

David Ward & Cynthia Seale Family Bible Transcription

David Ward (c1806–4 May 1882) and his first wife Cynthia Seale (c1812–27 Mar 1857) settled in what is now Union Parish, Louisiana in February 1837, several years before the parish was created from Ouachita. They bought land, built a substantial farming operation that included a cotton gin, and seemingly prospered over the two decades before her death. They allowed the local Methodist Protestant Church to build a meeting house on the edge of their farm that adjoined their family cemetery. Both the church and cemetery have since been known as the “*Wards Chapel Church*” and “*Wards Chapel Cemetery*.” In 1839, David Ward helped to lay out the route of the earliest road from Farmerville to Parker’s Landing on the Ouachita River. The road soon became known as the “*Port Union Road*,” but in the twentieth century it became the “*Wards Chapel Road*.”

The following is a precise transcript of the information recorded on the family pages of David Ward and Cynthia Seale’s Family Bible. The publication year of the Bible is unknown.

Several entries are illegible, one of which may have been the date of death of David Ward’s mother, Jane Washington Ward. His father’s date of death is the first one recorded in the Bible. The transcription below retains all of the original punctuation and spelling.

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Page 1 – Deaths

Note: The deaths recorded on this page appear to have been made by three different people. The first handwriting records the deaths of both Elisha Wards and of the infant Clarendia Ward, all between 1838 and 1844. The next person entered the death dates for David W. Ward and Cynthia Seale Ward. The McLelland deaths were entered last in a distinctly different handwriting than the Ward deaths, and it is nearly impossible to read the faint McLelland deaths. Elisha Ward, Sr.’s death was recorded first, at the top of Column 1. However, the subsequent Ward deaths were all recorded in Column 2. As this left the remainder of Column 1 blank, the McLelland deaths were later recorded just under Elisha Ward, Sr.’s death entry.

- *Elisha Ward Snr. Departed this life on 5th day of Aug A.D. 1838. Aged Sixty four years and some months.*
- *Frederick M. McLelland Departed this life on th 22nd of March 1870*
- *Francis M. McLelland Departed this life on th 6th of July 1871*
- *Jermiah D. McLelland Departed this life on th 6th of April 187__*

- *Elisha Ward Jnr. Died the 22nd of May A.D. 1844*
- *Clarenda Ward Died the 8th of June A.D. 1844*
- *David Washington Ward Departed this life 24 July 1852*
- *Cyntha Ward – wife of David Ward Died March 27th 1857. Buried at Ward's Chapel Union Parish La*

Page 2 – Marriages

- *Henry Wesley Ward was Born the October 16, 1868*
- *Frederick McLeland son of Benj. McLeland was Borne Nov 7th 1847*
- *Ellen M. McLeland was Borne Jan 16th 1856*
- *Francis B. McLeland was Borne March 26th 1861*

Page 3 – Births

- *Mary Ward was Born in the year 1827 – 12 day of May in year of our Lord*
- *Eligea H. Ward was Born in the year 1830th 13 day of July in the year of our Lord*
- *Rachael Jane Ward was Born in the year of our Lord 1833 the 6 day of April*
- *John Thomas Ward was Born in the year of our Lord 1835 the 30 Day of June*
- *Elisha Ward was born July the 29th 1838*
- *Julia Annis Ward was born A.D. 1841 18th day March*
- *Clarinda Ward was born on 29th day of November A.D. 1843*
- *James Madison Ward & David Washington Ward was ~~the born~~ Born the 27th of May A.D. 1845*
- *Hnrey Wesley Ward was Born October 16 1868*

Note: This entry was written in pencil at the bottom of this page, in different handwriting.

Page 4 – Births

- *William H. H. Ward was born 25 April 1848*
 - *Levincy Jane Carter was born 24 day of December 1849*
- Note:** The year looks like “1849,” although other sources indicate she was born in the year 1847.
- *Sarah francis Carter was bornd 27 of November 1850*
 - *Mary Caliline Carter was bornd 26 of January 1852*
 - *Jas. H. Seale was Born in the year of our Lord 1814 the 18 day of March*
- Negro Age*
- *Bety [name very difficult to read] was born on the 5th day of July 1849*
 - *Hanarh was born on the 7th day of October 1852*
 - *Harriett was born on the 11 day of September 1854*

- *Shollet was born on the 5 day of August 1856 [year is difficult to decipher]*
- *Henry was born on the 18 of Jan 1860*

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