

Abraham J. Youngblood & Caroline Frances Skinner**of****Shiloh, Union Parish, Louisiana****by Timothy Dean Hudson**

Abraham J. Youngblood was born about 1819 in Morgan County, Georgia, the son of Henry Youngblood and Alsey Ray. He moved with his parents to Alabama about 1820. They lived in Butler County in 1830 and Pike County in 1840. In late 1840 or early 1841, Henry moved to Hinds County, Mississippi, where he remained until the latter 1840s. However, about 1844 Abraham and his brothers William and George moved across the Mississippi River and west into western Union Parish, Louisiana. They apparently cleared land and raised crops for several years, perhaps returning to their parents' home in Hinds County, Mississippi during the winters. Abraham appears to have spent a few years back in Hinds County in the latter 1840s. However, by 1850, Abraham and his brothers convinced their parents to follow them to Union Parish, Louisiana, where they settled near Shiloh.

Abraham married about 1849 to Caroline Frances Skinner. The precise location of their marriage is uncertain, and no concrete information is known about Caroline's family background. She was born about 1834, probably in Mississippi, but possibly in Alabama. At this time, the names of her parents are unknown, although she was apparently closely connected to Morris (Maurice) Skinner.

Family tradition states that Abraham and Caroline originally joined the Shiloh Baptist Church in the early 1850s, but when the Pisgah Church formed shortly thereafter, they became founding members of that church. Abraham served as a deacon of the Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in the 1860s. In particular, Youngblood served as a deacon by 1861, as we see in this act made on 12 February 1861:

*...D. L. Key [Dennis L. Key] of the Parish of Union & State of Louisiana have this day sold bargained and conveyed unto John A. Hammock & **Abram J. Youngblood** as Deacons of the Missionary Baptist Church hold at Pisgah and their successors in office so long as a church The following tract or parcel of land, to have & to hold to appropriate to the use of a church now and forever, viz. Two and three quarters (2¾) acres... For and in consideration of the Sum of One Dollars...acknowledged assigned and set over unto said John A. Hammock & **Abram J. Youngblood** with a full guarantee against all debts & incumbrances [sic] claims, etc. assigned in the presents of T. P. Dendy & Wm. C. Heard....*

When the Civil War initially broke out in 1861, Abraham was exempt from service since he was forty years of age. However, by 1863, since he was under forty-five years of age, the government required him to enlist or face conscription. On 2 December 1863, Abraham J. Youngblood enlisted in Captain Daniel Scully's unit, Company A, 2nd Battalion Louisiana Heavy Artillery, raised and commanded by Lt. Colonel George Washington Logan; the artillery battalion is often called "*Logan's Battalion*." Youngblood enlisted at Vienna, a primary Confederate military post in north Louisiana at that time. Youngblood remained with his unit at Vienna through 10 February 1864. On that day the 2nd Battalion left and marched the thirty-four miles from Vienna to Monroe. On the 15th, they took the steamer "*Twilight*" from Monroe down the Ouachita River to Harrisonburg. For some unknown reason, it took them five days to make the relatively short journey (perhaps the steamer made several trips?). In any case, by the 20th, the men had all arrived at Harrisonburg, where they manned the Fort Beauregard guarding the Ouachita River. Abraham J. Youngblood was present for duty at Harrisonburg on February 29th.

As United States General Nathaniel P. Banks began his Red River Campaign, Federal gunboats moved north along many Louisiana rivers in an attempt to conceal the army's primary target: Shreveport. Federal gunboats moved up the Mississippi and then Ouachita River and attacked Fort Beauregard. The men of the 2nd Battalion endured the bombardment of six Federal gunboats on Wednesday, March 2nd, although records suggest that they did not yet have cannons to return the enemy fire. During the barrage, Captain Daniel Scully commanded the battalion.

