

The Confederate Coyles of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley[©]

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In the summer of 1864, pounding horse hooves of approaching Union Army invaders echoed throughout Virginia's embattled Shenandoah Valley. This prelude led to thundering of cannon and musketry in the region's gently rolling farm lands producing conflagrations all too familiar to locals. Tasked to devastate the "granary of the Confederacy," the Federals strove to ensure that "crows flying over it for the balance of the season [would] have to carry their provender."¹

As summer yielded to fall, guerillas, particularly Mosby's Rangers, hampered Yankee efforts. In late October, Union General Philip Sheridan, believing the guerillas were aided by local residents, ordered the imprisonment of one-hundred Confederate civilians consisting of a number of men "much broken down with the infirmities of old age."² The group included Edward V. Coyle, a sixty-four-year-old farmer captured at Winchester, Virginia, charged with harboring guerillas, possibly Mosby's men.³ Ardent Confederates, Edward's extended family contributed diligently to the war effort with some tragic consequences.

Incarcerated in Fort McHenry near Baltimore, Edward remained a prisoner until the war closed. During his imprisonment, his sister, Margaret Coyle, worked actively to secure his release. One of her letters to authorities stated he lived in Berkeley County near the Jefferson County border and was "a man advanced in years, (being Over sixty-five) and is in delicate health. He has also a large family dependent upon his exertions for a support."⁴ Despite his age

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¹ Millard K. Bushong, *Historic Jefferson County* (Boyce, Virginia: Carr Publishing Co., 1972), 205 and 234-240; and U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 127 Vols., (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), ser.1, 37(2):366.

² *Ibid* for *War of the Rebellion*, ser. 1, 43(1):30; Mason Whiting Tyler, *Recollections of the Civil War* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1912), 302; and Edward H. Philips, *The Lower Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War: The Impact of War Upon the Civilian Population and Upon Civil Institutions* (Lynchburg, Virginia: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1993), 163.

³ *Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Individual Civilians*, microfilm publication M345B (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service (NARA), 1967), roll 60, Coyle, Edward; *Union Provost Marshal's File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians*, microfilm publication M416 (NARA, 1969), roll 58, May 1865, no. 16310; and 1860 U.S. census, Berkeley County, Virginia, Mill Creek Post Office, p. 880 (inked), dwelling/family 901, Edwa [sic] V. Coyle; NARA M653, roll 1335 lists him as a sixty-year-old farmer on 20 July 1860. His birth date is listed as 1 August 1800 per Edward V. Coyle Family Bible, 1800-1925, *The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments*, (Philadelphia: Kimber & Sharpless, 1846). Original owned in 1994 by Thomas C. G. Coyle (Leetown Pike, Charles Town, W.Va., 25414). The Edward V. Coyle Bible is believed to have passed from Edward V. to his son Fayette, to his son George L. to his son Thomas C. G. Coyle. Handwriting changed through the years and is likely contemporary for entries after 1846.

⁴ *Ibid* for *Union Provost Marshal Files* (both M345B and M416). Margaret's letter dated 1 April 1865 apparently added a year to his age.

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and health, Edward apparently challenged his captors since a notation on the prisoner roll indicates he was “very disloyal.”⁵

Like many Valley residents, Edward utilized slave labor in running his farm.⁶ This practice passed from his parents, James and Elizabeth (Howard) Coyle, to their children.⁷ Family lore relates that the Coyles were Scotch-Irish,⁸ a group who often emulated their neighbors of English ancestry by using Negro slaves for their labor supply.⁹ First assessed on a slave in 1809, James paid taxes on four slaves in 1842, the year of his death.¹⁰ However, his will mentions only two, suggesting he may have leased the others, a common Valley practice.¹¹

While tensions mounted between North and South over slavery during the first half of the nineteenth century, neither James Coyle nor his wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1851, lived to see the final outcome—the Civil War.¹² However, their children and grandchildren witnessed firsthand the toll exacted by the conflict.¹³ Jefferson County, location of the Coyle homestead situated in northern Shenandoah Valley, staged the catalyst leading to the war when the

⁵ “Lists of Rebel Prisoners and Deserters and Citizens Arrested – Middle Military District November 1864-1865,” Roll of Political Prisoners Confined in Fort McHenry, November 1864-May 1865, Vol. 5, p. 48, Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, Record Group 393, part 1, entry 2419; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., Va., slave schedule, District 16, p. 374 (stamped), Edward V. Coyle; NARA microfilm M653.

⁷ Ibid, Jefferson Co., Va., slave schedule, p. 155 (stamped), John M. Coyle, James T. Coyle and Joseph O. Coyle; and Jefferson Co., Va., Will Book 10:58-59, James Coyle will, 1842. All Jefferson County, Va. and later W.Va. probate and deed records accessed at County Clerk's Office, Charles Town. For Elizabeth's maiden name see Berkeley County, [West] Virginia, unidentified marriage bond book:18; “Vital Research Records Project,” online at *West Virginia Division of Culture and History* (hereafter referenced as *WVDOC&H*) (http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx), search for James Coyle in Berkeley County. Digital images on the website are of original vital records and marriage bonds, but the original books are not identified.

⁸ This tradition was related to the author by his maternal grandmother, Sara (Coyle) Blue of Kearneysville, West Virginia in 1992. Also see Anne Wilson (Coyle) Portrey's “Coyle Family Tree,” prepared in the 1980s. Photocopy held by the author. The biography of John M. Coyle states his paternal grandfather immigrated from Ireland. See J.E. Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley Counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Jefferson and Clarke* (1890; reprint, Berryville, Va.: Virginia Book Co., 1972), 745 and W.S. Laidley, *History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia* (Richmond, Virginia: Arnold Publishing, 1911), 455 states County Donegal.

⁹ For an explanation of this practice see Robert D. Mitchell, *Commercialism and Frontier in the Shenandoah Valley* (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1977), 127-129.

¹⁰ Jefferson Co., Va., 1809 and 1842 Personal Property Tax Lists: unpaginated for 1809 and p. 5 for 1842, James Coyle entries, Auditor of Public Accounts; microfilms 186 and 188; Library of Virginia, Richmond (LVA); and Coyle Family Graveyard (on Leetown Pike between Charles Town and Leetown, Jefferson Co., W.Va. - GPS Coordinates N 39°13.393'; W077°52.858'), James Coyle marker, all markers personally read, 2011.

¹¹ Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59. For slave leasing see J. Susanne Simmons and Nancy T. Sorrells, “Slave Hire and the Development of Slavery in Augusta County, Virginia,” in Kenneth E. Koons and Warren R. Hofstra, editors, *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia, 1800-1900* (Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press, 2000), 169-184.

¹² Elizabeth Coyle appears on the Jefferson Co., land tax rolls of 1851 with a life interest of 100 acres of land. In 1852, the 100 acres are taxed in the name of James T. Coyle with the notation “transferred from Elizabeth Coyle by will and death of Elizabeth Coyle.” See Elizabeth Coyle and James T. Coyle entries in 1851 and 1852 Jefferson Co., Land Tax Lists, Sam¹ Stone district, pp. 193 and 263; microfilm 157; LVA. An entry in James Coyle's estate account indicates that James T. Coyle received the property upon the death of the testator's widow dated 1 January 1852, implying the widow died in 1851. See Jefferson Co., Will Book 14, 1852-1856:17-19, James Coyle Account.

¹³ All genealogical references prior to the genealogical summary are found in Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59; Jefferson Co, Accounts Fiduciaries Book H:424-425, John M. Coyle estate account, 1894 and Edward V. Coyle Family Bible.

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abolitionist John Brown raided Harper's Ferry in the fall of 1859.¹⁴ James and Elizabeth's son, John M. Coyle, served on the grand jury that indicted Brown.¹⁵ He later purchased the scaffold from which Brown hung.¹⁶ Both the Federal and Confederate armies coveted Jefferson for control of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and for the United States Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Consequently, the county witnessed much fighting and changed hands numerous times during the war.¹⁷ In October of 1865, one writer visiting Winchester observed "that from all the way up from Harper's Ferry the Shenandoah Valley looked like one vast moor. There were few trees and no fences. In every direction were the ruins of burned houses. The fields were lying idle, and in many of them were the graves of soldiers."¹⁸

A staunch supporter of the Confederate cause like his brother, Edward, John M. Coyle provided horses, wagons, corn and other supplies to the Confederate Army.¹⁹ On 24 April 1862, a year after the beginning of the war, John purchased a house in Madison Court House in central Virginia.²⁰ This dwelling provided sanctuary for the Valley's Confederate refugees.²¹

Edward and John's brother, Joseph O. Coyle, provided beef, mutton and hay to the Confederate Army.²² Another brother, James T. Coyle, supplied a wagon and harness.²³ James inherited the family farm called Roxley (see figure 1) where he lived with his sisters, Margaret Coyle and Alcinda Hill.²⁴ In August 1864, a battle took place in the vicinity of Roxley, which resulted in four Confederate casualties and a much greater number of Union. A witness noted "We slept on our arms in the field adjoining Mr. Coyle's house."²⁵



Roxley

¹⁴ See Jefferson Co., W.Va., Will Book 10:58-59 for location.

¹⁵ Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley...*, 745. The court order books for this time period typically list names of the jurors. However the grand jurors were not noted on the date John Brown and his men were indicted. See unlabeled court order book with entries beginning January 1856, p. 428, Commonwealth of Virginia v. John Brown et al, 25 October 1859; County Clerk's Office, Charles Town.

