



the Gann Gazette

Volume 20, No. 4, Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



David M. Gann

Hello everyone!

We had a very successful Board meeting in Little Rock on December 6–7, 2015. In attendance were Bill Gann, Thea Baker, Charlie Gann, Cathie Schoppenhorst, Gary Toms, Mary K Bohannon, and Dan Gann. We had a very full agenda with many different topics being discussed. There was a lot of very enjoyable, creative, and often amusing brainstorming happening. Mary K got a lot of it on video for posterity.

We will be working to get the *Gann Gazette* published on a regular basis. The *Gazette* is a quarterly publication to be distributed in February, May, August and November. If you have an article that you would like to have published, please submit it to the editor, Dan Gann, at editorganngazette@knology.com. We ask that you please submit your articles by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 to allow time for Jean Harris to complete the graphics and layout for printing.

The annual Gann Gathering for 2016 will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 23–25. Thanks to Thea Baker (a consultant on who works on “Who Do You Think You Are?”) for offering to be a resource for help with the meeting in Little Rock. Charlie Gann is the conference coordinator for the Gann Gathering.

Cathie Schoppenhorst, Director of membership, will be working on a new brochure, and new member welcome kits.

Three new committees have been formed for helping with several functions. The first committee will be the Liaison Committee, which will be tasked with improving and forming more relations with other genealogical societies, libraries, and networking. Next will be a Technology Committee which will establish and support a website, forum, and social media. Finally, the third committee is the Youth Involvement Committee increasing interest in family history in our children, and coordinating youth activities during the Gann Gathering. I will contact several people soon to ask them to serve as Committee Chairs or members. If any of these interest you, please let me know and I'll sign you up!

I will be working on the website development over the next few months. My goal is to have it up and running by the end of March. We'll probably start small, and add more as time permits. To be included will be online *Gann Gazette* viewing, membership sign-up, books, reading lists, video presentations, DNA information, genealogy query assistance, family photo archiving, and back issues of the *Gann Gazette*. Some of this will be within a members- only section.

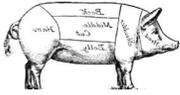
Tom McCabe is Gann *Registry* Director. He was unable to attend, but we spoke with him via speakerphone. He is currently working with Bill and Charlie to clean up errors and double entries on the *Registry*. The *Registry* is a list of the known Gann Family Trees that is kept on computer in a GEDCOM file. If you would like to add your family tree to the Gann *Registry*, contact Tom McCabe at susiemac@grandecom.net.

Bill Gann gave a report on genealogical research done on Illinois Ganns, Ganns in Jefferson County, Tennessee, and on Clement Gann. Some very exciting information coming to you soon!

According to the bylaws, a Nomination committee is to be formed for next year's officers. Charlie Gann is tasked with forming the committee of five members who are not on the board. Please participate if you are contacted.

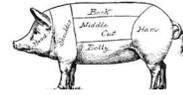
Till next time,

David M. Gann



TOJO AND HITLER

by Charlie Gann



I suppose this story begins about the first part of September in 1944. We were winning the battle against the Axis Forces, Germany and Japan. The U.S. War Department could see the end was coming and began to reduce production of war materials. A lot of companies laid off their workers about Christmas time. Our father was laid off by Douglas Aircraft in the Fall of 1944 and the family could no longer pay the rent on the house we had lived in since September of 1943. Our family consisted of my parents: Harlan “Rabbit” Gann and Edith Wilson Gann; and four boys: Charlie age 7, Bill age 5, Tommy age 3, and Joe about two or three months old who was born in October of 1944.

We had to move once more—not an uncommon occurrence in our family. Sometimes we moved a couple times a year. This time, we moved south of Coweta, Oklahoma, on state highway 72 that went between Coweta and Haskell. Just south of the Arkansas River bridge on the this road was several Creek Indian Allotments that belonged to the Morton family. One of those Mortons, Howard Lee Morton, Sr, married my father’s sister, Letha Gann Morton. There were two empty houses on these allotments and we moved into one of them east of where Uncle Howard and Aunt Letha lived along with their three boys: Howard “Jack” Jr.; Archie; and Donald Wayne. Jack and Archie were not home having been drafted near the end of the war.

My maternal grandparents lived on a small farm about three miles northwest of Coweta. In September of 1944, one of their sows got out and mated with one of the boars. That is not what the farmers wanted because the piglets would be born about the end of the year when it is difficult to keep them alive. I don’t know how many pigs the sow had but there were several. Then it turned cold. Two or three froze to death, two were very sick due to the cold and one of them had its tail frozen off. My grandparents were taking care of the healthy ones and gave us the two which they didn’t expect to live. We took them home, put them in a warm spot, and fed them milk until they were out of danger. We named them Tojo and Hitler. Even then we knew they would be slaughtered in the fall to feed the family or one would be slaughtered and the other one sold for some spending money.

