

Mariah<sup>1</sup> McGavock Reddick  
1834-1922  
Enslaved at Carnton

1834 (abt) Mariah was born in Mississippi.<sup>2</sup>

1848 Mariah was an adolescent, about fourteen, when she was given to Carrie McGavock upon her marriage to John McGavock.

1850 Slave schedule enumerated did not give names of the enslaved individuals, however each slave was listed by gender and race. It is believed that Mariah was enumerated as one of three 17-year-old mulatto females enslaved by John McGavock.

Sometime before 1853 Mariah was married to Harvey Otey.

1853 (abt) Mariah's oldest child Fannie Otey was born.

1855 Mariah gave birth to son William Otey.

1856 John, Carrie, Martha and Mary Elizabeth, with servant, (MOST LIKELY Mariah) were visiting in New Orleans in March of 1856. John McGavock owned a sugar plantation not far from Ducros, in Terrebonne Parish, called St. Bridget. It is unclear whether the family lived there permanently or during the winter months. But they were there often and as Carrie's personal slave Mariah would have accompanied her.

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<sup>1</sup> Mariah's name fluctuates between the spelling "Mariah" and "Maria." This document for consistency sake used "Mariah."

<sup>2</sup> On various records throughout her life her age is given as anywhere between 1834-1840. Most records are 1834ish

ST. LOUIS HOTEL... Mr Masendoff, Mobile; J B Lea, La; P B Pope, S Hollingsworth, lady, two children and servant, Yazoo City; M J Sheehaw and lady, Vicksburg; T B Hamood, Miss Berry, Miss Orr, La; Mr Engle and lady, Shreveport; M S Patrick and lady, Chicago; A P Avegno, NO; P C Boyer, Coast; Trufant, lady, child and servt, Mrs Cunningham, two children and servt, Miss Trufant, Mr Trufant, La; Geo L McKnight and lady, Chicago; Mr Collins, St Louis; E Lawrence, Coast; H Narsh, NY; R E Butler, Grand Caillou; Mr Tartino, Coast; E A Woodbridge, R A Gregory, lady, two children and servt, E B Ward, Jas H Lucas, lady, two children and two servts, Mrs Sire, St Louis; Wm Dunbar, N O, Mrs Mason Long, daughter and servt, Mrs Hunter, Coast; Mrs McBirney, Mrs Fund, Morris Johnston, Cincinnati; J B Breckenridge, La; Geo H Rozet, H Grinage, Nicaragua; S F Wilsou, NO; L Blussom, lady, four children and servt, California; Mrs Duval, Montgomery, Ala; Mrs Hunt, two children and servt; Mrs Burroughs, Mrs Adams, Galveston; Wm Sharp and lady, C Armitage, lady, child and two servts, Brazario county; Miss M Osburn, Thibodaux; Mrs W P Winder and daughter, John McGavock, lady, two children and servt; La; John McCullum, N H Rightar, Terrebonne; Robert Hare, Franklin, La; John A Lungie, P P Faust, H Fox, Mr Sherting, Liberty, Miss; H M Sausare, H Peyrot, France

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- 1857 Mariah gave birth to twins Frank and Mallie Otey.
- 1859 Mariah gave birth to twins Luther and Eliza Otey.
- 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 was enumerated as a twenty-six year old female living in a household with seven year old female,(Fanny) five year old twins one male and one female (Frank and Mallie), a three year old male(mostly likely William) and six month old twins, one male and one female (Luther and Eliza.) If this was Mariah and her children, which it is highly likely it was, then this is her earliest documented age. Her birth year would be about 1834.
- 1861 When Tennessee seceded "*The women gathered at the Masonic Hall to sew and make uniforms for their war relatives and friends, representative women from all over the country and town gladly answering the call to help clothe the boys. Conspicuous among them were ...Mrs. John and James McGavock and their sewing woman Maria Reddick...*"<sup>4</sup>  
 Mariah gave birth to son Joseph Otey.
- 1862 During 1862 the U.S. Army became a regular presence in Middle Tennessee. Before they controlled the area John and Carrie McGavock sent their slaves South. Mariah was pregnant at the time. She was sent to Alabama.

