

**FAMILY OF JAMES MARION DAWSON  
AND  
MARY ANN (POLLY) WOOTEN DAWSON**

James Marion Dawson was born on March 15, 1829, in York County, South Carolina. He is the son of James McCord Dawson and ? Nichols. His father is buried in Wesley Chapel Cemetery, Gordon County, GA (his mother's first name and dates of birth and burial are unknown). He married Mary Ann (Polly) Wooten on December 25, 1849, in Cartersville, Georgia. Mary Wooten was born on June 9, 1824 in South Carolina, the daughter of William and Susannah Grant Wooten. Her parents are buried at Town Creek Cemetery, Rainsville, AL. James died April 24, 1864, while serving as a Union soldier in the Civil War. He died of measles at a Union brigade hospital in Bridgeport, Alabama. Mary Dawson died May 17, 1911, and is buried in Town Creek Cemetery in Rainsville, Alabama.

The parents of James M. Dawson were apparently typical of the many families who migrated from the Carolinas into Georgia during the early 1800's. James later continued the migration pattern by moving his family into North Alabama with the Wooten family. In all probability, this move occurred during the late 1850's when James decided to become a farmer on Sand Mountain in DeKalb County.

James and Mary Dawson had nine children beginning in 1850 through 1863. They are in order: (1) Almarine Franklin Dawson, buried in Warrens Graveyard, near Rainsville, AL; (2) Mary A. Isabelle Dawson Potter, buried in Town Creek Cemetery, Rainsville, AL; (3) Caldonia V. Dawson Dickert, buried in Warrens Graveyard; (4) Josephine S. Dawson Wilborn, buried in Langston Cemetery, Jackson County, AL; (5) James Cicero Dawson, buried in Broadway Cemetery, Rainsville, AL; (6) Susan L. Elizabeth Dawson McCurdy, buried in Mt. Hermon Cemetery, near Ft. Payne, AL; (7) William Henry Dawson, buried in Arkansas; (8) Lilly Mary Dawson Wooten, buried in Farmer's Academy Cem., Titus Co., Texas; and (9) John Warren L. Dawson, buried in Bluff Cemetery, Section, AL.

When the Civil War began, James, like many others in North Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, chose to join the Union Army rather than the Confederate forces. On September 10, 1863, James Dawson joined the Union Army as a volunteer. He joined Company B, Independent Vidette Regiment of the Alabama/Tennessee Calvary. Captain George Allen, a commander, enlisted James as a private at Stevenson, Alabama to serve one year or until the war ended. His enlistment papers described him as 34 years of age, 5'5" tall, fair complexion, black eyes, black hair, and a farmer by occupation.

As reported above, James died in 1864. He was originally buried on the site of the Union hospital at Bridgeport. Later, the National Cemetery was established in Chattanooga, TN, and the Union soldiers were moved there. We had always believed James was buried in Chattanooga because his oldest son, Almarine Franklin Dawson would go to Chattanooga to visit his grave. However, it has been discovered that there is no record of James being moved to Chattanooga, nor a tomb for him. In 1998, during construction of a soccer field in Bridgeport, Union Army human bones were uncovered. It was determined that they were from the Civil War but no identity could be made. It was then assumed that not all Union soldiers were actually moved to Chattanooga resulting in a conclusion that James might still be buried at Bridgeport. It will never be determined. However, the bones which were uncovered during construction were reburied in June 2000 on the original site of the Union Army cemetery. It was then decided to obtain a memorial marker for James Marion Dawson and place it by the grave of his wife in Town Creek Cemetery in Rainsville, AL.

During the War, Mary Dawson was afraid for her family because her husband joined the Union Army. Therefore, she and the nine children, led by Almarine Franklin Dawson who was about 13 years

old, went by wagon to Henryville, Indiana, to live. They went with her brother, William Jasper Wooten and his family.

After the Civil War ended, Mary Dawson (still in Indiana) applied for a widow's pension on July 31, 1865. On August 20, 1866, Mary Dawson appeared in the presence of the Clerk of the Clarke County Circuit Court (at age 39) to support her claim to the pension. Mary declared that:

she was the widow of James M. Dawson who died at Bridgeport, Alabama, while discharging his duty as a Union Soldier,  
she married James M. Dawson on December 25, 1849,  
she has remained a widow,  
she has not in any manner engaged in or aided or abetted the rebellion, and the record of marriage cannot now be obtained from the State of Georgia.

Also, Warwick M. Evans (Mary's brother-in-law) and William Jasper Wooten (her brother) appeared and certified Mary's statement.

On October 23, 1866, Mary Dawson filed another petition in Clarke County, Indiana, because her first application was suspended because of the lack of proof of marriage. The records had been destroyed during the rebellion and the only evidence were those persons who witnessed the marriage. Mary Dawson appointed C. P. Fergerson, a lawyer in Charlestown, Indiana, to represent her interests. The lawyer added a statement to the petition that the Claimant "needs her pension badly."

A certificate was finally obtained from Bartow County, Georgia, that the marriage duly took place in December 1849, and was witnessed by Jephthah T. Rich and Lorenzo D. Wooten.

The pension was granted on April 8, 1867, for \$8 per month commencing on the date of James' death, April 24, 1864. The paper noted that a pension increase would be applied for at a later date for the children remaining at home. The certificate number was 929.17.

A claim for increase was filed on April 18, 1867, in Lebanon (DeKalb County), Alabama. Apparently the family had moved back to Alabama by this time. On February 12, 1868, Probate Judge John Franklin certified the application. It was witnessed by Lorenzo D. Wooten and John Shankles. Additional certifications attesting the birth of the children were made in March and April 1868:

Josephine - certified by J.K. Hoge, John Lackey, Lorenzo Wooten, and Elizabeth Wooten  
Caldonia - certified by Susan Wooten Evans  
Isabelle, James Cicero, Susan (Liza), William, Lilly, and John - certified by Susanah Wooten. Also, Rebecca Campbell certified that she was the midwife.

The pension increase was approved on May 22, 1868, retroactive to July 25, 1866. Her portion was \$8 per month and she received \$2 per month for each child under 16 years of age. By July 1866, Almarine Franklin Dawson, the first born, was not eligible since the names of the remaining 8 children are the only ones listed as being under age 16. By the time Mary died in 1911, her pension was \$12 per month.