

THE EARLY COCKRELLS IN MISSOURI

by

Monroe F. Cockrell

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January 24, 1961, Mr. Sardis W. Templeton, 1300 Oakmont Drive, Rossmore Leisure World, Walnut Creek, California, wrote me a long letter with several enclosures asking me many questions with respect to a book he was writing about Thomas Smith to be entitled "The Lone Captain: Pegleg Smith."

My 5-page reply of March 9, 1961, brought about much correspondence that cleared up many details for him.

The book came out in 1965. My gift copy bears this inscription, "With many thanks for helping me obtain material for the book."

The book says:

"The date Thomas Smith had his leg amputated is well fixed as the fall of 1827.

Indesperation, the surgery was done by James (Jim) Cockrell, an uncle of Francis Marion Cockrell, later a Senator from Missouri, and his brother Jeremiah Vardaman Cockrell, later a Congressman in Washington from the Abilene Texas District.

The story of this famed operation is based upon the undated and unsigned document in Bancroft Library at Berkeley, California.

Mention is made of the version written by Frederick (Fred) Cockrell, son of Jeremiah Vardaman Cockrell, calling it "a near duplicate of the paper in Bancroft Library." See pp. 73-74-75. - close details.

My interest was aroused. In response to my request Cousin Ellouise Cockrell (Mrs. J.M. Stevenson) of Abilene sent me a copy of the story as told by Frederick Cockrell, her father, being his recollection of the narration by his father Jeremiah Vardaman Cockrell, believed to have been written in the early 1930's.

Although the particulars differ, the substance is nearly the same when compared with the typescript at Bancroft Library.

Jeremiah Vardaman Cockrell b. May 7, 1832: died March 18, 1915

Frederick Cockrell, his son, b. June 10, 1855: died April 8, 1938

Each was 83 years old at death.

Thus the date of writing, if true, was fifteen years after the death of his father when Frederick himself was seventy-five years old.

How strange it is that Mr. Templeton turned up these two versions of such close kinship, and yet found so far apart.

Now turning to JAMES (Jim) COCKRELL:

Frank M. Cockrell, a son of Senator Cockrell, wrote me on Feb. 22, 1961: "James Cockrell (uncle of FM and JV Cockrell) was an early settler in Howard County, Mo.; was one of the 112 men and boys able to bear

arms who organized themselves into a military company which was stationed in Fort Hemstead during the War of 1812."

See History of Howard and Cooper Counties, Mo., pages 95-97.

" He was a private in Captain Marshall Cooper's company, April 1812, in the Upper Boone's Lick country; was at Fort Kinhead on Missouri River just above Booneville."

See Houck's History of Missouri, Volume 3, pages 115 - 137

In the 1830's Boone's Lick country was the area now composing the counties of Boone, Howard, Cooper and Saline.

Legend has it that sometime after the death of his first wife (date of place of death and burial unknown) James left his little daughter Elizabeth with friends or relatives and went out to the Rocky Mountains where he lived several years among the Indians. The date of his return and second marriage to Nancy Maria Stovall is not known.

Just exactly where James Cockrell was after his war service in 1812 is not known but certain it is that he was in Lafayette County, Mo., in 1819. This is indubitably proven by the record of his land entries on the original plat maps of the county which I searched out on a special trip in April 1966 to the county seat at Lexington. The plat maps show that the land entries of James, Joseph and Morgan Cockrell were fairly close together and from six to eight miles almost directly south of Lexington.

James also made a land entry in Lafayette County on November 20, 1827. His final entries were in 1831 and 1832.

Thus it appears that prior to this date James could have been back in California where he sawed off the leg of Thomas Smith in the (very early) fall of 1827 as described in above two widely separated documents.

" William Beattie married Rhoda White July 21, 1828. About seven years later they moved from Washington County, Virginia, and first stopped in Boone County and then came on to Lexington (Old Town) where the postoffice was called Lexington Hill. Here William and one of his six sons, Josiah, formed a partnership and opened the first store. They prospered for a time but Josiah managed so badly that the partnership was dissolved." From A.L. Maxwell, a long-time resident of Lexington, who culled it from an article written by his wife's mother.

The Beattie's also had a store at Lone Jack in adjoining Jackson County, Missouri, which was managed by Reuben B. Fulkerson and who kept the Account Book. Apparently there never was but the one.

Fortunately, this Account Book is still in existence. I saw it several years ago but had no interest in it at that time. It is owned by Miss Mary Adelia Boswell of Lone Jack who wrote me on November 10, 1965, as follows:

" Name of Account Book - Day Book.

First entry December 18, 1837: Last entry September 12, 1838.

James Cockrell's name appears December 19, 1837, a load of goods from Lexington, December 20, 1837. His name also appears January 1, 1838 - February 5 - March 31 - April 23 - June 2, 1838.

" In the winter of 1836, a Mr. Beattie built a storehouse, the first in Van Buren township where Lone Jack is located. This house was built of logs, a large roomy building The goods were brought into the house in the spring of 1837. Reuben B. Fulkerson, a brother-in-law of Senator Cockrell, was the first clerk or salesman. After Beattie had sold goods for three years, Jas. Findlay sold goods in the same house until about the year 1846; and others until near the opening up of the great rebellion." Quoted from page 335, Chapter XVIII, Van Buren Township in The History of Jackson County, Missouri, published at Kansas City, Mo., by Union Historical Company, Birdsall, Williams & Co., 1881. This was called to my attention by another friend, Robert J. Younger, Dayton, Ohio. Copy at Kansas City, Mo., Public Library. Card index 977.841 - H 67.

The main point is that there was a Beattie store in 1837 in Lone Jack that was run by Reuben B. Fulkerson.

