

Fannie McGavock Southall
1824-1883
Enslaved at Carnton

- 1824 June 19: Fannie McGavock was born to Joe and Clara McGavock, most likely at Carnton¹ in Williamson County. Her parents were slaves owned by Randal McGavock. Clara and Joe had six children: Ann, Martha, Patrick Henry, Fannie, Susanna and Joanna.
- 1830 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN listed Randal McGavock as head of household. The rest of the household members were listed with slash marks in their category designated by age, gender and race. The household consisted of seven free White people and nineteen enslaved Black people. Four female slaves under the age of ten, fitting Fannie's age, were listed.
- 1840 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN listed Randal McGavock as head of household. The rest of the household members were listed with slash marks in their category designated by age, gender and race. The household consisted of four free White people and twenty-one enslaved Black people. Three female slaves between the age of ten and twenty-three, fitting Fannie's age, were listed.
- 1843 Randal McGavock died. Fannie was listed as one of Randal's twenty-two slaves in the inventory of his Estate. All twenty-two of Randal McGavock's slaves were bequeathed to his wife Sarah Rodgers McGavock. "Fannie, 19" was listed along with the rest of her family.

Negroes

#9

*Stirling aged 60 Richard aged 15 Ben aged 45
Michael aged 43 Joe aged 17 Henry aged 21 Madison
aged 19 Lewis 16 Edmund 11 Jack 8 Maria 5 George 3
Cary 17 Martha 7 Mary 15 Betty 32 Francis 19
Susanna 14 Alice 7 Julia 6*

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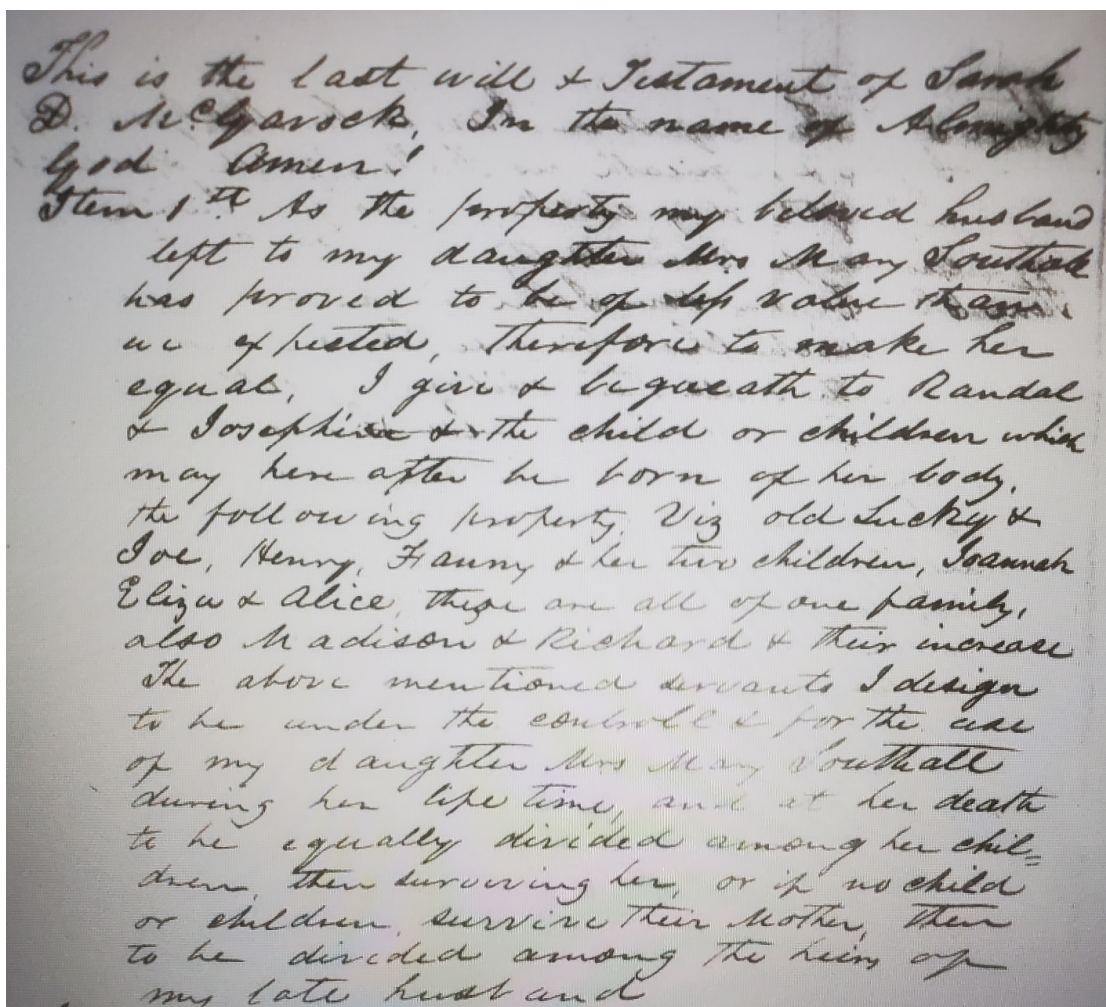
- 1844 May 2: Fannie gave birth to her first child, son, Felix H. Southall. (Felix's father is unknown as yet.)

