

Bible Records

The Rourk-Griffin Bible

*Contributed by Brent D. B. Rourk**

ORIGINS:

The following data were transcribed from the beautifully decorated family pages of a bible published in Richmond, Virginia, by B. F. Johnson and Company, 1882, and recently donated to the contributor by his aunt, Lillian Rourk. The latter's grandmother, Christina Dorothy Griffin Rourk, is the matriarch named on those family pages. Judging from the differences in the handwriting styles, several people recorded the information. The bible is in less-than-average condition for its age, and the multi-colored front matter shows considerable wear.

According to family tradition, Christina was born in the East Providence area of Orangeburg, South Carolina. She was a daughter of Anie Griffin, a farmer, and his wife, Lutitia—and the granddaughter of Joseph Griffin, a Revolutionary soldier. James Irvin Rourk, her husband, was born in that same county in 1837. He and three of his brothers fought in the Confederacy. While on furlough in Orangeburg, recuperating from injuries, he met and married Christina. Little is proved as to their ancestors or siblings, however, because of the destruction of the county's land and court records during the Union Army's occupation of Orangeburg in February 1865. Christina and James are buried in the Antioch Baptist Churchyard Cemetery, near Elloree, South Carolina.

PRESENTATION PAGES:

Presented to Mrs. Jas. I. Rourk, by Jas. I. Rourk, Oct 20th 1884.

This is to certify That Miss Christena D. Griffin of Orangeburg County and Mr. J. I. Rourk of Orangeburg County were by me united together in Holy Matrimony on the 9th day of Aug in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and 63. In Presence of [blank]. [No minister's signature appears.]

*139 South Hoover Avenue, Louisville, CO 80027. Mr. Rourk has submitted to the Bible Records Collection of the National Genealogical Society Library in Arlington, Va., full-color photocopies of the pages that contain the above data. For other personal information on this family, please contact Mr. Rourk directly.

MARRIAGES:

Jas. I. Rourk and Miss Christina D. Griffin, were married 9th August 1863.
Mr. T. T. Rourk and Miss Gussie Walling were married 12th day of January 1905.

BIRTHS:

Jas. Benjamin Rourk, born 22nd Oct 1865.
Samuel A. Rourk, born 26 Aprl, 1867.
William A. Rourk, born 19 Dec. 1870.
Elizabeth L. Rourk, born 31 Oct. 1872.
Florence C. Rourk, born 24 Mar. 1875.
Son Rourk, born 9 May 1877.
Carroll F. Rourk, born 7 June 1879.
Thomas T. Rourk, born 24 April 1882.
John H. Rourk, born 10 June 1884.
D. Cultino Rourk, born June 1864 [sic].
J. I. Rourk was born Oct 16th 1837
Christina D. Rourk born 13th March 1842
Lillie Pearl Born June 25 1895? [page torn]
Florence Victorie Born Dec 20- 1897
Gussie Elizabeth born April 23 1889. [The surname Walling is added in a different hand.]

DEATHS:

D. Cultino Rourk, died June 1864.
Son Rourk, died 22 July 1878.
Carroll F. Rourk, died Sep. 4, 1884.
Florence C. Griffin Died Feb 7 1898
Florence V. Griffin Died Mar. 19- 1898
James I. Rourk Died June 20th 1918
Harrel T.[?] Rourk Died Jan 6, 1906.
Edith Florence Rourk Died July 4 1922
Baby Rourk boy Died March 23^d 1935
Christina D. Rourk Died Jan 17th 1936
Angie May Heaitley [?] Died Nov 28th 1935

The Last Civil War Widow's Pension?

In May 1996, the state of Alabama approved an application for what is believed to be the last-possible Civil War pension. The recipient, Mrs. Alberta Martin of Elba, Alabama, had been a twenty-one-year-old widow and mother when she married the eighty-one-year-old William Jasper Martin, a veteran of Company K, Fourth Alabama Infantry. She subsequently bore him one son, who is believed to be the only "real" son of a Confederate veteran still alive today.

—Adam Nossiter, *N.Y. Times* News Service release,
published *Tuscaloosa [Ala.] News*, 7 October 1996, p. 6a