¹⁶ "John Brown's Scaffold," *Spirit of Jefferson* (Charles Town, W.Va.), 19 February 1884, p. 2, col. 2.

¹⁷ Bushong, "The Civil War," *Historic Jefferson County*, 205-249.

¹⁸ Frederick Morton, *The Story of Winchester in Virginia: The Oldest Town in the Shenandoah Valley* (1925; reprint, Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, 2007), 193.

¹⁹ *Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms*, microfilm publication M346 (NARA, 1982), roll 204, Coyle, John M.

²⁰ Madison Co., Va., Deed Book 23, 1858-1864:499-500, Leitch & wife to Coyle, 24 May 1862; microfilm 10; LVA.

²¹ Col. John M. Coyle obituary, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 18 October 1892, p. 2, col. 3.

²² *Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms*, NARA roll 204, Coyle, Joseph.

²³ "Quarter Master Department Register of Claims 1861-1863," Chapter 5, Vol. 43, p. 8, War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

²⁴ Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59; and 1860 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., p. 916 (inked), dwell. 462, fam. 445, James T. Coyle; NARA M653, roll 1355. For the name Roxley see Jefferson County Historical Society, *Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Winchester, Va.: Winchester Printers, 1990), 107 and 167.

²⁵ Harry Gilmor, *Four Years in the Saddle* (1866; reprint, no place: Nabue Public Domain Reprints, no date), 235.

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Frances “Fannie” Dawes, daughter of James and Elizabeth Coyle, resided with her husband, William, in Frederick County, Virginia, about two and a half miles from Winchester which changed hands over seventy times during the conflict.²⁶ Two Dawes sons and a son-in-law served in the Confederate Army.²⁷ John J. Dawes fought in the Fifth Virginia Infantry, which was part of the famed Stonewall Brigade, and lost a finger in the first year of his enlistment. Despite this, he reenlisted, was promoted to third colonel, then was captured at the battle of Gettysburg, and imprisoned for a year.²⁸ William C. Dawes returned from his home in Missouri to fight in the Valley with the Twelfth Virginia Cavalry. Like his brother John, he was also captured but was released within a month.²⁹ John D. Stipes, who married the Dawes boys’ sister, Anne, served in the Thirty-third Regiment of the Virginia Infantry, also part of the Stonewall Brigade.³⁰

Along with their cousin William C. Dawes, four of Edward V. Coyle’s sons—James, Joseph, Jerome, and Julius—served in the Twelfth Virginia Cavalry. James and Joseph were both captured and held at Fort McHenry prior to their father’s imprisonment. James later served as a scout for General Jeb Stuart.³¹ Julius, the youngest of the four brothers, was only eighteen at the end of the war.³² Comrades recalled Jerome as a brave and dutiful soldier.³³



Jerome B. Coyle

²⁶ Jonathan A. Noyalas, *Plagued by War: Winchester, Virginia During the Civil War* (Leesburg, Virginia: Gauley Mount Press, 2003), first page of preface. The distance of her home from Winchester was calculated based on the distance of the location of land shown in figure 2 from Winchester as placed in the DeedMapper software program.

²⁷ Jefferson Co., Accounts Fiduciaries Book H:424-425 and Frederick Co., Va., Marriage Register 2, 1853-1907:18, Stipe-Daws marriage; all Frederick County marriage, deed and probate records accessed at the Circuit Clerk’s Office, Winchester.

²⁸ *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served from Virginia* (hereafter cited as *CMSR of Confederates from Virginia*) microfilm publication M324 (NARA, 1960), roll 421, index cards for John J. Dawes, Pvt., Co. A, 5 Infantry. For the Fifth Virginia Infantry as part of the Stonewall Brigade see James I. Robertson, *The Stonewall Brigade* (1963; reprint, Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1991), 250.

²⁹ *Ibid* for *CMSR of Confederates from Virginia*, roll 116, index cards for William C. Dawes, Pvt., Co. I, 12 Cavalry; and 1860 U.S. census, Saline Co., Missouri, Miami Township, Marshall P.O., p. 494 (inked), dwell. 897, fam. 906, Wm. Dawes; NARA microfilm M653, roll 645.

³⁰ *CMSR of Confederates from Virginia*, NARA M324, roll 797, index cards for John Stipe, Pvt., Co. A, 33. Infantry. Also see John Daniel Stipes obituary, *Slater (Missouri) Rustler*, 2 May 1902, p. 1, col. 4 and Robertson, *The Stonewall Brigade*, 251.

³¹ *CMSR of Confederates from Virginia*, NARA M324, roll 116, index cards for James W. Coyle, Pvt., Co. B; and Jerome B. Coyle, Private and Joseph C. Coyle, Private and Sergeant, both in Co. A, all three in 12 Cavalry.

³² Dennis E. Frye, *12th Virginia Cavalry*, 2d ed. (Lynchburg, Virginia: H.E. Howard, 1988), 119—J. M. Coyle entry—his middle name was Marion born 19 June 1846 per Edward V. Coyle Family Bible. Also see “Brucetown Brevities,” *Winchester [Va.] Evening Star*, 27 November 1917; and “Bunker Hill Notes,” *Winchester Evening Star*, 17 October 1917, p. 4, col. 1 which indicate he was a Confederate veteran, but do not list his unit.

³³ “The Last Roll,” *Confederate Veteran*, 24, (August 1916), 366.

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Joseph C. Coyle, the second eldest brother, appears to have been a promising young man at the start of the war. At the age of nineteen, he worked as a “brick boss” in Jefferson County, evidently overseeing a brickmaking establishment.³⁴ Enlisting in the Twelfth Virginia Regiment in August 1861, he was later promoted to lieutenant.³⁵ According to family tradition, Joseph returned to the family home in March 1864 to help plant crops. A detachment of Mosby’s Rangers in the neighborhood, recruited him to lead them on a scouting expedition of the area. Ambushed by a party of Federal soldiers, two of the four spies lost their lives including Joseph who died of a gunshot wound to the head.³⁶ He was buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard near Roxley.³⁷

No known documentation survives describing the grief and emotions his family felt following Joseph’s death. Although he left no descendants, Coyle family members still remember his service. A great-niece recalled that he was venerated in the family when she was growing up in the early part of the twentieth century.³⁸ A great-nephew claimed his service to join the Sons of the Confederacy.³⁹ Joseph’s portrait hangs in the office of a third-great-nephew.⁴⁰



Joseph Clinton Coyle

³⁴ 1860 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., Charlestown, p. 778 (inked), dwell. 1846, fam. 1862, Joseph C. Cyle [*sic*]; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1355.

³⁵ *CMSR of Confederates from Virginia*, NARA M324, roll 116, index cards for Joseph C. Coyle, Private and Sergeant, Co. A, 12 Cavalry.

³⁶ Tradition per interview with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. G. Coyle (Charles Town, W.Va.), 1993 and Mrs. Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992. For details on his death see James J. Williamson, *Mosby's Rangers* (New York: Ralph B. Kenyon, 1896), 155 and Laidley, *History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia*, 455.

³⁷ Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), Joseph C. Coyle marker.

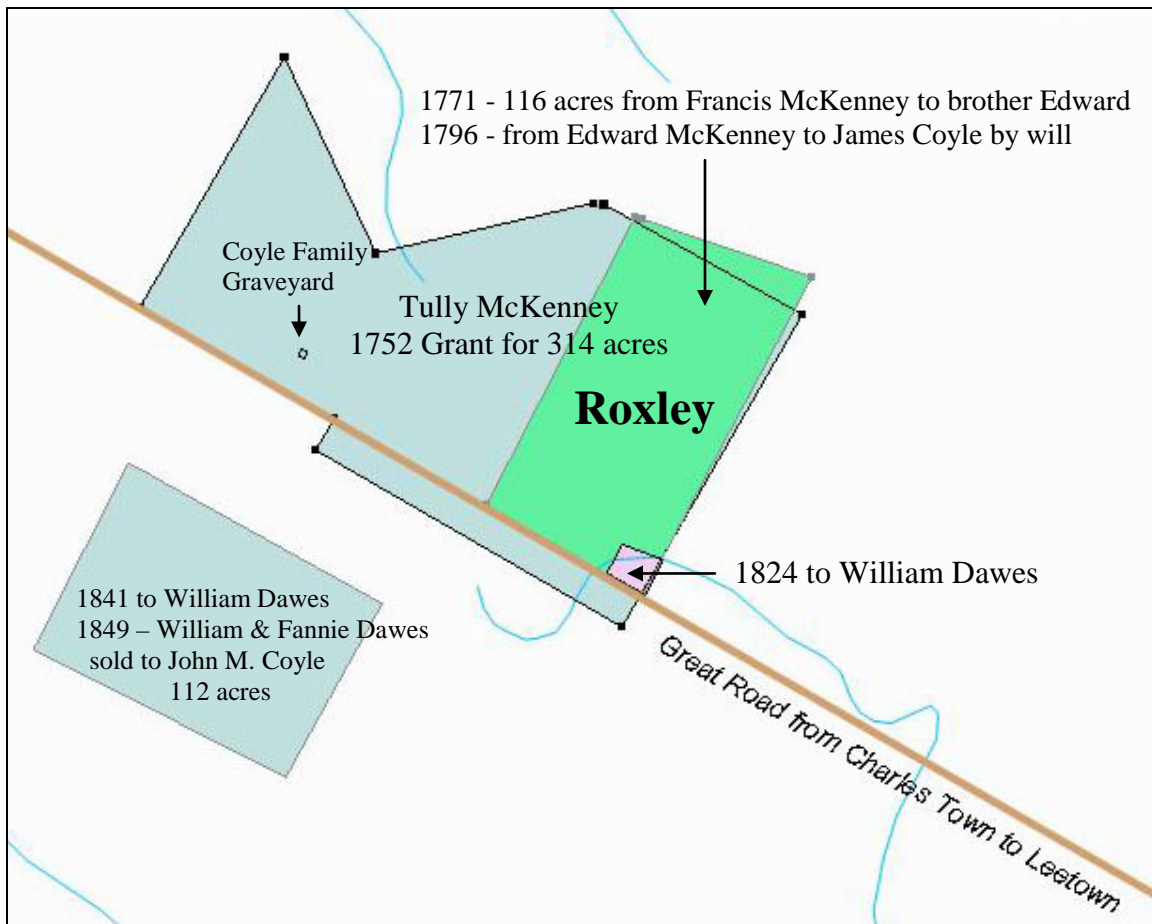
³⁸ Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992.

