

## Descendants of John Patton Erwin

### Generation No. 1

I. JOHN PATTON<sup>2</sup> ERWIN (*ANDREW*<sup>1</sup>) was born 1795 in North Carolina, and died August 26, 1857 in Nashville, TN, Buried City Cemetery, Nashville, TN. He married FRANCES LANIER WILLIAMS June 13, 1815, daughter of JOSEPH WILLIAMS and REBECCA LANIER. She was born April 20, 1796 in North Carolina, and died September 22, 1872 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Notes for JOHN PATTON ERWIN:

August 8, 1829, The National Banner and Nashville Whig

TO THE CITIZENS OF NASHVILLE. In answer to the very flattering invitation contained in the proceedings of a "respectable meeting of citizens held at the City Hall on Saturday last", at which I was nominated for the office of Mayor, I have to state that I had determined to yield my assent to the request therein contained. But having this day been tendered and accepted an appointment of much more importance to me (inasmuch as it is accompanied with an adequate salary) viz. Cashier of the Bank of Yeatman, Woods & Co. (vacated by the resignation of Mr. Berryhill on account of ill health) and feeling assured that the duties of this office will not leave me sufficient time to attend to that of Mayor of Nashville, I deem it proper respectfully to decline the honor designed me. John P. Erwin.

They are on the 1850 Census. Living with them are Andrew Goff, 41, lawyer; Rebecca Goff, 31; William Yeatman, 36, Captain Steamboat, Amelia, 28, Thomas, 10, Eugene, 8, Charles, 5 and Fanny, 4/12, all Yeatmans.

August 28, 1857, Nashville Republican Banner

Mr. John P. Erwin. We are called upon this morning to chronicle the death of another of our best citizens. Mr. Erwin died at his residence in this city on day before yesterday. For years past, he has been removed from the active intercourse with society by severe afflictions but until so prostrated by the disease, he was one of our best public speakers and useful citizen and was more than once honored by the people with high public trust. He has lived out a long life of honor, integrity and usefulness and leaves many friends to mourn his loss.

Notes for FRANCES LANIER WILLIAMS:

Republican National Banner, September 24, 1872

ERWIN. On September 22 at the residence of Major A. F. Goff, near this city, in the 76 year of her age, Mrs. John P. Erwin.

Children of JOHN ERWIN and FRANCES WILLIAMS are:

- i. JOHN P<sup>3</sup> ERWIN, JR. b. 1817; d. September 03, 1843, Nashville, Tn. Probably buried in the City Cemetery in Nashville, Tn..

Notes for JOHN P. ERWIN, JR:

September 9, 1843, Nashville Whig

Died on the 3rd instant at the residence of his father, John P. Erwin, Esquire near this city, his only son and namesake, John P. Erwin, Jr. in the 26th year of his age. The death of one thus young and promising is but another sad confirmation of the sacred page - that "all flesh is grass and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field, in the morning it flourisheth and growth up; in the evening it is cut down and withereth." How impressively true is this authentic memorial of the grass, that flourisheth in the morning and withereth in the evening, in its application to the early smitten and now withered young Erwin. Few in commencing life have had mornings more auspicious or prospects of lengthened life more flattering. His early days were emphatically days of health and happiness. All the circumstances relating to his parentage, his kindred, his education, his associations and in general, his whole external and moral condition, were such as to give peculiar interest and value to the spring time of his growth and his opening prospects. And from his natural constitution, both, with respects to his mind in its intellectual inquiries and still more, in regard to his heart, its native kindness, its social tendencies, is benevolent sympathies, its fondness for domestic happiness, its deep embedded love of home and all its fixes and soothing endearments, few, were ever more or better constituted to bestow or enjoy happiness in the more endeared relationships of life than our late departed young friend. But all these qualities were alike unable to preserve his health or to administer any permanent cure to a disease which by its stealthy attack often, at first allays suspicion but is sure to finish its reign of death when once its westing ravages have full commenced, we mean that disease (now so

common) of the lungs which, as in his case, often begins with a slight rupture and bleeding of these delicate organs but generally closes its destructive course either at once in blood or in its more gradual form of cough and burning fever.

For years this more **gradual progress** seemed to characterize its type with him, awakening alternate hopes and fears, allowing him **strength** to visit distant latitudes in **search** of those restoring virtues, too often vainly imputed to them, **permitting him** to return after months of **absence** to the bosom of his anxious relatives apparently in **better health** but with no radical cure or **certain tokens** of returning vigour.

At last it became evident that no route by land nor voyage by sea, nor even a sojourn of several winters in Cuba, with all its redolent fruits and flowers or its far famed breezes from the surrounding seas could avail to reward his search for departed health, departed never to return.