Now then, these facts cannot be controverted:

James Cockrell in Lafayette County made his first land entry June 16, 1819 and his last on June 30, 1832. He hauled goods from Lexington to the Beattie store in Lone Jack on December 20, 1837. Thereafter his name appears several times in that Account Book - the last time on June 2, 1838. He never made a single land entry in adjoining Johnson County.

In my thinking, all the rest is surmise. James' other entries in that Account Book might or might not mean that he was still hauling goods from Lexington after December 1837, or that he was living somewhere near Lone Jack, and on and on.

If he was living in Johnson County after 1832 or even after 1837, supposedly to be near his brothers, it is exceedingly strange that he did not enter on Government Land because he could not help knowing that his brother Joseph had extensively bought beginning as early as June 1829 and that his brother Morgan had started as early as 1830.

In May 1961, my daughter Nancy failed to find any record within a ten-mile radius of Lone Jack. Mr. Lilburn A. Kingsbury, New Franklin, Mo., has a card index of every marked grave in the old cemeteries in Howard County. July 22, 1966, he wrote that there are a good many Cockerills at Glasgow but my files do not have the name Cockrell.

At this writing, I have never been able to find anyone who could offer any provable evidence about the date or place of death or burial of James Cockrell, his first wife and daughter Elizabeth, or his second wife.

Miss Mary Adelia Boswell
Lone Jack, Missouri

1142 Hinman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois
May 25, 1966

Rear Miss Boswell,

Rec'd Aug. 24, 1966

Since your letter of last November 10, 1965, I have been pegging away trying to solve the riddle of James Cockrell's place near Lone Jack as revealed by his dates in the Account Book owned by you.

I have made some progress but have to come back to you for some clarification of the meaning of his dates that you so generously sent me from the above Account Book.

Your answers after looking again in the Account Book will determine whether or not James Cockrell was hauling in goods for the store or buying things for his own account to take to his home. If he was hauling in goods for the store that would indicate that he was not living near Lone Jack but still living in Lafayette Caounty. On the other hand, if he bought things for himself on the various dates, it would indicate that he was living in or near Lone Jack.

I list below the dates and beg of you to look again in the Account Book and then place opposite these dates whatever is shown:

Dec. 19, 1837 Load of goods brought from Lexington as already written.
Dec. 20, 1837 1 pair Jeans. 4... \$3.00
Jan. 1, 1838 1 dress from Blackwater
Feb. 5, 1838 4 yds domestic; 1 Lady's basket; $1\frac{1}{2}$ needles; 2 tin cups
Mar. 31, 1838 2 yds check; dress hoop; 1 bar of iron; 1 bridle; 1 pants
Apr. 23, 1838 10 ^W Maddes; $\frac{1}{4}$ can alum
June 2, 1838 1 desk; 1 set plates
Please add any comments that come to you.

I have found that James Cockrell died in Johnson County November 28, 1843. When Nancy and I were at your house in 1961, you remember we did not find his name in any of several cemeteries we visited.

As heretofore stated, I shall send you a copy of my final paper. I think you will find it interesting although pretty short. I am now starting to see what I can find out about him in Johnson County altho I confess I have little to go on.

Thank you for your help and your contribution to my study.
Best regards to you all. Sincerely, MFC

Betsy is now living by herself in a trailer at 3219 Bristol, Kansas City, Mo.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY MISSOURI.

1938

SHOWING STATE AND COUNTY HIGHWAYS

1 2 3 4 5 Miles

JAMES COCKFELL'S
land entries

HUGH C. ROGERS
COUNTY ENGINEER

LEGEND

STATE HIGHWAYS-CONCRETE ...

STATE HIGHWAYS-GRAVEL ...

