

Oscar Carter
1861-1953
Enslaved at the Carter House

- 1861 Born enslaved, Oscar was the son of Susan “Susie” Carter in Franklin, Williamson County, TN. Susie was a slave owned by Fountain Branch Carter.
- 1864 Oscar was only three years old during the Battle of Franklin.
- 1870 June 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin, Williamson County, TN showed Susan Carter living as a domestic servant in the household of Elizabeth Mayberry. Living with Susan were her two sons Oscar and Charley. Oscar’s age was given as five years old.
- 1880 June 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 3, Williamson County, TN showed fifteen year old Oscar living with his mother, Susie, his step-father, Austin Mayberry and his siblings.
- 1893 May 20: Oscar Carter married Dora Owens in Williamson County, TN.
- 1894 July 7: Dora gave birth to son John Willie Carter.
- 1896 June: Dora gave birth to daughter Mary Eliza “May Liza” Carter.
- 1899 December 11: Dora gave birth to daughter Sallie Etta Carter.
- 1900 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 4, Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, a farm laborer, and Dora living with their children: John, age 5, Mary E, 3 and Carter (Sallie Etta), 6 months. Dora and Oscar had one child by this time who had died, name unknown.
- 1903 June 26: Dora gave birth to daughter Agnes Elizabeth Carter.
- 1904 July 22: Dora gave birth to son Jesse Thomas Carter.
- 1907 (abt) Dora gave birth to son Robert Alexander Carter.

1908 May 7: Dora gave birth to son Fred Lee “Black” Carter.



Photo taken on the Short family farm where Oscar worked. Lucile Short holding baby Jesse, Dora Carter holding baby Fred Lee, with son Jesse in front with his sassy hand on his hip!

1910 April 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 6, Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, a laborer on the Short Farm, and Dora living with their children: John, 14, Mary E., 12, Sallie E., 10, Agnes E., 9, Jesse T., 5, Robert A., 3, Freddie L., 1.

September 2: Dora gave birth to daughter Tennessee Dora “Tennie” Carter.

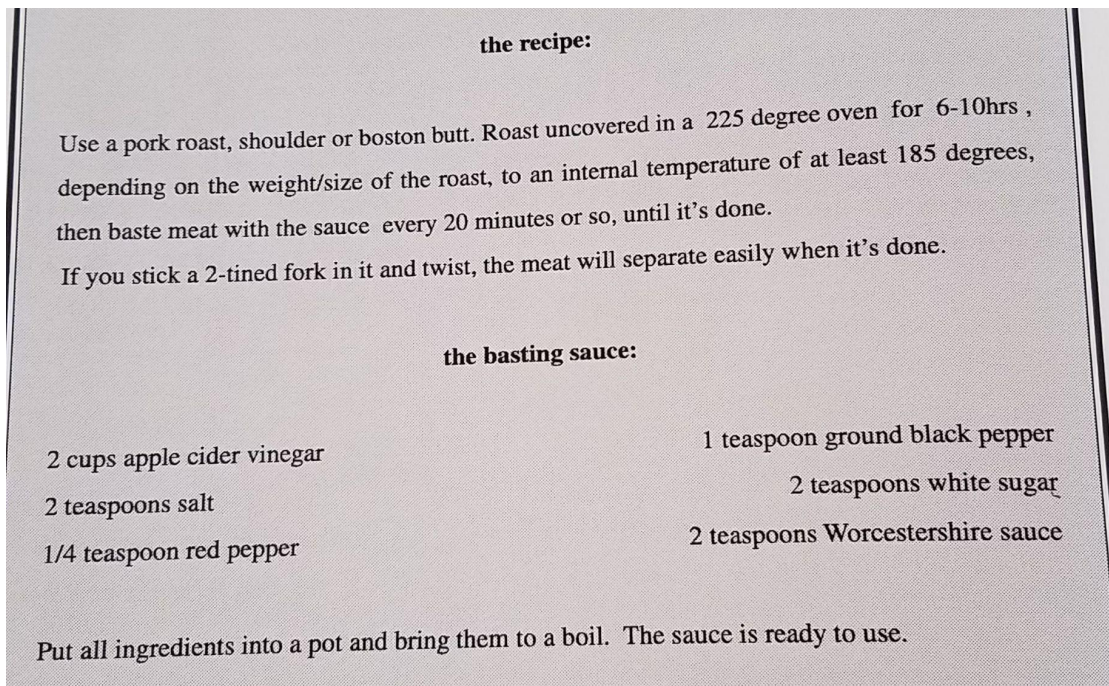
1912 December 8: Dora gave birth to son Charlie Gilbert “Barbwire” Carter.