I must digress a bit from Tojo and Hitler. When the Germans surrendered, we were in town where Mom was doing the laundry. The young men who were looking at getting drafted if the war had continued got some old car carcasses and dragged them up and down the main street (Broadway) in Coweta. Sparks flew and it was a spectacular sight! This activity was repeated in August when the Japanese surrendered. We were, again, in town and Mom was doing the laundry—I suppose with a family of six, there was a lot of laundry to do.

Now, we get back to Tojo and Hitler. They flourished under our care and were way ahead of the other pigs that were born in the last of February. Because of this, they would root the younger and smaller ones out of the slop troughs and get more to eat. They continued to grow until that fall when it turned cold enough to slaughter them. They both weighed about 300 lbs, whereas the smaller hogs we were to slaughter were nearer the 200 pound range.

I began the third grade in September of 1945. My chores included feeding the hogs by mixing water with wheat shorts (a by-product of milling flour used as a feed available for hogs and chickens). It was in late November of 1945 when it turned cold enough to slaughter the pigs. I’m not sure how many were slain that Saturday after Thanksgiving, but I think it was five. The remaining pigs went to the market.

Of course it was a little sad to see the hogs killed but we knew we would have fresh pork, hams, bacon, and other cuts of pork to feed the family. We gave one ham to my maternal grandparents and probably gave another to my paternal grandparents. My dad and Uncle Howard cured and smoked the hams and bacon in a homemade smoker using hickory they had hauled from a nearby forest. The wood was cut in the late winter and cured until ready to smoke the meat. Left over wood was burned in stoves for heat. There was no electricity in either house—coal oil lanterns were used for light. I can’t remember what type of stove mom had to cook with but I know later we had a kerosene cooking stove. Uncle Howard and Dad struggled to make a living and weren’t always dressed well, but did have plenty to eat since we had chickens, cows, and the hogs. Great times, but I wouldn’t want to repeat them! ■

A PETITION

Transcribed and analyzed by William R. Gann & Gary R. Toms

The value of an original document like the one below is that it serves as almost a census of a somewhat small and compact neighborhood. Most residents of a developing area took an active interest in changes or improvements to their neighborhood and would have signed such a petition. The document contains the signatures of 91 residents. In other words, here is a community which had a common interest in an action to better serve their community, and most are represented in this one document.

This original document was found in the Washington County Court Records (WCCR) Collection, (Box 2, folder 5), at the Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University. On the front of the tri-folded document, someone had written in pencil, "1820?". Upon reading the list of names, the authors immediately noted the name of Nicholas Broyles, a resident of Washington County who died probably in April 1814, even though he was too ill to appear in Court as a witness in September 1813. Hence, the penciled notation of 1820 was an incorrect guess.

Upon further research, several other court documents and orders were found with the relevant dates for this action beginning in November 1813 as shown below. All spelling, punctuation, etc., is retained exactly as found in the original.

To the Worshipfull Court of Washington county now in Sessions — taking into consideration the many Conveniences that would arise to this neighborhood to have a sawmill Erected at Adam Gans [Gann's] on little Limestone creek just below the waggon ford on sd creek (which is the road leading from Jonesborough to Glaze's ford) and that Adam Gann does agree to build a suffitiant saw mill hereon, if the road can be so altered as to admit of a dam to be made on sd Creek, your Petitionars prays that a Jury may be appointed to view the sd road and if it can be so altered as to admit the dam to be made on sd creek your petitionars as in duty bound will ever pray....

John McAlister	William McGee	John Collon	William Broyls
William Graham	Kasper Lott	Michal Copp	Daniel Broyle
George Click	William Clark	Peter Vanderfinder	Cyrus Broyle
James Graham	John Gann	Jonth Waddell	Samuel Broyles
Charles Graham	Jeremiah Lafollet	Michal Broyles	Wm. Wilson
Joab Menees	John McNeil	Jacob Fox	Henry Glaze
Samuel Graham	James Broyles	Julius Broyles	Zekel Handberry
Henry Helm	Toby Co----	L(awrence) Glaze	W. Newberry
James M. McAlister	Jacob Little	James Penny	Adam Broyle
James Finley	Nathan Gann	George Gann	John Commons
W. B. Helm	George Lafollet	Jno Collom	Ira Gregg
Samuel Greer Junr.	Jacob Hern Jr	Simeon Broyles	Nicalous Broyle
Hez B. Mitchell	James Massengale	John Nelson	Pleasant Wallis
John McGee	John Copp	John Gray	Thomas Broyles
George McGhe	Moses Nelson	Jacob Wetsmiller	John Mercer
John Bricker	Isaac Gann	William Breeker	Danil Yeagar
John Clark	John Gittert	Joshua Green	Rheuben Gann
William M Trent	Robt. McKee	Joseph H. Green	Wm Colyar
Samuel Mock	Saml Lowry	Daniel Gann	A. Gillespie
Jacob Capp	Adam Hale	Wm. Metichell	Joseph Brown
William Blackburn	Jacob Short	Jacob Kesner	Burgess Williams
William McKing	Martin Feasel	Abram Snapp	Abraham Odell
James McAlister	Dan Finley	John Winkell	

Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Washington County, Tennessee

November Sessions 1813 (p. 233)

Ordered by court that James McAlister, Charles Grayham, James Grayham, Adam Broyles, Ira Greene, Joab Niell, Daniel Yeager, Thomas Broyle, Solomon Yeager & Isaac Wilson be a Jury of review to view the road leading by Adam Ganns to Glazes foard and see whether the road can be turnd so as to cross the creek lowr down than where it now crosses by Adam Ganns house & make return to our next court. Order Issued. 3rd November

February Sessions 1814 (p. 240)

Ordered that the return of the Jury of view to view the road near Adam Ganns be confirmed agreeable to said return-

A diligent search of the appropriate boxes in the WCCR collection by the authors assisted by Georgia Greer, failed to locate the original return, which probably provided more detail than what is stated in the Minutes. Lacking that, we have only this limited statement in the Minutes. Most statements in the Minutes are generated by or are a summary of more detailed documents submitted to the Court.

November Sessions 1814 (p. 267)

Isaac Willson overseer of the road from Adam Gann to Glazes foard on Nolachucky river & call on the usual hands. Order issued.

May Sessions 1815 (p. 281)

Ordered by court that Adam Lowery, Isaac Wilson, James McAlister, Charles Brayham, William Voite, Daniel Yeager, Samuel Doak, Junr. be a Jury of review to view the road from Adam Ganns to Glazes foard and make return to next Court. Order issued.

May Sessions 1815 (p. 281)

John Nelson (son of Henry Nelson) be overseer of the road from Adam Ganns opposite Col. John Blairs with the usual hands to work. Ordered.

January Sessions 1817 (p. 281)

Ordered that William Wilson, Wm. Greenway, Adam Broyles, Jonathan Waddell & Adam Lowrey be a Jury to View the road from Adam Ganns sawmill to where the road intersects the Newport road crossing the river at Wm. Greenways ford and make return to next court. Order issd.

Note: By this court action in 1817, it is now confirmed that Adam Gann did build the sawmill that was contemplated in the Petition of 1813. This action implies that the road was altered as requested by the petitioners. We can draw this conclusion from the construction of the sawmill, even though we are lacking the return of the jury of view from February 1814, as previously noted.

In the meantime, there were lots of road actions in the community around Adam C. Gann's property. Here below are several instances:

August Sessions 1815 (p. 290)

Adam Broyles overseer of the road from Adam Ganns to the Greene (County) line with the usual hands. Order issued.

January Sessions 1816 (p. 304)

The road laid out by the Jury from Adam Ganns to the top of the hill near McEllroys field is confirmed by the court.

April Sessions 1816 (p. 314)

Adam Gann overseer of the road from his house to the forks of the road leading to Greenville with the usual hands. Order issd.

Adam C. Gann, a brief biographical sketch

Adam C. was born in 1769, most probably in Virginia, the son of Adam Gann, Sr. and his first wife, Jane. Adam's paternal grandparents, Samuel and Elizabeth Gann, settled in Frederick County, Virginia, probably in the early 1740s. No actual documented evidence or proof of Elizabeth's maiden name has been found to date.

Growing up in Washington County, Tennessee, from about the age of nine or ten years, Adam was known as **Adam Gann, Jr.**, until his father, **Adam Gann, Sr.**, an early resident (1779) of Washington County, moved to Jefferson County, Tennessee, dying there in 1812. Afterwards in Washington County, Adam Jr. usually appeared on tax lists, deeds or other legal documents simply as Adam Gann. For some unknown reason and in contemporary documents in 1822 and 1828 in Cocke County, Tennessee, and in 1829 and 1836 in McMinn County, Tennessee, he was listed as **Adam C. Gann**.

To date, no document has been found which identifies what middle name the initial "C." stands for. However, Adam and Rosina's ninth child, a son born in 1802, was named **Adam Carter Gann**; and five grandsons were also named "Adam Carter" as given names. So, the surname "Carter" must have been of special importance in this family. Since this name does not appear in the Broyles family lineage, the name must come from the Gann side of the marriage of Adam Gann, Sr. and his first wife, Jane, whose maiden name is unknown. It *might* be that her surname was Carter, but no evidence has been found of a Jane Carter among Carter families living in the neighborhoods in Virginia and in Washington County, Tennessee, where Adam and Jane Gann lived. It could simply be in honor of a highly regarded family or individual in the home neighborhood, with no family connection at all. This was not an uncommon practice.

On 22 June 1789, a young, 20-year old **Adam Gann** married **Rosina Broyles**, a daughter of **Nicholas Broyles** (1730–1814) and his wife, **Dorothea Christler** (1734–1820) of Washington County, Tennessee. Rosina was born 23 October 1770 in Culpepper County, Virginia. Rosina had a cousin named Rosannah, who is often confused with Rosina. Adam and Rosina Gann had thirteen children who lived to adulthood, married and had families. All but one of Adam and Rosina's children moved their families to Missouri by 1840. Their third son, **Rheuben** and his family, remained in Washington County for his lifetime.