COUNTY ROADS Earth = Stone =

ROAD DISTRICT LINES

Sept. 12, 1966 - Again by
courtesy of John R. Wallace



T 51 N

T 50 N

T 49 N

T 48 N

JACKSON COUNTY

T 51 N

T 50 N

T 49 N

T 48 N

SALINE COUNTY

R 26 W

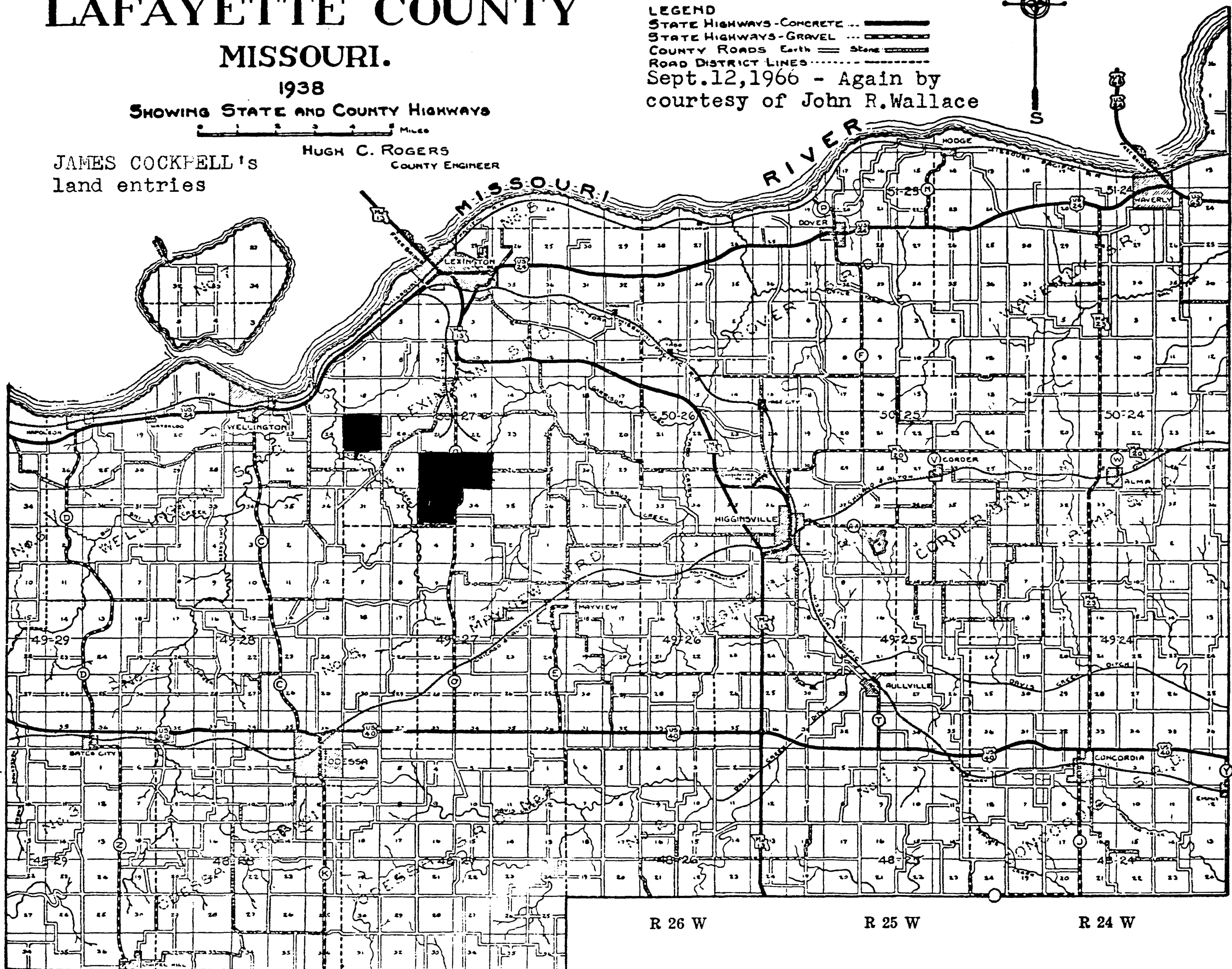
R 25 W

R 24 W

R 29 W

R 28 W

R 27 W JOHNSON COUNTY



JAMES COCKRELL - A summary:

It is a fact that there was a small store in Lone Jack, Missouri, owned by the Beattie's and run by Reuben B. Fulkerson.

That James from Lexington at least once hauled a load of goods to it - a distance of about 20-25 miles over dirt roads that were nothing more than winding wagon tracks which were im-passable during wet weather.

The Store account book at Lone Jack shows that James bought things there but only a half a dozen times and for a negligible amount.
shows

My attached section map that all of James' government land entries were concentrated about six or eight miles (maybe a mile less) due south of Lexington which was nearer Lexington by about one third of the distance between Lexington and Lone Jack.

In the 1820's - 1830's, Lexington, on the river, was reputed to have the best stores west of St. Louis. Thus there was no occasion for James to make the long round trip just to buy a few things at Lone Jack unless he happened to be hauling a load of goods there.

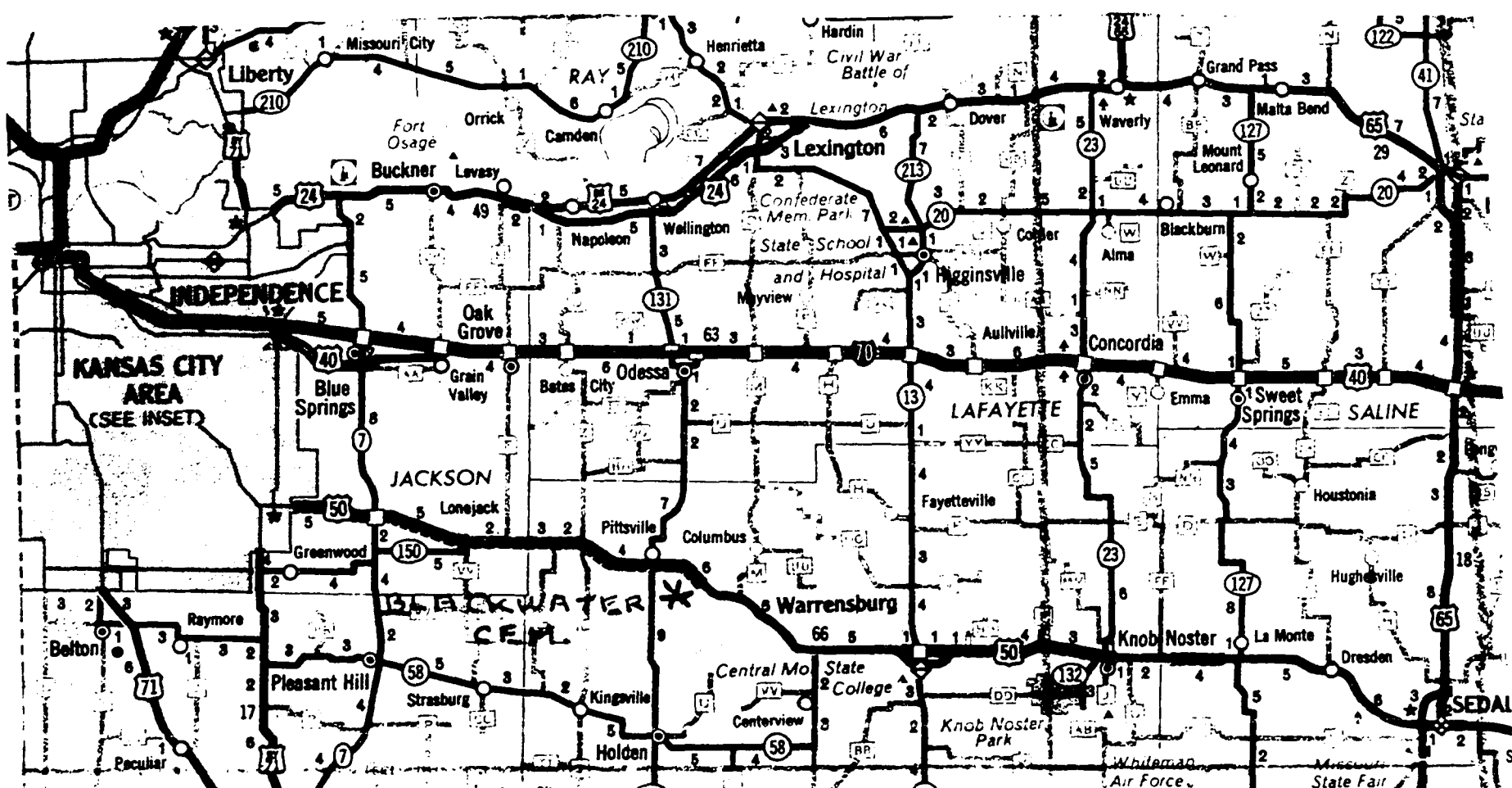
That James never made a single government land entry in the adjoining Johnson County.

