. 1832-1938; index, 1830-1964 loose papers Estate of Nancy F. Wallace: image 2519, Account of Nancy Wallace with James Stone druggist, 11 Jan 1877; FHL microfilm DGS 7820941, item box 315.

<sup>112</sup> Adams, Illinois, Deed Records, 61 DGS 8423148 item 1: 426 image 230, James and Sarah Long to James Stone, 18 Mar 1870; digital images, "Deeds, 1825-1886," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 20 Aug 2025.)

<sup>113</sup> James Stone land, Honey Creek Township, *Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918* (N.p.: Library of Congress microfilm; LC collection number G&M 43; Roll 43, 1872); digital image, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 20 Aug 2025)

<sup>114</sup> Adams, Illinois, Deed Records, 73: 204, Film 96784d item 1, DGS 8547753 image 161, James and Mary E. Stone to Stephen V. Brewer, 6 Nov 1872; digital images, "Deeds, 1825-1886," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 21 Aug 2025.)

<sup>115</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Keokuk Junction, enumeration district (ED) 18, p. 289c, dwelling 151, family 152, Stone James; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 18 Oct 2025); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 174.

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<sup>117</sup> Adams, Illinois, Estate records, ca. 1832-1938; index, 1830-1964 loose papers Estate of Nancy F. Wallace: image 2519.

<sup>118</sup> "Local Miscellany - Mrs. D. S. McLintock..."

<sup>119</sup> Adams, Illinois, Deed Records, 112: 539, Film 967852 item 2, DGS 8547763 image 612, James Stone and Mary E. Stone to Laban Cain, 15 Feb 1883; digital images, "Deeds, 1825-1886," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 21 Aug 2025.)

<sup>120</sup> Died - James Stone," *Belle Plaine News*, 25 Aug 1898, p. 5, col. 4; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 20 Aug 2025); *obituary gives place and date of birth and death and states that he moved to Illinois as a child. It mentions first wife and her death and gives details of second wife.*

beneficial for those suffering from respiratory ailments. The Stones established themselves in the Belle Plaine community, making friends, purchasing property and building James' medical business again.<sup>121</sup> Despite hopes for improved health, however, the Kansas climate offered only "temporary relief" for James.

On August 23, 1898, James Stone died at their home in Belle Plaine of consumption, known today as tuberculosis.<sup>122</sup> Mary Ellen remained in Belle Plaine for a couple of years but felt the pull of her strong ties to Illinois. Although she apparently had many friends in Belle Plaine, by late 1900 she moved back to Rushville, Illinois.<sup>123</sup>

She died there on May 5, 1901, at age seventy years, four months, and eight days, following "an illness of several weeks."<sup>124</sup> In her final illness, Mary Ellen was cared for by the older sisters who had remained in Illinois, and her funeral services were held from the house of those sisters. She was buried in Rushville City Cemetery, in the same cemetery as her brother John Milton Spangler and his wife and three of his sons.<sup>125</sup>

4. **John Milton Spangler** was born 4 May 1834 in Schuyler County, Illinois, died 3 Mar 1898 in Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois, and was buried in Rushville Cemetery, Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>126</sup>  
*FSID:LWMS-KBT*

John Milton married **Emma Jane Toner**, the daughter of **Nathan Tonner** and **Rachel Wyckoff**, on 24 Apr 1860 in Huntsville, Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>127</sup> Emma was born 24 Apr 1840 in Martins Ferry, Belmont County, Ohio,

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<sup>121</sup> 1885 Kansas State Census, Sumner, Kansas, population schedule, Belle Plaine, p. 18, dwelling 5, family 5, line 12, Stone James; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 20 Aug 2025); 1895 Kansas State Census, Sumner, Kansas, population schedule, Belle Plaine, p. 14, dwelling not given, family 95, line 1, James Stone; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 20 Aug 2025); *James Stone age 77 born OH, moved to KS from IL, Physician; Mary E. Stone age 62 born IN, moved to KS from IL, Housewife*

<sup>122</sup> "Local Budget - James, Stone former citizen...," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Sept 1898, p. 2, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 20 Aug 2025); "*James Stone, a former citizen of Huntsville township, died at his home in Bell Plain (sic), Kan. Aug. 23 1898, of consumption. He moved to Kansas about ten years ago for the benefit of his health, which had been poor for some time, but it proved only a temporary relief. About twenty years ago the deceased was married to Mar E. Spangler, sister of Mrs. Pauline Ackley and Mrs. Margaret A. Nelson, of this city and the late John M. Spangler.*"