No accounts have been found about Adam C. Gann in McMinn County after the 1836 sale of his land. He may have remained there, or he could have accompanied some of his children to Missouri where no record of a death, burial, or probate for him has been found.

Adam C. Gann played an active role in community affairs.

Adam Gann was first appointed a Constable in Washington County at the February Sessions of 1809. On Wednesday, the 6th, February Sessions 1811, the Court again appointed Adam Gann as Constable. He then gave Bond and Security and qualified according to law. In the February Sessions of 1813, he and John Hampton were summoned to attend the Court as Constables. And at the July Sessions 1816, the Court again appointed Adam Gann constable, and he gave bond and security and qualified as the law directed. The Court appointed him Constable for the last time in April of 1820.

As a member of the Washington County community, he was engaged in buying and selling land on a regular basis; here are a few examples.

County Court Pleas & Quarter Sessions

August Sessions 1798 (p. 18)

Adam Gann Jr. sells to John Gann 70 acres on 9 August 1798.

January Sessions 1817 (p. 361)

A deed of conveyance from John Shields to Adam Gann for eighty-three acres of land dated the 23rd May 1815 proven in court by the oaths of Adam Broyles and Samuel Doake, Jr.

October Sessions 1819 (p. 198)

On 14 Aug 1819, Adam Gann sells 200 acres to Samuel Mauk.

September Sessions 1820 (p. 43)

On 13 October 1820, Adam sells 100 acres to William Wilson.

In the January sessions of 1821, an entry shows that Adam Gann sold 104 acres to Phillip Painter. The several land sales in the late 1810s and very early 1820s suggest that Adam was planning to leave Washington County.

While still in Washington County in October 1821, Adam Gann sued William Vaught; the case continued to April 1822 in which Adam lost. Not satisfied, **Adam** returned to court for the decision that the “rule be made absolute.” The ruling went against him; he lost his appeal. Still not satisfied, Adam returned in the July Session of 1822 and the case was transferred to the Circuit Court.

His final land sale was for 362 acres to William P. Chester on 5 June 1822; the deed states that Adam was “of Cocke County.” This sale eventually turned into a very complicated and messy lawsuit in 1831, involving numerous individuals in Washington County. Everyone was a loser in this case; a series of events including this lawsuit reduced both Gann and Chester to near pauper status over the ensuing years.

Adam [C.] comes of age

Adam Gann Jr., appears for the first time on the Washington County tax list of 1790 in Capt. Handley’s company along with his father, Adam Gann, Sr., and various other Gann men, all of whom are related. Adam, Jr. was listed with one white poll, three black polls, and 100 acres of land. Owning property and slaves at this young age suggest that he probably received financial help from his father to help him get established as a newly-married man. Young men were taxed as a poll when they reached the age of 21 years. Here, in this first appearance of Adam on the tax rolls is proof of his birth year of 1769 (1790 – 21 = 1769).

As a young father with several children, Adam Gann, Jr. purchased lot #13 in Brownsborough in October 1796. His lot was on ‘Main Street’! Adam’s older brother, Thomas, purchased lot #11, also on Main Street.

Later in August 1810, he was appointed as the administrator on the Estate of John Mauk, Decd. and “gave bond and security and qualified as the law directs” with the probate of the estate continuing in February of 1812. On the 16th of April 1812, the estate was finally settled; Adam Gann was paid \$25.50 for his services. And, in 1814, he was appointed administrator of the Estate of Nicholas Broyles, his late father-in-law. Adam produced the inventory of this large estate in court on 2 May 1814, and on 8 September 1814, the public sale of the estate amounted to \$1,306.02½.

County Court and Quarterly Court Minutes 1809–1817

There are numerous entries in the Minutes of the Court of Adam’s buying and selling of slaves.

9 Apr 1812 (Nov. sessions, p. 19–6) a negro girl named Dorkas, from Saml. Maxwell to Adam Gann
 22 Sep 1812 (Nov. sessions, p. 193) a negro girl named Darchus, from Adam Gann to John Adams

May Sessions 1814 (p. 245)

“A bill of sale from Adam Gann to Joel Yeager for a negroe girl named Nann dated 15th February 1814 acknowledged in court by Adam Gann.”

Adam purchased a negro child for \$100.25 at the Nicholas Broyles’ estate sale on 8 September 1814 (p. 305).

April Sessions of 1823 (p. 179)

William Riley v. Adam Gann: the defendant makes default and the plaintiff is awarded \$131.04. And in the same Session, **Samuel Mauk v. Adam Gann**, defendant, where Adam did not appear and made default, the Court awarded the plaintiff \$108.33 plus costs for debt. These two court actions in 1823 where Adam makes default also indicate that Adam had left Washington County. As early as October 1820, extended members of the Gann-Broyles family had commented in affidavits that Adam was planning to leave the area, but nothing was said about where he was going.

