

Mallie Otey Johnson  
1857-1925  
Enslaved at Carnton

- 1857 May 24: Mallie Otey was born to enslaved parents Mariah McGavock and Harvey Otey at Carnton. Mallie was born a fraternal twin. Her twin brother was Frank.
- 1860 The U.S. Federal Census did not enumerate enslaved people by name. There was a “Slave Schedule,” which listed the name of the slave owner and the gender, age and race of each enslaved person, but no names. It is believed that Mariah McGavock was enumerated as a twenty-six year old female living in a household with several children, among those five year old twins one male and one female Frank and **Mallie.**,
- 1862-1863 During the U.S. occupation of Franklin, the enslaved people owned by the McGavock family were sent south. Mallie’s mother Mariah, was in Alabama. Mallie’s exact location is unknown at this time. Later documentation leads us to believe that Mallie was not raised by her mother, but by Fanny McGavock Southall.<sup>1</sup>
- 1863 March 23: Harvey Otey, Mallie’s father, died. He was buried in a marked grave at the city cemetery in Franklin.
- 1875 October 19: Mallie Otey married Charles Ebenezer Johnson in Williamson County, TN.
- 1878 (abt) Mallie gave birth to son William B. Johnson.  
William was a veteran of the U.S. Army and died in Kansas.
- 1879 September 27: Mallie gave birth to son Charles Ebenezer “Pickett” Johnson.  
Charles Jr., nicknamed Pickett, moved to Canada to work for the Grand Trunk Railway. He was a sleeping car porter, which wasn’t a glamorous job, but steady.<sup>2</sup>
- 1880 June 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 9, Williamson County, TN showed Mallie, 23, and her husband Charles, 27-year-old sawyer, and their two young children: Willie, 2 and Charles, 8 months. Also boarding in the

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<sup>1</sup> Fanny McGavock Southall was born enslaved at Carnton. After the war, she and her family lived on Columbia Ave, not far from Mariah.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sleeping-car-porters-in-canada>

Johnson household was a minister by the name of James Picket and Charles' grandmother Patsy Merrill. Fannie Southall, another former slave at Carnton, and her family were living within a couple households of the Johnsons. Mallie remained close to Fannie and her children.

- 1882 February: Mallie gave birth to daughter Mattie B Johnson.  
Mattie B. Johnson grew up to be a beloved teacher. Her parents lived with Mattie at the end of their lives.
- 1883 December 24: On Christmas Eve, Fannie McGavock Southall, Mallie's neighbor and the woman who helped to raise her died.
- 1889 August 8: Mallie gave birth to son Samuel Benjamin Johnson.  
Samuel moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada with his brother Pickett and also worked for the Grand Trunk Railway.
- 1895 November 19: Mallie gave birth to son Frank Watt Johnson.
- 1896 August 3: Mallie gave birth to daughter Louise Johnson.  
Louise married William Morrissey and lived all over the U.S., from Virginia, to St. Louis to California.
- 1900 June 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin, Williamson County, TN showed Ebenezer, a laborer, and Mallie living with only their eighteen-year-old daughter Mattie. Mattie was attending school at the time. All the family members could read and write and Ebb and Mallie owned their own home free from mortgage.
- 1909 The Nashville Globe reported: "Mrs Ebenezer Johnson, of East Hill street, Nashville, is out the guest of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Laura Evans, of Columbia ave....and was the guest of breakfast Sunday morning at Mrs. A.N.C. Williams."<sup>3</sup>
- 1910 April 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed C.E., an engineer at a laundry, and Mallie living at 38 South Hill with their children: Mattie B, 26, (a teacher), Frank, 17, Louise, 14 and Will, 30(a chauffeur). Mallie was enumerated as having given birth to nine children and six were currently living. Ebb and Mallie were renting their home.

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<sup>3</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville TN, Friday 3 Dec 1909, pg. 8 (accessed newspapers.com)

- 1914 Ebenezer and Mallie Otey were listed in the Nashville City Directory living at 25 Wharf St. Their House was in close proximity to both Walden University and Meharry Medical College.<sup>4</sup>
- 1915 Chas. E and Mallie Otey were listed in the Nashville City Directory living at 25 Wharf St.
- 1918 Ebenezer and Mallie Otey were listed in the Nashville City Directory still residing at 25 Wharf St.

November 21: An article about Mallie and Ebb's son Pickett was in the Nashville Globe, it mentions Mallie and Ebb and where they lived.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NONPARIEL ART CLUB.</b></p> <p>On Wednesday evening, June 5th at the residence of Bishop and Mrs. I. B. Scott, Mrs. Ida B. Luchie entertained the Nonpariel Art Club in honor of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Johnson, Jr., of Winnipeg, Manitoba.</p> <p>The members of the club present were Mesdames M. E. Bryant, I. L. Moore C. V. Roman, W. S. Ellington, J. A. Bright, D. Hinston, M. Cheatham, J. A. McMillan, Clemmie White, I. B. Luckie, and I. B. Scott.</p> <p>Other guests were Mrs. S. Christian of Greensboro, Ala., Miss Phillips of Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. Gregg of Galveston, Tex., Mrs. Tennie L. Gregory, of Okla, Mrs. J. C. Napier, Mrs. H. T. Noel, Miss Mary E. Braden, Mrs. F. G. Smith, Mrs. Clara Hughes, Mrs. West Bostick Dr. J. E. Wells, Mrs. M. E. Lawrence and Misses Mattie B. and Louise Johnson.</p>	<p>Misses Ruby and Natalie Lawrence asisted in receiving the guests. Frappe and an ice course were served.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Johnson of 25 Tennessee street and nephew of Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Luckie. He has seen service in the U. S. army, having served three years in the Philippines. He has for the past eight years made his home in Canada.</p> <p>Mrs. Johnson was much admired and won many friends by her charming personality. After a stay of seven weeks with relatives and friends here and in Franklin, who regretted very much to see them leave, Mr and Mrs. Johnson returned to their home accompanied by their sister, Miss Louise Johnson, one of our city teachers, who goes to find a much needed rest in Winnipeg and other cities of the north.</p>
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<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer and Mallie's grandson, William James Morrissey, was a graduate of Meharry Medical College.