<sup>3</sup> The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA, Wednesday, 12 Mar 1856, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Newton Cannon's Reminiscences of the War, March 1912

1863 February 23: Mariah gave birth her last child born a slave, Harvey Otey.

March 23: Harvey Otey, Mariah's husband, died. He was buried in a marked grave at the city cemetery.

1865 After the war, Mariah was one of the few slaves owned by the McGavocks that are known to have returned to Franklin. Mariah never lived at Carnton again, but she did work as a nurse for the McGavock family, as well as other families in the area.

October 30: Mariah McGavock was married to Bolen<sup>5</sup> Reddick in Williamson County, TN.

1867 Mariah witnessed the Franklin Riot and gave a deposition to the court.

Her Deposition:

“Personally appeared before me this 8th July 1867 Mariah Reddick and having been duly sworn deposes and says:

My name is Mariah Reddick. I live in Franklin, Tenn. I was standing at my door looking at the procession coming down towards me on Saturday evening the 6th of July 1867. My door is opposite Mr. Bennett's corner. I saw the first fire that was made. It came from House's Corner and R.M. Ewing's office right in the alley. One shot alone fired first-and about a second afterwards, a volley from about 70 places from the same corner. Immediately afterwards, I saw the head of the procession return the fire. I saw nothing further for the wounded men began to come into my house where I attended them. When the procession had passed about the middle of the Square, it commenced to give three cheers for Brownlow and threw their hats in the air and then they were fired into. Just as they commenced to yell, the procession was fired on. I saw that the colored people were excited before they went to the Grove to hear the speaking. I do not know personally why they were excited. One of them told me it was because Mr. House had struck Mr. Bliss.

Mariah Reddick

Sworn to and subscribed before me 9th July 1867 J.L. Burch J.P.”

1868 October 18: Mariah and her husband Bolen Reddick had separated and Mariah was spending time with a widower named William Park. When Bolen saw Billy and Mariah walking along together up the road, he walked up behind the couple near Mrs. Reams' house in Franklin “about dark” and shot Billy in the back, murdering him in cold blood. Multiple witnesses said Mariah had been spending

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<sup>5</sup> The spellings Bolen, Bowling, Boling, Bolden are used interchangeably for Bolen. For this document “Bolen” was chosen for consistency.

a lot of time with Billy, sleeping over at his house and he had “carried her down to Spring Hill.” One witness said Bolen had gone to Billy and told him to stay away from his wife and if she needed to go to Spring Hill, he would take her. Bolen was convicted of murder and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. At the time of the murder Mariah was “staying at the Jimmie Park place.” Dr. John S. Park and his family lived very nearby, on the corner. His son was James Park. It is highly likely this is the family Mariah was living with and perhaps learning how to be a sick nurse, which is what she was known for in the community.

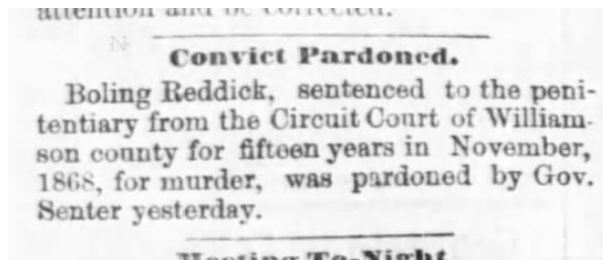
**THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER.**  
**A Colored Man Killed at Franklin for Intimacy with Another's Wife.**  
 William Park, a leading colored Democrat in Williamson County, was killed at Franklin last Sunday night by a negro named Bolden Reddick under the following circumstances: Bolden's wife had left him on account of ill treatment and had become rather intimate with Park. This aroused the jealousy of Reddick to such a degree that he threatened to kill Park the first time he caught him with his wife. Last Sunday evening about half-past six o'clock, the faithless female was walking on the street in company

