

From The Heritage of Johnston County North Carolina

## BOURBON IVEY AND HIS FAMILY

Article written by Carrie I. Carter

Bourbon Ivey was born in Johnston County on 22 November 1818 – d. 12 July 1912. He was the son of James Ivey Jr. and Drusilla Beasley Ivey. From records at my disposal I have determined that he was the second of seven children born to these parents. He was not afforded the opportunity of early educational advantages; however, at the age of 21 he was granted his “freedom” by his father to pursue his own life and interests. It was at this point that he started to school.

Very little is known about the activities of Bourbon while he persevered to get his education and his start in life. I do know, however, that he became a schoolteacher, and his handwriting, appearing in the family Bible, is one of the prettiest I have ever seen.

On 31 December 1857 Bourbon Ivey was married to Fannie Martin (b. 18 January 1837), daughter of Abram Martin (b. 12 January 1815 – d. 26 February 1862). To this union was born four sons: John Ivey, b. 20 June 1859 – d 30 December 1904; Henry Ivey, b 24 December 1860 – d 7 April 1862; Wilson Ivey, b 12 March 1866 – d 28 February 1902; and Julius Ivey, b 29 July 1869 – d 26 August 1943.

The 1870 Census shows Bourbon Ivey and his family living in Ingrams Township, near Benson, North Carolina. On 16 February 1874 Bourbon purchased a farm in Wayne County from William A. Grantham consisting of 343 acres. I have no knowledge as to whether the Bourbon Ivey residence already existed on this tract of land, or if he had to build. My father, Julius Ivey, youngest son of Bourbon, said he was about six years old when the family moved to Wayne County.

As fate would have it, on 3 December 1881 Fanny succumbed to the “fever,” as it was called in those days, during an epidemic which swept the country and also claimed the lives of two other members of the Martin family. I believe this fever to be what we know as typhoid. Bourbon, feeling the need of a woman in the home, married again within a short time. Ava Evelyn Summerlin on 13 August 1882 became his bride.

Ava remembered quite well, and occasionally told the story of how she lost her red dress to the Yankees. She was a small girl when the Yankees came, and she had a red flannel dress. They took her red dress, tied up one end, filled it with sweet potatoes, and rode off on horseback. She – determined to recover her dress – got a hold on it and pulled. She was scolded by an older member of the family, and told “They’ll kill you.” So she stood and helplessly watched while the Yankees rode away.

John, the first born of the Ivey sons, spent his entire life on the family farm. Henry, the second son, died at the age of fifteen months.

Wilson was a schoolteacher. He also was stricken with “fever.” According to my grandmother (Ava), he had “fever” three years out of four. While he was in declining health he became interested in planting an orchard and grafting fruit trees, and even in my day we reaped the reward of his labors. He was also a lover of flowers, and planted many rose bushes around the yard. Wilson died just before reaching his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday. John died two years later. Neither of them ever married.

Julius in the early years of his adult life was a carpenter and contractor – later a farmer. On 28 October 1906 he was married to Dona May Rose of Newton Grove, North Carolina (Sampson County). To this marriage was born four children: Fannie Elizabeth, b 30 December 1908; George Bourbon, b 8 December 1910; Annie Rose, b 20 November 1913; and Carrie Alice, b 7 July 1916.

Brothers and sisters of Bourbon were as follows: Stinceon Ivey, Vison Ivey, Vine Allen Ivey, Frusey Ivey, Eliza Ivey and McCallum Ivey.

James Ivey, father of Bourbon, was a soldier in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the War of 1812. Under the provisions of an Act approved February 14, 1871, his widow, Drusilla, was placed on the Pension Rolls of the United States, and beginning June 1873 received a monthly pension of \$8.00 per month.

In the year 1890 Bourbon Ivey donated three acres of land on which to build Selah Christian Church and provide space for a cemetery. He served on the original Church Board as an Elder. Wilson Ivey was the first Sunday School Superintendent, and Julius was Secretary.

Bourbon Ivey died in 1912 at the ripe old age of 93. He was laid to rest in the Selah Church Cemetery, as was his wife, Ava (d. 25 August 1937), and his three sons. Fanny Martin Ivey and her father, Abram Martin, were buried in what is now a wooded area on the farm of the late Elbert Dunn, located in Johnston County between Cox’s Mill and Bentonville.

A peculiarity of Bourbon’s was that he would never allow his picture to be made. Consequently, no pictures of him exist.

*Sources: Family Bible, census record, court records, deeds, tombstones, library, church history and family tradition.*