<sup>5</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday 21 Jun 1918, pg. 5 (accessed newspapers.com)

1919 September 1: Mallie attended the McGavock Family Reunion at the home of Charles and Fannie Southall Farmer on Columbia Ave. in Franklin.



Third row from Left: Ebenezer and Mallie Johnson are 4th and 5th in the row.

1921 September 5: Mallie attended the McGavock Family Reunion at the home of Carrie Richardson White on Brick Church Pike.



Back Row L to R: Hillard Southall, Charles White, Porter Carter, Hugh Southall, Carrie Richardson White, Charles Holmes Howard. Front Row L to R: Mallie Otey Johnson, Malinda Southall Otey, Joe Carter

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<sup>6</sup> Photo from the collection of Damon Eaves.



1922 December 21: Mallie's mother, Mariah McGavock Otey Reddick died. When Mariah died she left her house and land to her son John Watt Reddick and the rest of her property went to her daughter Mallie and her granddaughter Bessie.

Item 2<sup>nd</sup> - I will devise and bequeath to my son John Watt Reddick, my house and Plat on Columbia Ave. in Franklin, where I now live and the set of furniture in the front room of my said residence.  
Item 3<sup>rd</sup> - All of the rest and residue of my estate of whatever character or description, I will to my two daughters, Mallie Johnson and Bessie Woldridge and Fay (Lavin) Otey the wife of my eldest son William Otey to be divided equally amongst them

1924 Ebenezer and Mallie Otey were listed in the Nashville City Directory residing at 26 Shepherd St.

1925 May 21: Three days before her birthday, Mallie Otey Johnson died at her home in Nashville. She was buried at Toussaint L'Ouverture, her grave site is unknown.

**JOHNSON**—At her residence, 26 Shepherd street, Thursday, May 21, 1921, Mrs. Mollie Johnson. She is survived by husband, C. E. Johnson; sons, C. E., Jr. and S. B. of Winnipeg, Canada; William of Kansas City, Mo.; Frank of St. Louis, Mo.; daughters, Mrs. Louis J. Morrissey of St. Louis, Mo.; Miss Mattie Johnson of Nashville, Tenn.; brothers, William Otey of Friars Point, Miss.; J. W. Reddick of Franklin, Tenn. Funeral services Sunday, May 24, 1922, at 2 o'clock p. m. from Seay's chapel, conducted by the pastor, the Rev. W. B. Crenshaw, assisted by Dr. S. M. Utley. Interment at Franklin, Tenn. W. H. McGavock in charge.

<sup>7</sup> Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008 (accessed ancestry.com)

<sup>8</sup> The Tennessean, Nashville, TN, Saturday, 23 May 1925, pg. 5 (accessed newspapers.com)

**STATE OF TENNESSEE** 121  
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
County Davidson  
Civil Dist. 1st  
on Village  
on City Nashville (No. 26 Shepherd St. 14 Ward)

Registration District No. 21901 File No. 1151  
Primary Registration District No. \_\_\_\_\_ Registered No. \_\_\_\_\_  
[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

2 FULL NAME Mallie Johnson

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**PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

3 SEX Female 4 COLOR OR RACE Colored 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR SEPARATED Married  
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH May 25 1885  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 68 yrs. 11 mos. 26 da. II LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.?

8 OCCUPATION At Home  
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work.  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which engaged (or employe).

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Tenn

PARENTS

10 NAME OF FATHER Harvey Catey  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Tenn  
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Maria McLaughlin  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Miss

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
[Informant] C. E. Johnson  
[Address] 26 Shepherd

15 Filed 5/23 1925 Nora L. Hollister REGISTRAR

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**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

16 DATE OF DEATH May 21 1925  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from April 30, 1925 to May 21, 1925, that last saw her alive on an May 20, 1925, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 4:30 P.M.  
The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows: Paralysis of heart. She had remission of left side. She had stroke came to her  
[Duration] 2 yrs. 11 mos. 26 da.

Contributory (SECONDARY) 75c  
[Duration] 9 yrs. 11 mos. 26 da.  
Signed J. H. Elliott, M. D.  
May 23, 1925 Address 907 - 1st, Nashville

\* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS)  
At place of death: yes... no... da. In the State: yes... no... da.  
Where was disease contracted? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_  
Former or usual residence: \_\_\_\_\_

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Franklin DATE OF BURIAL May 24 1925  
20 UNDERTAKER N. McLaughlin ADDRESS City

<sup>9</sup> Tennessee, U.S. Death Records, 1908-1965 (accessed ancestry.com)