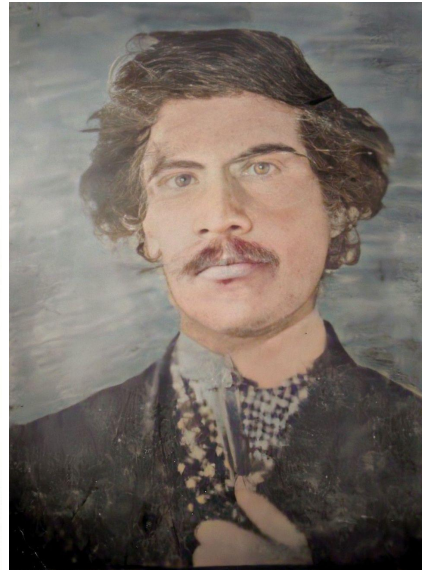
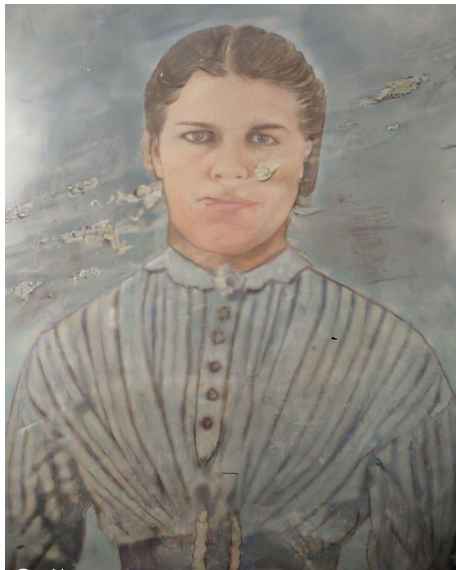


## James Meranda, Private, Co. H, 124 IN Infantry, US

- 1844 March 17: James Meranda was born to Robert Lewis and Mercy Caroline Davis Meranda in Springfield, Clark County, OH.
- 1851 (abt) The Meranda family migrated from Ohio to Randolph County, IN.<sup>1</sup>
- 1860 June 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin, Randolph County, IN showed sixteen-year-old James living with his parents and siblings. His father was a farmer. There was a house full, six boys and one girl. Milton, 18, James, 16, George, 14, Edwin, 10, Samuel, 8, Olivia, 5 and Marion, 6 mo.
- 1864 February 12: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. H, 124 IN Infantry.
- November 30: Meranda and his regiment fought at the Battle of Franklin. His brigade, Casement's, would have seen harsh fighting near the Carter family cotton gin.
- 1865 January 31: Meranda's younger brother, George, enlisted in the U.S. Army. He mustered into Co. A, 147 IN Infantry.
- August 31: Mustered out of the U.S. Army.
- 1868 October 5: Married Joanna Addington in McDonald County, MO.



- 1870 June 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Pineville, McDonald County,

<sup>1</sup> Robert and Caroline's first child noted on the 1860 census born in Indiana was eight-year-old Samuel.

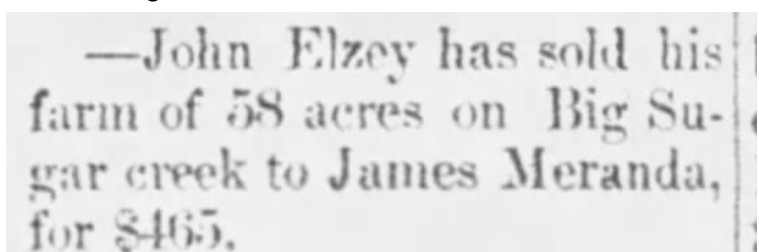
<sup>2</sup> Photos from the Castelo Family Collection

MO showed the young couple living in their own home. Meranda was a farmer.

1879 March 9: Meranda's father, Robert, died and six days later on March 15th, his mother died. They were both buried at Bear Creek Cemetery in Randolph County, IN.

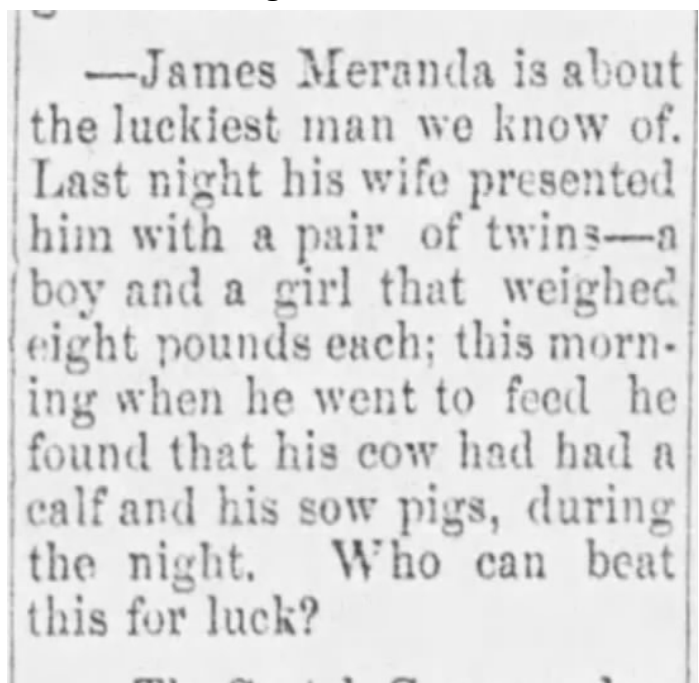
1880 June 16: U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Pineville, McDonald County, MO showed James, a farmer, and Joanna living with their four daughters: Mercy A, 10, Minerva, 8, Effie, 6 and Rosie, 4. Son James was born four months after the census was enumerated.