A few weeks later, the battalion received two 24-pounder guns. However, as Gen. Banks moved his army north from Alexandria during the Red River Campaign, the 2nd Battalion received orders to bury their cannons in a secure location near Columbia and march hastily to Shreveport. For one week, they manned Fort Boggs, helping to defend Louisiana's capital city from the Yankees. Their services were unnecessary, since the Confederate Army's defeat of Banks at Mansfield ended his progress into northwestern Louisiana, forcing him to turn back towards Alexandria. In late April and May, the 2nd Battalion remained on the march near the enemy, and then they returned to Columbia, retrieved their cannon, and then manned the forts in Pineville guarding the Red River approach from the south while the Federal Army occupied and looted Alexandria.

The Battalion spent June and July at Camp Pineville. Like in all military organizations of that era, sickness ran rampant among the men. Abraham J. Youngblood had apparently become ill following the battalion's excursions across north Louisiana. He reported back from sick leave on June 28th. Officers typically issued sick leave to allow for sufficient time for the soldier to spend a few weeks at home, most typically for only 30 days. If this were the case with Youngblood, he probably spent the month of June at home in Shiloh, recuperating. He was still not fully recovered after reporting back from sick leave on the 28th, and on the 30th he was reported as "*at present sick in camp*".

By August, over one-third of the men in the Battalion were reported sick. However, on August 31st, Abraham J. Youngblood was listed as present, indicating that he had recovered. For the remainder of the year, the 2nd Battalion remained at Camp Pineville, still watching for any signs of Federal activity. While Confederate officials had concerns of a further invasion, the Federal troops did not attempt any further military action.

The 2nd Battalion began the year still at Camp Pineville. Abraham J. Youngblood was granted thirty days leave on January 15th, and undoubtedly, he returned home to Shiloh. On the 26th, the battalion received orders to march west to Natchitoches, where they arrived on the 28th. They camped "*opposite Natchitoches*" for the next month, but on February 27th, the men "*...left camp opposite Natchitoches...for Camp Galleher...*". This camp was located one mile from the City of Natchitoches, guarding Natchitoches Post. On February 28th, Abraham J. Youngblood was listed as present for duty.

The men spent the rest of the war in the capacity, guarding Natchitoches Post. Some companies of the Battalion had large numbers of conscripts, men basically forced into military service at gunpoint. This caused much desertion, and several men were executed or court marshaled. The records show the more dependable men on near-continual guard duty. One surviving guard report form dated April 17–19 shows the hours when Abraham J. Youngblood was stationed on guard duty at Camp Galleher.

Youngblood was present for duty on April 30th, the last muster roll of the war. By May, it had become clear that the Confederate Government was doomed, and many men began making their way home in small groups. The battalion's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Logan, recorded the names of all those who left early. He maintained records

through about May 10th, and one of the last desertions he recorded was that of Abraham J. Youngblood, who left with several other men from Shiloh. Logan received orders to disband only a few days later.

A document from Lt. Col. Logan dated May 10th gives this information about Youngblood:

A. J. Youngblood 44 years old, grey eyes, grey hair, dark complexion, 5'10" Born in Morgan County Georgia, farmer.

This age is incorrect, however, for another record from the 2nd Battalion records that Youngblood was forty-four years of age on 2 December 1863, which matches exactly his age on the 1850, 1860, and 1880 censuses. Records also indicate that Youngblood was issued one hat and pair of shoes at Vienna in January 1864, and in April 1864 at Shreveport, he received one pair of shoes and one cap.

While Abraham was away serving in the Confederate Army during the War Between the States, she received financial assistance from the Police Jury, who provided funds to help support the families of many Confederate soldiers.

After the War, Abraham J. Youngblood returned home to his farm in the Pisgah community north of Shiloh and farmed for the rest of his life. He also apparently maintained his membership at Pisgah Baptist Church, probably serving as a deacon, although the loss of the early church records prevents us from knowing any details. After her children were older, Caroline worked as a midwife in the community, riding side-saddle around the countryside delivering babies.

Abraham and Caroline Youngblood raised horses on their farm and their sons raced them. One of their sons, James, was killed at age fifteen while racing on horseback. Acquaintances stated that Caroline always had a very fine horse to ride as she traveled around delivering babies.