¹ Note: It is entirely possible that Fannie could have been born in Nashville. Her brothers' pension application for the U.S. Navy listed Nashville as his birthplace and Randal McGavock lived and worked in Nashville consistently until after the mid 1830's.

² Inventory of Randal McGavock, Williamson County Archives, Franklin, TN.

1845 May 10: Fannie gave birth to daughter Clara Merrill, whom she named after her mother. Clara's father was John Merrill.³

1846 Sarah McGavock, who had inherited all of her husband's twenty-two slaves, wrote a will distributing all of her human property amongst her four children and one grandchild. "Fannie and her two children" were bequeathed to Sarah's daughter Mary Southall and her children Josephine and Randal. Sarah's will is quite different from her husband's because it gives family units. "Old Suky, Joe, Henry, Fanny and her children, Joannah, Eliza and Alice, they are all of one family." Mary Southall's husband owned a man named Oscar, who would become Fannie's husband.



This is the last will & Testament of Sarah D. McGavock, In the name of Almighty God Amen!

Item 1st As the property my beloved husband left to my daughter Mrs Mary Southall was proved to be of less value than we expected, therefore to make her equal, I give & bequeath to Randal & Josephine & the child or children which may here after be born of her body, the following property, Viz old Suky & Joe, Henry, Fanny & her two children, Joannah Eliza & Alice, these are all of one family, also Madison & Richard & their increase

The above mentioned servants I design to be under the control & for the use of my daughter Mrs Mary Southall during her life time, and at her death to be equally divided among her children, then surviving her, or if no child or children survive their mother, then to be divided among the heirs of my late husband

1848 (abt) Fannie gave birth to daughter Fannie Southall.

³ Clara's death certificate, with information given by her brother Felix, listed her father as John Merrill and her mother as Fannie McGavock.

⁴ William Hicks Jackson Papers, Special Collections, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN, Box 4, Folder 26

- 1849 (abt) Fannie gave birth to daughter Nancy Southall.
- 1852 (abt) Fannie gave birth to son, John Southall.
- 1853 December 2: Fannie gave birth to daughter Malinda Southall.⁵
- 1855 May 4: Fannie gave birth to son Hugh D. Southall.
- 1856 December 7: Fannie gave birth to twins Charles and Hillard Southall.
- 1858 March 8: Fannie gave birth to twins Patrick Henry and Henrietta J. Southall. By the time she gave birth to her youngest children, twins Henry and Henrietta, Fannie had at least five children under the age of three!
- 1860 June: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 11 of Davidson County, TN showed Mary McGavock Southall, whose husband had died in 1853, living at Belle Meade with her sister Elizabeth and her husband William Giles Harding. A portion of Mary's enslaved people appeared with her at Belle Meade on the Federal Census Slave Schedule. It is entirely possible that Fannie was one of the females listed by gender, race and age. The thirty-two year old woman below could be either Fannie or her sister Joanna. ⁶ However if this was Fannie, all of her children are not listed. She had two sets of twins by this time.

Male	38 yrs	Mulatto	Female	32 yrs	Mulatto
Female	24 yrs	Mulatto	Female	15 yrs	Mulatto
Male	15 yrs	Black	Male	11 yrs	Mulatto
Female	9 yrs	Black	Male	5 yrs	Black
Male	3 yrs	Black	Male	4 yrs	Black
Male	6 mo	Black	Male	15 yrs	Black

- 1865 December 9: Fannie McGavock and Oscar Southall were married in Franklin, Williamson County, TN very soon after the passage of the 13th amendment and marriage was legal between the formerly enslaved.
- 1869 Fannie's fifteen-year-old son, Felix H. Southall, was one of only three young

⁵ The year of Malinda's birth is inconsistent on a variety of different records. So 1852 is "abt."

⁶ It is also possible that Fannie was at Carnton by this time, especially since the Southall's resided in Franklin just a mile away from Carnton post Civil War.

students from Franklin attending Fisk University in Nashville. Fisk was incorporated in 1866 as a freedmen's school for all aged students but in 1867 the focus was readjusted to specialize in higher education. Felix went on to become head porter at the Maxwell House Hotel. His twin brothers Hillard and Charlie were porters at MHH as well.