with Park, when Reddick came up behind them and deliberately shot Park through the left side, the ball passing in the neighborhood of the heart. After having been shot, Park followed Reddick some little distance and struck him five or six times with an umbrella, then fell suddenly to the pavement and died in about ten minutes. Reddick surrendered himself and was committed to jail.  
 It is generally understood at Franklin that politics had nothing to do with the affair, although the parties engaged belonged to different parties. Reddick's wife is known to be a loose character, but her husband has claimed to exercise a supervision over her conduct, even since their separation.

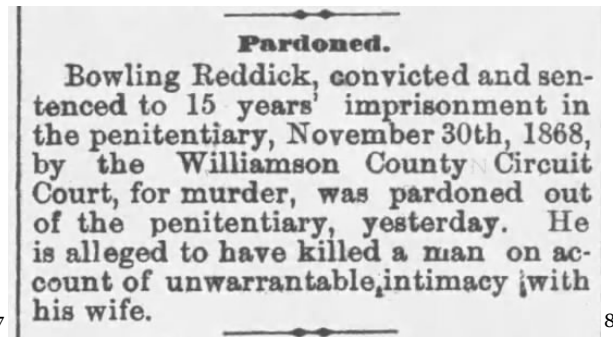
1870 The U.S. Federal census enumerated Mariah twice. The first time was June 8 (pg 21) in the 9th Civil District of Williamson County, TN (Franklin). She was listed as Mariah Reddick, age 30, and her son Harvey Otey, age 8, living in a multiple family dwelling. The rest of her children were not present. She was listed as a “domestic servant.” The second enumeration occurred on June 13 (pg 35) in the 9th Civil District of Williamson County. Listed as being 31 years old, living with her were her daughter Fannie, age 18, son Harvey, 8 and granddaughter (Fannie's daughter) Bell, age 1. Fannie was listed as a “washer” and Mariah as “keeping house.” Most likely the June 8th enumeration was taken at the location Mariah worked as a domestic Servant and the June 13th was at her home address. Living within a couple households of Maria on the June 13th enumeration was Oscar and Fannie Southall. Fannie had been enslaved with Mariah at Carnton.

<sup>6</sup> The Republican Banner, Tuesday, 20 Oct 1868, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

September: Bolen was pardoned by the governor. Many local citizens signed a petition to get him pardoned, Fountain Branch Carter was one of those men who signed the petition.<sup>7</sup>



**Convict Pardoned.**  
Boling Reddick, sentenced to the penitentiary from the Circuit Court of Williamson county for fifteen years in November, 1868, for murder, was pardoned by Gov. Senter yesterday.



**Pardoned.**  
Bowling Reddick, convicted and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in the penitentiary, November 30th, 1868, by the Williamson County Circuit Court, for murder, was pardoned out of the penitentiary, yesterday. He is alleged to have killed a man on account of unwarrantable intimacy with his wife.

- 1871 The Common School Records for District 9 in Williamson County listed Black parents and how many children they had attending school in the district. Mariah Reddick was listed as having two children in school.<sup>9</sup>
- 1877 Twins Isaiah and Winder Reddick were born and died on the same day. The children were buried in the McGavock Family Cemetery at Carnton. Their grave was marked.
- 1880 June 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in the 9th Civil District of Williamson County, showed Mariah, age 46, living with her husband Bolen, a domestic servant. Mariah was listed as a home maker. Son Joe Otey, 19, worked in a saw mill and son Harvey was 17, with no occupation listed. Granddaughter Fannie Bell Otey was also living with them. She was 11 years old and was attending school. Mariah was the only family members listed as not being able to write. Mariah gave birth to her youngest child John Watt Reddick on September 2nd of the same year. Mariah was between the ages of 46 and 50. Mariah could read but not write and this is the only census Bolen was listed as being literate. Mariah and her parents were listed as being born in Mississippi.

