

Isenhour Brothers Confederate Service

Research Report

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Research Objective

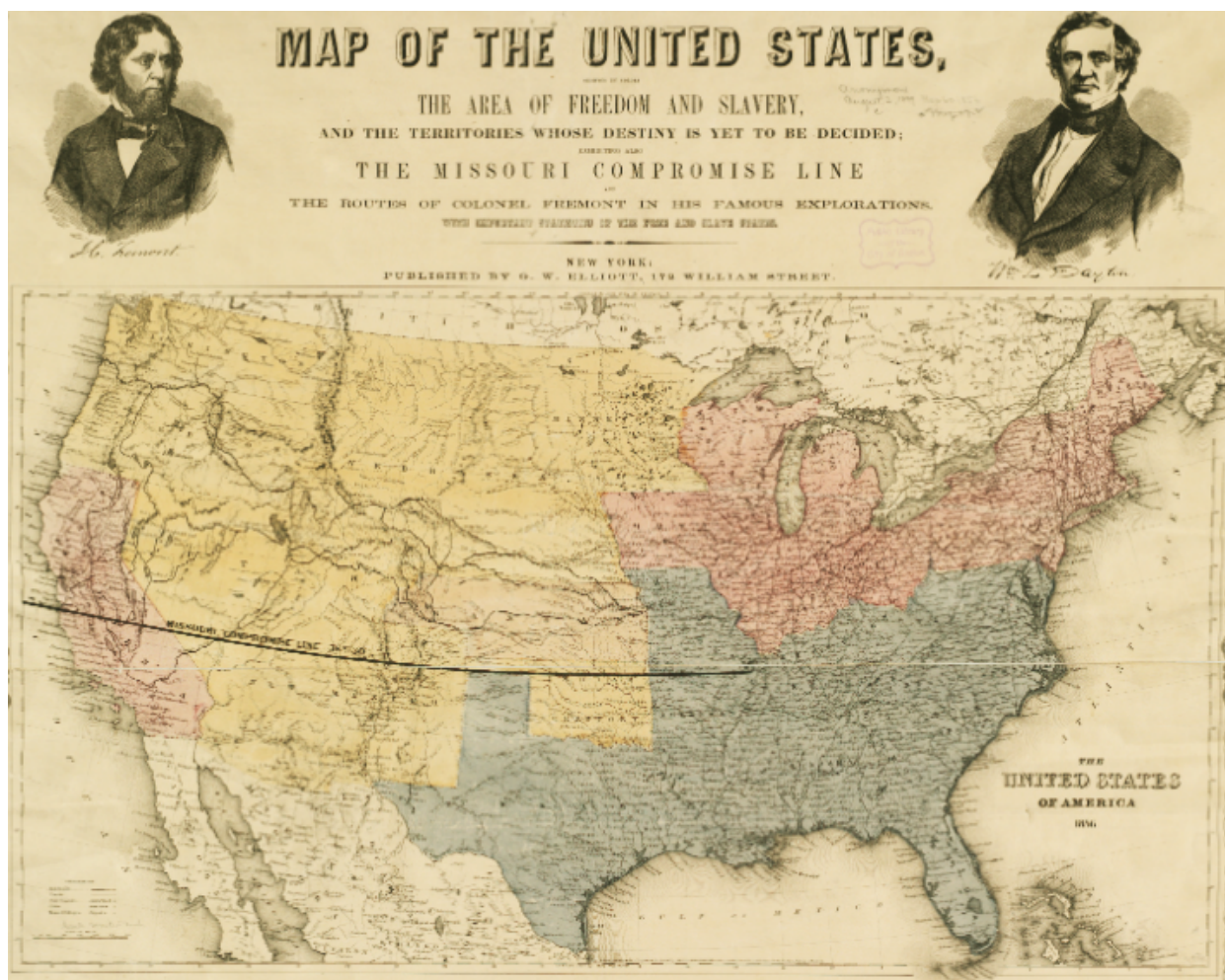
The objective of this research project is to discover the actions of three brothers, sons of John D. Isenhour and Sarah Bailey during the Civil War.

- Valentine Isenhour, born 1820 in North Carolina, died after 1870, probably in Texas, married Margaret Ann Hendricks on 3 September 1854
- Moses W. Isenhour, Confederate soldier, born 1823 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, died 16 February 1862 in Fort Thompson, married Amanda Martha McKinney on 1 October 1846 in Montgomery, Arkansas
- Josiah Edmond Isenhour, born 1825 in Missouri, died 13 December 1868 in New Orleans, Louisiana

Background Information

John D. Isenhour, grandson of a German immigrant and resident of North Carolina, migrated with his family to Missouri about 1821-1822.¹ They likely migrated there after Missouri received statehood in 1821. The conditions of Missouri's statehood were hotly contested, with congressional leaders striving to keep the number of slaves states and free states equal. Congress finally agreed to admit Missouri to the union in the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The compromise allowed Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state, Maine to enter as a free state, and stated that slavery would be illegal in all territory north of 36°30' latitude.

¹ John D. Isenhour 24YK-X5N, "Family Tree," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 March 2018).