- 1870 June 13: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, a painter, and Fannie living with their children: John, 16 yrs, Malinda, 15, Hugh, 14, Charley and Hillard (twins), 13, Henry and Henrietta (twins), 12. Also living with the couple was twenty-year-old Thomas Southall. It is uncertain at this time if Thomas was their son. Their daughter Nancy lived in the household next door to theirs with her husband Sam Young and their children.
- 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. Oscar Southall was listed as having four children in school.⁷
- 1872 The inventory of Fountain Branch Carter's estate showed multiple entries that Oscar was being paid to paint new structures being built for two of Carter's children.

Feb.	4	"	State & County Taxes for 1873	9	55	*
"	"	"	W. R. Ewing - Bill of costs	4	00	
X	20	"	Taugher & McElpin - 2 chimneys	70	00	
X	"	"	J. J. Beach - Glass & Putty	5	83	
X	"	"	" " Paints etc.	41	13	
X	"	"	Oscar Southall - acct. for painting	25	00	
X	"	"	Henry Ewing - acct. for steps etc.	2	00	
Mar.	25	"	W. R. Ewing, Bill of costs	1	50	
Jan	X	30	Eelbeck & Perkins, nails, Satchels & screws (omitted above)	7	10	918 66
Feb			(over)			2653 03

The same inventory shows multiple entries for Oscar Southall paying rent on 39.5 acres of land, most likely for farming.

⁷ Williamson County Historical Society Journal, No. 31, 2000, pg. 166

	"	"	Rec ^d from Lana rents for 1872.			
X	"	"	Henry Fleming 16 acres @ 4.00	64	00	
X	"	"	Andy Fleming 15 " "	64	00	
X	"	"	Grundy Thompson 18 - "	52	00	
X	"	"	Oscar Southall 39 1/2 " 5.00	197	50	
X	"	"	Henry Suring 5 " "	25	00	
X	"	"	Albert Sweeney 10 " "	50	00	X
X	"	"	Geo. Patton 10 1/2 " "	50	00	X

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1874 Fannie's husband Oscar, and her son Patrick Henry were both founding members of Olive Branch No. 7 Masonic Lodge.

1878 The D.G. Beers & Co. map of Williamson County showed Oscar Southall as a landowner. The landowners surrounding Oscar were all freedmen, owning their own homes by 1878! J. Merrill, who lived on the property directly adjoining Oscar's, was Fannie's second child, Clara's, father. Another neighbor, S. Young, was Oscar and Fannie's daughter Nancy and her husband.



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⁸ From the collection of Carter Conway Descendants.

⁹ Williamson County, TN, 1878, TSLA Map Collection, 41314, Tennessee State Library and Archives, (accessed Teva.org)

1878-1880 Fannie and Oscar's youngest daughter Henrietta attended Central Tennessee College in Nashville.

1880 June 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN showed Oscar, a painter, and Fannie living with their children: Hugh 24, Charley and Hillard (twins) 23, Henry and Henrietta (twins) 20. Hugh was a grocer and Charley, Hillard and Henry were working as farm laborers. The race of the family was designated as "mu" for mulatto. Although, Oscar and Fannie could not read and write, all of their children could.

The neighborhood they lived in was very close to the Carter House. Mallie Otey Johnson and Mariah McGavock Reddick, also former slaves at Carnton were neighbors.

1883 December 24: Fannie McGavock Southall died. She was buried at Toussaint L'Ouverture cemetery.

1884 January 31: A memorial for Fannie Southall appeared in the local newspaper written by her friend, A.N.C. Williams.

"I, desire to speak of the merits of a neighbor lady who died recently, because I know her memory deserves it. I had hoped someone capable of doing so more fittingly would have written of the life and character of Mrs. Fannie Southall, wife of Mr. Oscar Southall, who died Dec. 24, 1883, in her 59th year. For thirteen years she was a member of the A.M.E. Church. She as a wife, true and kind, a mother much devoted, a neighbor highly esteemed by all who knew her, a member of her church beloved and honored, and was followed to her grave by a very large concourse of people both white and colored. She was faithful in all she undertook for good. In her death the sick and suffering have lost a ministering friend, the church a true and zealous member, her children a loving mother, and her husband a good wife. She was sensible of her approaching death and gave evidence of her willingness and readiness to meet it. When we note by whom and how she was raised we can easily account for such a life as hers. She was raised by the McGavock family of this county. She leaves eight children and a husband, all highly respected to mourn her death. But they mourn not as those who have no hope for she was gone from labor to a rich reward. They have the sympathy of this entire community. The funeral exercises were conducted by her pastor, Rev. J.A. Franklin, assisted by Elder A.N.C. Williams."¹⁰

¹⁰ The Review and Journal, Franklin, TN, 31 Jan 1884, printed in Williamson County Historical Society Journal No. 31, 2000.