<sup>7</sup> Nashville Union and American, Nashville, TN, 3 Sep 1870, Saturday, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>8</sup> Republican Banner, Nashville, TN, Saturday 3 Sep 1870, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>9</sup> Williamson County Historical Society Journal, No. 31, 2000, pg. 166

1886

**FRANKLIN.**

**Preliminary Trial of Watson and Clouston—The Evidence.**

FRANKLIN, TENN., Sept. 24.—[Special]—The negroes, Henry Clouston and Pomp Watson, whose preliminary trial for the murder of Geo. Hornberger has occupied the past three days, were this evening committed to jail in default of bond of \$1,000 each to appear before the November term of the Circuit Court. A large number of witnesses were examined and testimony taken by a stenographer employed by the railroad, from all of which a pretty strong case was made out against the defendants. The evidence showed that the deceased had received two stabs in the neck, which would cause death from internal bleeding. The alibi was not made out to the satisfaction of the magistrate. This was one of the darkest crimes that ever happened in this region, and it is hoped the mystery will be fully cleared up by the grand jury in November.

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Both Mariah and Bolen served as witnesses in a murder trial for Pomp Watson and Henry Clouston.

Bowling Reddick

Being Duly sworn reposes and says.

I was at home that Saturday night by house is a short distance from Pomp Watsons & I was going to Mrs. Reams to get a bucket of slop and I met Pomp near the door. He was going home that was a little after 7 o'clock. About 9:30 I took [another] to go to bed but I would get a bucket of water first, and had to go by Pomps door and he was home trying to quiet the baby that was crying. I got my bucket of water and come back, I heard him still working to quiet the child. I did not see him again until the next morning.

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<sup>10</sup> The Daily American, Nashville, TN, Saturday, 25 Sep 1886, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)

Cross Examination

Q: What means did you have of knowing the time?

A: When I got my water, I went home nad bathed my feet and wound up my clock and it was then 20 minutes to ten.

Q: Was the door open?

A: No Sir. Closed.

Mariah Reddick

Being duly sworn reposes and says.

I went to Pomp's house at 8:30 o'clock, and he was lying in the door. I said "hellow! Old Fellow! You are [? aurdover] tonight!" He said "Yes! The old lady left me to attend to the children tonight." I went to the festival and staid there until 11:30 and on my way back. Passed by his house, and I stood in the middle of the pike until his wife and sister knocked at the door and he came in his night-clothes and let them in.

Cross Examination

Q: Was there any light burning?

A: No sir!

Q:: How many rooms has the house?

A: Only one room.

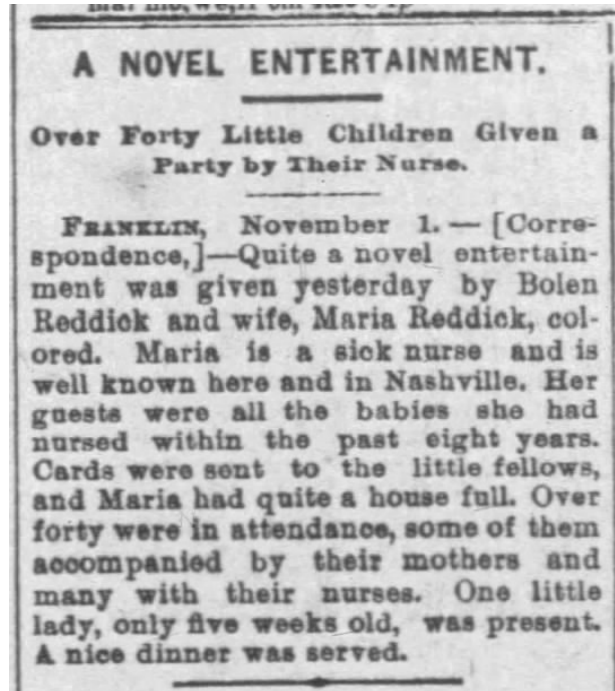
Q:How long were you in front of the house?