<sup>123</sup> "Real Estate Transfers - Mary E. Stone to Feltz Bros.," *Belle Plaine News*, 31 May 1900, p. 5, col. 1; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 21 Aug 2025); "*In the Real Estate Transfers column in the Monitor-Press last week we note the following concerning this city: Mary E. Stone...*"; "Some Things Local - Mrs. Mary E. Stone left Friday for Pine Grove, Illinois," *Belle Plaine News*, 1 Nov 1900, p. 5, col. 2; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 21 Aug 2025); "Local Happenings - Mrs. Mary Stone (née Spangler) of Kansas is visiting Mrs. James Davis," *The Rushville Times*, 8 Nov 1900, p. 7, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 21 Aug 2025); *Mrs. James Davis is Mary's niece Louisa Ackley.*

<sup>124</sup> "Death of Mrs. Mary E. Stone," *Belle Plaine News*, 9 May 1901, p. 5, col. 2; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 21 Aug 2025); "*Mary E. Spangler was born in Clark county, Ind., Dec 31 1830 and died in Rushville, Ill, May 5 1901 at the age of 70 years, 4 months and 8 days....The funeral services took place from the residence of her sisters Mesdames Ackley and Nelson, where she died after an illness of several weeks...*"

<sup>125</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 Aug 2025), Mary E. Stone, memorial number 89282935.

<sup>126</sup> "Sudden Death - John M. Spangler died this morning of heart trouble," *The Rushville Times*, 3 Mar 1898, p. 7, col. 6; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025.) *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 Aug 2025), John Milton Spangler, memorial number 15009069; *joint stone with wife Emma. Stone has first name and middle initial and years. No complete dates.*

<sup>127</sup> Illinois, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1800-1940, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 10 Oct 2025) ID: 1,61370::0, 1860 John Spangler - Emma J. Toner, Rushville, Schuyler, Illinois. Marriage Records; Various Illinois County collections.

died 18 Jun 1897 in Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois and was buried in Rushville Cemetery, Rushville, Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>128</sup> *FSID: LWMS-2CM*

They had 6 children: **Nathan McLure; Anna Augusta; John Frederick, Lillian Viola, Harry Eugene, Carlisle**(died in infancy.)<sup>129</sup>

John Milton grew up in a frontier household managed by his older sisters, helping his father with the farm and the nursery business.<sup>130</sup> Emma Jane Toner was born in the more settled countryside of Belmont County, Ohio.<sup>131</sup> Her parents moved the family to the Illinois frontier about 1858 when Emma was about 19 years old.<sup>132</sup>

On Emma's twentieth birthday, she married John, then twenty-six years old.<sup>133</sup> The young couple established their home in Rushville, where they would spend the remainder of their lives together.<sup>134</sup>

John began his formal working life at age nineteen as a clerk in a local dry goods store, learning the fundamentals of commerce and business.<sup>135</sup> In 1869, John entered public service when he was nominated for County Clerk on the Democratic ticket.<sup>136</sup> He won election that November and took the oath of office on 17 November 1869.<sup>137</sup> The 1870 federal census recorded his occupation as "Clk. Co. Court," reflecting this position.<sup>138</sup> During his tenure as County Clerk, local newspapers noted in March 1871 that "County Clerk

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<sup>128</sup> "Deaths - Mrs. Emma J. Spangler," *The Rushville Times*, 17 Jun 1897, p. 7, col. 6; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "Mrs. Emma J. Spangler, wife of John M. Spangler, died this morning a 3 o'clock. For many years she has been in extremely poor health and for eighteen months has been confined to her bed. Mrs. Spangler was born in Ohio April 25, 1840. She leaves a family of three sons and two daughters..." Find A Grave, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 Aug 2025), Emma J. Toner Spangler, memorial number 15009078; stone shared with husband. has only years. no maiden name or dates.

<sup>129</sup> "N. M. Spangler Found Dead," *The Rushville Times*, 7 Dec 1922, p. 1, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 10 Nov 2025.) *Nathan's obituary gives the names of his parents, two living sisters and two living brothers, The obituary mentions that there were 9 children total but does not give names of the 2 boys and 2 girls who proceeded their mother in death. The only known child who died in infancy is Carlisle who was born in 1879 and died in 1880 according to his gravestone:* "Mrs. Anna Copeland Dies Monday in Beardstown," *The Rushville Times*, 18 Jun 1964, p. 4, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/>: accessed 29 Aug 2025); John Frederick Spangler., 1952, Arizona, U.S., Death Records, 1887-1968, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 10 Oct 2025) ID: 1,8704::0, Cit. ID: 1,8704:169524. Arizona Department of Health Services; "Mrs. Lillian V. Smithers Dies in Macomb Thursday," *The Rushville Times*, 24 Mar 1966, p. 10, col. 7; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "In memorium Harry Eugene Spangler," *The Rushville Times*, 25 May 1939, p. 14, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 Aug 2025), 70831992, memorial number Carlisle Spangler.

<sup>130</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Hancock, Illinois, population schedule, ED not given, p. 323A, dwelling 752, family 753, William Spangler; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 21 Jan 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 109.

<sup>131</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Belmont, Ohio, population schedule, Pease, p. 204, dwelling 1359, family 1479, Emma Turner (*sic*) in household of Nathan Turner (*sic*); digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 29 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 661.

