

William Crane Farris Family

From

MY FARRIS FAMILY

by Shirley Farris Jones

The following information was taken from hand written family records, in possession of the writer, of my great -grandfather, Dr. John Kennerly Farris. The information was written by him, on mourning paper, a few days after the death of his wife in the spring of 1885. It is assumed that any death not included for any individual at that time would indicate that that person was still living.

WILLIAM CRANE FARRIS was born on December 30, 1813 in Frankin County, Tennessee. (The writer has been unable to determine the exact date of his death.) He and **MAHALA HENDLEY KENNERLY** (born May 18, 1812 – died February 7, 1866) were joined in matrimony on Wednesday, March 4, 1835. She was the daughter of **J. P. Kennerly** of Georgia. (According to **Goodspeed's History**, one of their father's was a shoemaker, but the wording was such that it did not identify which one.)

A note about her family: J. P. Kennerly was married to Nancy Ann reynolds Scroggins. Her father was Spencer Reynolds of Oglethorpe County, Ga. She was first married to a Scroggins, possibly Humphrey, and was the mother of Gannum Scroggins, when she married J. P. Kennerly. Nancy Ann's father, Spencer Reynolds, was the neighbor of Thomas Scroggins in 1802, and her father-in-law, Thomas Kennerly, was a neighbor of several Scroggins in Georgia before that. There is some evidence to suggest that some of the people who moved from northeast Georgia to the Franklin County area did not go by any direct route, but went north into Tennessee and then south.

William C. and Mahala K. Farris were the parents of the following children:

**John Kennerly Farris – b. April 18, 1836
d. August 7, 1910**

**Ganum Scroggins Farris – b. May 11, 1838
d.**

**Samuel Jackson Harrison Farris – b. October 26, 1841
d. 1918**

**Nancy Ann Farris – b. June 22, 1843
d.**

**Matilda Emaline Farris – b. April 19, 1847
d.**

**Martha Cordelia Farris – b. February 7, 1851
d.**

**Maria Elizzabeth Farris – b. July 17, 1854
d.**

JOHN KENNERLY FARRIS and MARY ELIZZABETH AUSTELL (b. May 7, 1836 – died March 21, 1885) were joined in matrimony at 9 o'clock on Thursday morning, August 27, 1857. They were married by Rev. J. L. Payne. She was the daughter of **William Austell**, who came to Tennessee from South Carolina in 1829. To them were born the following children:

**Ella K. Farris – b. September 20, 1858 (Monday) at 10:25 a.m.
d. November 20, 1859 (Sunday). Buried Tuesday, November 22, 1859 in Montgomery County, Ark. Was disinterred October 15, 1860 (Sunday) and reinterred on November 17, 1860 (Saturday) in Coffee County, Tennessee at the Willis Cemetery.**

**Samuel Jackson Farris – b. December 7, 1860
d. January 10, 1909 (buried at Oakwood Cemet.
Tullahoma, TN)**

**John Kennerly Farris, Jr. - b. December 10, 1865 (Sunday)
d. April 1, 1937 (Friday) at 7:30 p.m.**

**Amos Austell Farris – b. February 14, 1868 (Friday)
d. February 20, 1878**

**William Rice Farris - b. August 13, 1870 (Sunday)
d. December 10, 1895**

**Sue Jennie Farris - b. June 21, 1873 (Saturday)
d. June 26, 1897 (Saturday)**

**Mary Ellizzabeth Farris, Jr. (Maymie) - b. December 13, 1875 (Monday)
d. June 17, 1898 (Friday) at 8:20 p.m.**

**Sophia Cordelia Farris – b. July 21, 1878 (Sunday)
d. March 8, 1879 (Saturday) at 7:10 p.m.**

Notes about Dr. J. K. Farris, Sr. : He was raised on a farm in Franklin Co., and with an academic training, began the study of medicine under Dr. J. E. Hough of Pleasant Hill. After furthering the study of medicine in Arkansas, he returned to Franklin/Coffee County in 1860. In 1861, along with his two brothers, Bud and Sam, he enlisted in the Tennessee Volunteer Army. He was a private in Company I, 41st Tennessee, at the time of his enlistment. He served the Confederacy through December 1864, at which time he was placed in charge of the hospital in Franklin, and following the Battle of Nashville, was captured by the Union Army. He escaped and made his way home. This would be the first time he had seen his wife, Mary, and little boy, Sammy, since his enlistment. After numerous attempts, he was unable to rejoin Confederate forces and thus, took the Oath in March of 1865. The War ended shortly thereafter, and Dr. Farris served his community as a practicing physician until his retirement in 1906.

John Kennerly Farris, Jr. - b. December 10, 1865

d. April 1, 1937 married Mary Lou Emma Neese (born June 11, 1878 - died January 18, 1952) They were married on October 5, 1899. To them were born the following children:

**William Rice – b. August 2, 1900
d. October 3, 1951**

**Ruth - b. August 22, 1901
d. December 22, 1995**

**Sue Mary – b. January 14, 1911
d. April 28, 1986**

**Malcolm Robert - b. June 1, 1914
d. September 17, 1989**

Editor's Notes: Mary Neese was the daughter of John E. Neese and Mary Ann Emory of Coffee County, Tennessee. John Neese and family came to Tennessee from Du Bois, Pennsylvania shortly after the end of the Civil War. Dr. John Kennerly Farris, Jr. was born and reared in Coffee County near Hillsboro. He was educated in the school systems of Tullahoma and Manchester and graduated from Bowling Green, Kentucky College. He taught school in both Tennessee and Texas. Upon his return to Tennessee, he entered Medical School and graduated in 1899 from the University of Nashville. He practiced medicine in Coffee County until poor health forced his retirement in 1929.

**Malcolm Robert Farris – b. June 1, 1914
d. September 17, 1989 married Ruth Ann Lowe
(b. September 23, 1920, d. August 17, 1993) were married on November 8,
1941. They had one daughter, Shirley Ann Farris, b. August 18, 1942.**

Editors Note: Ruth Lowe was the daughter of Elguin Lowe and Jim Anna Jacobs Lowe of Beech Grove. Malcolm, nicknamed "Ham" served in World War II, and upon his return to the U.S. In 1945, he and Ruth lived the rest of their lives in Murfreesboro.

**Shirley Ann Farris married Jerry L. Jones of Nashville on June 2, 1962.
They are the parents of one son, Jeffrey Keith Jones.**