

## Elizabeth Marvel [61338]

and spouse Edmund B. McReynolds

{Copied from the M Marvel History beginning on page 298.}

Elizabeth Marvel was the eighth child and fourth daughter of Prettyman Marvel and Lavina (Rogers) Marvel. She was born in Livingston County, Kentucky in 1809 {Abraham Lincoln was born the same year near Hodgenville, KY}. Her parents were en route from Georgia to the Territory of Indiana where they expected to establish their home. They were delayed in the "Blue Grass Country" by high waters and alarming reports of Indian massacres near their chosen destination. When they finally crossed the Ohio River in the autumn of 1809, Elizabeth was a babe in her mother's arms. She grew to young womanhood in Gibson County, Indiana, doing her full share of the many and varied tasks which fell to the lot of the pioneer woman who "looked well to the ways of their household, and ate not the bread of idleness."

In 1836 she married Edmund B. McReynolds, and they established their home in the familiar surroundings of Gibson County, seemingly content to remain among their relatives and friends. Edmund McReynolds evidently possessed the spirit of the pioneer proper, who is the skirmisher of the van-guard of civilization, for as the country became thickly settled he felt the call of the frontier.

In 1840 he loaded his possessions in prairie schooners for departure. Elizabeth, his wife, bade her aged parents and other relatives a last farewell. They followed a trail westward. Passing over the fertile lands of Illinois, they established themselves in Jefferson County in the Territory of Iowa, building their cabin about sixteen and one-half miles northwest of Fairfield. This home was a little log cabin with one window and one door of clapboards. There was a puncheon {a piece of broad, heavy timber, roughly dressed, with one face finished flat.} floor and a fireplace with a sod chimney.

Elizabeth (Marvel) McReynolds died in Jefferson County, Iowa, September 11, 1849. She sleeps in an unmarked grave in an old country cemetery near her home in Iowa. She was the mother of seven children, four daughters and three sons, as follows: Nancy, Sally, Nancy, George W., Lavina J., Thomas J., and Lewis C. {The first Nancy died in infancy.}

The following lines written by William D. Foukle as a tribute to the settler's wife are very applicable to Elizabeth McReynolds:

We who live softly in luxurious days -  
 What know we of the grim, heroic life,  
 Deep in the forest of the settler's wife  
 Who followed him she loved thru' weary ways,  
 Haunted by beast and savage, and alone  
 In hardship and in danger strove to rear  
 Her little brood, stifling her woman's fear  
 And kept the cabin that they made their own?  
 Her hands were hard with toil, yet all the more  
 Honor to her who lost her youthful grace  
 And let the lines grow deep upon her face,  
 While stalwart offsprings to the state she bore.  
 Pray God her children be as pure and true,  
 As brave to dare, as quick and strong to do.

Edmund B. needed a helpmate to be a companion to himself and a mother to his children. He married Mary Ann Dyer in 1850. The children by this marriage were as follows: Martha A., Priscilla E., Mary Etta, Milton, and Benjamin Franklin. The family remained in Iowa until 1855 when Edmund B. again heard the call of the frontier.

This time the trail led southward to the great state of Texas, where he established a home in Brown County and went into the cattle business. He lost his second wife, Mary A., here. She died December 28, 1863 at the birth of her son, Benjamin Franklin.

Mr. McReynolds contracted a third marriage September 15, 1864. His wife, Mrs. Alabama (Baugh) Williams, was a widow with five children.

The Comanche Indians were very troublesome in this part of Texas. On the eighteenth of May, 1867, they raided the McReynolds ranch and drove off all of his horses {livestock ?}. Mr. McReynolds left his home at once to obtain horses to round up his cattle. He was found ten days later near Camp Colorado Post about ten miles from his home. He was pierced by three bullets and one arrow, and scalped. So ended the long trail on the last frontier.

He was born April 12. 1816. His parents were Edward and Sallie (Anderson) McReynolds. His grandfather, Joseph McReynolds, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, was a pioneer in Gibson County, Indiana.

**George Rogers Marvel [61339]**

and spouse Sarah H. McReynolds

{This biography was copied from the M Marvel History beginning on page 305. Additional information on the McReynolds family is available in the Historical Discourses in this document.}

George Rogers Marvel [61339] the ninth and youngest child of Prettyman Marvel and Lavina (Rogers) Marvel, was born in Gibson County, Indiana on March 8, 1815. He married August 13, 1834 to Sarah H. McReynolds, the daughter of Edward and Sarah (Anderson) McReynolds. Sarah was born in Wilson County, Tennessee, April 27, 1820.

Being the youngest child, it fell to the lot of George R. to care for his parents. So he and his wife remained at the old Marvel homestead until 1849 when he bought two- or three-hundred acres in Posey County, Indiana. The farm was located about five miles from Poseyville, and a little more than that distance from New Harmony, Indiana. He removed here, taking his parents with him and building a small comfortable house for them where they remained, receiving very careful attention from George and his wife. But the mother, Lavina (Rogers) Marvel soon died and thereafter Prettyman Sr., lived in the home of his son George R. In 1851, George R. Marvel removed to Franklin County, Illinois. He bought what was then called "Fancy Farm" a track of five or six hundred acres on which was a large two story house. This was located in Cave Township in the extreme south eastern part of the county about sixteen miles from Benton, Illinois, the county seat.

At beginning of the Civil War, he enlisted in Company C, Thirty-first Illinois Infantry as a Veterinary Surgeon, under General John A. Logan. He was a close friend and comrade of General Logan, and through his influence, George R. was commissioned a Colonel to raise a thousand men. He came to Cairo, Illinois and took the train for Chicago, stopping at the towns on the road. By the time he got back to Cairo he had enlisted 13,000 men. He organized the Thirteenth Illinois Calvary, which he led to the front in service for the Union cause. He fought at Belmont, Fort Henry, {Fort} Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Oxford, Holly Springs, Champion Hill, Black River, Raymond, Vicksburg and in numerous skirmishes. He received a flesh wound at Fort Donelson. He became so disabled by rheumatism he had to be helped on and off his horse. On account of this and of deafness, he resigned as Colonel before the close of the war. Four sons and two son-in-laws were with him in the army.

George R. and wife were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church he having joined when a lad of seventeen. He was a steward for over twenty years. In politics he was a Republican and a strong Abolitionist. He was always a lover of fine horses and usually had several to exhibit at the County Fairs. Colonel George Rogers Marvel died on February 16, 1889. {Burial was in Liberty Community Cemetery, Franklin County, Illinois.} His wife, Sarah H. McReynolds died on June 29, 1901.

George R. and Sarah H. Marvel had twelve children as follows: Asenath Ellen, Prettyman Wood, John Julian, Wiley Hensley, William Teal, James Edward, Sarah Elizabeth, Lucy Jenett, Lavina Jean, George Hill, Martha Ann, and Hattie May.