No evidence is available to prove that James ever lived at or near Lone Jack.

There is not known to me any record of the place of death or burial of James Cockrell, his first wife and their daughter Elizabeth, or of his second wife.

In short, they left "no tracks presumable" anywhere in Missouri except James' original government land entries in Lafayette County.

MFC



JOSEPH COCKRELL (brother of James and Morgan) entered only two tracts of land in Lafayette County - each 80 acres in 1831-1832.

My chart shows that he had already started buying Government land in the adjoining Johnson County having acquired three tracts totaling 320 acres in June 1829.

In 1832, he bought an additional 240 acres in Johnson County. This was prior to his 160 acres in Lafayette County.

These and later substantial purchases in Johnson County easily show where he had decided to make his home. Probably his 160 acres in Lafayette County had been purchased at "bargain prices" for later sale.

The exact date of his arrival in Johnson County is not known but certain it is that he was there permanently as a large land owner in 1832.

In 1832, there was already in Joseph's household a son, Alexander born in Kentucky June 8, 1820 (?), by his second wife Sally Hunt.

The large stone of Alexander in Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas, Texas, was erected by his widow Sarah Horton Cockrell in 1887. His dates read "June 8, 1820 - April 3, 1858.", however the Kentucky Historical Register, Vol. 14, p. 250 reads "Joseph Cockrell - Nancy Ellis (third wife), marriage bond in Floyd County, Kentucky, January 8, 1818." Thus there is a mis-print somewhere as to the exact date of birth of Alexander. (Buried in her private cemetery 1858 until 1887.)

Here in Johnson County was born by Joseph's third wife Nancy Ellis these two sons: (A third son Joseph, born 1837, died the next year?)

Jeremiah Vardaman Cockrell May 7, 1832 - died March 18, 1915

Francis Marion Cockrell October 1, 1834 - died December 13, 1915

See obituary of JVC in the Abilene Reporter on March 24, 1915.

Life of FMC is well documented - too long to add here.

Insert: After the death of Joseph Cockrell, his third wife Nancy Ellis married again. She is buried in the Lowry lot in the SEC of Blackwater Cemetery near Pittsville, Mo. Her tombstone reads: Nancy Ellis Cockrell Black, born January 1, 1803 - died November 23, 1883. The tombstone of her son who is buried beside her reads: "Thomas B, son of James D. & Nancy Black, died August 24, 1858, age 10 years & 10 months." The letters are legible.

This was found on May 15, 1961, while Ewing Fulkerson Greer, my daughter Nancy and I were searching in the cemeteries around Lone Jack and Columbus, Missouri.

Joseph Cockrell was elected the first sheriff of Johnson County when the county was organized on December 13, 1834. See Volume I of the county records which were summarized in a bulletin dated August 3, 1959, by the Johnson County Historical Society at Warrensburg, Mo.

Joseph Cockrell's home was on land about seven or eight miles north of what is now Holden, Mo., and situated on high rolling land between the two forks of the Blackwater River. The house was destroyed by fire several years ago.

Joseph is buried in the northeast part of Blackwater Cemetery but his stones or markers disappeared many, many years ago.

Blackwater Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Johnson County, having been started about 1823. It is about five miles southwest of the little village of Columbus, Missouri."

From an interview on March 6, 1944, with Mrs. Frances Ann Woodruff in Warrensburg, Mo., by Monroe F. Cockrell. She was born December 22, 1849, at Columbus and lived in that community all her life until her recent removal to Warrensburg, Mo.

A copy of the above is printed on page 110 in History of Early Dallas privately published in the summer of 1944 by Monroe F. Cockrell, a book 9 x 11 inches with 30 illustrations. 131 pages.

Joseph Cockrell sired two distinguished sons and a third one was long publicly honored in the Abilene, Texas, district.

Alexander, by Joseph's second wife Sally Hunt, left home very early and finally settled on a section of land about ten miles west of the hamlet called Dallas under patents issued by Peter's Colony which he had entered prior to June 1848 as shown therein.

On August 7, 1852, Alexander bought for \$7000.00 the remaining interest in the 640 acre homestead of John Neely Bryan which included the townsite of Dallas and the concession for the ferry across the Trinity River.

Alexander held onto his ranch but moved to Dallas on March 21, 1853. There he soon proved that he was a builder and a business man of dimensions.

After his tragic death in a feud on April 3, 1858, his widow Sarah Horton Cockrell, with four fatherless little children, took charge of the many enterprises of her deceased husband. She proved to be a woman of extra-ordinary business acumen. When she died on April 26, 1892, she owned so many town lots and so many down-town improved properties and so much acreage south of the town and also just across the Trinity River to the west that her lengthy will (for convenient use) was printed as a pamphlet. I have one of them.