<sup>132</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940; bk 27, pg 144, # 1453 Nathan Toner from William Derocese (*sp?*) and wife, 23 Dec 1858; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 10 Nov 2025.)

<sup>133</sup> Spangler – Tooner (*sic*) 1860, Illinois, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1800-1940, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 10 Oct 2025) ID: 1,61370::0, Rushville, Schuyler, Illinois. Marriage Records; Various Illinois County collections.

<sup>134</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, population schedule, Rushville, p. 336, dwelling 2181, family 2186, John M. Spangler; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 28 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 228.

<sup>135</sup> "Death of John M. Spangler", *The Rushville Times*, 10 Mar 1898, p. 2, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); *obituary gives information around health and death and the text of a funeral sermon which included a brief biographical sketch.*

<sup>136</sup> "The Democratic Ticket," *The Rushville Times*, 21 Oct 1869, p. 1, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025.) *John M. Spangler for County Clerk.*

<sup>137</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Wills, order books, letters, administrators and guardians, bonds - 1827-1926 C: 765 image 411, Appointment and "Oath of Office John M. Spangler", 1 Dec 1869; FHL microfilm 1311621 DGS 4704749, item 2.

<sup>138</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Schuyler, Illinois, population schedule, Rushville, p. 203B, dwelling 227, family 247, Spangler John; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 28 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M593, roll 276.

Spangler is building a new addition," suggesting prosperity and confidence in his position.<sup>139</sup> He was announced as a candidate again in July 1873, however his pursuit of a second term was not successful and John left the political realm permanently.<sup>140</sup>

John's business interests extended beyond public service. In February 1880, the local newspaper reported a "Business Change" involving John M. Spangler as he became more involved in the Little & Ray General Store.<sup>141</sup> That summer, in addition to his work in retail, he supplied Rushville citizens with "very fine blackberries raised on his farm just west of town."<sup>142</sup> In January 1897, the newspaper referred to John as a "veteran nursery-man," suggesting decades of involvement in the nursery business.<sup>143</sup> John may have inherited his interest in the nursery business from his father, and he clearly worked in his father's business in the 1850,<sup>144</sup> however he did not inherit business, and his father, apparently, did not leave him any farmland or real estate.<sup>145</sup>

Throughout his adult life, John Milton systematically acquired real estate in and around Rushville, building a modest agricultural estate entirely through his own efforts. His first recorded purchase came on 22 June 1863, when he bought the south half of Lot 1, Block 14 in William McCurry's addition to Rushville from Benjamin and Susanna Whitson.<sup>146</sup> In December 1870, John purchased ten acres in the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 2 West from James Haney and his wife.<sup>147</sup> He soon after leased an additional ten acres in the same section from Riley Sylvester in October 1872.<sup>148</sup> These transactions were secured by mortgages to John C. Bagley, first dated 1 March 1873 and again on 4 March 1876.<sup>149</sup> John's most significant land acquisition came in April 1878, when he purchased Lot 5 and adjoining land totaling about

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<sup>139</sup> "Local and Other Items," *The Rushville Times*, 1 Mar 1871, p. 3, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "County Clerk Spangler is building a new addition to his dwelling house, but the workmen had to suspend operations on Tuesday last in consequence of the appearance of another addition of a different kind - a bran (sic) new boy. "; "Improvements," *The Rushville Times*, 31 May 1873, p. 5, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (1 Mar 1871 : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "Mr. John M. Spangler is making a decided improvement on the lot just north of his residence, which he recently purchased for \$275, having torn down the old log house and removed his new barn to take its place, which he will convert into a neat dwelling house."

<sup>140</sup> "Announcements," *The Rushville Times*, 12 Jul 1873, p. 4, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "The undersigned would respectfully inform the voters of Schuyler county that he is a candidate for re-election to the office of Clerk of the County Court, subject to the decision of the Democratic convention. John M. Spangler"

<sup>141</sup> "Business Change - Mr. George Little....," *The Rushville Times*, 20 Feb 1880, p. 5, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* ([https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com](https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/) : accessed 29 Aug 2025.)

<sup>142</sup> "Mr. John M. Spangler," *The Rushville Times*, 16 Jul 1880, p. 5, col. 1; digital images, *Community History Archive* ([https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com](https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/) : accessed 29 Aug 2025.)

<sup>143</sup> "Local Miscellany - John Spangler, veteran nursery-man," *The Rushville Times*, 21 Jan 1897, p. 7, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "John Spangler, the veteran nursery-man, says he has examined the peach buds and finds many of them injured, maybe as many as half. All small fruit will likewise suffer it is said;"

<sup>144</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Hancock, Illinois, pop. sch., not given, p. 323A, dwell. 752, fam. 753, William Spangler.

<sup>145</sup> See footnote 25 for extent of search resulting in negative findings.

