

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS ...

FOUNDER OF BRADLEYVILLE, MISSOURI

Henry Bradley (1783 – 1870) & Rebecca Alley (1804 – 1888)

— *Bradley Rymph*

VISITS TO HENRY BRADLEY-RELATED SITES:

Bradleyville, Missouri: October 14, 2014
(with José Baquiran)

Springdale, Arkansas (Shiloh Museum of
Ozark History, repository of Thomas
Bradley family Bible): October 17, 2014
(with José Baquiran)

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Rymph.

Henry Bradley was born June 6, 1783, in Kenansville, Duplin County, North Carolina, the first-born child of Thomas and Elizabeth (Taylor) Bradley.* He lived there until sometime in his teenage years, between 1796 and 1799, when his parents and their family moved west and settled in Sumner County, Kentucky.

In 1811, Henry Bradley married his first wife, Nancy (Hall) Kerley, in Sumner County. Together they had five children — Christopher, Elijah, Luke, Sally, and Jane, all born in Fountain Head, Sumner County. Nancy died sometime around 1822 or 1823. Within a year of Nancy's death, Henry remarried at age 40 on July 3, 1823, in Fountain Head. His 19-year-old bride was **Rebecca Alley**, who had been born October 28, 1804, in Fountain Head.

Over the next 28 years, Henry and Rebecca had 13 children of their own — Elias, Seth Henry, Louise (Lucy), Rebecca, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Samuel Carroll, John Taylor, George, Dosha Ann, James, Silas, and Alfred — bringing the total number of Henry's offspring to 13 sons and 5 daughters.

Only Henry and Rebecca's oldest child — son Elias — was definitely born in

* Thomas Bradley is separately profiled in "Brothers in Revolutionary Service," in the "Soldiers" section of *In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors*.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
SUMNER COUNTY

This Certifies that Henry Bradley Age —
and Nancy Kerley Age —
WERE UNITED IN THE HOLY BONDS OF MATRIMONY
By William Hall, Bondsman
on the 8th day of May in the year of our Lord 1811
as appears of record in my office in Marriage Record, Book 1787-1838
page 46 This 18th day of July 1978
James A. England
Clerk of the County Court.

Marriage certificate
for Henry Bradley
and Nancy (Hall)
Kerley

Tennessee on June 30, 1824. By the time child no. 2, son Seth Henry, was born on November 29, 1824, the family may have moved on to Dubois County, Indiana.* Daughters Lucy and Rebecca, sons Thomas, Andrew, Samuel, John, and George, and daughter Doshia were each born in Dubois County, between 1827 and 1840. The final three sons — James, Silas, and Alfred — were each born in Taney County, Missouri, between 1843 and 1851. Henry would have been 67 years old at the time of this last-born child's birth.

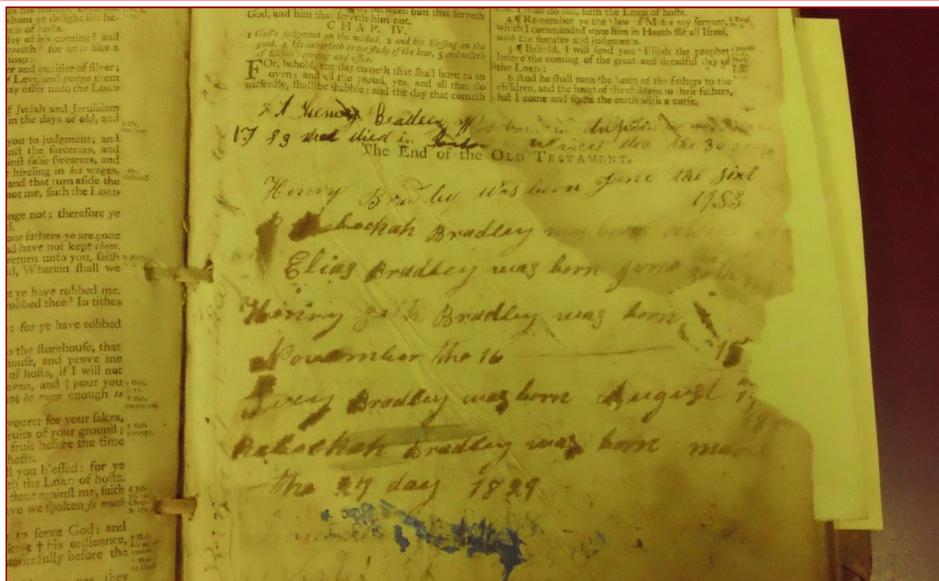
When Henry and Rebecca moved from Tennessee to Missouri, apparently all the children from his earlier marriage to Nancy moved with them. The 1830 federal census in Dubois County notes a household of 10 (all "free white persons," no

slaves), including parents and dependents. A decade later, the 1840 census showed 12 people living in Henry and Rebecca's household, indicating that some of Henry and Nancy's offspring had by then established households of their own.