The life of Alexander and his widow, backed up by many public documents, is authentically told in the above History of Early Dallas, and in a second book "Sarah Horton Cockrell in Early Dallas", 1961. This second book, size 9½ x 12, 145 pages, consists of many illustrations and facsimile reproductions of many of Sarah's letters. It has several letters in facsimile written by Francis Marion Cockrell. It was also privately published by M.F.C.

Two books about Alexander and Sarah have been written for profit:

The Lusty Texans of Dallas, 1951, by John William Rogers. Its first 105 pages is largely from my History of Early Dallas.

Destiny in Dallas, 1958, by Shirley Seifert is based entirely upon my above book plus extraneous material supplied by me.

Throughout the years, dozens of articles have appeared in both newspapers in Dallas.

Francis Marion, by Joseph's third wife Nancy Ellis, was admitted to the bar in 1855; served in the Confederate Army where he attained the rank of brigadier general July 18, 1863; was captured at Fort Blakeley, Ala. on April 9, 1865; paroled May 14, 1865. At the close of the War between the States, he resumed the practice of law at Warrensburg, Missouri. In 1855, he was age 21.

He was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate; re-elected four times and served thirty years - March 4, 1875- March 3, 1905.

He was a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission from March 6, 1905 to December 31, 1910; United States Commissioner to establish the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico; Civilian member of the Board of Ordnance in the War Department which position he held until his death in Washington, D.C., December 13, 1915. Buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery, Warrensburg, Missouri.
From Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961. P. 715.

I borrowed the family photograph of Francis Marion taken in the summer of 1890; supplied the legend that identifies each member of his family; then had a new negative made expressly for some descendants and The State of Missouri Historical Society at Columbia, Mo. This was done in May 1947. I kept only one print.

April 10, 1954, I completed a conspectus in two parts (18 typed pages) of the life and military record of F.M.C. backed up by documentary evidence all the way. It contains something found nowhere else, to-wit; a complete list of references to F.M.C. in the Confederate Veteran magazine which shows how long and frequently his name lingered in the minds of his comrades in arms.
This magazine ran through forty volumes, January 1895-December 1932. Copies of my conspectus were given to descendants and public places including The State Historical Society of Columbia whose secretary after examination wrote "that it provides a very complete coverage of Senator Cockrell's life and public career." Letter May 7, 1954.

I made a genealogical chart of F.M.C. and his descendants that I extended to August 27, 1962 (copyright September 13, 1962 - 11 pages) which I distributed to his descendants and public places, December 1, 1962.

It has the unusual but significant virtue of showing the Lot and Block number for each person in every named cemetery and place. The 193 leaves of correspondence were tightly bound as a book and given to Newberry Library, Chicago. Acknowledged May 7, 1957, for the first chart completed in April 1947.

The finest portrayal of his character as a MAN is found in "Address of Hon. Edmond A. Nickerson at the Memorial Services held in honor of Senator Francis Marion Cockrell before the Circuit Court and the Johnson County Bar Association at Warrensburg, Mo., February 22, 1916."

In his eulogy, Mr. Nickerson also said. "I know of my own knowledge that this so, for it was my lot as a lawyer, more often than any other man, living or dead, to be pitted against him in the trial of his most important cases, and for years, as a politician, to be opposed to him in his political aspirations, and I never heard that he resented my

action or ever said a harsh word against me, but on the contrary, as often as he returned to his home, he met me with words of kindness and good will. There was no social discord. At times he accepted my hospitality and our personal relations always remained unchanged".

In 1962, his son F.M.C. II, published " The Senator from Missouri." This book of only 114 pages gives the family background and formative years of his father. Part II describes the many public issues in which his father participated and his later public appointments. It closes with many editorials upon his father's retirement and later demise. The book is worthy of preservation even though its scope is limited.

Throughout the senator's long public life, dozens and dozens of articles have appeared in the newspapers and magazines. I have never even thought of collecting them being interested only in material that can be sustained by documentary evidence. In this respect, I think I have produced more organized material than anyone bearing the name.

These notes happened to be handy: Not in above book.

A resolution by the Confederate Congress, dated May 23, 1864, commended Brigadier-General Cockrell and his officers and men. See page 175 in Volume 3, Series II of the Official Records of the Navies.

The Associated Press carried an article, dated January 28, 1926, stating that a Special Missouri Committee had selected the names of Shelby, Price, Marmaduke, and (F.M.) Cockrell to be carved on the Confederate Memorial at Stone Mountain, Georgia. The fifth name of Claiborne F. Jackson was added February 10, 1926.

An oil portrait of General Cockrell hangs in the Confederate Museum at Richmond, Virginia.

In Vicksburg National Military Park is a large plaque of F.M.C. It stands on Confederate Avenue in the vicinity of Stockade Redan and near the 27th Louisiana Lunette,

The plaque - a bronze bas-relief is set in a granite slab and is quite handsome and easily noticeable. The portrait seems to be the same as the picture on page 57 in " Generals in Gray" by Ezra Warner, 1959.

The inscription reads:

C S
Missouri
Francis M. Cockrell
Colonel 2nd Infantry
Commanding Brigade
Bowen's Division
Given by Allen George Newman

This marker is signed and dated 1912 by the donor who was also the sculptor.

A large solid block of stone marks Senator Cockrell's grave in his family lot in Sunset Hill Cemetery in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Jeremiah Vardaman Cockrell, also by Joseph's third wife Nancy Ellis, entered the Confederate Army as a Lieutenant and attained the rank of Colonel. After the war, with his family, he settled in Sherman, Texas, where he practiced law on week days and often preached on Sundays.