1916 July 16: Dora gave birth to son Ernest Armstrong “Skeeter” Carter.

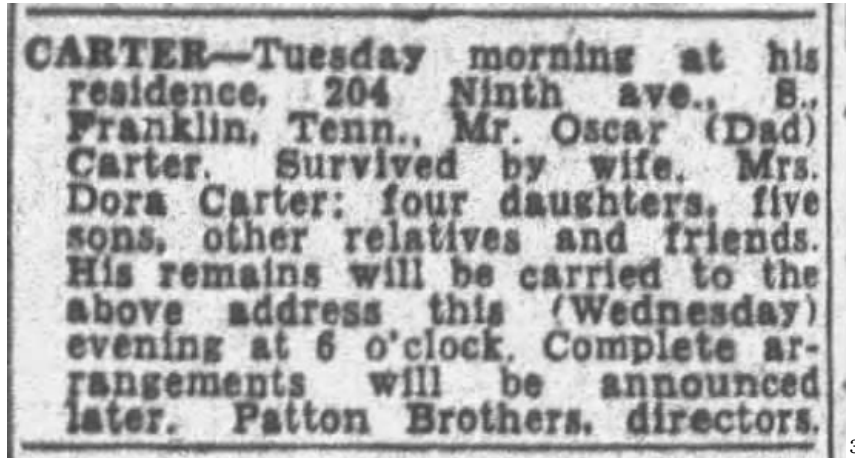
¹ Photo from Short Family Collection

- 1918 July 6: Dora gave birth to son Oscar “Hec” Carter Jr..
- 1920 January 3: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 5, Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, a farm laborer, and Dora living with their children: John Willie, 25, Mary Eliza, 23, Sallie Etta, 20, Agnes, 17, Jesse, 15, Fred Lee, 14, Robert, 13, Tennie Dora, 9, Gilbert, 7, Ernest, 4, Oscar Jr., 2. Also living with the family was granddaughter, Mary Eliza’s daughter, Ethel, 4 months and Oscar’s brother Robert Mayberry.
- 1930 April 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 11, Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, farmer, and Dora living with their children and grandchildren.
- 1931 January 11: Oscar and Dora’s oldest son John Willie was killed when, according to his death certificate, “an automobile ran into him.”
- 1940 April 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin, Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, a laborer, and Dora living in a large household with children and grandchildren. Children: Mary Eliza, Fred, Robert, Tennie, Charlie, Oscar. Grandchildren: Sherman., Edward, Henry, Louise, Dora and Mary Bradley, all Mary Eliza’s children.
- 1941 September 16: Oscar and Dora’s son, Ernest, was stabbed in the back upper chest. He was taken to Hubbard Hospital in Nashville where he died the next day, September 17th. Ernest was buried in the family plot at Toussaint L’Ouverture.
- 1950 April 28: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin, Williamson County, TN showed a retired Oscar and Dora living with three of their adult sons: Robert, Fred and Oscar. They were living at 264 Natchez St.

***During his retirement, Oscar sold BBQ out of his backyard for extra income.



1953 June 30: Oscar Carter died in Franklin, TN. He was buried in the family square, purchased by Dora Carter, at Toussaint L'Ouverture.



² Recipe given to Alma Bennett Short by Fred Lee Carter, Oscar's son. Short Family Collection.

³ Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Wed, 1 Jul 1953, pg. 42 (accessed newspapers.com)