<sup>146</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 20 pg 148: DGS 8567309 item 3 image 78, Benjamin and Susannah Whitson his wife to John M. Spangler, 2 Jul 1863; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

<sup>147</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 39 pg 524 : DGS 8567314 item 1 image 156, James Haney & wife to John M. Spangler, 22 Dec 1870; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

<sup>148</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 43 pg 252: DGS 8567315 item 3 image 129, Riley Sylvester to John M. Spangler, 1 Aug 1873; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

<sup>149</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 34 pg 628: DGS 8567312 item 1 image 33, John M. And Emma J. Spangler to John C. Bagley mortgage security, 1 Mar 1873; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 42 pg 474: DGS 8567316 item 2 image 267, John M. and Emma J. Spangler to John C. Bagley, 4 Mar 1876; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

eleven acres from John Knowles and others.<sup>150</sup> This purchase was mortgaged to Augustus Warren on 17 May 1878, securing a debt of \$1,900 to Little & Ray, payable in four twelve-month increments.<sup>151</sup> The timing of this transaction is undoubtedly connected to John's increasing position in the Little & Ray store. He continued to expand his holdings in 1882 with three separate purchases: a quit-claim deed from John and Elizabeth Henderson to correct a previous transaction, a parcel from Henry Kirkham adjacent to Lot 10 and approximately 11.6 acres from Simon Doyle and others.<sup>152</sup>

While John was building his own holdings, he was also attempting to farm his father in law's farm in Littleton, Schuyler County and after a very short period, to sell that land. That farm remained unsold for more than a decade and during that time numerous newspaper advertisements for the sale mentioned mining opportunities and the proximity to the railroad but did not praise the quality of the farmland.<sup>153</sup>

John's family maintained an active presence in Rushville's community life. Regular newspaper mentions paint a picture of a family embedded in the fabric of small-town life—buying, selling and improving property, attending social functions, active in their church, attending the local primary school, and maintaining visibility in local affairs.<sup>154</sup>

Their family tragedies were apparently not reported in the newspaper. John and Emma had at least 6 children. Their youngest known son Carlisle died in infancy.<sup>155</sup> However, according to the obituary of their daughter Anna Augusta Spangler Copeland, there may have been two daughters and one other son who died in infancy or were stillborn. No newspaper mentions or cemetery records confirm these losses. The spacing of the births of their known children leaves room for additional births.

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<sup>150</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 51 pg 99+: DGS 8567319 item 2 image 78, John Knowles et al to John M. Spangler, 22 May 1878; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

<sup>151</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 50 pg 299: DGS 8567318 item 4 image 179, John M. and Emma J. Spangler to Augustus Warren, 22 May 1878; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

<sup>152</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 53 pg 480: DGS 8567320 item 1 image 25, John and Elizabeth Henderson quit claim to John M. Spangler, 6 Apr 1882; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-

1940, 54 pg 288: DGS 8567320 item 3 image 171, Henry Kirkham to John M. Spangler, 16 Mar 1882; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025); Schuyler, Illinois, Deed records, 1821-1940, 54 pg 466-67: DGS 8567320 item 3 image 346, Simon Doyle et al to John M. Spangler, 6 Apr 1882; digital images, FamilySearch, "Deed records, 1821-1940; indexes, 1857-1892,"

FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/201851> : accessed 30 Aug 2025.)

<sup>153</sup> "(Ad) For Sale at a Great Bargain," *The Rushville Times*, 6 Feb 1896, p. 7, col. 5; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); *Ad - 60 acre farm in Brooklyn Township...3 miles west of Littleton, known as the Tonner farm.....for terms inquire of L. H. Tonner, Red Oak, Iowa, or John M. Spangler, Rushville, Ill.*

<sup>154</sup> "Personalisms"; "Business Change - Mr. George Little...."; "Mr. John M. Spangler," *The Rushville Times*, 16 Jul 1880, p. 5, col. 1; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "Another Old Citizen Gone - Death of Hon. William H. Ray," *The Rushville Times*, 28 Jan 1881, p. 5, col. 3; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "...well known mercantile firm of Ray & Little...In the year 1878 both he and Mr. Little retired from the mercantile business, but transmitted the firm name to their respective sons, Geo C. Ray and Geo Little, who with John M. Spangler, continued the business under the old and well known style of Ray, Little & Co"; "Personalialia,"

*The Rushville Times*, 20 Oct 1887, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "John M. Spangler and Edward Frizell went to Pea Ridge last Monday to superintend the billing of their fall orders at Daniel Shank's nursery"; "Special Notice," *The Rushville Times*, 21 Mar 1889, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); "Owing to the sickness of J. M. Spangler it will be impossible for us to get over Schuyler this spring...Daniel Shank & Son Nurserymen."

<sup>155</sup> *Find A Grave*, 70831992, memorial number Carlisle Spangler; "Mrs. Anna Copeland Dies Monday in Beardstown."