He was elected Chief Justice of Grayson County in 1872. In 1878 and again in 1880, he was a delegate to the Democratic State Conventions.

Later, he moved to Abilene, Texas, where he was appointed Judge of the Thirty-ninth Judicial District Court in 1885, to which office he was elected in 1886 and re-elected in 1890.

He was elected as a Democratic Member of Congress in 1892; assumed office March 4, 1893; re-elected in 1894, his second term ending on March 3, 1897. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1896.

Despite his early hardships, by his middle years he had established a position of high esteem among the folks where he lived.

"J.V.", as he signed his name as a Masonic Lodge member and as a judge, presided at several sensational criminal trials which are well described in "The Prairie Dog Lawyer", 1945, by Charles E. Coombes.

In those early days in West Texas, law was apparently a precarious business for judges, lawyers, witnesses and jurymen.

See Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961. P. 715.

There is a very long obituary in the Abilene Reporter, March 24, 1915. "J.V." is buried in the old Masonic Cemetery at Abilene, Texas.

Morgan Cockrell, a brother of James and Joseph, made his first government land entry in Lafayette County on January 6, 1821, and there he had Accumulated 400 acres with his last entry on May 17, 1837.

On February 22, 1830, he made his first government land entry in Johnson County, very close to the location of Old Bethel Baptist Church and Cemetery, where supposedly he lived the remainder of his life while continueing to acquire more government land . He had about 1360 acres at the time of his death.

Morgan's home place of 160 acres was about one mile east of Little Honey creek which is the northeast branch of Big Honey creek. The log house itself has been gone for many years. Its location now exists only as a legend among the "old timers."

Old Bethel Baptist Church supposedly stood about a quarter of a quarter of a mile north of Morgan's home place. The church has been gone so long that its exact location is also legendary. (20 rods)

Old Bethel Cemetery still exists and is about half a mile west of Morgan's home place. Its existence is evidenced by a Quit Claim deed dated December 13, 1893. A certified copy is attached hereto. The cemetery is in a 40-acre tract of thick timber on rocky hilly land.

This 40-acre tract is in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 12-Twp. 47-Range 27. Old Bethel Cemetery stands in the SE corner as shown by the above Quit Claim deed. Entry was made on the above tract on June 30, 1832, by Morgan Cockrell as shown by the original plat books of the county.

To reach it from Warrensburg, go north on Hwy 13 about 7 miles to County Road "H", turn left (west) the short distance to Fayetteville and follow "H" about 6 miles to the home of Mr. Delbert F. Adams. From there you have to walk about half a mile through his farm.

August 10, 1966, Mr. Adams wrote that the last person buried there was Nancy Cockrell West in October 1906. She was a daughter of Morgan Cockrell and married Barksdale S. West. Also, she was the grandmother of Mr. Delbert F. Adams, my correspondent who has been so patient and helpful in my assembly of the above material.

Mrs. William F. Sipes, Librarian of the local D.A.R. chapter, wrote me: Barksdale S. West: b. March 5, 1823- February 2, 1898. Obviously he was buried in Morgan's cemetery just as was his wife Nancy Cockrell West: b. April 1, 1831 - October 8, 1906.

Mr. Adams letter of August 10, 1966, said that he had just looked over the cemetery; that most of the stones have fallen over except the very last ones; that he could not locate any Cockrell tombstones. He added there had been no Cockrells living in his community during his lifetime; that he was 68 years old and had lived there all his life. Later he named Morgan's children as Nancy Cockrell West, his grandmother; Alexander - Tabitha - Sarah - and William.

Morgan Cockrell, living almost within a stone's throw, made it perfectly normal that his last rites would be held in Old Bethel Baptist Church; that burial would be in his own near-by cemetery as allegedly written in their records. Other burials there, in fact, indicate that it was the only cemetery in that immediate community in those early days.

My "ad" on September 8, 1966, in the Daily Star-Journal at Warrensburg failed to turn up the whereabouts of those old cemetery records.

The turning face upward of all the tombstones in Old Bethel Cemetery would definitely determine whether or not Morgan was buried there.