³⁹ Thomas C. G. Coyle, interview, 1993.

⁴⁰ Personal knowledge of the author.

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Figure 1 - Coyle Land in Jefferson County, West Virginia, Between Charles Town and Leetown⁴¹



GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

First Generation

1. James² Coyle (William¹) was born on 21 June 1762 probably in Frederick County, Virginia,⁴² to William and Mary (-?-) (McKenney) Coyle.⁴³ He died on 11 April 1842, probably in Jefferson County, Virginia.⁴⁴ He is buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard in Jefferson County.⁴⁵

⁴¹ For plat references see footnotes 52-54, 57, 58, 106 and 107.

⁴² Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), James Coyle marker.

⁴³ Berkeley Co. Va. 1787 Personal Property tax lists, unpaginated, Thomas Hart's District, William Coyle entry, Auditor of Public Accounts; microfilm roll 40; LVA lists James Coyle as a son of William. For William's marriage to Mary, widow of Tully McKenney, see Frederick Co., Will Book 2:470-471, Tully McKenney administrator's account, 1761.

⁴⁴ Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), James Coyle marker.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

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James married **Elizabeth Howard** about 22 May 1797 in Berkeley County, Virginia.⁴⁶ A daughter of Martin and Vilinda "Linney" (Violet) Howard,⁴⁷ she was born about 1777, probably in Berkeley County.⁴⁸ She died in 1851, probably in Jefferson County, and is likely buried in an unmarked grave in the Coyle Family Graveyard.⁴⁹

Family tradition indicates that the Coyle immigrant ancestor migrated from County Donegal, Northern Ireland. Published family accounts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries suggest that the immigrant was James Coyle's father, William.⁵⁰ No record survives of William Coyle purchasing land in Virginia. He farmed on a tract of land consisting of 100 acres, apparently his wife Mary's dower as widow of Tully McKenney.⁵¹ This was part of a 314 acre grant that McKenney received from Lord Fairfax, proprietor of the Northern Neck, in 1752.⁵² This land lay in the part of Frederick County that became Berkeley County in 1772 and Jefferson County in 1801. Berkeley and Jefferson became part of West Virginia in 1863. In 1771, Francis McKenney, heir of Tully, sold 116 acres of the land to his brother Edward McKenney.⁵³ In 1796, James Coyle inherited this land from his half-brother Edward McKenney.⁵⁴ This fertile parcel of

⁴⁶ This is the date of the marriage bond. The marriage record has apparently not survived. See Berkeley Co., unidentified marriage bond book:18; *WVDOC&H*.

⁴⁷ The proof of Elizabeth Coyle's parentage is indirect. Martin Howard signed as co-bondsman on her marriage bond, but the relationship is not stated per *ibid*. An undated bill to a court suit identifies Elizabeth Howard and others as the children of Vilinda and Martin Howard and erroneously states they all lived in Ohio. It identifies Elizabeth Burton of Jefferson County, [Virginia] and Vilinda (deceased), wife of Martin Howard, as sisters of the late Sarah Violet. The back of the summons dated 4 July 1836 in this suit erroneously indicates that all of the children of Martin and Vilinda, including Elizabeth, moved to Kentucky. See *Marcus D. Baker v. Abner Carter and Sarah Violet's Administrator, Loudoun Co., Va., Chancery Papers 1839-056, M1975; Circuit Court Archives, Leesburg, Virginia*. Another Loudoun County suit identifies Linny Howard, widow of Martin Howard and Elizabeth Burton as heirs of Edward Violet, deceased, per Edward Violette's *Adm. vs. James Patterson, Loudoun Co., Chancery Papers 1800-001; Circuit Court Archives, Leesburg*. The will of Elizabeth Burton left a legacy of \$60 to be divided among her nieces and granddaughter identified as Frances Daws, Alcy Hill, Courtney Kercheval, Juliet E. Coyle and Hannah Violet, daughter of W^m Violet. See *Jefferson Co., Will Book 10, 1838-1845:19, Elizabeth Burton will, 1838*. The will of James Coyle identifies wife Elizabeth and daughters Fanny Dawes and Alcinda Hill per *Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59*. Therefore, Fanny, alias Frances, and Alcy, alias Alcinda, must have been great nieces of Elizabeth Burton. Fanny and Alcy and their mother Elizabeth Coyle must have been granddaughters and a daughter, respectively, of Martin and Vilinda Howard.

⁴⁸ Elizabeth Coyle appears as a seventy-seven-year-old native of Virginia in the 1850 U.S. census, *Jefferson Co., Va., 28th District, p. 372 (stamped), dwell. 1177, fam. 1192, James T. Coyle; NARA microfilm M432, roll 953*. Elizabeth's probable birth place is per Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley ...*, 745 which indicates she was of Jefferson County (formed from Berkeley in 1801).

⁴⁹ See footnote 12.

⁵⁰ See footnote 8.

⁵¹ For the 100 acres see William Coyle 1782 and 1785 land tax entries, p. 25 (1782) and unpagged (1785); *West Virginia Land Tax Lists, Berkeley County, 1782-1803; microfilm 13; LVA*. For dower see *Frederick Co., Will Book 2:470-471*.

⁵² *State of Virginia, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants / Northern Neck Grants and Surveys" database, LVA* (http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30), entry for Tully McKenney, 18 March 1752.

⁵³ *Berkeley Co., Deed Book 6:59-61, McKinny to McKenny, lease and release*. This deed indicates that Francis was son and heir-at-law of Tully McKenney. *Berkeley Co. Deed Book 10:14-16, McKennys to Carter*, indicates Francis and Edward were both sons of Tully McKenney. All Berkeley County, West Virginia, probate and deed records accessed at the County Clerk's Office, Martinsburg.

⁵⁴ *Berkeley Co., Will Book 2:350, Edward McKenny will, 1796*.

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land, with an outcropping of limestone rock, became known as Roxley.⁵⁵ James grew wheat on Roxley, which was a staple crop of the Shenandoah Valley and also raised sheep. In March 1832, he reported losing a flock of twenty and offered a reward for their return.⁵⁶

James likely lived on or near the original Tully McKenney grant all his life. In 1812, James and Elizabeth sold a small portion of the Roxley tract to a nephew, William Coyle, son of James' brother William.⁵⁷ A plat of the tract indicates it contains three acres of land. James' son-in-law, William Dawes, acquired the same tract in 1824.⁵⁸

A biographical sketch describes James and Elizabeth Coyle as "zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal Church."⁵⁹ A January 1838 newspaper notice indicates a Rev. Mr. Larkin scheduled to preach at their home, probably James Larkin who is identified as an early minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in neighboring Shepherdstown.⁶⁰

James Coyle and Elizabeth Howard had ten children, all likely born at Roxley, Berkeley (later Jefferson) County, Virginia:⁶¹

- +2 i. FRANCES³ "FANNIE" COYLE, born on or about 19 February 1798;⁶² died

⁵⁵ Jefferson County Historical Society, *Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, West Virginia*, 107 and 167. The author's father farmed a neighboring tract of land, part of Tully McKenney's original grant, and recalled the terrain of Roxley per phone conversation 5 September 2011.

⁵⁶ Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:123-125, James Coyle inventory, 1842, shows 26 acres of wheat in James' estate appraisalment dated 19 September 1842 and Notice, *Virginia Free Press and Farmers' Repository* (Charles Town, W. Va.), 15 March 1832 p. 3, col. 4; all issues of this newspaper and the *Virginia Free Press* from the 1830s were found online at *19th Century U.S. Newspapers* (<http://infotrac.galegroup.com>). Also see Kenneth E. Koons, "'The Staple of Our Country': Wheat in the Regional Farm Economy of the Nineteenth-Century Valley of Virginia," in Koons and Hofstra, *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia, 1800-1900*, 3-20.

⁵⁷ Jefferson Co., Deed Book 7, 1811-1813:373-374. For proof that William, the purchaser, was the son of William Coyle see Jefferson Co., Deed Book 13, 1824-1825:22, Daws and wife to Humphrey, deed of trust. For proof that the elder William was brother of James see Berkeley Co., Va. 1787 Personal Property Tax list, unpaginated, William Coyle.

⁵⁸ Jefferson Co., Deed Book 12, 1822-1824:534-535, Moore atny. to Daws.