A: Not more than two minutes.

Q: Was it moonlight?

A: I don't think it was.

1888 November: Mariah gave a party at her house for the children she had nursed.



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1905 Carrie Winder McGavock died and one of her obituaries mentioned Mariah Specifically .

“One of the sincerest of all the mourners present was an intelligent colored woman who was bought for Mrs. McGavock in her girlhood--in 1849--by her father. Through all the years this faithful woman had been present with the family in its every affliction.”<sup>12</sup>

1907 June 3: Carrie McGavock’s son, Winder, died and his obituary indicated that Mariah was the sick nurse attending to him. Mariah had become a prominent sick nurse for families all over Franklin.

*“Mr. Winder McGavock passed peacefully to rest at 3:48 p.m. Monday June 3, 1907 at beautiful historic Carnton, his life-long home. Just before death he asked to be carried into the nursery of his childhood. There, surrounded by sorrowing loved ones, and being nursed as tenderly as when a babe, by his nurse of infancy, he fell asleep in Jesus, to awake in glory where all disease and sorrow are wiped away.”*

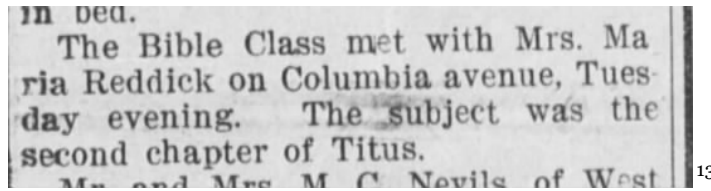
1908 February

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<sup>11</sup> Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Friday, 2 Nov 1888, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>12</sup> Confederate Veteran Obit, in Carrie’s File at BOFT



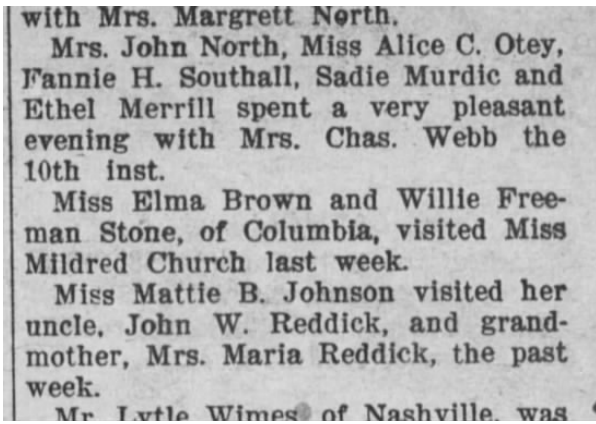


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May 1: "The Shorter Chapel. A.M.E. Church, where the exercises were held, was soon crowded beyond a point of comfort by the anxious citizens and visiting friends. But every was made to make all comfortable. Seated upon the rostrum were the following well known Knights: Dr. R.F. Boyd, Supreme Medical Registrar, Grand Worthy Counsellor; J. Thomas Turner, Grand Attorney; Rev. Sutton E Griggs, J.O. Battle, Editor of the Globe; J.P. Porter, J.W. Blaine, Wm. Royster, John Cunningham, A.M. Cockrill and others. The preliminary program was participated in by Rev. White, J.P. Campbell, John Cunningham, the "father" of Mercury Lodge; J. Thos. Turner and Mrs. Mariah Reddick. Between each of the numbers above mentioned the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Washington, discoursed pleasing musics. The solo of Miss Arzella Ellis received especial approbation."<sup>14</sup>

July 10: "Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Reddick, of Talladega, Ala., have made Franklin their home. Mr Reddick is the son of Mrs. Mariah Reddick and is railway mail clerk."<sup>15</sup>  
 October 8: "Mrs. Mariah Reddick has returned home."<sup>16</sup>