Abraham J. Youngblood died on 16 February 1887 at his farm near Shiloh. According to her grandchildren, Caroline smoked a clay pipe, and she died from cancer of the mouth on 24 May 1889. Reportedly in her final days, the pain in her mouth would be so great that her children and friends would crush pills into powder to put in her mouth to kill the pain.

Abraham J. Youngblood and Caroline Frances Skinner Youngblood are and was buried in the Pisgah Cemetery, Union Parish, Louisiana.



Children of Abraham J. Youngblood & Caroline Frances Skinner:

1) John Thornton Youngblood

born: May 1852, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
married: (1) 19 Dec 1872, Union Parish Louisiana to **Mary C. Patrick**
(2) 28 Mar 1897, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana to **Sophia Fleming Place**
died: after 26 Apr 1910, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
buried: Marthaville Cemetery, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana

2) Angeline Clementine Youngblood

born: 12 Apr 1854, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
married: 26 Nov 1871, Union Parish Louisiana to **Robert Allen Massey** (2 Feb 1849 – 27 Mar 1928)
died: 10 Feb 1942, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
buried: Marthaville Cemetery, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
personal information:

- Bob Massey was born in Jefferson County Alabama, the son of Thomas Allen Massey (c1822 – before 31 July 1857) and Nancy Amanda Shackelford (c1828 – ?).
- Thomas was a brother to Harriett E. Shackelford, whose daughters married Angeline's brothers. Thus, Angeline married the first cousin to the wives of her brothers Jesse and George.

3) James H. Youngblood

born: c1856, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
died: 4 May 1870, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
buried: Pisgah Cemetery, Union Parish Louisiana
personal information:
Killed while riding horseback.

4) Jesse Wade Youngblood

born: 13 Nov 1857, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
married: 9 Dec 1876, Union Parish Louisiana to **Sarah Elizabeth Shackelford** (14 June 1860 – 14 June 1951)
died: 31 Dec 1931, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
buried: Marthaville Cemetery, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
personal information:

- Sarah E. Shackelford (Sally) was the daughter of Joseph Henry Shackelford, Sr. (Johenry) (24 June 1826 – 26 Aug 1910) and Harriet Elizabeth Massey (1 Feb 1828 – 28 Dec 1888). She was a sister to Julia Ada Shackelford who married Jesse's brother George.
- Jesse died of influenza, and Sarah died of tuberculosis. Their death certificates indicated that their deaths occurred at the Town of Marthaville.

5) George Abraham Youngblood

born: 1 Sept 1859, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
married: 22 June 1883, Union Parish Louisiana to **Julia Ada Shackelford** (8 Nov 1869 – 6 Nov 1950)
died: 31 May 1950, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
buried: Marthaville Cemetery, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana
personal information:

- Julia A. Shackelford was the daughter of Joseph Henry Shackelford, Sr. (Johenry) (24 June 1826 – 26 Aug 1910) and Harriet Elizabeth Massey (1 Feb 1828 – 28 Dec 1888). She was a sister to Sarah E. Shackelford who married George's brother, Jesse.

6) Sarah Elizabeth Youngblood

born: 1 June 1862, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana
married: 25 Aug 1881, Union Parish Louisiana to **William Walter Everett** (22 Feb 1856 – 19 Apr 1929)
died: 10 June 1942, Mount Union community, Union Parish Louisiana
buried: Mount Union Cemetery, Union Parish Louisiana
personal information:

- William W. Everett was the son of Rev. George Everett and Nancy Jane Abbott.

- Sarah and William remained residents of Union Parish until their deaths.