⁵⁹ Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley...*, 745.

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, 383 and Notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 18 January 1838, p. 3, col. 3.

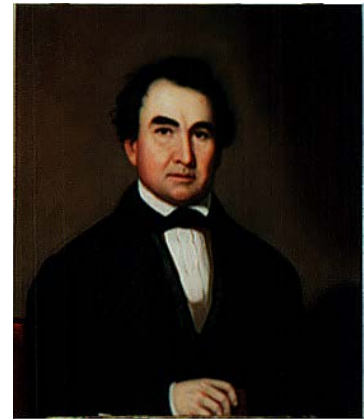
⁶¹ A biography of James and Elizabeth's son, John M. Coyle, states that they were the parents of ten children per Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley...*, 745. All the children, with the exception of William H. and Martha are named in James Coyle's will per Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59. William H. and Martha Coyle are identified as children of James per Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), William H. and Martha Coyle markers. Edward's middle name is per his great-granddaughter Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992. John's and James' middle names per George L. Coyle (Charleston, W.Va.) to Holmes G. Dawes (Chicago, Ill.), letter, 22 January 1953; facsimile copy held by the author. Note all three men are referred to solely by their middle initials in contemporary documents located to date.

⁶² Frances' tombstone lists a birth date of 19 February 1797 which is prior to her parent's marriage. Census listings show her as aged fifty-four in 1850, sixty-three in 1860 and sixty-four in 1870. Her death notice lists her as aged seventy-three. These indicate a birth range of 1795-1797, disregarding the 1870 census. Perhaps the date should be 19 February 1798, nearly nine months after the issue of her parent's 22 May 1797 marriage bond. If the 1798 date is correct, she and sister Alcinda were likely twins. See Brucetown United Methodist Church graveyard (Clear Brook, Virginia), Fannie Dawes marker, all cited markers personally read, 2010; 1850 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., District 16, p. 238 (stamped), dwell./fam. 534, William Daws; NARA microfilm M432, roll 945; 1860 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., Magisterial District 1, Brucetown P.O., p. 485 (inked), dwell. 1845, fam. 1807, William Dences [*sic*]; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1347; 1870 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., Mortality Schedule, p. 1B (inked), fam. 223, Frances Daws; NARA microfilm T1132; and Mrs. Fanny Dawes death notice, *Virginia Free Press* (Charles Town, W.Va.), 4 April 1870, p. 3, col. 3.

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- on 18 March 1870 near Brucetown, Frederick County, Virginia.⁶³ Fannie married William Dawes on 9 April 1822 at Jefferson County.⁶⁴
- 3 ii. ALCINDA COYLE, born about 1798;⁶⁵ died on 20 April 1879 at Roxley.⁶⁶ She married John Hill on 20 October 1836 at Jefferson County.⁶⁷ The couple had no children.⁶⁸
- +4 iii. EDWARD VIOLETT COYLE, born on 1 August 1800;⁶⁹ died on 16 May 1890, near Payne's Chapel, Berkeley County.⁷⁰ He married Mary Ann Winpigler on 20 February 1837 at Washington County, Maryland.⁷¹
- 5 iv. WILLIAM H. COYLE, born on 18 August 1802; died on 14 May 1826 and is buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard.⁷² There is no evidence that he ever married or had children.
- 6 v. JOHN MCSHERRY COYLE, born on 15 October 1804; died on 15 October 1892 at Charles Town, Jefferson County.⁷³ John married (1) Julia/Juliet E. O'Bannon, on 15 September 1835 in Washington County, Maryland.⁷⁴ A daughter of John and Ruth F. O'Bannon, she was born about 1818 and died 10 November 1849.⁷⁵ John married (2) Albina S. Crowe, on 4 August 1856 at Jefferson County.⁷⁶

The most enterprising family member, John invested in stud horses, and with his brother James T. Coyle, established a carding and fulling business, and set up woolen mills in



John McSherry Coyle

⁶³ Ibid for Fanny Dawes death notice.

⁶⁴ Unidentified Jefferson County, marriage register:64; *WVDOC&H*, search for Daws in Jefferson.

⁶⁵ 1860 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., p. 916 (inked), dwell. 462, fam. 445, James T. Coyle.

⁶⁶ Mrs. Alcinda Hill obituary, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 13 May 1879, p. 2, col. 5.

⁶⁷ Marriage Notices, *Virginia Free Press and Farmers' Repository*, 27 October 1836, p. 3, col. 4.

⁶⁸ George L. Coyle to Holmes G. Dawes, 22 January 1953.

⁶⁹ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible.

⁷⁰ Julius M. Coyle Family Bible, 1846-1917, *Holy Bible*, (Publication data missing). Original owned in 2011 by the author. The Julius M. Coyle Bible passed from Julius to his son Edward M. Coyle, to his daughter Sara (Coyle) Blue to the author. The family pages contain a certificate of Holy Matrimony for Julius and his wife Nettie dated 1875 and is likely close to the date the Bible was published. Entries appear to be contemporary from 1875.

⁷¹ Washington County, Md., Marriage Records, 1799-1860: unpaginated, recorded by initial letter and then chronologically, Edward B. [sic] Coyle and Mary Ann Winsigler [sic] entry; microfilm 14,643; Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, Utah. This date is nearly a year later than the date of 22 February 1836 recorded in the Edward V. Coyle family Bible which was likely embellished to allow at least a nine month span before the birth of the couple's first child, James William Coyle, on 27 April 1837.

⁷² Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), William H. Coyle marker.

⁷³ *Spirit of Jefferson*, 18 October 1892.

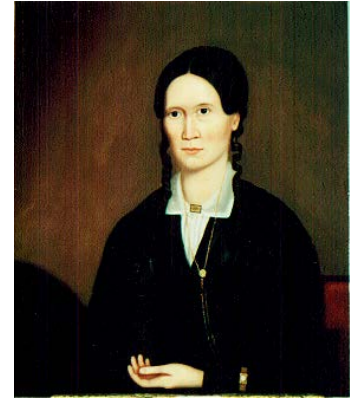
⁷⁴ Washington Co., Marriage Records, 1799-1860: unpaginated Coyle-O'Bannon entry.

⁷⁵ Edgehill Cemetery (Charles Town, W.Va.), Juliet E. Coyle marker, personally read, 2011.

⁷⁶ Unidentified Jefferson County, marriage register: unpaginated; *WVDOC&H*, search for John Coyle in Jefferson.

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Berkeley and Frederick counties, Virginia.⁷⁷ In an 1836 add promoting their new woolen mill business at Brucetown, the brothers boldly declared “This is no puff – we have pledged ourselves. Call and try.”⁷⁸ John and his wife, Julia, sold their interest in the mill, called Pine Grove, to his brother Joseph in 1847.⁷⁹ See figure 2.



Julia (O'Bannon) Coyle

When he died in 1892, a Charles Town newspaper published an extensive obituary which ended: “As a friend and neighbor he was kind, generous and hospitable, and as an enemy, open, frank and sometimes even bitter; His feeling knew no middle ground, and he was very strong in his likes and dislikes.”⁸⁰ John had no children and left his vast estate, appraised at \$41,918, to his nieces and nephews.⁸¹

- 7 vi. JAMES TULLY COYLE, born about 1806 in Virginia;⁸² died on 23 June 1881 at Roxley and is buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard.⁸³ James inherited Roxley from his father in 1842.⁸⁴ Never married and known as “Uncle Doc,”⁸⁵ he and his sister Margaret raised their niece, Martha Elizabeth “Mattie” Coyle, and nephew, George Fayette Coyle, children of Joseph O. and Edward V. Coyle respectively.⁸⁶ James left Roxley to George Fayette Coyle with provision that Mattie be allowed to occupy two rooms in the house for her lifetime.⁸⁷
- +8 vii. JOSEPH O. COYLE, born about 1808; died on 28 May 1874 at Brucetown.⁸⁸ Joseph married (1) Courtney H. Smith, on 28 January 1835, at Jefferson County;⁸⁹ married (2) Maria M. Jobe, on 2 November 1854 in

⁷⁷ See Notices, *Virginia Free Press and Farmers' Repository*, 8 March 1832, p. 4, col. 6; 21 March 1833, p. 3, col. 5; and *Virginia Free Press*, 14 July 1836, p. 3, col. 2; and John M. Whitehall v. John M. Coyle, Berkeley Co., Chancery Court Records, 1834 - HS424, Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg.

⁷⁸ Notices, *Virginia Free Press*, 14 July 1836.

⁷⁹ Frederick Co., Deed Book 76:448-450.

⁸⁰ *Spirit of Jefferson*, 18 October 1892.

⁸¹ Jefferson Co. Will Book B:100-105, John M. Coyle will, 1892, and Jefferson Co. Accounts Fiduciaries Book H:44, John M. Coyle appraisal, 1892.

⁸² 1860 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., p. 916 (inked), dwell. 462, fam. 445, James T. Coyle.

⁸³ James T. Coyle death notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 2 July 1881, p. 3, col. 3 and Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), James T. Coyle marker.

⁸⁴ Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59.

⁸⁵ Jefferson County Historical Society, *Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac...*, 167.

⁸⁶ George L. Coyle to Holmes G. Dawes, 22 January 1953 indicates Mattie was raised by her aunt and uncle. Information on George Fayette per interview with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. G. Coyle (Charles Town, W.Va.), 1993. Also see 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., 28th District, p. 372 (stamped), dwell. 1177, fam., 1192, James T. Coyle; and 1870 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., W.Va., Averill Twp., Smithfield P.O., p. 424 (stamped), dwell./fam. 1, James T. Coyle; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1689 which show Mattie and George Fayette respectively in his household.