1909 April 16: "Mr. Bolen Reddick is on the sick list." appeared right below the following clip in the Nashville Globe.



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<sup>13</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 21 Feb 1908, pg. 7 (accessed newspapers.com)  
<sup>14</sup> The Nashville Gloe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 1 May 1908, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)  
<sup>15</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 10 Jul 1908, pg. 6 (accessed newspapers.com)  
<sup>16</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 8 Oct 1908, pg. (accessed newspapers.com)  
<sup>17</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 16 Apr 1909, pg. 6 (accessed newspapers.com)

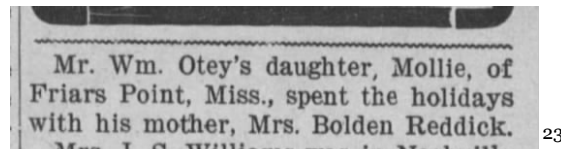
April 30: "Mr. Bolen Reddick is still confined to his room."<sup>18</sup>

December 17: "Mr. Bolen Reddick, who has been very sick for three weeks, is reported better."<sup>19</sup>

December 24: "Mr. Bolen Reddick is able to sit up."<sup>20</sup>

1910 January 7: "Mr. Wm. Otey's daughter, Mollie, of Friars Point, Miss., spent the holidays with his mother, Mrs. Bolen Reddick."<sup>21</sup>

February 4: "Mr. Bolen Reddick has gone back to work."<sup>22</sup>



April 15: "Mr. William B. Johnson, of Kansas City, Kan, is here the guest of his grandmothers, Mesdames Bolen Reddick and Laura Evans, Columbia avenue, South."<sup>24</sup>

April 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in the 9th civil district of Williamson County listed the Reddick family living on Columbia Avenue. Bolen was listed as being a laborer for the City of Franklin, Mariah, age 75, was a sick nurse for private families. John Watt, was a railroad man with the U.S. Government. John's wife and three children lived in the same household. Mariah was listed as giving birth to eleven children, and six of those children were currently alive (name of living children at this time!!! Mallie, John, William.....). Mariah could read, but not write and Bolen was illiterate. Mariah was born in Mississippi as well as both of her parents. Their home, on Columbia Ave., was owned free from mortgage.

May 6: "Miss Mattie B. Johnson is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Mariah Reddick."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday 30 Apr 1909, pg. (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>19</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 17 Dec 1909, pg. (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>20</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 24 Dec 1909, pg. (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>21</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 7 Jan 1910, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>22</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 4 Feb 1910, pg. 7 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>23</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 7 Jan 1910, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>24</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 15 Apr 1910, pg. 8 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>25</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday 6 May 1910, pg. (accessed newspapers.com)

September 9: "Mrs Mariah Redick is out after several days' illness."<sup>26</sup>

November 23: Bolen Reddick died.

THROWN FROM CART AND KILLED.  
On last Wednesday morning about 8:30 o'clock, Mr. Bolden Reddick was thrown from the corporation cart. When he was found his neck was broken and he had bruises in several places. He died about twenty minutes after the accident. Mr. Reddick has been in service about twenty years for the corporation. He was a good citizen, a member of the K. of P. and a well-wisher of everything that had a tendency to raise the standard of his people. His funeral services were at the A. M. E. Church, Friday afternoon, conducted by Dr. Denny, Revs. A. N. C. Williams and F. C. McGhee. Mr. Reddick leaves a loving wife and one son and a number of relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

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A CARD OF THANKS.  
We take this means to thank those friends, both white and colored, who so graciously gave us their assistance and sympathy in our bereavement in the loss of our dear husband and father, Bolen Redick. We cannot repay them for the kindness and interest shown us but trust God will ever bless and protect them.  
Very sincerely,  
MRS. MARI REDICK,  
JON W. REDICK.  
Franklin, Tenn.

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September 4: Mariah attended the first family reunion of Joe McGavock's descendants in Franklin. Joe McGavock was also a slave at Carnton..