Lisa Underwood, a great-great-granddaughter of Henry and Rebecca Bradley through their daughter Rebecca, passed on to me an e-mail from Joanie Bean Long, a descendant of Henry and Rebecca through their daughter Lucy. In this e-mail, Long related:

According to a story written by his great-granddaughter Tugie Baskin Baxter, Henry moved his family from the "settlements" in Indiana to the "backwoods" in Missouri in about 1842. He brought with him at least one wagon, some horses and other stock and "a big black stallion." While they were traveling, one of the

* Seth Henry's birthstate is not conclusively proven. However, in the 1850 federal census, he declared Indiana, not Tennessee, as his home state.



Notations in Thomas (father of Henry) Bradley family Bible noting birthdates of Henry Bradley, his wife Rebecca (Alley) Bradley, and their children.

wagons had to be unloaded part way for some reason, and Henry's “money bag” was lifted out. According to tales Tugie heard, the bag was “big as a half bushel.” He was said to have offered the money to any of his sons who could lift it back into the wagon. He kept his money!! When Henry and family first arrived in Missouri, they lived in one room of someone's home until they could get settled.

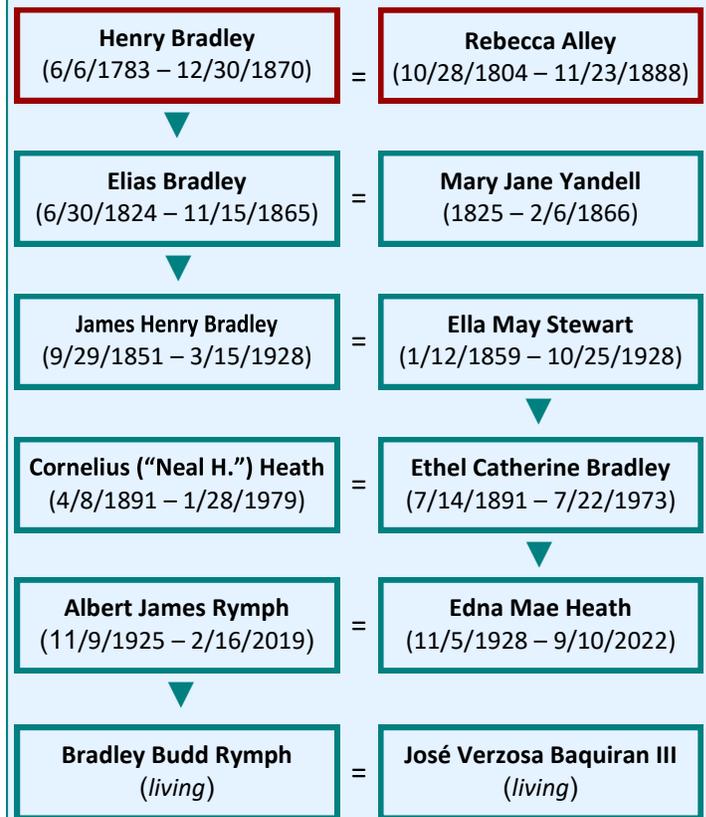
Henry Bradley obtained land on Beaver Creek in Missouri in October of 1843. He purchased the land from a Mr. John Wright. The land was in Ozark County at the time of purchase, but a reshuffling of lines later put him in Taney County.†

In the first decade after Henry and his family arrived in the Missouri Ozarks,

he apparently because a significant owner of land and livestock. As related in the *White River Valley*

HOW WE'RE RELATED

Henry and Rebecca (Alley) Bradley were my great-great-great-grandparents through my mother, Edna Mae (Heath) Rymph.



† E-mail to Bradley Rymph from Lisa Underwood, April 13, 2013, quoting e-mail to Lisa Underwood from Joanie Bean Long, May 28, 2010

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SCHEDULE I. — Free Inhabitants in *Butter Township* **in the County of** *Taney* **State**
of *Missouri* **enumerated by me, on the** *15th* **day of** *November* **1850.** *J. W. Sanders* Ass't Marshal.