⁸⁷ Jefferson Co., Will Book A:204-206, James T. Coyle will, 1881.

⁸⁸ Major Joseph O. Coyle death notice, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 2 June 1874, p. 2, col. 4 says in his 66th year.

⁸⁹ Unidentified Jefferson Co., marriage register:35; *WVDOC&H*, search on Coyle in Jefferson.

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- Berkeley County.⁹⁰
- 9 viii. MARTHA "PATSEY" COYLE, born on 20 December 1810;⁹¹ died from consumption on 7 June 1835 in Jefferson County and is buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard.⁹²
- 10 ix. MARY ANN COYLE, born about 1815 in Jefferson County;⁹³ died on 6 September 1857 at Roxley.⁹⁴
- 11 x. MARGARETTA/MARGARET E. COYLE, born about 1822;⁹⁵ died on 16 March 1880 in Jefferson County, and buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard.⁹⁶

Second and Third Generations

2. **Frances³ "Fannie" Coyle** (James², William¹) was born on or about 19 February 1798, probably in Berkeley County, Virginia.⁹⁷ She died on 18 March 1870 near Brucetown, Frederick County, Virginia.⁹⁸ Fannie married **William Dawes** on 9 April 1822 in Jefferson County, Virginia.⁹⁹ Born probably in Maryland on 1 November 1790,¹⁰⁰ William died 21 November 1868 near Brucetown.¹⁰¹ Both are buried in the Brucetown United Methodist Church graveyard.¹⁰²

William and Fannie spent their early married years in Jefferson County where, William purchased three acres adjoining his father-in-law in 1824.¹⁰³ The couple sold the land in 1831.¹⁰⁴ By 1839, William was running a cooper shop on the road from Charles Town to Leetown in

⁹⁰ Virginia Bureau of Vital Statistics, West Virginia Vital Statistics (VBVS, W. Va.), Berkeley Co. Marriages, 1853-1863, Accession 38788, unpaginated third page of 1854 entries, Coyle-Jobe entry 55; microfilm WVVS1; LVA.

⁹¹ Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), Martha Coyle marker. Note, Martha's death date on her tombstone is listed as 7 June 1845, but should be 7 June 1835 per her death notice below.

⁹² Ibid and Patsey Coyle death notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 11 June 1835, p. 3, col. 3.

⁹³ 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., 28th District, p. 372 (stamped), dwell. 1177, fam., 1192, James T. Coyle and unidentified Jefferson Co., Register of Deaths:15; *WVDOC&H*, search for Coyle in Jefferson.

⁹⁴ Mary Ann Coyle death notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 10 September 1857, p. 2, col. 5 indicates that she died at brother James T. Coyle's home.

⁹⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., 28th District, p. 372 (stamped), dwell. 1177, fam. 1192, James T. Coyle.

⁹⁶ Margaret Coyle death notice, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 23 March 1880, p. 2, col. 4 and Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), Margaret E. Coyle marker.

⁹⁷ See footnote 62. The name is also spelled Fanny in other records.

⁹⁸ Mrs. Fanny Dawes death notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 4 April 1870.

⁹⁹ Unidentified Jefferson Co., marriage register:14; *WVDOC&H*, search for William Daws in Jefferson.

¹⁰⁰ The 1860 census lists his birth place as Maryland and two of the four children located in the 1880 census list his birth place as Maryland. See 1860 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., Magisterial District 1, Brucetown P.O., p. 485 (inked), dwell. 1845, fam. 1807, William Dences [*sic*]; 1880 U.S. census, Saline County, Mo., Marshall, ED 66, p. 490 (stamped), dwell./fam. 116, W.C. Dawes, and p. 492 (stamped), dwell./fam. 129, Isaac M. Dawes; NARA microfilm T9, roll 716. Although William's 1850 census enumeration indicates a birth place of Virginia as do two children's 1880 census listings, this was probably listed incorrectly due to his wife's and children's births in Virginia. See 1850 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., District 16, p. 238 (stamped), dwell./fam. 534, William Daws; 1880 U.S. census, Fairfax Co., Va., Centreville, ED 34, p. 236B (stamped), dwell. 113, fam. 114, Mary A. Legg; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1364; and 1880 U.S. census, Saline Co., Mo., Marshall, ED 67, p. 512 (stamped), dwell. 56, fam. 60, Jno. J. Daws; NARA microfilm T9, roll 716. For the birth date see Brucetown United Methodist Church graveyard (Clear Brook, Va.), William Dawes marker.

¹⁰¹ William Dawes death notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 10 December 1868, p. 3, col. 3.

¹⁰² Brucetown United Methodist Church graveyard (Clear Brook, Va.), William Dawes and Fannie Dawes markers.

¹⁰³ Jefferson Co., Deed Book 12, 1822-1824:534-535, Moore attny. to Daws.

¹⁰⁴ Jefferson Co., Deed Book 24, 1839-1841:529-530, Daws and wife to Gardner.

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Jefferson County when he placed an advertisement to hire four or five "journeymen coopers."¹⁰⁵ In 1841, he purchased 112 acres from his brother and sister-in-law, John M. and Juliet E. Coyle, and Jackson and Emily O'Bannon, all heirs of Captain John O'Bannon.¹⁰⁶ William and Fannie resold the land to John M. Coyle in 1849.¹⁰⁷ See figure 1.

Following the sale of their land, William and Fannie joined other Coyle family members who had moved to neighboring Frederick County, Virginia. In March 1850, William purchased 202 acres near Brucetown for \$4,000 from his brother-in-law John M. Coyle.¹⁰⁸ Shortly afterwards, he relinquished the tract with the exception of 16 acres.¹⁰⁹ In 1852, William purchased two adjoining tracts in Frederick County consisting of 130 and 15 acres respectively.¹¹⁰ Fannie's brother, Joseph, was also a neighbor, and brother Edward lived nearby in neighboring Berkeley County.¹¹¹ Figure 2 shows these tracts which were also located near the borders of Clarke County, Virginia and Jefferson County, [West] Virginia.

Throughout his adult life, William entered into deeds of trust using his land as collateral.¹¹² The final trust was not satisfied, and the Dawes farm was sold by the trustee after William and Fannie's deaths.¹¹³

Frances "Fannie" Coyle and William Dawes had the following children all born in Virginia, probably in Jefferson County:¹¹⁴

- 12 i. ISAAC⁴ MARTIN DAWES, born in 1824;¹¹⁵ died 15 June 1891 at Norton, Saline County, Missouri.¹¹⁶ He married Eliza Frances Young, on 23 April 1850 in Berkeley County, Virginia.¹¹⁷
- 13 ii. HARRIET VIRGINIA DAWES, born on 27 October 1826; died on 21 September 1877 probably at Saline County, unmarried, and is buried in the Dawes-Durrett Family Cemetery, Saline County.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁵ Notices, *Virginia Free Press*, 7 February 1839, p. 3, col. 5.

¹⁰⁶ Jefferson Co., Deed Book 25, 1810-1842:327-328.

¹⁰⁷ Jefferson Co., Deed Book 31, 1850-1851:42-43.

¹⁰⁸ Frederick Co., Deed Book 53:490

¹⁰⁹ Frederick Co., Deed Books 78:196-197, Dawes and wife to Roe; and 78:197, Dawes and Wife to Washington.

¹¹⁰ Frederick Co., Deed Book 79:541-542, Green et al to Davis [*sic*].

¹¹¹ See 1850 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., 16th District, p. 246 (stamped), dwell./fam. 660, Joseph O. Coyle; NARA microfilm M432, roll 945.

¹¹² See Jefferson Co., Deed Book 13:22-23; Frederick Co. Deed Book 85:50-51, Dawes and wife to Frye and 85:135-136, Dawes and wife to Timberlake.

¹¹³ Frederick Co., Deed Book 91:380-381, Timberlake to Timberlake.

¹¹⁴ See Jefferson Co., Accounts Fiduciaries Book H:424-425 for parentage. Harriet's listing is based on the family's census entry in 1850. See 1850 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., District 16, p. 238 (stamped), dwell./fam. 534, William Daws and 1850 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Va., 28th District, p. 362 (stamped), dwell. 1019, fam. 1032, Isaac M. Dawes; NARA microfilm M432, roll 953 for birth places.

¹¹⁵ Shirley Haynes & Avlyn Conley, compilers, "Dawes-Durrett Family Cemetery," database, *Saline County, Missouri USGenWeb* site (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mosaline/5tombstones/dawesdurrettfamilycemetery.txt>), entries for the Dawes and Stipes families.