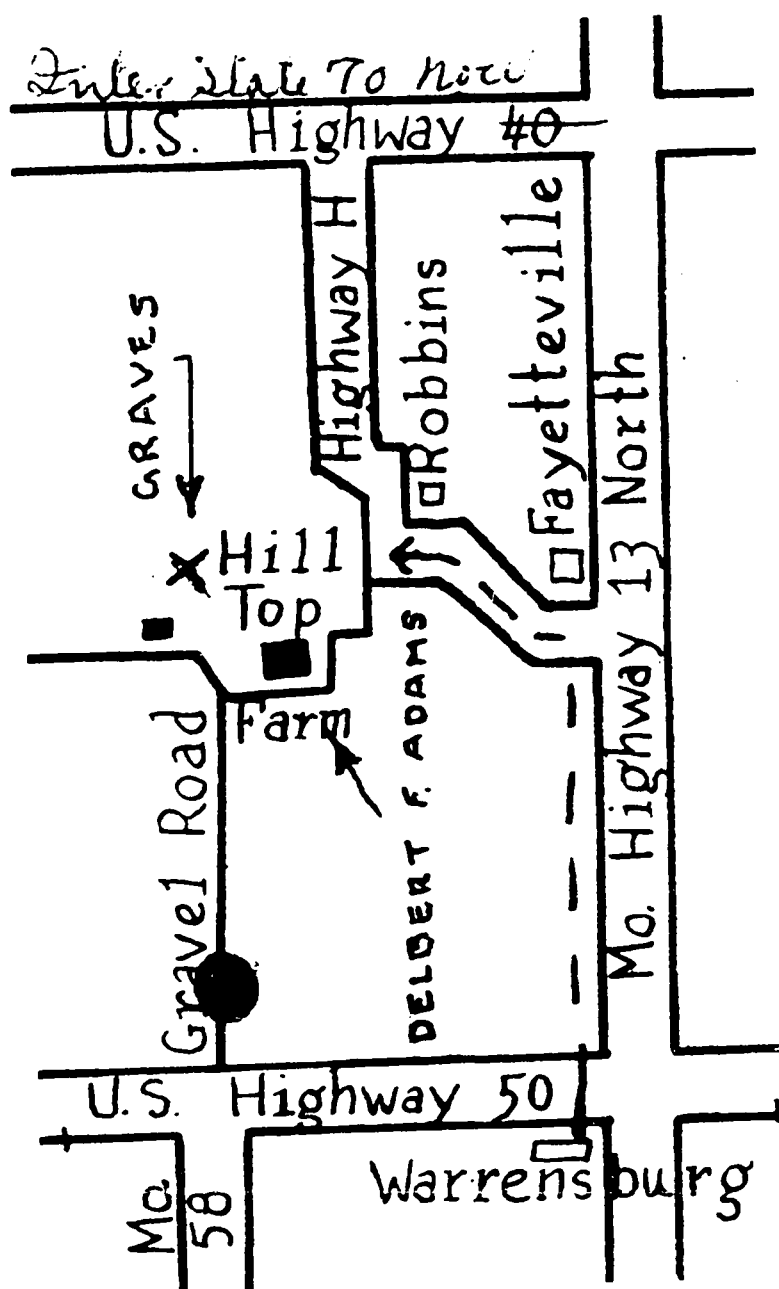
Even if his stones were not found, he still may have been buried, the stones having disappeared as in the case of his brother Joseph as stated elsewhere herein.

Under the facts recited herein, it can safely be concluded that Morgan Cockrell was buried in Old Bethel Baptist Cemetery

April 5, 1949, the local D.A.R. chapter found in the Probate Records that Morgan Cockrell died November 11, 1843.

Recently Mrs. C.W. Sheppard found his Will. It is dated June 19, 1842, signed by his mark, attested by three witnesses and recorded by the Clerk of the County Court. It was indexed at page 397 in a large red book.

At this date, Morgan's Probate Record has not been found however it may turn up among the old musty documents now in process of being transferred to a new larger vault in the Probate Court.



By courtesy of The
Daily Star-Journal
Warrensburg, Mo.
Thursday, September
8, 1966. MFC

Of "Wampum"

Wanted

Land
Rep-
neigh-
Barbara
Terr.,

47D5t

BER

PLEASE GIVE ME

Name and Address of Holder
of Book and Records of
**OLD BETHEL BAPTIST
CEMETERY**

MONROE F. COCKRELL
1142 Hinman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois

150D1t

Copied from an alphabetical list of Government land grants in Lafayette County, Missouri, as shown on the original plat books in the courthouse at Lexington.

On April 21, 1966, during a special trip to Lexington, this search was made by Monroe F. Cockrell with the local productive assistance of Mr. John R. Wallace whose generous spirit also helped immeasurably.

To JAMES COCKRELL:

Entry date	Section-Town-ship-Range	Patented	Description	Acreage
6-16-1819	19-50-27	8-20-1824	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80
Assigned to Adam Young, Sept. 7, 1821 to whom patent was issued.				
6-16-1819	28-50-27	11-20-1824	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80
7-3-1819	33-50-27	8-1-1825	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80
Assigned to David James, Dec. 22, 1823 to whom a later patent was issued				
11-20-1827	28-50-27	9-18-1823	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	160
Nunc pro tunc patent issued to James Cockrell (payer) Nov. 18, 1919				
6-22-1831	27-50-27	12-5-1833	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80
6-30-1832	27-50-27	3-8-1834	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	40

To MORGAN COCKRELL:

1-6-1821	32-50-27	4-16-1822	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80
9-30-1823	31-50-27	1-25-1827	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80
4-19-1827	31-50-27	6-25-1827	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80
11-30-1835	36-48-27	9-7-1838	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80
5-17-1837	36-48-27	8-2-1838	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80

To JOSEPH COCKRELL:

10-3-1831	25-48-27	12-5-1832	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80
11-5-1832	24-48-27	11-4-1835	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80

Herewith are the Government land grants in Johnson County, Missouri, as shown in the abstract books of The Johnson County Title Company, owner of the abstract books of the old Patton Abstract Company. This information was whole-heartedly furnished by its manager Mr. Clinton Coonrod. His generosity evinces his personal interest in the early history of the county and its people. I'm grateful.

To JAMES COCKRELL: No entries were found in his name.

To MORGAN COCKRELL:

6-20-1966

Entry date	Section-Town- ship-Range	Description	Acreage	
2-22-1830	7-47-26	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	160	Supposedly he lived here all his life near Old Bethel Baptist Church and its Cemetery.
11-30-1835	6-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
2-6-1837	6-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
12-3-1841	6-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
2-11-1836	6-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
5-4-1840	6-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
7-14-1834	7-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
4-29-1834	7-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
5-27-1835	7-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	960
8-24-1836	12-47-27	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	9-8-1966
8-24-1836	12-47-27	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	40	
12-16-1835	12-47-27	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
9-22-1836	12-47-27	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
4-2-1831	12-47-27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
(6-30-1832	12-47-27	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	40	400
(Cemetery in SE corner of this 40 acres.				
(See attached Quit Claim Deed dated				
(December 13, 1893. MFC				

To JOSEPH COCKRELL: Johnson County

Entry date	Section-Town- ship-Range	Description	Acreage	
June 1829	18-46-27	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	160	
June 1829	18-46-27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
June 1829	7-46-27	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
3-1- 1832	7-46-27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
9-10- 1832	7-46-27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
1-2- 1832	7-46-27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
7-14- 1834	21-47-26	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	40	
8-7- 1835	18-46-27	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
3-2- 1835	17-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
5-26- 1835	17-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
5-26- 1835	29-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
3-8- 1836	7-46-27	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
8-12- 1836	17-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
6-14- 1836	36-47-26	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
6-14- 1836	35-47-26	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	
4-3- 1837	29-46-27	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	1320

Epilogue

I was provoked into doing this study by legends, hear-say and fragmentary things I have read and heard during my long life.

