Mamie Ella (aka Mary E.) Cost

(daughter of Sgt. William Flavius Cost) (aka; Mary E. Mast in 1880 Lauderdale County, AL Census)

..." There are two items recorded on this same 1900 U. S. Census that raises some questions in my mind. I backtrack to my concern of not finding any records of William and Malinda having children. Listed on this 1900 U. S. Census are two columns. One is headed as "Mother of how many children." Marked in that column on Malinda's line is "3". The second heading is "Number of these children living." Marked in that column on Malinda's line is "1". (Ref: www.ancestry.com) The haunting thoughts that I now have are: First of all, did William and Malinda have children or not? Second, if they did have "3" children and two of them died, why are these records not found after extensive research?" ...

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-

<u>viewer/collection/1030/tree/74981957/person/44302847692/media/d6f24885-9f54-45a7-a964-daba582b9446?</u> phsrc=Ntt75&usePUBJs=true

Above are the words I ended my story about William Flavius Cost with on April 11, 2008. I thought I would never be able to find anything about William and Malinda's children; if they had any. I was determined to find out!

After many years researching, I discovered, after they moved from Virginia to Florence, Alabama around 1869, they indeed had a child, a daughter. They named her "Mary E. Cost". She was born November 12th, 1872. (The date of November 12th is also MY birthdate)

At this time, her father William was thirty-five years old and her mother Malinda, was thirty-one years of age. (On the 1880 census, William, Malinda and Mary's last names are in-correctly spelled as "Mast".

William and Malinda's only child, Mamie Ella (aka Mary E.) Cost's life's story begins.

U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880 for William F. Cost Lauderdale County, Alabama, June 4th & 5th, 1880

(W. W. Peerson, Enumerator; District No. 144)

Township - 2 Range - 12

[line #4 was for "William Cost"]

Name Mary E. Mast

Age 8

Birth Date Abt 1872 Birthplace Alabama

Home in 1880 Lauderdale, Alabama, USA

Dwelling Number 127
Race White
Gender Female

Relation to Head of House Daughter
Marital Status Single

Father's Name William F. Mast

Father's Birthplace Virginia
Mother's Name M. E. Mast
Mother's Birthplace Virginia
Occupation At School

William F. Mast

Household Members
M. E. Mast

Mary E. Mast

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

When her father William died that Monday evening on the 23rd of May, 1881 of a heart attack, Mary E. Cost was only eight years old. She was a young school girl, most likely in the second grade. Her mother was forty years old and now, a widow.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302848897/facts

Nothing has been recorded about her until March 26, 1884 when her mother, Malinda remarries. Malinda, now forty-three years old, married a forty-year-old recent widower by the name of Robert Emmett Coburn, Sr. He was a Sergeant in Company F, of the 9th & 11th Alabama Cavalry; serving with the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. Robert's previous wife's name was, Frances "Fannie" Sherrod, who died at the young age of thirty-eight in 1883; possibly during child birth of a son.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44303281032/facts

I found no records of a "Mary E. Cost" during the year of 1890 in Florence. However, I found a marriage record of a "Mamie E. Cost" marring a man named "Harry C. Parks" on November the 14th, 1891; in Lauderdale County. Mamie is now nineteen years of age. Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

Regarding her marriage of Harry C. Parks, at this writing, I have not found any family records about him. Nor, have I found any other records of Mamie during the next four years, until she turns twenty-three years of age. Then, I find another marriage record of Mamie getting married a second time. On April 15th 1896, she married a thirty-seven-year-old man named, John Scott Falls. His residence is listed as living in "Hardin, Tennessee', but they were married in Florence, Alabama.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44515202632/facts

John Scott Fall's occupation on the 1900 US Census, is listed as being a "RR Stu Agent". His father is listed as being from Ireland and his mother being from Tennessee. He is listed as living in "Civil District 11, Hardeman, Tennessee" and owning his own home. Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44515202632/facts

Mamie and John are now recorded as:

"1900 Residence

Jun 1900 • Civil District 11, Hardeman, Tennessee, USA

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife "Mary E. Cost" lost name is now found! She is listed as "wife" to "John H. Falls" on the "12th US Census, Civil District Number 11" for Middleton, Hardeman County, Tennessee".