Normally, when land was sold the wife had to sign a “dower release.” There was no such “release” signed by Rosina on the 1822 deed, suggesting that she may have been deceased by this date. However, in a review of numerous land sales during this period in Washington County, it was found that for some unknown reason no dower releases were being recorded. Therefore, it is not possible to state conclusively that Rosina was deceased by 1822. However, it appears that she was probably deceased by January 1826 when Adam C. was arrested in Roane County, living with another woman in an “unmarried state.” Testimony by one of his neighbors in another case indicated that Adam had left Cocke County and “he eloped to the Cherokee Nation with another man’s wife after Rosina’s death,” which could have been as late as the Fall of 1825.

Unfortunately, Adam’s positive actions in the community and his success in building a gristmill and a sawmill eventually turned into a legal, negatively entangled web involving numerous men in the community. On 2 September 1831, Adam C. Gann, now of McMinn County, entered a suit in District Court against William P. Chester and John Blair; and the suit lasted over a year! From entry after entry, it appears that both men (Gann & Chester) were financially destitute by the time this suit was settled. In one instance, William Gann (1792–1845), a son of Adam C., came to court in place of his father and said that his father was so poor that he “could not even buy a horse for transportation to the court.”

There are other accounts of his family life which also indicate that trouble abounded around the time his wife died. Maybe that was the reason he left Washington County and moved to Cocke County by the summer of 1822 for a fresh start, then to Roane County for a short time where he had a run-in with the law in January 1826, and then finally to McMinn County by 1829.

History of Washington County, Tennessee, 1988. Compiled by Watauga Association of Genealogists of Upper East Tennessee. p. 165.

ibid. p. 165.

If you have not already heard, there have been some book giveaways on Facebook. Congratulations to Dan Gann, Jessica McManus, and Jennifer Gann who won the three first giveaways! The prizes are books that have to do with genealogy or history from the areas of the Gann pioneers. The giveaway is through Amazon and is not a hoax, so please do not hesitate to participate. There is one chance per entry to win a book, and it is set for a random number to select the winner. There will be more to come, so keep an eye on the GHS&L Facebook page!

Adam C. Gann Family *From the latest research*

Adam C. Gann aka Adam Gann, Jr.

Birth: 1769 in Virginia
 Death: Aft. August 1836 in TN or later in MO
 Marriage: 22 Jun 1789 in Washington Co., TN
 Father: Adam Gann, Sr.,
 a son of Samuel & Elizabeth Gann
 Mother: Jane -?- (no known proof of her maiden surname)

Rosina Broyles

Birth: 23 Oct 1770 in Culpepper Co., Virginia
 Death: 1824–1825 in TN (per affidavit by A. Broyles)
 Father: Nicholas Broyles
 a son of Hans Jacob Broyles & Mary C. Fleishmann
 Mother: Dorothy Christler,
 a daughter of Johann T. Christler & Rosina Garr

Children:

- 1 Name: **John Gann**
 M Birth: 1790 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: Bet. 1865 & 1868 in Stockton, Santa Cruz Co., CA
 Marriage: 21 Feb 1818 in Washington Co., TN
 Spouse: Judith “Juda” Frazier
- 2 Name: **Anne Gann**
 F Birth: 1791 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 1821 in TN
 Marriage: 07 Mar 1811 in Washington Co., TN
 Spouse: Pleasant Wallace
- 3 Name: **William Gann**
 M Birth: 1792 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 17 Oct 1845 in Lafayette Co., MO
 Burial: Barker Cemetery; Odessa, Lafayette Co., MO
 Marriage: 18 Mar 1812 in Rhea Co., TN
 Spouse: Leah Gann, possibly a daughter of Isham/Isom Gann
- 4 Name: **Rheuben Gann**
 M Birth: 1794 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 07 Oct 1881 in Washington Co., TN
 Marriage: 03 Jun 1814 in Washington Co., TN
 Spouse: Elizabeth D. Clark,
 a daughter of Lt. John Clark & Cassandra England
- 5 Name: **Joshua Isaac Gann**
 M Birth: 1795 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: Bet. 1861 & 1862 in Livingston Co., MO
 Marriage: 01 Sep 1813 in Rhea Co., TN
 Spouse: Rebecca “Jenna” Gann,
 possibly a daughter of Isham/Isom Gann

There has long been confusion about Adam C. Gann and his family. The problems begin with something as simple as his name. Although listed in some charts and online trees as “Adam Carter Gann,” no documentation has ever been found to support this. This is despite a concerted effort to do so. He is simply listed as Adam Gann, Jr., Adam Gann, and finally as “Adam C. Gann.” We do not know what the initial C. stands for, and may never know.

The information shown here on the chart is compiled from a variety of sources, including deeds, probate records, marriage records, affidavits, and cemetery listings. Some, such as the date and place of Adam’s death, is a statement of the most likely information based on inferences from other documents and events. We know from deeds that Adam sold all of his property in Washington County, Tennessee, by the summer of 1822, when he had moved to Cocke County, TN.

We last know him to be alive in August 1836 in McMinn County, TN., when he sold his land here and signed his name as

Adam C. Gann.