The last years of John and Emma's marriage were shadowed by illness. Emma had suffered poor health for years and had been confined to bed for about 18 months, when at age fifty-seven, she died.<sup>156</sup> The cause of her death is not specified but her Christian fortitude and gentle nature were emphasized in her obituary. She was laid to rest in Rushville City Cemetery.<sup>157</sup>

John survived his wife by less than nine months. On the morning of 3 March 1898, the *Rushville Times* reported: "Sudden Death - John M. Spangler died this morning of heart trouble."<sup>158</sup> He was sixty-three years old. His obituary appeared one week later, on 10 March 1898.<sup>159</sup> He was buried beside Emma in Rushville City Cemetery.<sup>160</sup> No probate or will filing has been discovered for John Milton Spangler, and the land he owned at the time of his death does not appear to have been sold before 1900, suggesting that estate settlement may have occurred through private family arrangements.<sup>161</sup>

5. **Sarah L. Spangler** was born 4 May 1832 in Schuyler County, Illinois, died 23 Sept 1910 in Madison County, Montana, and was buried in the Twin Bridges Cemetery, Madison County, Montana.<sup>162</sup> *FSID: KWVP-HXT*

Sarah married **Elias Dorsey Fuqua**, son of **Moses Fuqua** and **Harriett Booker**, on 11 June 1854 in Schuyler County, Illinois.<sup>163</sup> Elias was born 14 Jul 1831 in Shelby County, Kentucky, died 16 Feb 1862 in Putnam County, Missouri and was buried in Howard Cemetery, Putnam County, Missouri .<sup>164</sup> *FSID: LL97-3ZL*

They had 2 children: **Richard Henry** and **Mary Ella**.<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>156</sup> "2," *The Rushville Times*, 24 Jun 1897.

<sup>157</sup> *Find A Grave*, Emma J. Toner Spangler, memorial number 15009078.

<sup>158</sup> "Sudden Death - John M. Spangler died this morning of heart trouble."

<sup>159</sup> *The Rushville Times*, 10 Mar 1898, p. 2, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 29 Aug 2025); *obituary gives more information around health and death and the text of a funeral sermon which included a brief biographical sketch.*

<sup>160</sup> *Find A Grave*, John Milton Spangler, memorial number 15009069.

<sup>161</sup> Exhaustive search of probate records and land deeds through 1900 for the estate or land of John Milton Spangler returned no results.

<sup>162</sup> Montana, U.S., State Deaths, 1907-2018, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,5437::0, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; Helena, Montana; Montana Death Records. Cit. ID: 1,5437::75773763; *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 27 Aug 2025), Sarah L. Spangler Grover, memorial number 173742061; *stone says Sarah Fuqua Grover and gives only years of birth and death. Bio gives some background information, but is incorrect regarding where in Kansas she and Daniel lived and where he died. No record has been found that gives Sarah's middle name but there are many records, including census, marriage and probate records that record the L. We have no idea what it stood for.*

<sup>163</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940, 1: n.p., Fuqua-Spangler, 1854; digital images, FamilySearch, ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 26 Aug 2025); *see also Elias Fuqua probate packet which gives name of administrator as brother William Fuqua. The family of Nathan and Harriet Fuqua is not fully recorded in any known source and Moses left no will but family interactions provide evidence of relationship see: see [Descendants of John Swartz/Schwartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler](#) a public Ancestry Tree.*

<sup>164</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 24 Aug 2025), Moses Fuqua, memorial number 133258740; Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988 (digital images (Ancestry : [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))) ID: 1,9071::0, Probate Records, 1857-1940; Index to Probate Records, 1853-1977; Author: Missouri. Probate Court (Putnam County); Probate Place: Putnam, Missouri. Cit. ID: 1,9071::1505016.

<sup>165</sup> Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988, digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,9071::0, Elias D. Fuqua 1862; Probate Records, 1857-1940; Index to Probate Records, 1853-1977; citing: Missouri. Probate Court (Putnam County, Missouri.) *Both children, listed as minors, are named with first, middle and surname in the will.*

Sarah married 2<sup>nd</sup>, as his second wife, **Daniel Grover**, on 20 Mar 1866 in Putnam County, Missouri.<sup>166</sup> Daniel was born 17 Jan 1819 in New York and died 11 Mar 1885 in Waverly, Coffey County, Kansas.<sup>167</sup> *FSID: L814-75T*

### **They had no children.**

Sarah and her twin John Milton were the only known children of William Spangler and Nancy Swartz to be born in Illinois. Her birth came at a time when Illinois was still very much frontier territory, having achieved statehood only sixteen years earlier. Sarah entered her teens without her mother, with Nancy's death coming around Sarah's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>168</sup>

When she was twenty Sarah married Elias Dorsey Fuqua.<sup>169</sup> At the time of their marriage, Elias was twenty-two years old and likely already considering a westward move for better opportunities. By 1856, the young couple had relocated to Putnam County, Missouri, where Elias established himself as a farmer. He secured two parcels of land through the General Land Office.<sup>170</sup> These land patents represented the couple's stake in their future, in the rolling hills of northern Missouri.