1883 October: Purchased 58 acres of land.



—John Elzey has sold his farm of 58 acres on Big Sugar creek to James Meranda, for \$465.

December 8: Joanna Meranda gave birth to twins Lona and Lawson.



—James Meranda is about the luckiest man we know of. Last night his wife presented him with a pair of twins—a boy and a girl that weighed eight pounds each; this morning when he went to feed he found that his cow had had a calf and his sow pigs, during the night. Who can beat this for luck?

<sup>3</sup> Pineville News, Pineville, MO, Friday 5 Oct 1883, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>4</sup> Pineville News, Pineville, MO, Friday, 7 Dec 1883, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com) \*note newspaper was printed one day before official birth register and Lawson's headstone says babies were born.

Dec 11 1883	Loney & Lawson (Twins)	White	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> 1883	MO	31
	Male & Female		Mo, Pineville	Spryful	Cluo
	Depth & Beneath		7111		

December 15: Seven day old Lawson died. He was buried in Noel Cemetery.

—Jas. Meranda lost one of his twins, by death, last Monday.



1884 January 11: Joanna Meranda died a month after she gave birth to her twins. She was buried near her baby, Lawson, at Noel Cemetery.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Meranda, Loney & Lawson, Missouri, U.S., Birth Registers, (accessed ancestry.com)

<sup>6</sup> Pineville News, Pineville, MO, Friday, 14 Dec 1883, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com) \*note newspaper was printed the date before death date on stone.

<sup>7</sup> Meranda, Lawson, Shelt Noel Cemetery, McDonald County, MO / user:AnnWallaceOmalley (accessed findagrave.com)

<sup>8</sup> The “Shelt Noel” Cemetery was the family cemetery of Shelton Noel, neighbors of the Merandas.

—Mrs. James Meranda  
died last Friday afternoon,  
and was buried Saturday, at  
the Noel Grave Yard.

9

1886 August 3: James Meranda, who had been despondent since the death of his wife, committed suicide. His seventeen year old daughter Mercy was the one who found him. He was buried at Noel Cemetery with his wife and infant son. Meranda's brother Lewis arrived in Missouri to pick up his children and take them back to Indiana with him. It is uncertain if he raised the children or if the children were adopted out to other couples or family. Youngest Lona was definitely adopted by an "Addington" family.

—L. M. Meranda, of Dun-  
kirk, Ind., brother of James  
Meranda who suicided at this  
place a short time since, arriv-  
ed here last week, to look after  
his brother's affairs. He will  
return to Indiana next week  
taking his deceased brother's  
orphan children with him.

10

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<sup>9</sup> Pineville News, Pineville, MO, Friday, 18 Jan 1884, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>10</sup> Pineville News, Pineville, MO, Wednesday, 15 Sep 1886, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com)

JAMES MERANDA SUICIDES.

YESTERDAY afternoon James Meranda, a farmer who has been living near this place for the past twenty years, and for the last two years on Mrs. Chenoweth's place, one mile north of Pineville, committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart with a rifle gun of 44 caliber. Mr. Meranda's wife died over two years ago, and he has been very despondent since, sometimes remarking that he thought of killing himself, but no one had any idea of his doing so. He had been in unusual low spirits for the last four or five days, but went about his work on the farm as usual, plowing until noon yesterday.

Shortly after noon he took his gun and started toward his corn crib, looking back as he walked off. His oldest daughter aged 17 years, thinking from his actions there was something wrong, asked him where he was going, when he replied that he was going to the crib to shoot a rat. He then went on and got in the crib and shot himself as above stated. His daughter, as soon

154 HISTORY OF MCDONALD COUNTY.

as hearing the report of the gun and him halloo, ran to the crib and found her father dying, with a bullet hole in his left breast, and his gun lying on one side of his body and the ramrod on the other, which goes to show that he used the ramrod to push the trigger. Deceased leaves six children—five girls and one boy their ages ranging from 2 to 17 years.—Pineville News, August 4, 1886.

11

August 6: Letters of administration were filed within the probate court of McDonald County, the following document listed Meranda's children and their ages.

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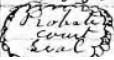
<sup>11</sup> Sturges, J.A., Illustrated History of McDonald County Missouri, 1897, pg. 153-154 (accessed googlebooks)

Application for letter of Administration

State of Missouri 383  
County of McDonald 383

In the matter of the Estate of James Meranda deceased  
R. C. Farmer Says that to the best of his knowledge and belief  
the names of the heirs of the said James Meranda deceased  
and their places of residence are respectively as follows:  
Mercy Ann Meranda 16 years of age Jan 25 - 86 Residence Pineville  
Marion Alice Meranda 14 years of age Oct 13 - 186 Residence Pineville  
Effie Elisabeth Meranda 11 years of age Mar 31 - 86 Residence Pineville  
Rosa Altha Meranda 7 years of age Aug 16 - 86 Residence Pineville  
James Selver Meranda 6 years of age Oct 17 - 86 Residence Pineville  
Lory Meranda 3 years of age Dec 8 - 86 Residence Pineville  
That the said James Meranda died without a will that  
he will make a perfect inventory of and faithfully administer  
all the Estate of the decedent and pay the debts as far  
as the assets will extend and the law direct, and account  
for and all assets which shall come to his possession or  
knowledge.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 6 day of August  
1886  
R. C. Farmer  
N. E. Smith Probate Judge



4 - 11 - 1 - 1

12



13

Orphaned Meranda children abt five years after their fathers death.

<sup>12</sup> Meranda, James, Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records (accessed ancestry.com)

<sup>13</sup> Photo from Castelo Family Collection