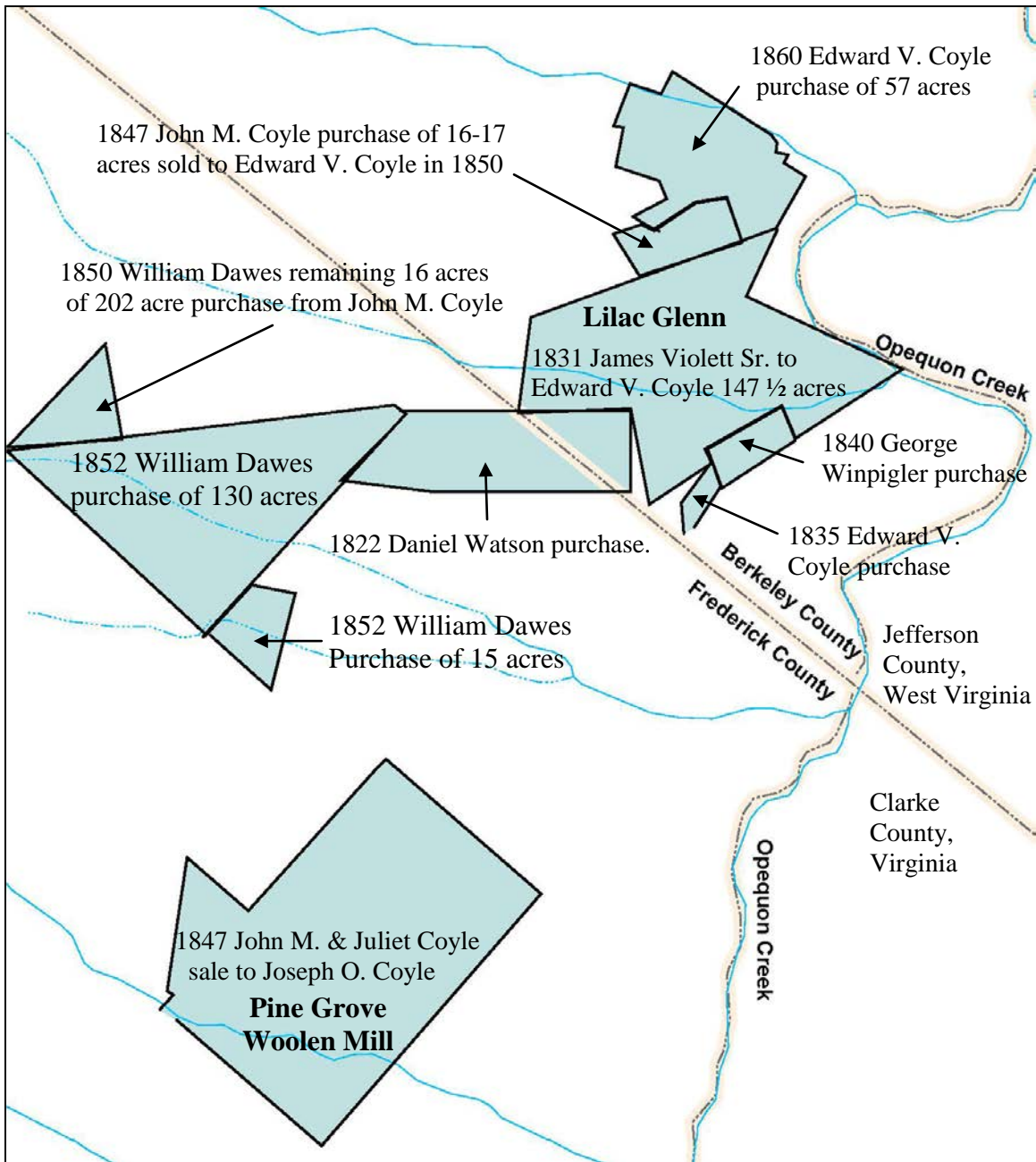
¹¹⁶ Mr. I.N.[*sic*] Dawes obituary, *Saline County Weekly Progress* (Marshall, Missouri), 19 June 1891, p. 6, col. 5.

¹¹⁷ Unidentified Berkeley Co. marriage register:81; *WVDOC&H*, search for Eliza Young in Berkeley.

¹¹⁸ Haynes and Conley, "Dawes-Durrett Family Cemetery."

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Figure 2 - Coyle Holdings in Frederick County, Virginia, and Berkeley County, West Virginia¹¹⁹



¹¹⁹ For plat references see footnotes, 79, 108-110, 142, and 146-148.

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- 14 iii. MARY ALCINDA DAWES, born about 1829;¹²⁰ died on 2 February 1889 at Fairfax County, Virginia.¹²¹ She married George E. P. Legg on 8 June 1854 in Frederick County.¹²²
- 15 iv. ANNE E. DAWES, born on 20 December 1830;¹²³ died 20 October 1884 at Clay Township, Saline County.¹²⁴ Anne married John Daniel Stipes on 14 December 1854 at Frederick County.¹²⁵
- 16 v. MARTHA E. DAWES, born on 14 February 1833; died unmarried on 10 April 1902 at Saline County, buried at the Dawes-Durrett Cemetery.¹²⁶
- 17 vi. WILLIAM C. DAWES, born on 6 August 1837; died 28 May 1907 in Saline County.¹²⁷ He married Elizabeth C. Claycomb, on 1 January 1863 in Saline County.¹²⁸
- 18 vii. JOHN J. DAWES, born in March 1839 at Jefferson County;¹²⁹ died 8 January 1903 in Saline County.¹³⁰ He married Catharine A. "Katie" Ginn, on 3 September 1873 at Winchester, Frederick County.¹³¹
- 19 viii. JULIA FRANCES GERE DAWES, born 16 December 1845 in Jefferson County;¹³² died on 27 November 1871 at Charles Town, Jefferson County.¹³³ She married Washington Sewell Merchant, on 8 February 1871 at Brucetown, Frederick County.¹³⁴

4. **Edward³ Violet Coyle** (James², William¹), was born on 1 August 1800 in Berkeley County, Virginia.¹³⁵ He died on 16 May 1890 near Payne's Chapel, Berkeley County.¹³⁶ According to a

¹²⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., District 16, p. 238 (stamped), dwell./fam. 534, William Daws.

¹²¹ Virginia Bureau of Vital Statistics Deaths, Fairfax County, unpaginated 1889 entry 41; microfilm 10; LVA.

¹²² Frederick Co. Marriage Register 2, 1853-1907:13, Legg-Davis [*sic*] marriage. This is a typescript copy and the bride is incorrectly listed as Mary A. "Davis," a common transcription error for Dawes.

¹²³ Haynes and Conley, "Dawes-Durrett Family Cemetery."

¹²⁴ Saline Co., Mo., Permanent Record of Deaths Book A, 1884 section; p. 179, Ann E. Stipe entry, FHL microfilm 946,944.

¹²⁵ Frederick Co., Marriage Register 2:18.

¹²⁶ Miss Martha Dawes death notice, *St. Louis (Missouri) Republic*, 11 April 1902, p. 5, col. 5; online at "Chronicling America," *Library of Congress* (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) search on Martha Dawes and Haynes and Conley, "Dawes-Durrett Family Cemetery."

¹²⁷ Shirley Haynes and Dorothy Campbell, compilers, *Tombstone Inscriptions (with added information) From Cemeteries in Saline County, Missouri* (Gilliam, Missouri: Saline Sentiments, no date), 52 and W.C. Dawes obituary, *Slater Rustler*, 31 May 1907, p. 1, col. 2.

¹²⁸ Saline Co., Marriage Bond Book B, 1851-1867, p. 187, Dawes-Claycomb entry; FHL microfilm 902,930.

¹²⁹ Frederick Co., Marriage Register 2:190, Daives [*sic*]-Ginn marriage, and 1900 U.S. census, Saline Co., Mo., Slater City, ED 123, p. 77 (inked), dwell. 115, fam. 116, Johnh [*sic*] Dawes; NARA microfilm T623, roll 901.

¹³⁰ John J. Dawes death notice, *St. Louis Republic*, 9 January 1903, p. 2, col. 4; online at "Chronicling America," *Library of Congress* (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) search on John Dawes.

¹³¹ Frederick County, Va., Marriage Register 2:190.

¹³² Brucetown United Methodist Church graveyard (Clear Brook, Va.), Julia Francis [*sic*] Gere Merchant marker for calculated birth date; and Frederick Co., Marriage Register 2:164, Merchant-Daws marriage for place. Julia's birth date and mother Frances' estimated birth date are problematic since Frances would have been nearly aged forty-eight when she gave birth to Julia. However, Julia's marriage and death records and tombstone all identify her as William and Frances' daughter.

¹³³ Unidentified Jefferson Co. death register: unpaginated; *WVDOC&H*, search on Merchant in Jefferson.

¹³⁴ Frederick Co., Marriage Register 2:164.

¹³⁵ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible and E.V. Coyle death notice, *Virginia Free Press*, 21 May 1890, p. 3, col. 2 which indicates he was born in this county. The paper was published in Charles Town, Jefferson Co. which was part

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great-granddaughter, he is buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard, but no marker has been located.¹³⁷

Edward married **Mary Ann Winpigler**, twenty years his junior, on 20 February 1837 in Washington County, Maryland.¹³⁸ Mary Ann was born on 14 December 1820 in Berkeley County to George and Elizabeth (Watson) Winpigler.¹³⁹ She died on 28 February 1880 near Payne's Chapel.¹⁴⁰ She was buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Middleway, Jefferson County, West Virginia.¹⁴¹

In 1831, Edward purchased 147 ½ acres of land in Berkeley County from James Violett, Senior of Fauquier County, Virginia.¹⁴² James was the husband of Sarah Violett, a daughter of Edward Violett, and was Edward V. Coyle's great-aunt.¹⁴³ Edward V. Coyle lived most of 1830

with James and Sarah at their home in Fauquier County, Virginia, where he witnessed a great deal of domestic discord between the couple. On one occasion, James "took up a pitcher of milk and swore he would knock her brains out with it," causing her to flee to a neighbor's house.¹⁴⁴ Edward later faced his own problem with Violett when he was sued for non-payment of the tract of land.¹⁴⁵ Edward purchased adjoining tracts to the Violett farm, eventually accumulating 225 acres of land at the time of his



Lilac Glenn, the Edward V. Coyle Family Home in Berkeley County

of Berkeley at the time of Edward's birth.