The 1860 Federal Census found the Fuqua household in Jackson Township, West Liberty, Putnam County, Missouri, where Elias listed his occupation as farmer.<sup>171</sup> By this time, Sarah and Elias had two children: Richard Henry and Mary Ella.<sup>172</sup> The young family appeared to be establishing roots in their Missouri community, building the foundations of what they hoped would be a prosperous agricultural life.

Tragedy struck the Fuqua family in the winter of 1862. On 7 February, Elias Dorsey Fuqua signed his last will and testament in Putnam County, naming Sarah as executor.<sup>173</sup> Just nine days later, Elias died at the age of thirty. He was laid to rest in Howard Cemetery, Putnam County, Missouri.<sup>174</sup> The timing of Elias's death—during the second year of the Civil War—and his age suggest the possibility of death in military service, illness or accident, though the exact cause remains unknown and no military service has been found for Elias. Sarah, now twenty-seven years old, found herself widowed with two young children to raise alone.

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<sup>166</sup> Putnam, Missouri, Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800-1991, 1 DGS 7513749: 550 image 225, Grover-Fuqua, 1866; digital images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text> : accessed 26 Aug 2025); *the digitized volume does not have "preprinted forms" but is rather written freehand and it appears that the Wm A. Shelton, recorded copied the information from the license and return directly. All handwriting on the page and adjoining pages looks the same.*

<sup>167</sup> For Daniel's birth year see: 1870 U.S. census, Putnam, Missouri, population schedule, Medicine, p. 296B & 297A, dwelling 30, family 30, Daniel Grover; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 25 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M593, roll 801 for his death date see: Coffey, Kansas, Probate packets, 1857-1920; Index to probate packets, 1857-1986, Packet 143 Estate of Daniel Grover - Sarah L. Grover Admin; DGS 7669081, image 388+; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text> : accessed 26 Aug 2025); *Packet 143 has 11 pages which name only other heir, daughter Lucinda J. Butterfield and detail a meager farm estate. Value is less than \$50 for entire estate minus land which had been deeded in gift to Sarah Spangler Fuqua Grover in 1883.*

<sup>168</sup> *Find A Grave*, Nancy Swartz, memorial number 51282815.

<sup>169</sup> Schuyler, Illinois, marriage record, 1: n.p., Fuqua-Spangler, 1854.

<sup>170</sup> U.S., General Land Office Records, 1776-2015, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) Elias D Fuqua; 1 Sep 1856; Putnam County, Missouri, USA, Land Office: Milan; 5th PM, T65N, R21W, S14, Accession Number MO4980.262, Document Number 7081 citing United States. Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. Federal Land Patents, State Volumes, Springfield, Virginia: BLM Eastern States, 2007. *2 adjoining parcels...possible brother William Fuqua entered adjoining land 10 years late,r after Elias had died.*

<sup>171</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Putnam, Missouri, population schedule, Jackson, p. 510, dwelling 1168, family 1038, E. D. Fuqua; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 641.

<sup>172</sup> Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988, Elias D. Fuqua, 1862.

<sup>173</sup> Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988, Elias D. Fuqua, 1862.

<sup>174</sup> *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 24 Aug 2025), Elias Dorsey Fuqua, memorial number 133258484; *There is no source for any of the information in the memorial. The stone is almost completely unreadable and deeply sunken into the ground.*

As executor of Elias's estate, Sarah faced the daunting task of settling her husband's affairs. The estate was submitted for probate in 1862, with the will filed for probate on 28 March 1862 and recorded on 1 April 1862.<sup>175</sup> At that time Sarah relinquished her appointment as executor and an administrator was chosen by the court. The couple's 160 acres of land would later be sold by administrator William Fuqua (likely Elias's older brother Francis William Fuqua) on 10 August 1866.<sup>176</sup>

On 20 March 1866, Sarah married Daniel Grover in Putnam County, Missouri.<sup>177</sup> Daniel was fifteen years Sarah's senior. He was a widower with one teen-aged child.<sup>178</sup> The marriage may have provided financial stability for Sarah and her young children, but the family moved out of Missouri about 5 years later disrupting the children's relationships with their Fuqua grandparents. In the 1875 Kansas State Census Daniel and Sarah and her two young children are residing in Rock Creek Township, Coffey County, Kansas.<sup>179</sup> By the time of the 1880 Federal Census, they were well-established in Rock Creek Township, where Daniel was engaged in farming.<sup>180</sup>

On 7 February 1883, Daniel executed a warranty deed transferring Lot 6 in Section 12, Township 19, Range 16 East to "S. L. Grover his wife," giving Sarah independent ownership of their farm property.<sup>181</sup> This deed represented not merely a property transaction but a statement of trust and provision, ensuring Sarah would have security. The 1885 Kansas State Census records Sarah still residing in Rock Creek, Coffey County.<sup>182</sup> But Daniel had died weeks before this enumeration, and Sarah was a widow once again.