He is not listed in the U.S. 1840 McMinn County, TN census. He could, of course, be in the census and be ‘invisible’ by being included in somebody else’s household.

The fact that he appears to be missing from the census, when combined with his age at the time (71 years old, quite old for that time), suggests that he may have died between the sale of his land in 1836 and the 1840 census. Therefore, his death on the chart is given as “after 1836,” the last time we have record of him living. As to where he died, no probate or gravestone have been found. When we look at this and the sale of his property as two events together, it raises the question, “Where did he die?” He may have died there in McMinn County, after the sale of his land, but if so, there should have been a probate because of the money from the land sale.

The fact that there is no personal or legal record suggests he left McMinn County. This is quite likely as all but one 

6 Name: **Jane Gann**
 F Birth: 13 Mar 1798 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 31 Jan 1871 on farm nr Roscoe, St. Clair Co., MO
 Burial: Benton Green Cem.; nr Roscoe, St. Clair Co., MO
 Marriage: 19 Dec 1819 in Washington Co., TN
 Spouse: Joseph Henry Green, a son of Joshua Green & Susannah Jordan

7 Name: **Thomas Gann**
 M Birth: 1799 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: Aft. 1870 in Cedar Co., MO
 Marriage: 10 Jun 1818 TN
 Spouse: "Polly" McMaster(s)
 Marriage: Abt. 1829–1831; prob. in TN; no known record
 Spouse: Rebecca –?–

8 Name: **Nathan Gann**
 M Birth: Bet. 1801 & 1803 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 1884 in Cedar Co., MO
 Marriage: Bet. 1818 & 1819 in TN
 Spouse: Serena B. Frazier

9 Name: **Adam Carter Gann**
 M Birth: 1802 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 07 Aug 1887 in Barry Co., MO
 Marriage: 1831 in McMinn Co., TN
 Spouse: Mary "Polly" Lemons

10 Name: **Abraham Gann**
 M Birth: Abt. 1806 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: Abt. 1894 in Union Twp., Pottawatomie Co., KS
 Burial: Oak Grove Cemetery (old Adams Creek Cemetery);
 Wheaton, Pottawatomie Co., KS
 Marriage: 17 Apr 1827 in Roane Co., TN
 Spouse: Mary "Polly" McKinney
 Marriage: Abt. 1843, Livingston Co., MO
 Spouse: Mary J. Garwood

11 Name: **Nicholas Broyles Gann**
 M Birth: 1807 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 07 Feb 1887 in Soquel, Santa Cruz Co., CA
 Burial: Soquel, Santa Cruz Co., CA
 Marriage: 17 May 1846 in Jackson Co., MO
 Spouse: Ruth Ann Melinda Freshour

12 Name: **Mary Gann**
 F Birth: 31 Aug 1809 in Washington Co., TN
 Death: 18 Dec 1901 in Mercer Co., MO
 Burial: Girdner Cemetery; Mercer Co., MO
 Marriage: 24 Nov 1844 in Grundy Co., MO
 Spouse: Benjamin Franklin Newlin,
 a son of Jesse Newlin & Permelia Elizabeth Lyle

13 Name: **Elizabeth Gann**
 F Birth: 06 Oct 1813 in Brownsborough, Washington Co., TN
 Death: 12 Nov 1846 in Livingston Co., MO
 Marriage: 12 Feb 1829 in McMinn Co., TN
 Spouse: Samuel Barton Campbell, a son of John Campbell & Phebe Casada

of his children left there by the late 1830s. Where did they go? Twelve of the thirteen went to Missouri, one of the new areas beckoning to families in Tennessee seeking a new start and more land. It is likely that Adam accompanied one or more of his children and their families to Missouri, maybe used his money to help buy land for them, and died there before the 1840 census. No gravestone has been found for him in Missouri, either, but that seems the most probable place.

Two sons, **John** and **Nicholas Broyles Gann**, moved after a few years on westward from Missouri to California, settled and died there. Another son, **Abraham**, eventually settled in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, and is buried there. Son **Rheuben** and his family remained in Washington County for his lifetime.

Adam and Rosina had three daughters: Jane, Mary and Elizabeth. **Jane** and **Elizabeth** were married in Tennessee before moving to Missouri with their husbands and families. **Mary Gann** had a son, **Samuel Barton Gann** (1833–1910), born out of wedlock, with the boy being named after Mary's sister's husband, Samuel Barton Campbell. Mary later married Benjamin Franklin Newlin in Grundy County, Missouri, where they lived until after 1900.

Today in 2016, numerous descendants of Adam C. and Rosina live all over the U.S., from Tennessee to Missouri to California and points in between. It's hard to imagine that young men born around 1800 in East Tennessee would end up on the west coast of California by the middle of the century, searching for gold! ■

The Time of His Life: *Roy Gann*

By Thea Walden Baker

There wasn't much we knew about him, the baby of the family. A doomed baby, he was. His was the last name and birthdate scrawled in a family record torn from a Bible that had been nearly swept away in the Red River. The family's wagon had overturned while crossing. The wheels bogged in shifting sands and the current overwashed them—tumbling family and furnishings into the murky flow and staining dingy red what things were salvaged. The Bible lay saturated with inked names and birthdates bleeding into dark smudges. But unlike theirs, his vitals were recorded in pencil, either before or after that perilous river crossing and after he had passed through his own birth waters. *Roy Gann Was Born July the 13th A.D. 1903*, the entry reads.