1911 February 17: Mariah attended a meeting for the Forget-Me-Not Art Club at her daughter-in-law's home.<sup>29</sup>

December 28: Attended the Forget Me Not Art Club Christmas Party.<sup>30</sup>

1920 January 9: The U.S. Federal census enumerated in Franklin, Williamson, TN showed Mariah living at 513 Columbia Ave. She was a home owner free from mortgage and enumerated as 85 years old. She could read and write, was born in Mississippi and both of her parents were born in Tennessee. All other census records listed her parents being born in Mississippi. Mariah was retired and her son John and his family lived next door at 419 Columbia Ave.

1922 December 21: Mariah McGavock Otey Reddick died . The following is an obituary that appeared in the local newspaper with the title:

<sup>26</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 9 Sep 1910, pg. 7 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>27</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday 2 Dec 1910, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>28</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 9 Dec 1910, pg. 7 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>29</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday, 17 Feb 1911, pg. 8 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>30</sup> The Nashville Globe, Nashville, TN, Friday 12 Jan 1912, pg. (accessed newspapers.com)

**“Much Beloved Negress Dies Aunt Mariah Reddick Was once  
Servant To Jeff Davis”**

*“The passing of Mariah Bell Reddick at her home on Columbia Avenue on last Friday night removes from Franklin one of her oldest citizens and also a historical character that has been closely connected with prominent and leading events in the South.*

*‘Aunt’ Mariah died at the ripe old age of 90 years, retaining her mental faculties and her devotion to her friends until the last.*

*When Col. John McGavock was married to Miss Carrie Winder in Louisiana seventy-four years ago, Col. Winder gave this bright woman to his daughter for a maid. She made her home with the McGavocks after that, nursing four generations of the family.*

*During the war Col. McGavock sent all his slaves except two or three further south to keep them from the influence of the Federal Army. During this period Mariah, who was in Montgomery, ALa., was a servant in the family of President Jeff Davis. While in the household she became a special admirer of Dr. Gentry, of this place, who was much in the Davis family.*

*Little negro blood flowed in her veins; she was half Indian with possibly a strain of French blood, hence the strong clear mentality and a combination of characteristics marked and unusual.*

*Her first husband was Harvey Otey. The last husband, Bolen Reddick, was a Montgomery negro who came back to Tennessee with her after the war, both going straight to the McGavock home.*

*This fine old character has hardly an equal left among her race in this town. She leaves one son, John Watt Reddick, in the L&N Railroad Service.”*

McGavock Family Memory about Mariah

*“She was always close to our family. When I visited in Franklin as a child, she was always my nurse. She was in attendance with Mother at the birth of each of us. I remember when she was with us, in 1919, at the birth of my sister, Harriet. “Aunt Mariah” was a genteel, soft-spoken colored lady who wore a full-skirted, long--to the floor--white uniform with a white apron on top of that. She lived a long life--all of it in Franklin--after coming there a little slave when she was ten years old.”<sup>31</sup>*

Mariah’s final will was probated in January 1923 in Williamson County, TN.  
Transcript:

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<sup>31</sup> Memory of Susie May Ayres. Great granddaughter of Carrie Winder McGavock.

“I Mariah Reddick, being of sound mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and testament.

Item 1 It is my will that all of my just debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my death as practicable.

Item 2 I will devise and bequeath to my son John Watt Reddick, my house and plot on Columbia Ave, in Franklin, Where I now live and the set of furniture in the front room of my said residence.

Item 3 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<sup>32</sup> and Lori Otey, the wife of my eldest son William Otey to be divided equally amongst them.

Item 4 I nominate and appoint my son John Watt Reddick, executor of this my last will, and direct that he be permitted to administer and distribute my estate without being required to give bond or security.”

Mariah did not sign her will with a signature, only her “x” mark.

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<sup>32</sup> Bessie was actually her granddaughter, but raised by Mariah because her mother Fanny died.