Daniel Grover died on 11 March 1885 in Waverly, Coffey County, Kansas, at the age of sixty-six.<sup>183</sup> His estate was opened for probate on 26 March 1885, with Sarah serving as administratrix.<sup>184</sup> The probate packet, consisting of eleven pages, revealed a meager farm estate valued at less than \$50, excluding the land that Daniel had already deeded to Sarah in 1883. The only other heir mentioned was Sarah's stepdaughter from Daniel's earlier marriage, Lucinda J. (Grover) Butterfield.<sup>185</sup> Now fifty-five years old, Sarah had survived two husbands and faced the challenge of creating an independent life in an era when widows had limited economic options.

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<sup>175</sup> Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988, Elias D. Fuqua, 1862.

<sup>176</sup> Putnam, Missouri, Deed Records, 5: 28, William Fuqua admin to Thomas Harket, 2 parcels, 22 Jun 1867; digital images, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text> : accessed 24 Aug 2025.)

<sup>177</sup> Putnam, Missouri, record and return, 1 DGS 7513749: 550 image 225, Grover-Fuqua, 1866. *It is interesting that Sarah remarried before the sale of Elias' land and final settlement of the estate.*

<sup>178</sup> Illinois, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 12 Oct 2025) ID: 1,7857::0, Daniel Grover and Phoebe Ashling 27 May 1852, Tazewell County. Jordan Dodd and Liahona Research, Illinois, Marriages, 1851-1900; citing: *Index compiled from county marriage records on microfilm located at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah by Jordan Dodd of Liahona.*

Coffey, Kansas, Probate packets, 1857-1920; Index to probate packets, 1857-1986, Packet 143 Estate of Daniel Grover - Sarah L. Grover Admin. DGS 7669081 image 388+; digital images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text> : accessed 26 Aug 2025); *Packet 143 has 11 pages which name only other heir, daughter Lucinda J. Butterfield. This is the only evidence for a child from Daniel's first marriage to Phoebe (Lease) Ashing.*

<sup>179</sup> Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855-1925, digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 22 Oct 2025) ID: 1,1088::0, Kansas State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas; 1875 Kansas Territory Census; Roll: KS 1875 pg 4; line: 22. Cit. ID: 1,1088::2840552. citing: 1855 Kansas Territory Census. Microfilm reel K-1. 1875 Kansas Territory Censuses.

<sup>180</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Coffey, Kansas, population schedule, Rock Creek, enumeration district (ED) 53, p. 17A, dwelling 4, family 4, Grover Daniel; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 25 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 377.

<sup>181</sup> Coffey, Kansas, Deed records, 1857-1903; General index to deeds, 1858-1900, 37: 168 image 248, Daniel Grover to Sarah L. Grover his wife, 23 Mar 1885; FHL microfilm 1510481 DGS 8561308, item 2.

<sup>182</sup> Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855-1925, digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 23 Oct 2025) ID: 1,1088::0, Kansas State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas; 1885 Kansas Territory Census; Roll: KS1885\_27; Line: 17. Cit. ID: 1,1088::7519573. citing: 1855 Kansas Territory Census; Microfilm reel K-1. 1885 Kansas State Census; Microfilm reels K-1 - K-146.

<sup>183</sup> Coffey, Kansas, Packet 143 Estate of Daniel Grover - Sarah L. Grover Admin. DGS 7669081 image 388+. *Packet gives date of death and details detail a meager farm estate. Value is less than \$50 for entire estate minus the farm which had been deeded in gift to Sarah Spangler Fuqua Grover in 1883.*

<sup>184</sup> *ibid*

<sup>185</sup> *ibid*

Despite the hardships, Sarah remained resilient. On the 1885 Coffey County, Kansas State Census as the head of a household composed of her son Richard, his wife and their four young children,<sup>186</sup> and it cannot be determined if she was the owner of the farm where the family resided or if her status as household head was a courtesy. Just a few years later she established her own residence. The 1889 Fort Scott City Directory listed Sarah as "widow of Daniel Grover" residing at 13 South Caldwell Street.<sup>187</sup> Both her children were part of Sarah's life as she aged. A newspaper article from April 1896 reporting "Mrs. S.L. Grover is in the city from Ft. Scott visiting her daughter Mrs. John Rickman."<sup>188</sup> Strong relationships with her children and grandchildren were a critical part of Sarah's life, like her relationships with her siblings.