1 Source - (1900 US Census)

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

Sometimes between 1896, when Mamie and her husband John S. Falls, Sr. were married in Florence, Alabama, and April of 1899, they moved to Middleton, Hardeman County, Tennessee. There, they began to build a new life for themselves. As mentioned above, John worked for the "RR" (railroad); most likely, it was the "Memphis and Charleston Railroad"; which eventually merged into the Southern Railway.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44515202632/facts

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memphis_and_Charleston_Railroad

About three years after they married in 1896, Mamie (age 26) gave birth to the first of her four children. She gave birth to a girl named, Ruth Elizabeth Falls. Ruth was born April 10th, 1899. Ruth later married a man named Leonard Edward Beard (1896-1967). They had a daughter, named Betty Jane Beard, born in 1930, and another daughter who was still-born in 1942. Ruth died on November 4th, 1987 in Shelby County, Tennessee. Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995759/facts

Two years later, Mamie (age 28/29) gave birth to her second child, a boy, her only son. He was named after his father. His name was John Scott Falls, Jr. and he was born December 9th, 1901. He married a girl named Martha Douglas Cole (1904-1980). Together, they had one daughter who was named Cornelia Cole Falls (1929-1997). Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/facts

[NOTE: More about the death of Mamie & John's son will be in a story at the end.]

When Mamie was thirty-five years old, in 1905, she gave birth to her third child; a girl named, Mamie Sue Falls. She was born on October 5th, 1905. Mamie Sue Falls later married a man named, Albert Newton Griffin (1905-1945). Together, they had a girl named Katherine Ann Griffin (born-1931); a son named John Horace Griffin (1932-1956) and a daughter named Jessica Elizabeth Griffin (1937-1946). Mamie Sue Falls died in Mecklenburg, North Carolina in July, 1969.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995622/facts

In the fall of 1907, Mamie gave birth to her last child. On August 1st, 1907 a daughter was born. She was named, Kathryn Falls. Kathryn later married a man named, Frank Bullock Coburn (1907-1974). Together, they had a daughter named Jane Falls Coburn (born 1941) who married a man named, Rev. Jerry Joe McManus (1933-1991).

Kathryn had a second daughter named Frances Coburn (1945-2014), who married a man named, Samuel Swan McReynolds (born in 1941). Kathryn Falls died May 20th, 1992 in Dallas, Texas.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995623/facts

The next records found about Mamie, John and her four children is in 1910, when they all are listed as living in Middleton, Hardeman County, Tennessee. At this time, Mamie is listed as being thirty-six years old and John is listed as fifty-one years old. The children are listed as being; Ruth, eleven years; John S. Jr., eight years; Mamie Sue, five years and Kathryn, two years.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

The year of 1917 was, what I think, the 2nd saddest times of Mamie's life; the 1st being when her father, William F. Cost, died of a heart attack at the age of forty-four. On Wednesday, the 22nd day of August, 1917, her mother, Malinda Elizabeth (Potterfield) Cost Coburn, died; at the age of seventy-six.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302848897/facts

[A Personal Note:

It is interesting to me, of all of the research I have compiled about the "Sgt. William F. Cost" family, Malinda is **not** buried beside her second husband Robert Emmett Coburn.

I reflect as to the following reasons she was not buried with him;

- a. She died two years before Robert died and he had no plot for her to be buried in.
- b. She might have told Robert that she wanted to be buried beside William if she died before him (Robert).
- c. Her only child, Mamie (Ella Cost) Falls wanted her mother to be buried beside her father, William F. Cost.

The reason she **is** buried where she now rests; is only known to history. It is my personal belief that before she died, Malinda "made it her wishes "to her only child to be buried beside her first husband, William.

I feel there was great love and compassion between Malinda and William. She was twenty-seven and William was thirty-one when they married in Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia; at a hotel.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/74981957/person/44302847692/media/517c800c-285a-46f0-ab34-bca0966a8aee? phsrc=Daq2&usePUBJs=true

I believe they loved each other so deeply that she asked her daughter, Mamie Ella (Cost) Falls, to have her buried beside William. And so, it was.]

The next records found about Mamie, John and two of her children, Mamie Sue and Kathryn are listed in the 1920 US Census. During this time period, they all are listed as living on College Street, Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee. Mamie (47 years) is listed as a housekeeper and John (61 years) is listed as a "banker". (The two other children, Ruth Elizabeth and John S. Jr., have left the household.)

