

## Nancy M. Oglesby Pledger Escoe

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In the spring of 2018, Washington County Genealogical Society received a query from Douglas Rutherford of Georgia, who was searching for the death date and burial site of his ancestor, Nancy M. Oglesby Pledger Escoe. Several members began to research to determine if we could find any evidence for her death and burial in Washington County, Texas. In the process, we also learned a good deal about Nancy and her family.

Mr. Rutherford knew that she was living with her eldest son on the 1880 Population Schedule in Washington County, and that she also appeared on the Defective, Delinquent, and Dependent Schedule of that same year. Nancy was enumerated as age 79, blind, deaf, and bedridden—totally dependent on her family for support. Washington County, TX property deeds support the fact that her son, Thomas J. Escoe, moved to Muscogee Indian Territory, Creek Nation (Oklahoma) about January 1887. Douglas suspects that Nancy Escoe mostly likely had died by that time, as she was infirm and elderly. He could not find any mention of her after 1880; it was unlikely that she would have lived to be included on the 1900 census when she would have been about 99 years of age.

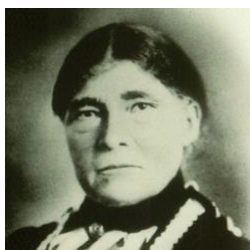
The 1869 Voter Registration List shows that Thomas Jefferson Escoe moved to Washington County, Texas about 1868. On November 11, 1869 he purchased 101 acres, from Abner and Julia Guyton Roberts. This land was part of the Joseph Harbor League on the waters of Kuykendall Creek, about 10 miles east of Brenham, TX.

The census records indicate that Nancy M. Oglesby was born in Georgia about 1801. I had a look at Ancestry family tree documents and records to see what else I could discover about her. She first married Johnson S. Pledger on July 6, 1820 in Elbert County, Georgia. Johnson Pledger died about 1825. They had one daughter together, Mary S. Pledger, who later married Joseph Green Dobson. On May 13, 1826 Nancy married John Escoe in Jasper County, Georgia. No children were born to this union. According to court records of Jasper County, Georgia, John Escoe filed for divorce stating that after about a year of marriage, Nancy began an illicit affair with Zachariah Estes. Zachariah and Nancy were charged for adultery for openly carrying on this affair, but the charges were later dismissed. The divorce petition specifically states that John Escoe married Nancy Oglesby, widow of Johnson S. Pledger. Nancy Oglesby and Zachariah Estes never married but they had seven illegitimate children. We know this because Zachariah created two trusts in Troup County, GA on December 15, 1847 for the benefit of these children. In these trusts, Zachariah acknowledges that he was their father.

Other court documents in Troup County, GA provide more details of the family because when Zachariah Estes died in 1855, the Escoe family had to sue the estate to enforce the terms of the trusts. The family was successful and won the court cases.

It is important to note that the children are NOT related to any Escoe family by blood. The children are actually Estes by blood, but retained the mother's married name, Escoe.

Nancy M. Oglesby and Zachariah Estes children were:



Thomas Jefferson Escoe, b. Jan 1829, Troup Co., GA. He died 13 Dec 1900 in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory and is buried in Grayson Cemetery, Summit County, OK. Before he came to Texas, Thomas served in the Confederate Army in Company F., GA 21st Infantry Regiment from July

of 1861. Thomas married Mary Mahalia Barheche. They came to Texas about 1866. He and his family are in the 1870 Washington County, Texas. But his mother, Nancy M. was not with him that year. In the 1880 Washington County, his wife, Mahalia's race is identified as "black", but in the Census of 1900, I.T. she is shown as ½ Creek Indian. They had at least 7 children.

Lindsay Johnson Escoe, b. 24 July 1830, Troup County, GA and died 12 Oct 1923 and is buried in Bracken Cemetery DeBerry, Panola County, Texas. He married three times: First to Rebecca B. Crowder, 23 Nov 1851, Troup Co., GA. They had 3 children: Georgia Ann, Mary Ann and William Marion. Rebecca d. in 1860. Second, Lindsay married Elizabeth Briggs. Apparently, Lindsay had his mother Nancy M. with him when he moved into Elizabeth's house in 1867, Panola County, Texas, as this fact is mentioned in a separation of property document in 1884, in Panola County. They had Thomas Jefferson, Alonzo (became a professor), Diadema, Charley, Sarah Jane, and Edward Carroll Escoe. Elizabeth d. in 1892 and Lindsay married third to Indiana Virginia Smart.



Clark Leonard Escoe, b. Dec 19, 1837, GA. Died in Woodville, Oklahoma in 1906. On the 1880 Washington Co., Texas census, He was 42 and single and marked as disabled living next door to his brother Thomas Jefferson Escoe in 1880. He was a farmer. Later, he married a much younger woman, Nancy Ann Ritchie in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas in 1887 (she was born on Feb 16, 1874-- a 37 year age difference). By 1900, he and Nancy Ritchie Escoe had 6 children and were living in Woodville, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory.