Throughout her later years, Sarah visited with her family in Illinois. An April 1890 newspaper item from Rushville, Illinois, mentioned "Mrs. Ackley and Mrs. Fuqua visiting."<sup>189</sup> In January 1891, a Rushville newspaper noted "J.M. Davis and wife...and Mrs. Fuqua of Kansas here Sat.," documenting another visit.<sup>190</sup> Sarah's use of her first married name "Fuqua" rather than "Grover" in these Illinois contexts perhaps reflects her identification with her first marriage or the family of her children or perhaps reflects the name the Illinois family and community would best know her by as an adult. In December 1891, after returning home from Illinois, she sold the farmland she had received from Daniel.<sup>191</sup>

The 1900 Federal Census enumerated Sarah in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas, living in the household of her oldest granddaughter Sarah Fuqua Saffle.<sup>192</sup> At sixty-six, Sarah had transitioned from householder to family member, welcomed into the home of the younger generation.

The early twentieth century brought another major geographic transition for Sarah. By 1908, she had relocated, along with her granddaughter Sarah's family, to Madison County, Montana, to be cared for by her son Richard's family once again.<sup>193</sup> The 1910 Federal Census recorded Sarah in Twin Bridges, Madison County, Montana, living in Richard's household.<sup>194</sup> At seventy-six years old, Sarah had come to depend on her children for care and support.

A poignant Madison County, Montana newspaper item from 23 September 1910 reported: "We hear that Mrs. Grover, mother of R.H. Fuqua, who has been confined to her room for the last three months, is very low and not expected to live at this writing."<sup>195</sup> Sarah died later that day. A week later, the local newspaper reported: "The

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<sup>186</sup> Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855-1925, Kansas State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas; 1885 Kansas Territory Census.

<sup>187</sup> Hoyer's City Directory - Fort Scott, KS., *Fort Scott, Kansas City Directory*, 1889 pg 81, Sarah L Grover, widow Dan'l Grover; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 Aug 2025.)

<sup>188</sup> "Mrs. Sarah L. Grover ....," *The Waverly Gazette*, 17 Apr 1896, p. 4, col. 3; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 27 Aug 2025.)

<sup>189</sup> "Huntsville (news)," *The Rushville Times*, 17 Apr 1890, p. 4, col. 2; digital images, *Community History Archive* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 11 Aug 2025.)

<sup>190</sup> "Personal - Mr. J. M. Davis and wife....," *The Rushville Times*, 22 Jan 1891, p. 7, col. 4; digital images, *Digital Archives of Rushville* (<https://rushvilleil.advantage-preservation.com/> : accessed 27 Aug 2025.)

<sup>191</sup> "W. R. Ramey has purchased from Mrs. Sarah L. Grover," *The Waverly Gazette*, 18 Dec 1891, p. 5, col. 1; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 27 Aug 2025.)

<sup>192</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Bourbon, Kansas, population schedule, Fort Scott ward 4, enumeration district (ED) 37, sheet 7, p. A, dwelling 140, family 147, Sarah L. Grover; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 Aug 2025); citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 471; *in household of C. A. Saffle husband of granddaughter Sarah Fuqua Saffle*.

<sup>193</sup> "Pageville - Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Saffle entertained...," *Dillon Tribune*, 16 Oct 1908, p. 2, col. 3; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 27 Aug 2025.)

<sup>194</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Madison, Montana, population schedule, Twin Bridges, enumeration district (ED) 50, sheet 8, p. B, dwelling 93, family 95, Grover Sarah L.; digital images, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 Aug 2025); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T624, roll 834; *in household of son Richard H. Fuqua*.

<sup>195</sup> "Pageville - We hear that Mrs. Grover...," *Dillon Tribune*, 23 Sep 1910, p. 8, col. 3; digital images, *NewspaperArchive* (<https://newspaperarchive.com> : accessed 24 Aug 2025.)

funeral of Mrs. Grover, mother of R.H. Fuqua, who died at the home of her son, last Friday morning."<sup>196</sup> She was buried in Twin Bridges, Madison, Montana, her gravestone reading "Sarah Fuqua Grover."<sup>197</sup> Sarah's obituary, published in the Fort Scott Daily Tribune on 11 October 1910, provided names and marriage years for both her husbands and noted the names and residences of her two children. It confirmed details of her childhood and noted her lifelong membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.<sup>198</sup>

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<sup>196</sup> "Paigeville - the Funeral of Mrs. Grover, mother of R.H. Fuqua, who died at the home of her son, last Friday morning...," *Dillon Tribune*, 30 Sep 1910, p. 8, col. 2; digital images, *NewspaperArchive* (<https://newspaperarchive.com> : accessed 24 Aug 2025.)

<sup>197</sup> *Find A Grave*, Sarah L. Spangler Grover, memorial number 173742061.

<sup>198</sup> "Former For Scott Resident - Mrs. Sarah L. Grover...," *Fort Scott Daily Tribune and Fort Scott Daily Monitor*, 7 Oct 1910, p. 5, col. 4; digital images, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 24 Aug 2025); "taken from the Twin Bridges Monitor."; *Obituary gives names and marriage years for both husbands and names and residences of both children. Background on her childhood is accurate and her lifelong membership in ME church is noted.*