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

In the year of 1929, "Mamie Falls" is listed in the "Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1929" as living at "71 Faron Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, USA".

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

Yet, another one of life's great tragedies befalls upon Mamie, now fifty-four years old, her husband John Scott Falls, Sr. (a bank President) died on May 12th, 1927 at the age of sixty-nine of heart disease. (This was the 3rd saddest times in her life.) They were living in Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee at that time.

Ref: <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2376/33113_257902-01542/1226547?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44515202632/facts/citation/960108822743/edit/record

Mamie is now fifty-eight years old and her trials and sorrowful tribulations continue to haunt her to no end! Now, the 4th saddest time in her life is upon her!

It had only been three years and seven months after her beloved husband, John Scott Falls, Sr. died. Now, her only son John Scott Falls, Jr., who started working for the Arlington Bank and Trust in Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee in 1918, is dead! He had been working there for twelve years at the time of his death. He was twenty-nine years old at his death. His wife, Martha Douglas (Cole) Falls was only twenty-six years old. His daughter, Cornelia Cole Falls, was only one and one-half years old. Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/facts

In the year of 1933, a record is found of Mamie Ella Falls in the "Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1933". She is listed as "(Falls), Mamie E (wid John S) h 1058 Peabody av apt 10"

Ref:

 $\underline{https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2469/13318484/1116847083?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts/citation/960108821762/edit/record$

In the US Census for the year of 1940 and taken on April 12th, 1940, I find some interesting items listed about Mamie and family. She is now listed as being sixty-seven years old and a marital status of being "Widowed". She is noted to have "Highest Grade Completed - College, 3rd year". This is the first time I have found this information about Mamie. BUT, as a contradictory statement, the Census also states; "Attended School or College –No"! Who knows?

The house she is living in during this time is in Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee. She is listed as being a "Mother-in-law" to the head of the house. The other household members are listed as; Leonard Beard, her son-in-law; Ruth (Cost) Beard, her daughter; Betty Jane Beard, her grand-daughter; and "Rebecca Bazemore" and "M Eunice Howard", other tenants of the house; I think.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts

Mamie Ella (Cost) Falls is getting older now. Four years, ten months and a few days since the 1940 US Census was taken, her time is drawing near. While she was living with her daughter and son-in-law in Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee, her death occurred at eight-thirty AM on Friday the 2nd day of February in 1945.

The fact that she was born on a Monday the 12th of November in 1872, Mamie Ella Cost was seventy-two years, two months and two days old when she passed into history. Her death was listed as "cerebral hemorrhage".

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2376/33113_258116-01413/729083?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/44302926857/facts/citation/960108824293/edit/record



Mammie Ella (Cost)Falls
Birth
12 Nov 1872
Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, USA
Death
2 Feb 1945 (aged 72)
Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee, USA
Burial
Arlington Cemetery
Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee, USA
Memorial ID
105956777

Ref: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105956777

Mamie Ella Cost lived a life of much sadness and many sorrowful times. As I previously mentioned, she was the only child of William F. Cost and Malinda Elizabeth Potterfield. Mamie gave birth to only one son; who was named after his father, John Scott Falls, Sr.

As I mentioned in Mamie's life's story composed above, I will now give the details of her son, John Scott falls, Jr.'s life and troubled, untimely and dramatic death at the age of twenty-nine years of age.

John S. Falls, Jr was three years old when The Arlington Bank and Trust Company opened in Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee, in 1905. At that time, John Jr. and his family were living in Middleton, Hardeman County, Tennessee; which was about sixty miles away.

At some time period between 1910 (when John, Jr. was nine years old) he lived in Middleton, Tennessee; until 1918 when his family moved to Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee. He was then about seventeen years old. John, Jr. starts to work at the Arlington Bank and Trust in town.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/facts

While working at the bank and living in Arlington, he met and married a girl named, Martha Douglas Cole. She was the daughter of Roscoe Douglas Cole, Sr. and Cornelia Cooper Battle.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028997211/facts

At best, the records seem to indicate they were married about the 22nd of June, 1926. John, Jr. was about twenty-four years old and Martha was about twenty-one at that time.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/facts

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028997211/facts

[**NOTE:** At this point, I am only trying to piece together some events during certain periods of time in my story of their lives.]