¹³⁶ Julius M. Coyle Family Bible.

¹³⁷ Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992—Mrs. Blue resided at Roxley less than a mile from the Coyle Family Graveyard. She recalled that Edward was not buried with his wife.

¹³⁸ Washington Co., Marriage Records, 1799-1860: unpaginated, Coyle – Winsigler entry.

¹³⁹ For her birthdate and parentage see Edward V. Coyle Family Bible. See West Virginia State Department of Health – Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate no. 11424, (1928), Martha Elizabeth Coyle; *WVDOC&H*, search for Martha Coyle in Jefferson Co. for birth location. For Elizabeth Winpigler's maiden name see, Frederick Co., Marriage Bonds 1811-1815, unpaginated, Winpigler-Watson marriage bond, 4 March 1814, microfilm 109; LVA.

¹⁴⁰ Julius M. Coyle Family Bible.

¹⁴¹ Masonic Cemetery (Middleway, Jefferson Co., W. Va.; from Middleway Street take county route 1/8 for .15 miles east), Mary A. Coyle marker, read by author, 2010.

¹⁴² Berkeley Co., Deed Book 39:101-102.

¹⁴³ See footnote 47. Curiously, Sarah Violett did not join her husband James in conveying the deed above, nor did she release dower.

¹⁴⁴ Sarah Violett v. James Violett, Fauquier Co. Chancery Court Papers, 1834-001; County Clerk's Office, Warrenton, Virginia.

¹⁴⁵ James Violett v. Edward V. Coyle, Berkeley Co., Chancery Court Papers (1838), no. 907; Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, W. Va.

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death.¹⁴⁶ In 1840, his father-in-law, George Winpigler, purchased an adjoining tract of eleven acres.¹⁴⁷ Edward lived very close to his sister, Fannie Dawes, who resided in neighboring Frederick County, with a tract owned by Daniel Watson, perhaps a brother of Elizabeth (Watson) Winpigler, separating the two siblings.¹⁴⁸ See figure 2.

Edward and Mary Coyle owned a slave named David Campbell, likely inherited from Edward's father.¹⁴⁹ Family lore says "Uncle Davy" kept the family fed during the Civil War.¹⁵⁰ Another tradition relates that David decided to stay with "Miss Mary" when the war ended since it was hard to tell what "Mr. Edward" might do, perhaps in reference to Edward's incarceration in Fort McHenry.¹⁵¹ Campbell's death notice indicates "In life he lived an honest and upright Christian, and in his death the last honor was paid him by the whites who had been reared to revere and love him."¹⁵²

Edward Violet Coyle and Mary Ann Winpigler had the following children, all born in Virginia (later West Virginia), probably on the family farm, Lilac Glenn, in Berkeley County:¹⁵³

- 20 i. JAMES⁴ WILLIAM COYLE, born 27 April 1837; committed suicide on 19 or 20 November 1892 at Summit Point, Jefferson County, West Virginia, apparently distressed over the terms of his uncle John M. Coyle's will.¹⁵⁴
- 21 ii. JOHN RANDOLPH COYLE, born 14 March 1839; died on 23 September 1841.¹⁵⁵
- 22 iii. JOSEPH CLINTON COYLE, born 8 October 1841; killed in action on 28 March 1864 at Bunker Hill, Berkeley County.¹⁵⁶
- 23 iv. JEROME BONAPARTE COYLE, born on 21 October 1843 in Berkeley County;¹⁵⁷ died on 15 March 1916 at Roxley, Jefferson County.¹⁵⁸ Jerome married (1) Anne M. Swimley, on 22 April 1875 at Bunker Hill¹⁵⁹ and (2) Mollie B. Payne on 17 October 1900 at Summit Point.¹⁶⁰
- 24 v. CHARLES STEWART COYLE, born 8 March 1845; died 31 August

¹⁴⁶ Berkeley Co., Deed Book 91:126, Coyle to Coyle. For metes and bounds see Berkeley Co. Deed Books 41:736-738, Payne & wife to Coyle; 54:342-343, Coyle to Coyle (metes and bounds per 54:339-341, Settlemyer to Coyle); 61:314-315, Frye Commissioner to Coyle.

¹⁴⁷ Berkeley Co., Deed Book 44:482-484, Franklin & wife to Winpigler.

¹⁴⁸ Frederick Co., Deed Book 45:389, Ferguson & Toles to Watson.

¹⁴⁹ Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59.

¹⁵⁰ Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. G. Coyle, interview, 1993.

¹⁵¹ Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992.

¹⁵² David Campbell death notice, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 25 March 1879, p. 3, col. 1.

¹⁵³ For parentage and birth dates see the Edward V. Coyle Family Bible. For birth location see 1850 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., Va., 9th District, p. 413 (stamped), dwell. 1457, fam., 1488, Edward B. [*sic*] Coyle; NARA microfilm M432, roll 936; 1860 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., Va., Mill Creek Post Office, p. 880 (inked), dwell./fam. 901, Edwa [*sic*] V. Coyle; and 1870 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., W.Va., Mill Creek Twp. and P.O., p. 31 (stamped), dwell./fam. 193, Edward V. Coyl [*sic*]; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1684. The name of the family farm is per Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992.

¹⁵⁴ "Suicide of Jas. W. Coyle," *Martinsburg (W.Va.) Herald*, 26 November 1892, p. 3, col. 2.

¹⁵⁵ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible.

¹⁵⁶ Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), Joseph C. Coyle marker.

¹⁵⁷ Unidentified Berkeley Co. marriage register:160; *WVDOC&H*, search for Jerome Coyle in Berkeley.

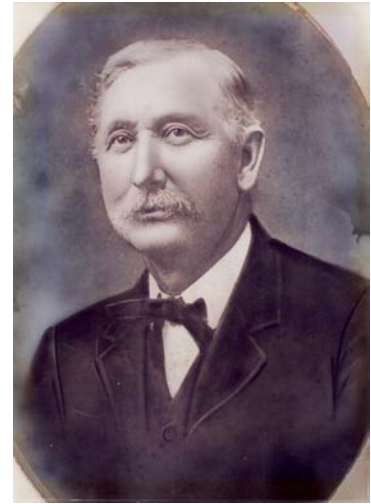
¹⁵⁸ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible.

¹⁵⁹ Unidentified Berkeley Co. marriage register:160.

¹⁶⁰ Unidentified Jefferson Co. marriage register:257; *WVDOC&H*, search on Jerome Coyle in Jefferson.

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- 25 vi. 1845.¹⁶¹ JULIUS “JUDE” MARION COYLE, born 19 June 1846 at Berkeley County;¹⁶² died there on 22 November 1917.¹⁶³ Julius married Nettie Feagans on 25 November 1875 at Bull Skin, Jefferson County.¹⁶⁴ Nettie was born on 14 September 1852 in Jefferson County to Cylus Henry Feagans and Sarah Wilder.¹⁶⁵ She died on 7 February 1904 in Berkeley County.¹⁶⁶ Both are buried at Payne's Chapel, Berkeley County.¹⁶⁷



Julius “Jude” M. Coyle

Julius practiced a number of occupations throughout his life. Following the Civil War, he worked as a miller in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1870.¹⁶⁸ The 1880 and 1900 censuses list him as a farmer in Berkeley County.¹⁶⁹ In 1910, he worked as a stock dealer in Berkeley County.¹⁷⁰ A family friend recorded the following recollections: “Jude Coyle ... was a great person and I enjoyed many a happy day with him driving by horse and buggy... We had lots of good times together.”¹⁷¹ “Julius Coyle was my pal—we drove over all of the country up there selling meat—he was a country butcher and meat was hard to get ... I had lots of fun with him. We got good hard cider drinks from those to whom we sold -- and some of the colored folk gave us real good fried chicken if we got around near dinner time. Or Lunch time. We managed to get to quite a few harvest or grain thrashing meals.”¹⁷²

A family tradition relates that Julius suffered from a gambling

¹⁶¹ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible.

¹⁶² Unidentified Jefferson Co., Marriage Register:53; *WVDOC&H*, search for Julius Coyle in Jefferson.

¹⁶³ “Brucetown Brevities,” *Winchester [Va.] Evening Star*, 27 November 1917, p. 4, col. 1 indicates J.M. Coyle died in Arden which is located in Berkeley County, West Virginia.

¹⁶⁴ Unidentified Jefferson Co., Marriage Register:53.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid* for birth place. See Julius M. Coyle Family Bible for Nettie’s birth date. The Edward V. Coyle Family Bible lists her as daughter of Mr. C.H. Feagans. For Cylus’ middle name and Sarah’s maiden name see W.Va. death certificate 7499 (1955) Joseph Bell Feagans; *WVDOC&H*, search for Joseph Feagans in Jefferson Co.

¹⁶⁶ Unidentified Berkeley Co., register of deaths:227; *WVDOC&H*, death search for Nettie Coyle in Berkeley.

¹⁶⁷ J.M. Coyle obituary, *Martinsburg, W.Va. Evening Journal*, 23 November 1917, p. 1, col. 3, continued on p. 5, col. 4 and Mrs. Coyle obituary, *Martinsburg Statesman*, 12 February 1904, p. 4, col. 4.