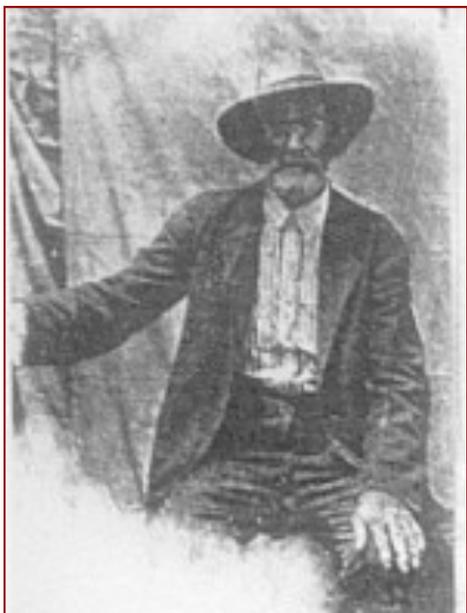
Dwellings numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	10	11	12	13
			Age.	Sex.	White, Black or Caucasian.								
1	622	J. Hampton	65	Mr	W	Farmer	1500	Missouri	1				
2		J. Hampton	18	Mr		Farmer		Missouri	1				
3	623	A. Hampton	34	Mr		Farmer	200	Missouri	1				
4	624	W. Hampton	29	Mr				Missouri	1				
5		L. P. Hampton	11	Mr				Missouri					
6		A. Hampton	3	Mr				Missouri					
7		J. G. Hampton	1	Mr				Missouri					
8	624	J. Hampton	30	Mr		Farmer	400	Missouri	1				
9		W. Hampton	28	Mr				Indiana	1				
10		J. Hampton	11	Mr				Missouri					
11		A. P. Hampton	2	Mr				Missouri					
12	625	L. O. Purce	31	Mr		Farmer	150	Georgia	1				
13		W. Purce	25	Mr				Alabama	1				
14		J. W. Purce	3	Mr				Alabama	1				
15		L. O. Purce	3	Mr				Missouri					
16		W. C. Purce	7	Mr				Missouri					
17	626	J. Bradley	67	Mr		Farmer	300	Virginia	1				
18		R. Bradley	16	Mr				Virginia	1				
19		J. Bradley	24	Mr		Farmer		Indiana	1				
20		J. A. Bradley	17	Mr		Farmer		Indiana	1				
21		J. Bradley	31	Mr				Indiana	1				
22		L. O. Bradley	13	Mr		Farmer		Indiana	1				
23		J. Bradley	13	Mr				Indiana	1				
24		J. Bradley	11	Mr				Indiana	1				
25		G. A. Bradley	9	Mr				Indiana	1				
26		J. Bradley	6	Mr				Missouri					
27		L. Bradley	4	Mr				Missouri					
28	627	G. Bradley	26	Mr		Farmer	300	Georgia	1				
29		W. J. Bradley	25	Mr				Missouri	1				
30		W. J. Bradley	7	Mr				Missouri					
31	628	A. Bradley	24	Mr		Farmer		Indiana	1				
32		L. Bradley	24	Mr				Missouri					
33		R. Bradley	1	Mr				Missouri					
34		J. A. Bradley	7	Mr				Missouri					
35		A. J. Foster	17	Mr				Missouri					

1850 Federal Census
for Taney County,
Missouri,
showing household
of Henry and
Rebecca Bradley
(lines 17-27),
son Elias
(lines 28-30), son
Seth Henry
(lines 31-35),
and daughter Lucy
(lines 4-7).

Historical Journal, publication of the
White River Valley Historical Society:

On January 01, 1849, Henry Bradley
paid cash for 120 acres on Beaver
[Creek], that later became Douglas
Co., MO. He then obtained 120 acres
in 1850, and once again another 120
acres in 1853.

The 1850 federal census for Taney
County shows Henry and Rebecca,
and all of their offspring, living in
close proximity to each other. Henry
and Rebecca lived with their nine
youngest children — Rebecca, then
21; Thomas, 20; Andrew, 17; Samuel,
15; John, 13; George, 11; Dasha, 9;
James, 6, and Silas, 4. (Their son



Photographs of five of the daughters and sons of Henry and Rebecca (Alley): Louise, Rebecca (with her second husband, Henry Dennis Hayworth), Thomas Jefferson, John Taylor, and George. (Photos of Rebecca and Thomas Jefferson courtesy of Lisa Underwood.)