Since John, Jr. started working at The Arlington Bank and Trust Company in 1918, it is my belief that his father worked there as a Bank Treasurer and later as the Bank President. John Scott Falls, Sr., then Bank President, died May 12th, 1927. John, Jr. was twenty-five then and had been a bank employee for about eight years.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/facts

Around two years after John, Jr.'s father died, he and his wife Martha Douglas Cole have a child. She was named, Cornelia Cole Falls and was born June 5th, 1929. John, Jr. was twenty-seven years old and Martha was twenty-four.

Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/facts Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/74981957/person/330028997211/facts

During the 1920's, money was tight for many people; especially a young couple with a small infant child. John, Jr.'s father had passed two years before. Therefore, he was not there to financially help them out. Also, John, Jr., I am sure, did not make much money as a bank teller.

So "IT" happens! Four months after their child is born and money is hard to come by; the "The Great Depression"; "Black Tuesday" happens on Tuesday, October 29th, 1929!

... "Wall Street investors traded some 16 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange in a single day. Billions of dollars were lost, wiping out thousands of investors. In the aftermath of Black Tuesday, America and the rest of the industrialized world spiraled downward into the Great Depression (1929-39), the deepest and longest-lasting economic downturn in the history of the Western industrialized world up to that time. "... Ref: https://www.history.com/topics/1929-stock-market-crash

At this point in the lifetime of John Scott falls, Jr., I am only guessing as to what happens next to him. Most likely, as a bank cashier, he had a very small amount of money saved in the bank; as there was NO checking accounts during that time. What little money he and his family had, most likely was lost during the "Depression".

Time now moves from October of 1929, a year later, to the Tuesday, December the 9th of 1930. John, Jr. is now twenty-nine years old; the last year of his life! It is during this

elapsed time that, "I BELIEVE" John has been embezzling money from the bank he has been working for. So much so, that on the next day, Wednesday, December 30th, 1930, The Arlington Bank and Trust Company is closed in order for Mr. J. F. Hunt, Tennessee State Bank Examiner to examine the records.

Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9155454/john_h_falls/?xid=637

Knowing the Tennessee State Bank Examiner was in the bank on Wednesday, December 10th, 1930 and that the said Examiner had asked to meet with him (John, Jr.) the next afternoon on Thursday, December 11th, 1930, John, Jr. was fueled with great fear, anxiety, shame, remorse and an overall feeling of being convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to prison! He knew his young wife and six-month-old daughter would be ridiculed by everyone. Therefore, he decided the final act that he would ever make.

The morning of December the 11th, John, Jr. got into his car and started driving around the town of Arlington, Tennessee. It is highly probable that he was in a "dazed" state of mind and he really didn't have any notion of where he was going. It was reported that a relative had seen him driving around and they decided to follow him; because his wife was worried about him (for some unknown reason) before he left the house.

The relative who followed him, John Douglas, was reported to have follow him about two miles from Arlington (Tennessee). Mr. Douglas also stated later, that as he approached Falls' car and was within about 100 yards of it, Falls' car suddenly stopped. Douglas described that when he walked to Falls' car, he (Falls) was slumped over; a pistol was lying on the floor and he had a bullet wound in his head. (This was fifteen minutes before John, Jr. was to meet with the Bank Examiner.)

Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9155372/corsicana_daily_sun/?xid=637

That same day and the days to come, would reflect the amount of money that John, Jr. had taken from The Arlington Bank and Trust company. In a newspaper article, it stated; "A statement of the bank, published last May, 19 showed resources of \$162. 174.22 and deposits of \$123.500.75."

Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9155454/john h falls/?xid=637

As the bank investigation continued, on December the 17th, it was discovered that John, Jr. had life insurance policies totaling \$35,000.00 on himself. Could this be the reason he decided to end his own life. It all seems very possible.

However, on Thursday, the 18th of December, 1930, on page-12, the Courier-Journal in Louisville, Kentucky reported, "Payment on insurance policies for \$35,000.00 on the life John Falls, bank cashier, was stopped by court order today on allegations that a shortage of at least \$15,000.00 had been discovered in the accounts the Arlington, Tenn., Bank and Trust Co., of Arlington, Tenn., of which Falls for several years was the directing official."..."A sheriff's deputy - called Falls' death a suicide."