But we didn't know where Roy was born. There were ideas, but not a sure here or there. The family moved a lot. Someone had later traced over Roy's faint name with a new swaddling of pencil and may have retraced thoughts of the knowns and unknowns, recalling, perhaps, that his mother died one day before he turned five months old. Late fall, early winter. The oft-told story was that she died from childbirth and quite likely that was the case. A persistent, lingering, post-partum infection that she just couldn't fight off would not have been an unusual cause of delayed maternal death. She was forty years old at Roy's birth, her twelfth lying in.

That Roy survived seven months past his mother's death, until just two days (two days!) before his first birthday, is testament, not criticism, of the care he received from his motherless older sisters, ages ten and eight. Two girls tasked with raising three siblings younger than themselves, a six-year-old brother, a two-year-old sister, and months'-old Roy. Older siblings who might have assisted had their own start-up families to tend to. So it mostly fell to Roy's widowed father, at forty-four, a middle brother of barely sixteen, and to Roy's much-too-young older siblings to provide the nourishments each other needed. Tears needed dried, hair combed, and clothes washed. Crushing loss settled into routine as a livelihood had to be made and sustenance kept on the table. And there was baby Roy to dandle and raise. But Roy died and was buried, and nobody by the second generation

to inherit the yellowed and crumbling family record knew if it was here or there. And something else no one knew was that "Roy" was not Roy's birth name.

Statewide registration of births in Texas began in 1903, a pivotal year for the state and for Roy. He was both the first and the last child of M.F. Gann and wife to have an official entry into life. So it is from the only public record of his existence—that is, from the doctor's report of the birth to the county clerk—that we learn Roy was formally named Collins Monroe Gann on the same day he arrived one-half mile west of Monkstown in far northwestern Fannin County on July 13, 1903. The doctor wrote the forename Collins in large, proudful script—it happened to be his own surname and perhaps was bestowed upon this live birth by grateful parents as an honorific to the physician's skills. Common folk like them didn't commonly fetch a doctor for a routine birth. But if Collins Monroe Gann had a benefactor namesake, he also shared a middle name with a young cousin, perhaps a favorite of his mother's, a son of the brother nearest her own age. The families had for a time lived close to each other. At the very least, the parents liked the name well enough to bestow it upon their newborn and see it written into the doctor's report. But in the fated year that began the untimely descent of mother and son to that from which it is said we all are fashioned, this last-born child of hers, and theirs, became his own distinct small self.

For with the official state record, we see into the heart of the babe's existence. It is from the middle name "Monroe" that the call name "Roy" is laid bare. It coddles and soothes. It delights. It rolls playfully off the tongue. It voices affection from speaker to spoken-to. Can't you just hear how it was cooed in baby-talk?—from the distinguished Collins Monroe, to Monroe-y, to 'Roey, to the finality of Roy. And it was this bespoken diminutive for the orphaned babe, whose brief time was perhaps not recorded until after his passing, until after he was simply and most affectionately and only thought of as Roy, that endures as the signifier of a tender family bond, sealed by name and pencil in his father's rough script, on a water- and ink-stained page torn from a Bible, that was nearly lost downstream from there to here. ■