If you think this kind of research is easy, dear reader, just try something like it on your own picco-lo!

Anyway, I take pleasure and some pride in having the energy, the time, the money, the patience and the original thinking that produced this monograph.

And yet, with all of that, this study would have little new value without the incontrovertible evidence from the original county plat maps which was so whole-heartedly supplied by Mr. John R. Wallace of Lexington and Mr. Clinton Coonrod of Warrensburg, Mo.

As requested, they furnished the corner-posts that were so necessary to give authenticity to my study - the answers to my original thinking for this approach.

Not copyrighted - help yourself and mention where you found it.

Anybody could have discovered America after 1492 just as an unscrupulous person can now appropriate the fruits of my labor because all my sources are revealed. I well know that my only real protection would be by their omission. MFC.

The Author:

Alexander Cockrell, son of Joseph by his second wife Sally Hunt, was my grandfather. He married Sarah Horton. They had five children, the first of whom died in infancy.

After his tragic death on April 3, 1858, there remained his widow and four little children. The youngest Alexander II, also of Dallas, Texas, was my father.

He married Ettie Fulkerson, the tenth and last child of Dr. James Monroe Fulkerson, the first doctor in Johnson County.

They had five children of whom I am the oldest, nearing 82; still independent and definitely active in things literary and studies about people, episodes, incidents and segments of American history. MFC

1142 Hinman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois

Monroe F. Cockrell
Monroe F. Cockrell
November 21, 1966

James R. Graham and Julia E. Graham, his wife and John J. Farner and _____ Farner his wife.

To

Henderson Adams, James S. West
and John J. Farnier, Trustee for
Bethel Cemetery and their suc-
cessors.

Quit Claim Deed

Dated, 13 December 1893

Filed, 8 February 1895, 10:55 AM

Record, Book 95, page 348

Recorders Office, Johnson Co., Mo.

Consideration, \$1.00

Remise, Release and Forever Quit Claim unto the said parties of the Second Part, the following described lots, tracts or parcels of land, lying, being and situate in the County of Johnson and State of Missouri, to-wit:

One half acre, being twice as long North and South as it is wide east and west in the north east corner of the west 8 acres of the south half of the north east quarter of the south east quarter of Section 12 Township 47 Range 27 the property of James R. Graham and one acre square in the north west corner of the east 12 acres of the south half of the northeast quarter of the south east quarter of Section 2 Township 47 of Range 27 the property of John J. Farner. **** Original reads 2-47-27: Should read 12-47-27. MFC**

The above property to revert to Grantors or their assigns when same ceases to be used for a cemetery.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME, with all the rights, immunities, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging unto the said parties of the Second Part, and their successors forever.

Witness, names and seals.

James R. Graham (Seal)
Julia E. Graham (Seal)
J. J. Farner (Seal)

State of Missouri,
County of Johnson, ss

On this 13th day of Dec. A. D. 1893 before me personally appeared James R. Graham and Julia E. Graham his wife to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in Warrensburg the day and year first above written.

L:S

Henry J. Wall, Notary Public

My term of office as a Notary Public will expire 21 August 1894.

State of Colorado,
County of Montrose, ^{SS}

I, Fred G. Farner, County Clerk in and for said County in the State

aforesaid do hereby certify that J. J. Farner personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the annexed instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that he signed sealed and delivered the same instrument of writing as his free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and official seal this eighth day of January
A. D. 1894.

L:S

Fred G. Farner, County Clerk

JOHNSON COUNTY TITLE COMPANY, hereby certifies that the foregoing instrument numbered 1 is correctly abstracted from the records in the Recorder's Office of Johnson County, Missouri.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this certificate to be signed at office in Warrensburg, Missouri, this 23rd day of August 1966.

Again, by courtesy of
Mr. Clinton Coonrod. MFC

JOHNSON COUNTY TITLE COMPANY

BY 
Partner

20 - later added

November 23, 1966, a letter from Melba Rich said that they had just found the file of Morgan Cockerel which they have been searching for at my request for several days.

(The witnesses to his will correctly spell it Cockrell.)

Melba Rich under her seal as Probate Clerk of Johnson County, Mo., enclosed a Xerox copy of:

Final Settlement of the administration of John Evans and Joel Cockerel administrators of the Estate of Morgan Cockerel; by Jos S Raynol executor of the Estate of John Evans.

It was recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Probate court on July 25, 1844.

The closing paragraph separate and below Schedule B reads:

"Of the personal property not sold, the widow selected \$150.00 as per her receipt, - and 2 copper stills with caps and worms were delivered to JC Francis July 25, 1844. The only remaining property consists of some still tubs at Joel Cockerels late residence, and a lot of Hogs running out." Jos S Raynol, Exec of John Evans.

Page 13 herein reads " April 5, 1949, the local D.A.R. chapter found in the Probate Records that Morgan Cockrell died on November 11, 1843."

My copy of his will bears the attested date of June 19, 1842. It was received by me on October 20, 1966.

December 5, 1966, the same Melba Rich wrote that Morgan's will was filed of probate proceedings on July 11, 1842, and entered in Book A, page 55 - Years 1840- 1846.

Obviously, the D.A.R. record is wrong. MFC