Alfred was not born until 1851.) Henry and Rebecca's three oldest children had married by that time, but lived with their own families nearby:

- ◆ Elias, age 26, his wife Mary Jane, and their first son, George, lived next door;
- ◆ Seth Henry, age 24, his wife Louissa, and their children, Rebecca and John Henry, lived on

the other side of Elias; and

- ◆ Lucy, age 23, lived two houses down from Henry and Rebecca on the other side, with her husband John Gimlin and their children, John Henry and Daniel Boone.

As settlement of Taney County increased, so did its need for post offices to facilitate communication between county residents and the world. When a Post Office was

established for the Beaver Creek area on July 25, 1856, Henry became its first postmaster. The location of this post office is apparently not known, but it closed on October 30, 1856 — barely three months after its opening. Less than five years later, however, Henry established the village of Bradleyville in the general location of his properties, and on January 15, 1861, he became that town's first postmaster.

By this point, Henry Bradley was one of the wealthier people at least in his part of Taney County. D. Nelson Mackey, a great-great-great-grandson of Henry and Rebecca through their son Andrew Jackson Bradley, related in the *White River Valley Historical Quarterly*, "We think Henry Bradley had a mill dam and grain-grinding operation on Big Beaver Creek [near Bradleyville]."

When the Civil War erupted, Henry Bradley was a Union supporter. He

was also, apparently, too tempting a target for "bushwhackers" sympathetic to the Confederate cause. In the *White River Valley Historical Quarterly*, Mackey related:

Henry Bradley was caught by Bushwhackers, who were demanding him to tell them where his money was hidden. After they inflicted a considerable amount of beating, old Henry was defiantly determined to die before he would tell them. They lingered with him awhile knowing they would not get his money if they shot him. Some time passed and they went into counsel discussions of what to do. Other locals began to observe Henry was missing because he had not appeared at his usual mealtime and doing the chores at home. The Bushwhackers decided they were not able to break his determination, and made the decision to hang old Henry, by rope from a tree, somewhere near the

Welcome sign north of Bradleyville, Missouri.





Rebecca (Alley) Bradley, photographed sometime late in her life.

south edge of town. They got so far as to get him strung up and left a short gap under his feet so he would have to stand on his very tip-toes to avoid being choked to death.

So, the Bushwhackers were becoming fearful that darkness would catch them in town, they could not see the locals that had guns, and they decided to make a

*Grave of Henry Bradley, near Ozone, Arkansas, after being restored by Lisa Underwood and others.
(Photo courtesy of Lisa Underwood)*

quick exit with old Henry still hanging and tiring from standing on his tip-toes. They apparently thought he would not be able to get loose from his rope with his hands tied behind his back. But luckily, some (yet unknown) group of former Union Army soldiers were walking security tours around the edge of town and found him grasping for breath and very weak. They cut him down from the rope and took him to a doctor where he was kept under observation for a few days.

The doctor eventually decided he had suffered loss of oxygen for long enough to cause his brain to not



function as it should, and the injury would be permanent. Henry was again threatened by some Bushwhacker envoys and he decided to split his money with his wife and family, and he got one of his horses and made a mad dash to Ozone, Arkansas, 16 miles north of Clarksville, where he could be close to his daughter and son [Martha Bradley and Rev. George Bradley] to assist him with the mental problems caused from lack of oxygen to his brain.

Henry died in Ozone on December 30, 1870 — i.e., within a few years of his escape to Arkansas. He was buried in a small, wooded cemetery southeast of Ozone. A few years ago, descendant Lisa Underwood with other relatives and friends traveled from Missouri to Ozone to restore the area around his grave, which had become completely overgrown and seemingly forgotten.

As cited in Mackey's recollections, Henry's wife Rebecca did not join him in moving down to Arkansas to be

near their daughter and son. Instead, at some point she moved about 75 miles north of Bradleyville to Dallas County, Missouri, south of the village of Long Lane. She died there on November 23, 1888, and is buried at Liberty Cemetery, in the countryside south of Long Lane.

However, see the final page of this profile for an alternate theory of where Henry Bradley lived during the final years of his life.

TO LEARN MORE

- "Bradleyville: Early Inhabitants on Beaver Creek, Including Founder Henry Bradley." *White River Valley Historical Quarterly* (Taney County, Missouri: White River Valley Historical Society). Summer 2008. Pp. 5-10.
- Mackey, D. Nelson. "Bradleyville –IV: Henry Bradley and Connection to Rome, MO — Sherman-Bowman-Mackey Families." *White River Valley Historical Quarterly* (Taney County, Missouri: White River Valley Historical Society). Summer 2009. Pp. 4-5.