7) **Frances Palestine Youngblood**

born: 12 July 1865, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana

married: 22 Nov 1883, Union Parish Louisiana to **William Jasper Breed**

died: 25 May 1916, Bernice, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Shiloh Cemetery, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

- William Jasper Breed (12 July 1855 – 20 Jan 1916) was born in Hinds County Mississippi, the son of William Walker Breed and Rebecca Patrick.
- The information on Palestine's death certificate was given by her sister, Sarah E. Youngblood Everett, and it stated that Palestine died of breast cancer. Dr. C. C. Colvin signed the death certificate, and he reported that she suffered from breast cancer for one year and six months.
- Sarah Youngblood Everett gave Palestine's date of birth as 12 July 1865, putting her life at 50 years, 10 months, and 13 days. If correct, Abraham must have come home briefly on furlough in November 1864 from the Confederate Army in order for Caroline to have conceived Palestine in that month. We know that he received leave for 30 days beginning 15 January 1865, but I believe it virtually impossible that a child born after only six months would have survived in that era.
- Palestine's granddaughter-in-law Arelia (Shorty) Breed gave me dates on Palestine of (26 July 1864 – 21 Aug 1914). Clearly this death date is incorrect, as shown by her death certificate. I am at a loss as to which date of birth to accept, but considering the incorrect death date Mrs. Breed had in her records, this birth date seems also questionable. The 1900 census provides no help, but it gives her date of birth as July 1868, clearly mistaken. The 1880 census seems the best evidence that her death certificate contained the correct date of birth, for on 9 June 1880, it give her age as 14.

8) **Ida Quincy Youngblood**

born: 1 June 1867, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana

married: 19 Jan 1888, Union Parish Louisiana to **James Crowson Feazel** (3 Mar 1860 – 26 Feb 1937)

died: 4 Feb 1929, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana

buried: Beulah Cemetery, Natchitoches Parish Louisiana

personal information:

- James C. Feazel died of chronic bronchitis at his home in Pleasant Hill, Natchitoches Parish.

9) **William Smith Youngblood**

born: 9 Feb 1872, near Shiloh, Union Parish Louisiana

died: 27 Mar 1945, Mount Union community, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Mount Union Cemetery, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

- After many of his siblings moved from Union to Natchitoches Parish in the 1890s, Smith Youngblood would walk back and forth between them, staying with one of his siblings for a few months before moving on to stay with another. He helped to work their farms while he stayed. In 1900, he lived in Natchitoches Parish and worked as a mail rider, boarding in the home of Frank Lock. In 1910, he lived in Natchitoches Parish with his nephew, Charles C. Youngblood, and worked as a farmer. In 1920, Smith lived in Union Parish in the Mount Union Community near his sister, Sarah Everett. He lived in the household of Sarah's neighbor, Charles W. Christian, and worked as a laborer. In 1930, Smith Youngblood lived in Union Parish with his nephew, Henry C. Everett, and still worked as a laborer.
- Smith's grandnieces stated that he was kind and played with them and was never mean to their knowledge. However, descendents claim that while he stayed with his sister Sarah Youngblood Everett at Mount Union, she refused to leave him alone with her young children or grandchildren.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Sources

Several Youngblood descendents have shared their family research with me, including the late Arelia (Shorty) Breed and James Dewey O'Brien. I gratefully acknowledge their assistance over the years. Other sources include:

1. United States Government records: land sales, censuses, and the National Archives' Confederate Compiled Military Service Records on Abraham J. Youngblood
2. Tax records of Morgan County Georgia, Hinds County Mississippi, and Union Parish, Louisiana
3. Union Parish Louisiana Conveyance Book K, p. 56 (Deacons of Pisgah Baptist Church accept land)
4. Union Parish Louisiana Succession Book A-3, pp. 430–435, Succession of Abraham J. and Caroline F. Youngblood.
5. Collection #1560, the "*Lt. Colonel George William Logan Papers*", Special Collections–Manuscripts, Wilson Library, University of Chapel Hill. Among other invaluable original documents, this collection contains detailed original muster rolls for the 2nd Battalion Louisiana Heavy Artillery that **were not** consulted by the National Archives staff when compiling the Compiled Military Service Records. This source has also not been abstracted and published, so it contains primary source documentation to be found nowhere else.
6. Cemetery and Louisiana Death Certificates