Returning once more a few months since from his delusive search of his own "sweet home" and with the same fallacious appearance of improved health which had **marked his** return often times before; fresh hopes again seem to bud in the hearts of his family and friends that **perhaps** he might yet be spared to them many years. But he had returned for the last time.

For now, amidst his usual flow of spirits which under all his long protracted illness never seemed to desert him, the sudden rupture of a blood vessel, followed by a large discharge of blood, forboded that his days on earth were soon to be numbered forever.

Finally, we hasten to finish our rapid sketch of the last days and hours of this once social and cheerful and animated young invalid. He had long been afflicted, so long, that his infirmity had acquired the force of habit, he had revived again and again after repeated hemorrhages and he had still been spared. At first, under his last attack, hope doubtless whispered to his heart, this blood may once more be stanchd. Physician may again avert its flow and I may yet live, at least, some few years more. But in a few days, all such fond imaginings gave way and the realities of death and the grave took their place in his agitated mind. He had some ten years before been subject of religious expressions and had, at one time, expressed hope of his acceptance with God through faith in his redeeming Son, but was afterwards painfully convinced that he had mistaken mere animal emotions for that Godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation. And now, when all hope of surviving his still continued hemorrhage fled and death seemed almost inevitable, a deep consciousness of his unfitness to appear before God in his own righteousness, penetrated his soul and called forth his deep anxiety about its eternal destiny. His natural candor, together with his deep conviction of the evil of sin, as described in the scriptures and as now felt in his own hard and unbelieving heart, seemed to forbid, for a season, the entrance of any word of peace or promise to calm his amost despairing soul. But that good Spirit of Grace which had thus convinced him of sin, of righteousness and of a judgemnt to come, at length brought to his penitant and now believing heart, a consoling sense of the pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace of his heavenly Father, as bestowed through faith in the atoning merits of His dear Son.

Then he could say I am willing to die for death has lost its terrors and the grave its gloom. Then he could bid adieu to weeping parents and sisters to whom he was most tenderly attached and assure his young companions around his dying bed that no earthly pursuits or enjoyments could give the bliss for which they signed and that nothing has the grace of God abounding through his exalted son could support a soul in conflict with death and in view of an opening eternity.

Thus he felt and thus he spoke when on the very verge of life and as he sunk calmly and quietly without a struggle into that long sleep so sweetly called the "sleep in Jesus." R.

- ii. JOSEPH W. ERWIN, b. 1824; d. June 02, 1832, Nashville, TN. Probably buried in the City Cemetery, Nashville, Tn.

Notes for JOSEPH W. ERWIN:

National Banner and Nashville Daily Advertiser, Monday, June 4, 1832

Unfortunate and Distressing Accident. On last Saturday afternoon, Joseph W. Erwin, a son of J. P. Erwin, Esquire of this place went, by permission of his parents, accompanied by his elder brother, under the care of a black man, to bathe at the Island below town. After they had done bathing and were in a canoe, about to return, a stream boat came suddenly in sight and they, being afraid in would upset their canoe or drive it adrift and leave them on the island, if they got out, concluded to cross over to the opposite bank of the river. In attempting to do so, they had not time and then endeavored to fasten to a keel boat which was in tow by the steamboat but the waves from the latter upset their canoe. The negro man laid hold of the child and attempted to swim to the shore with him but failed. They got separated and the child sank to rise no more with life. The elder brother, after succeeding in regaining the boat, missed his brother and immediately plunged in again, vainly attempting to find and save the child. He swam nearly an hundred yards down the river and reached the Island with difficulty. A large number of sympathetic friends have made great exertions to recover the body but thus far, we understand, without success. The child was about 8 years old.

National Banner and Nashville Daily Advertiser, June 6, 1832

The body of Joseph W. Erwin who was drowned on the 2nd instant, was found yesterday and comitted to the grave this morning.

- iii. ROBERT W. ERWIN, b. 1825; d. August 19, 1826, Nashville, TN. Buried City Cemetery, Nashville, TN

Notes for ROBERT W. ERWIN:

The Whig, August 26, 1826

Died on Saturday 19th instant, Robert W., infant son of John P. Erwin, aged one year.

- iv. ELLEN ERWIN, b. 1827.
- v. MARY ERWIN, b. 1829.
- vi. CAROLINA ERWIN, b. 1831.
- vii. EMMA ERWIN, b. 1833; d. August 24, 1834, Nashville, TN.

Notes for EMMA ERWIN:

Nashville Whig, August 25, 1834. Died in this city on the 24th instant, Emma Erwin, daughter of John P. Erwin, Esquire.