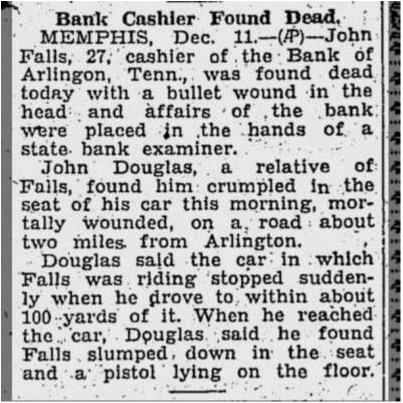
Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9155624/john h falls/?xid=637

"The Tennessean" of Nashville, Tennessee reported on December the 13^{th} , 1930, page 15 the following article: "Arlington bank in hands of a Receiver; Memphis, Dec. 12 - (AP)-

D. D. Robertson, state superintendent of banking, was named today as receiver for the Arlington Bank & Trust company of Arlington, Tenn.

The Arlington bank was placed in the hands of a state bank examiner yesterday for liquidation after its cashier, John Hugh (by mistake) Falls, was found dead in his automobile on a highway near Arlington yesterday of a bullet in his head and a pistol clutched in his hand."

Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/17780747/john scott falls jr bank cashier/?xid=637



Ref: https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/74981957/person/330028995760/media/84c75760-8f51-4544-a499-25ffd35a59f3

CASHIER ENDS LIFE.

Tennessee Bank Closes As Result Of Finding Of Body.

Arlington, Tenn., December 11—(AP)—John Falls, cashier of the Bank of Arlington, was found dead in an automobile near here today with a bullet wound in his head, and the bank was placed in charge of a State Bank Examiner. J. F. Hunt, examiner, took charge of the bank and said he would make an audit of its books. A statement of the bank, published last May 19, snowed resources of \$162,174.22 and deposits of \$123,500.75.

Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9155454/john h falls/?xid=637

CASHIER'S RISK POLICIES HALTED

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 17 (A)—Payment on insurance policies for \$35,-500 on the life of John Falls, bank cashier, was stopped by court order today on allegations that a shortage of at least \$15,000 had been discovered in the accounts of the Arlington, Tenn., Bank and Trust Co., of Arlington, Tenn., of which Falls for several years was the directing official.

Falls was found dead in his automobile, a bullet wound in his head, fifteen minutes before he was to have met a State Bank Examiner at Ar-

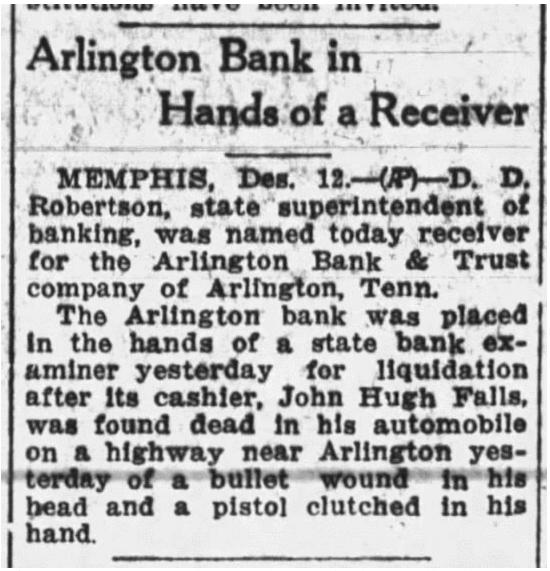
lington last Thursday.

A sheriff's deputy called Falls'

death suicide.

The order was issued in Chancery Court at the request of D. D. Robertson, State Superintendent of Banks, and receiver for the Arlington institution.

Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9155624/john h falls/?xid=637



Ref: https://www.newspapers.com/clip/17780747/john_scott_falls_jr_bank_cashier/?xid=637



Ref: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55579833

And so, the life of Mamie Ella (aka Mary E.) Cost's only son, John Scott Falls, Jr. has tragically ended. No more are her tears. No more does she weep. All that was; is now committed to history; only to be "re-born" again in the stories of their lives.

Composed & written this 2nd day of June, 2018 by andy bryant, Florence, Alabama