Rhoda Ann Escoe, b. 1838 GA. Married 13 July 1852, Troup Co., GA to Thomas Johns. Except for being named in the 1856 Troup County, GA lawsuit, no other information is currently available.



Nancy Ann Escoe, b. 22 June 1839 Troup Co. GA. Died 12 Nov 1928 and is buried in the Georgetown Cemetery, Pottsboro, Grayson County, Texas. She married Jefferson Alvin Henderson in 1856 in Troup County, Georgia. The couple had 11 children. They were living in Panola County, Texas on the 1860 Census and Nancy Ann's mother, Nancy M. Escoe, 58yrs., was living with them and keeping house.

Amanda "Mandy" Elizabeth Escoe, b. 3 Feb 1840, Troup Co., GA. She married Madison M. Bagwell in 1852. She died 10 Jan 1910 in Winston County, Alabama and is buried in New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery, Haleyville. She never lived in Texas.

Bartlett Escoe, b. 1836 in Troup Co., GA and died before 1856 since he was not listed as a party in the lawsuit.

A search of the 1880 Mortality Schedule for Washington County revealed a Nancy-no last name, b. 1806 GA who died in April of 1880. But she was married and keeping house and would not have been listed both on the population schedule and the mortality schedule of that year.

I checked the following courthouse records: Probate docket, Criminal docket, Civil Docket, Guardianship Docket, Birth and Marriage Records, Death Records (begin in 1903). Negative result except for four marriage records of Thomas Jefferson Escoe's children (which were forwarded to Douglas Rutherford):

W. T. Escoe m. Josephine Morris, Vol. 5, p. 434, Certif. # 3769 (no date shown; record would not display online. This couple is in Indian Territory, Oklahoma by 1890.

L. (Lettie) J. Escoe m. Wiley Evans, 13 August 1879, by John Felder Minister of the Gospel. This couple moved to Indian Territory.

C. T. Escoe m. Cornelia Block, 24 Dec 1879, Vol. 6, p. 448. By John Felder, Minister.

Laura Escoe m. Alex Evans, 20 Apr 1884, by Rev. W. H. Jackson, M. E. (? Not clear) Church. They moved to Indian Territory, OK.

I made an effort to research the ministers to see if they were associated with a particular church, which might have a record of Nancy's burial. Nothing found so far, with the exception that John Felder (Family # 74) and his family are included in Precinct 1, on the 1880 Washington County, census-the same precinct as Nancy M. and her son T. J. Escoe (Family #25). John Felder was 45 years old, black, and shown as a farmer and a preacher.

I checked on Findagrave and especially the cemeteries where her children were buried in other counties and in Oklahoma and found no record for Nancy. I examined the Washington County, Texas cemetery books, and also consulted a USGS map that shows some of the cemeteries that might have been close in proximity to the area of their land holdings. These cemeteries were searched: Burch Cemetery, 1 grave; Willingham, 19 graves, Coplyn Spring, 3 graves; Chappell Hill Community Cemetery, 260 graves; Chappell Hill Masonic Cemetery, 476; Harris Spring Church Cemetery, 204 graves; Morgan Family Cemetery, 3 marked graves (but suspected of having many undiscovered burials); and the most promising of all, the Whitfield, 47 graves ("This cemetery had a See: Block Cemetery" note)---one of the children of Thomas Jefferson

Escoe, C. T. Escoe married a Cornelia Block in 1879, Washington County. Negative results for Nancy M. Escoe.

I searched the Portal to Texas History online for a Brenham Banner Newspaper obituary or death notice; also the collection there for statewide papers-no luck.

It is possible that one of the county histories in Panola County or Grayson County, Texas, or in Oklahoma or Winston County, Alabama may have an article submitted by a descendant, that mentions what happened to Nancy. These have yet to be searched. Our Washington County, Texas history volumes do not reveal her final resting place.

I believe as Douglas does, that it is quite probable that Nancy is buried in Washington County; she either lies undiscovered or unmarked today in one of our cemeteries or is a lone grave on her family's former property. For now, her date of death and burial place remain a mystery.

If you are related to Nancy M. Escoe, or are interested to find out more go to [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) or [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). Many records of Nancy's family, photos and documents are waiting there to be seen. I would especially recommend Douglas Rutherford's well researched and sourced Dobson family tree on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). ( Search in Public Trees for Nancy M. Oglesby; 66 trees are currently there-choose the one that is called "Dobson" by DRCPA). Many of the other trees that include Nancy, will indicate that she died in 1880 in Washington County, Texas, but there is no documentation for those statements.

If anyone has knowledge of Nancy Oglesby Pledger Escoe's death and final resting place, please contact:

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Email: [Rutherfordcpa@yahoo.com](mailto:Rutherfordcpa@yahoo.com)

Or the Washington County Genealogy Society: [www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org](http://www.bluebonnetgenealogy.org)

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