¹⁶⁸ 1870 U.S. census, Frederick Co., Va., Stonewall Twp., Wadesville P.O., p. 154 (stamped), dwell. 195, fam. 198, Julius Coil [*sic*]; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1648.

¹⁶⁹ 1880 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., W.Va., ED 13, p. 253B (stamped), dwell. 182, fam. 189, Julius Coyle; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1400; and 1900 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., W.Va., Mill Creek, ED 18, p. 2-B (penned), dwell. 36, fam. 37, Julius M. Coyle; NARA microfilm T623, roll 1755.

¹⁷⁰ 1910 U.S. census, Berkeley Co., W.Va., Mill Creek, ED 24, p. 14-B (penned), dwell. 279, fam. 280, Julian [*sic*] M. Coyle; NARA microfilm T624, roll 1676.

¹⁷¹ Fred A. Christoph (San Diego, California) to Mrs. Patricia S. Finlay (Pittsburg, Pa.), letter, 4 April 1982; privately held by the author.

¹⁷² *Ibid*, 14 April 1982.

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- problem.¹⁷³ Regardless, he appears to have struggled financially. In 1877, he was suspended from his Masonic lodge for failure to pay his annual dues.¹⁷⁴ An 1899 court suit indicates that several liens were placed on Julius' interest in the estate of his uncle, John M. Coyle.¹⁷⁵ Finally, when Julius' sister, Mattie Coyle, sold Lilac Glenn, the family farm, she conveyed the land to Nettie Coyle, perhaps to ensure that Julius' creditors could not seize the property.¹⁷⁶ Nettie devised the land to Julius upon her death, and he used it as collateral against his debts, finally disposing of it in 1910.¹⁷⁷
- 26 vii. MARTHA "MATTIE" ELIZABETH COYLE, born 14 February 1848 in Berkeley County; died single on 3 September 1928 at Summit Point.¹⁷⁸ She received all of her father's property per the terms of his will written on 16 April 1890.¹⁷⁹
- 27 viii. EDWARD LEWIS COYLE, born 17 February 1850; died on 13 February 1925 in Jefferson County. He never married.¹⁸⁰
- 28 ix. GEORGE FAYETTE COYLE, born 22 March 1852, Berkeley County; died on 1 December 1937 at Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia.¹⁸¹ He married Nannie Graham Coyle, on 2 January 1884 at Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia.¹⁸²
- 29 x. RACHEL ANN VIRGINIA COYLE, born 18 January 1854; died on 29 November 1858.¹⁸³
- 30 xi. EMMA JANE COYLE, born 8 January 1856; died on 10 August 1856.¹⁸⁴
- 31 xii. HENRY MASON COYLE, born 17 March 1857; died 14 March 1941 at Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas.¹⁸⁵ He married Nettie (Smith) Yates, in 1895 in Arkansas.¹⁸⁶
- 32 xiii. CHARLES NELSON COYLE, born 10 October 1859; died unmarried about

¹⁷³ Sara (Coyle) Blue, interview, 1992.

¹⁷⁴ *Proceedings of an Annual Communication of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Virginia of Ancient York Masons, Held in Saint Alban's Hall in the City of Richmond on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Dec. 10th, 11th, and 12th A.L. 5877, A.D. 1877* (Richmond, Va.: James E. Goode, 1877), 233.

¹⁷⁵ George Baylor exor. of John M. Coyle v. Julius M. Coyle et al, Jefferson Co. Chancery Papers, 1899; Judicial Center, Charles Town.

¹⁷⁶ Berkeley Co., Deed Book 91:126.

¹⁷⁷ Berkeley Co., Will Book 24:241-242, Nettie Coyle will, 1904. For use of the land as collateral see Berkeley Co. Deed Books 107:140-141, Coyle to Nadenbush trust; 109:352-354, Coyle to Poole trust; For the disposal see Berkeley Co. Deed Book 124:479-480, Coyle to Potomac Shenandoah Co.

¹⁷⁸ W.Va. death certificate no. 11424, (1928), Martha Elizabeth Coyle.

¹⁷⁹ Jefferson Co., Will Book B:105-106, Edward V. Coyle will, 1890.

¹⁸⁰ W.Va. death certificate no. 1851 (1925), Edward Lewis Coyle; *WVDOC&H* search on Coyle in Jefferson Co.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, no. 17472 (1937), George Fayette Coyle; search on Coyle in Kanawha Co.

¹⁸² Thomas County, Ga, "Court of the Ordinary Marriages," Book J, 1879-1885: unpaginated; FHL microfilm 164,389.

¹⁸³ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ H.M. Coyle obituary, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 19 March 1941, p. 1, col. 6; online at *Footnote.com* (<http://www.footnote.com>: accessed December 2010), search on "Henry Mason Coyle."

¹⁸⁶ Edward V. Coyle Family Bible. Nettie's maiden name is per Missouri State Board of Health, death certificate no. 27924 (1937), Nettie Y. Coyle; digital image, "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1959" *Missouri Digital Heritage* (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh>), search on Nettie Coyle.

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- 1949.¹⁸⁷
- 33 xiv. LESLIE EUGENE COYLE, born 23 June 1863; died on 7 September 1920 at Summit Point.¹⁸⁸ He married Florence Snyder, on 27 February 1895 at Summit Point.¹⁸⁹

8. **Joseph³ O. COYLE** (James², William¹) was born about 1808 in Jefferson County, Virginia;¹⁹⁰ died on 28 May 1874 at Brucetown, Frederick County, Virginia.¹⁹¹ He is buried in the Coyle Family Graveyard.¹⁹² Joseph married (1) **Courtney H. Smith**, on 28 January 1835 at Jefferson County.¹⁹³ He married (2) **Maria M. Jobe**, on 2 November 1854 at Berkeley County, Virginia.¹⁹⁴ Maria, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Jobe, was born about 1814 in Berkeley County.¹⁹⁵ She died 10 March 1892.¹⁹⁶

Joseph was an active Mason as early as 1857 when he appears on a list of members of the Triluminar Lodge in Middleway, Jefferson County.¹⁹⁷ In 1866, he transferred his membership to the Dallas Lodge in Brucetown, where he held various positions until his death.¹⁹⁸ Although his brother John M. Coyle was a Mason at some point,¹⁹⁹ Joseph appears to have been the more active member of the fraternity and likely influenced his nephews, John J. Dawes and Julius M. Coyle, to join since both were later associated with the Dallas Lodge.²⁰⁰

Joseph O. Coyle and Courtney H. Smith had the following child:²⁰¹

- 34 i. MARTHA⁴ "MATTIE" ELIZABETH COYLE, born on 20 March 1837; died unmarried on 20 May 1921 in Jefferson County.²⁰²

¹⁸⁷ George L. Coyle to Holmes G. Dawes, 22 January 1953.

¹⁸⁸ W.Va. death certificate 861(1920), Leslie E. Coyle; *WVDOC&H* search on Coyle in Jefferson Co.

¹⁸⁹ Unidentified Jefferson Co., marriage register:7; *WVDOC&H*, search for Leslie Coyle in Jefferson.

¹⁹⁰ VBVS, W. Va., Berkeley County Marriages, 1853-1863, Accession 38788, unpaginated third page of 1854 entries.

¹⁹¹ Maj. Joseph O. Coyle death notice, *Spirit of Jefferson*, 2 June 1874.

¹⁹² Coyle Family Graveyard (Charles Town, W.Va.), Maj. Joseph O. Coyle marker.

¹⁹³ Unidentified Jefferson Co. marriage register:35.

¹⁹⁴ VBVS, W. Va., Berkeley County Marriages, 1853-1863, Accession 38788, unpaginated third page of 1854 entries.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ Brucetown United Methodist Church graveyard (Clear Brook, Va.), Maria M. Coyle marker.

¹⁹⁷ Robert L. Bates, *History of Triluminar Lodge No. 117 Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons: Middleway Jefferson County, West Virginia* (no place or publisher, ca 1997), 25.

¹⁹⁸ "Dallas Lodge No. 132, Brucetown, Va., 1866-1900," unpaginated entry at beginning of book, later entries are paginated and pp. 95, 144, 203 and 228; Virginia Masonic Grand Lodge Library, Museum, and Historical Foundation, Richmond.

¹⁹⁹ Bates, *History of Triluminar Lodge No. 117*, 17

²⁰⁰ "Dallas Lodge No. 132, Brucetown, Va., 1866-1900," pp. 144 and 192.

²⁰¹ Jefferson Co., Will Book 10:58-59.

²⁰² W.Va. death certificate no. 5797 (1921), Martha Coyle; *WVDOC&H* search on Coyle in Jefferson County.

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CONCLUSION

Today, after the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War, many Americans cannot reconcile the inequity of the institution of slavery or support for the Confederate cause. However, by the commencement of the war, the Coyles had resided in Virginia for over one-hundred-years, and like many other residents, probably felt a strong allegiance to their home state and its way of life.²⁰³

No longer Confederates following Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the Coyles once again became Americans. Some moved westward to seek new opportunities, but a number remained in the war-torn Valley and rebuilt their lives. Despite the hardships, they persevered, and a number of descendants remain there today.

²⁰³ Account presented by "W^m Coile" and wife on 4 March 1761 is the first Coyle record found per Frederick Co., Will Book 2:470-471.