1. Copyright is held by the author. She is one of “The Dooleys, the Ganns, and the Damn Morelands” and can be reached at bakermail@windstream.net.
2. The article discusses the family of Marion Francis “Frank” Gann, b. 10 May 1859 in Sebastian Co., AR, and Mary Frances (Dooley) Gann, b. 11 Apr. 1863 in Dallas Co., MO. The couple married on 26 June 1881 in Denton Co., TX.
3. Stories told to successive generations indicate the family lost most of their possessions and nearly their lives.
4. Names and birthdates of the parents and children are written as a family record on Bible pages with a pre-printed heading *Scripture Memoranda*; places and death dates are not included. The birthdate of the first grandchild is also recorded. By comparison to other existing documents, the handwriting is that of M.F. “Frank” Gann, husband and father. The original Bible pages are privately held; copies belong to the author.
5. The family’s moves can be traced through censuses and other federal and state records created by various family members in their lifetimes. Known residence 1881–1883 is Denton Co., TX; 1885, Denton Co., TX, Tax Rolls; 1885, Wise Co., TX; 1887, Honey Grove, Fannin Co., TX; 1895, Fannin Co., TX Tax Rolls; 1900, Fannin Co., E.D. 74, Justice Pct. 5, north of the T&P Ry., excluding city of Honey Grove (see <http://www.us-census.org/states/texas/teams/Fannin1900-T623-1633.htm> for locations of the enumeration districts); 1901, Direct, Lamar Co., TX; July 1903, Monkstown, Fannin Co., TX. By December 1903, Indian Territory [now OK]; 1907, Wapanucka, I.T. [now Johnston Co., OK], 1910, Brogdon, Johnston Co., OK; 1920, and after, Atoka Co., OK.
6. Mary Frances (Dooley) Gann’s death date, 12 December 1903, is recorded in Record Group 123, NARA Publication M1104, Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906–1909, Roll 316, application of Marion F. Gann, No. 41112. Her burial was said to be at the edge of a freshly plowed field near Wapanucka, OK.
7. “Late maternal death” is defined as “the death of a woman from direct or indirect obstetric causes more than 42 days but less than one year after termination of a pregnancy.” See the World Health Organization’s definition used by the CDC in Figure 2, p. 2, image 6/20 at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_03/sr03_033.pdf. A medical consideration has been advanced that if the family also lost most of their provisions in the swamped wagon and had limited means to replace them, then undernutrition may have played a part in further compromising an already struggling immune system.
8. Lying in” is a euphemism for labor and delivery; see <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/lying-in>. The family record shows Mary Frances gave birth to 14 children over 12 pregnancies, there being two sets of twins.
9. Roy’s death date was recorded in a subsequent Bible owned by M.F. Gann that passed to Susie (Gann) Walden and was later acquired in the 1960s by Elva Joy (Gann) Walker. Transcriptions were made in 1996 and provided to the author. The Bible’s current whereabouts is unknown. Death certificates do not exist for Mary Frances and Roy.
10. Married siblings Dicie (Gann) Wallis, Alfred Jefferson “Jeff” Gann, and Mary Elizabeth “Mollie” (Gann) Bailey.
11. Children George Thomas “Tom,” Martha, Laura Jane, William Andrew “Bill,” and Susan “Susie” Gann. Susie is the author’s grandmother.
12. Roy is likely buried somewhere in the vicinity of Wapanucka, OK.
13. See https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Texas_Vital_Records.
14. Fannin County, Texas, *Report of Birth to County Clerk*, for Collins Monroe Gann, 1903, in Department of State Health Services, *Texas, Birth Certificates, 1903–1932*, birth certificate no. 56993; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 1 November 2015).
15. The family Bible record lists several children lost at birth or shortly afterwards, possibly indicating a maternal tendency of difficult labors and deliveries. Dr. Tip Martin Collins was in the first graduating class from Fort Worth University, Medical Department, in 1895. He appears in *The Standard Medical Directory of North America, 1902* (Chicago: Engelhard & Co.), p. 507; Google Books (<http://books.google.com>: accessed 2 Nov 2015). The *Directory* states the 1902 population of Monkstown was 172. According to Collins’ death certificate on *FamilySearch* and information on *Find-A-Grave*, Collins was born at Tigertown, Lamar Co., TX, and would have been about 34 years old at the time of the delivery of baby Collins Monroe “Roy” Gann.
16. The family was of limited means and likely would have foregone medical intervention if not necessary.
17. 1900 U.S. census, Fannin County, TX, population schedule, Justice Precinct 6, enumeration district (ED) 78, sheet 11-B, dwelling 212, family 214, Robert M[onroe] Dooley, age 10, in household of James T. Dooley; image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 3 November 2015); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1634. The Frank Gann family is found on sheet 9-B, dwelling 160, family 160.

Charles Gann
7305 S 231st E Ave
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

TO:

The Gann Gazette

Published: February, May, August, November by
The Gann Historical Society & Library, Inc.

Editor: Rex Daniel Gann,
Email copy to: editorganngazette@knology.com

Copy Editor, Graphics, & Layout:
Jean A. Harris, Email: meanjeangraphics@gmail.com

Printer: Low Printing, Independence, Missouri

Board of Directors: For Board members' postal or
email addresses, please contact Cathie Schoppenhorst.

Officers: President: David M. Gann
Vice President: David F. Gann
Secretary: Mary K. Gann Bohannan
Treasurer: Phillip Morris

Directors: *Registry:* Tom McCabe
Research: William R. Gann
Special Projects: Joy Gann Brown & Colleen Greene
Conference: Charlie Gann
Membership: Cathie Schoppenhorst
Editor Gazette: Rex Daniel Gann
Publicity: Diane Goloby

Neither the editor nor the Gann Historical Society and Library assume responsibility for opinions stated nor the accuracy of information presented by contributors to this publication.

Photo credits and image sources for this issue were provided by David M. Gann and Jean Harris.

GHS&L Membership

For new membership, renewal, or a free brochure:

Cathie Schoppenhorst

Phone: (636) 359-6175

17958 State Hwy 47

Marthasville, MO 63357-2860

Email: cschoppenhorst@yahoo.com

Membership in GHS&L runs July 1st to June 30th.
\$25 per year for an individual or library; \$35 per year year for a contributing or family membership (all members of an immediate family at one address).
Membership is open to researchers, family historians, librarians, archivists, professional genealogists, or anyone associated with the field of genealogy and family history.