

Nancy McHaley Carter b. 10-15-1843 East Tennessee, d. 6-7-1923 Collin County, Texas.

John Atkins Carter (Nancy's brother) b. 6-28-1850 Murray County, Georgia (?), d. 2-7-1929, Texas.

Jones Carter and Salitha Rogers Carter (Nancy and John's parents).

*Submitted by Rynell S. Novak  
1233 Woodland Ave., NE, No. 4, Atlanta, GA 30324*

### The James Edmondson Family

James Edmondson was born Jan. 4, 1798 in Virginia. He came to Georgia as a young man and owned land in Murray County as early as 1833. His wife, Rebecca, b. 1804, is listed in the 1850 Murray Co. census as being born in Georgia.

Their children were: John L.; Susan; Sarah; Harriet; Sallie; Virginia; Georgia; Thomas Polk (died in the Civil War) and William.

Murray County was established in 1832 and in the years which followed James Edmondson became involved in a leadership dispute with Capt. W.N. Bishop. According to reports of the time, the lines between Bishop and Edmondson were firmly drawn and there was often blood shed. In the first county election, Bishop was elected representative 'midst charges of fraud. James Edmondson was elected in 1849.

James Edmondson was a large and prosperous landowner. He owned farms in May Hill, near Spring Place, and also in Jasper, Tenn., each one containing several thousand acres and 35-40 slaves. At one time he owned the two-story brick house of Cherokee Chief Joseph Vann. The house, built in 1804, was one of the most elegant houses in the territory. It was vacated by the Vanns in 1834 when the Indians were removed to Oklahoma. In 1863, fearing the invasion of the Union Army, Edmondson sold the Vann House and lands and moved his family to Terrell County, Georgia, near the town of Dawson. The family stayed there until the end of the war. Events in the life of the Edmondsons, before and after the Civil War, are related in a book, *My Life and Travels*, written by Levi Branham, a slave on the Edmondson plantations. The Vann House is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Georgia State Park site.

John Leonidas Edmondson was born Feb. 15, 1826, possibly in Murray County. On Jan. 4, 1849 he married Sarah Buchannon.

The second wife of John Edmondson was Catherine Kate Isabelle Selleck. Kate was born Aug. 31, 1837 in Augusta, Ga., the daughter of Frederick and Sarah Ann Morris Selleck. Her grandfather descended from the Morris family of New York and was a cousin of Lewis Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence. She married John Edmondson on Nov. 2, 1855. Their children were: Sallie, James, Rebecca, John L., Nettie, and Annie (died in infancy).

Catherine Kate Edmondson died of smallpox on May 23, 1866 in Macon, Ga., and John Edmondson married her sister, Esther Mary Selleck, on Sept. 1, 1867. Esther Mary was born in Augusta, Ga., on June 25, 1839. Their children

were: Kate, Maude, Eula, Selleck, Mary Morris, Samuel Carter and Virginia.

John Edmondson was an extensive landowner and influential community leader. In an article in a special edition of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Dec. 22, 1893, he was called "The King of Holly Creek" and was characterized as "strong in his friendships, bitter in his hates, he has friends who would die for him, and enemies who would slay him if they had the grit . . . honest in his dealings and his friendships, outspoken in his ways and a man of weight, no matter where placed."

The death of John J. Edmondson occurred Nov. 8, 1901 at Spring Place. His wife, Esther Mary, died Nov. 4, 1926.

*Submitted by Judy Kreuger, Vermillion, S.D.*

### The John Henry Elrod Family

John Henry Elrod was born to Thomas Richard and Mary Cagle Elrod, March 3, 1874 in Ballground, Murray County.

He met and married Iowa Gordon in 1901. John Elrod owned a farm on Holly Creek road and had one of the finest apple orchards in North Georgia. He raised every variety and sold apples everywhere.

John and Mr. Louis Huff started the first Talc Mine on Fort Mt. They worked for the Farrars.

Iowa's father W.C.D. Gordon served in the Civil War and was captured prisoner by the North. He also served as justice of peace in Murray County.

John and Iowa had five boys, including one who died at birth.

Lee G. Elrod b. Aug. 11, 1904, m. Mildred Vickery; they have six children: Betty Lofty, Phillip Elrod, Bob Elrod, Lorraine Bromblett, Jimmie Lee Pritchett, Lee Elrod, Jr.

Emmitt W. Elrod b. Mar. 23, 1906, m. Easter Anderson; they have one son, Don Elrod.

Claude E. Elrod b. June 12, 1908, m. Hester Gordon; they have four children: Eugene Elrod, Mack Elrod, Billy Elrod and Barbara Ann Hamby.

John P. Elrod (J.P.) b. June 18, 1910, m. Tommie Mae Green; they have two children: Yanett Hackney and Retha Thomason.

John H. Elrod died 1965; Iowa G. Elrod died 1967. They are buried at Holly Creek Cemetery.

*Submitted by Retha Thomason, Chatsworth, Ga.*

### The Thomas Elrod Family

Most of the Elrods in Murray County today can trace their ancestry to Thomas Elrod (1823-1896) and his wife Elizabeth Couch Elrod (1828-1901). Thomas is thought to be the son of Jeremiah Elrod, an early settler of Murray County, having moved here from South Carolina in the early 1840's. Elizabeth was probably the daughter of William and Catherine (Betsy?) Couch. Married