Map of the United States, showing by colors the area of freedom and slavery, and the territories whose destiny is yet to be decided, exhibiting also the Missouri compromise line²

In 1840, John D. Isenhour resided in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri with seven others, likely his wife Sarah/Sallie Bailey and six of their seven known children. They owned no slaves.³ In 1844, John died and his will was recorded in Cape Girardeau county. His wife Sallie and seven

² John Charles Fremont and G.W. Elliott, *Map of the United States, showing by colors the area of freedom and slavery, and the territories whose destiny is yet to be decided, exhibiting also the Missouri compromise line, and the routes of, and the routes of Colonel Fremont in his famous explorations* (New York: G.W. Elliott, 1856); cropped portion of the digital image, *Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center* (<https://collections.leventhalmap.org> : accessed 26 March 2016).

³ 1840 U.S. Census, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, population schedule, Torance, p. 268 (stamped), line 21, John Ishower household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 September 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 221.

other heirs are named: Mahaly Johnson, Valentine Isenhour, Patty Blalock, Barnet Isenhour, Moses W. Isenhour, Josiah E. Isenhour, and Sarah Emmeline Isenhour.⁴

The heirs of John D. Isenhour did not stay in Cape Girardeau County. In 1845, Moses sold land to brother, Josiah.⁵ He then moved to Montgomery County, Arkansas, where he married "Manda McKinney" in 1846.⁶ By 1850, most of the children of John D. Isenhour were also residing in Montgomery County, Arkansas:

- Mahala [Isenhour] and Enos M. Johnson were listed with five children - Francis, Juliet, William, Josiah, and Amanda.⁷
- Valentine Isenhour was listed with two young girls - Margaret and Sarah. It is presumed his first wife died.⁸ He married again in 1854 to "Margrett Ann Hendrix" and the marriage was performed by his brother-in-law Enos M. Johnson in Montgomery County, Arkansas.⁹
- Barnet and Mary Ann Isenhour were listed with two girls - Sarah and Eliza.¹⁰
- Moses and Amanda M. Isenhour were listed with two children - Martha and William.¹¹
- Lewis and Sarah Emmeline [Isenhour] Trammell were listed with three children - one-year-old Thomas Trammell as well as Margaret and Sarah Isenhour, likely the same girls listed in Valentine's household.¹²

⁴ Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Wills and Letters, Vol B 1829-1847, John Isenhour, probate 17 February 1844, p. 354; "Missouri, Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988," case file for John Isenhour, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 10 November 2017).

⁵ Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Deed Book, vol. M, p. 53, M. Isenhour to J.E. Isenhour, 11 Oct 1845, digital image 379, "Deed records, 1805-1910; indexes 1805-1904," *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing FHL microfilm 925635.

⁶ "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, image 394, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 4 November 2017), Moses W. Isenhour and Manda McKinney, 1 October 1846; citing Montgomery, Arkansas, United States, county offices, Arkansas; FHL microfilm 1,011,071.

⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Sulphur Springs, p. 27 (penned), household 24, family 24, Enos M. Johnson household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28).

⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Polk, p. 815 (penned), sheet 406 (stamped), dwelling 16, family 16, Valentine Isenhour household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 November 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

⁹ "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, image 332, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 4 November 2017), Valentine Isenhour and Margrett Ann Hendrix, 3 September 1854; citing Montgomery, Arkansas, United States, county offices, Arkansas; FHL microfilm 1,011,071.

¹⁰ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Polk, p. 405 (stamped), household 6, family 6, Barnet Isenhour household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

¹¹ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Sulphur Springs, p. 394 (stamped), dwelling 9, family 9, Moses W. Isenhour household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 November 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

¹² 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Polk, p. 802 (penned), household 9, family 9, Lewis Trammell household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

Where did the other two children of John and Sarah Isenhour go after their father's death?

- William and Patty Martha [Isenhour] Blalock were residing in Graves County, Kentucky, in 1850 with several children.¹³
- Josiah E. Isenhour's residence in 1850 was unknown at the outset of this research project. Did he remain in Cape Girardeau? Or did he move further southwest to the frontier like his siblings?

Why did most of the Isenhours go to Montgomery County, Arkansas? What was life like there?

In 1850, Arkansas was the frontier of the United States. Residents in the north part of the state were subsistence farmers while landowners in the southeastern part of the state relied on slave labor to produce cotton.¹⁴ The Isenhours lived in the towns of Sulphur Springs and Polk in Montgomery County, located in the western part of Arkansas near Indian Territory. There were only eight slave owners between the two towns in 1850, none of them related to the Isenhours.¹⁵ The crops grown in Montgomery County included "cotton, tobacco, all the cereals, esculent roots, and vegetables."¹⁶

Residence of the Isenhour Brothers in 1860

In 1860, tension was rising between the North and the South as the nation prepared to vote in the November presidential election. Abraham Lincoln was running on the Republican platform which was opposed the spread of slavery into the territories. Lincoln was not even on the ballot in most the slaves states that would secede in 1861. Most southerners voted for John C. Breckinridge of the Southern Democratic Party.¹⁷ Where did the Isenhour brothers reside during this tumultuous time?

¹³ 1850 U.S. Census, Graves County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 1, p. 434 (stamped), dwelling 140, family 140, W. Blalock household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 201.

¹⁴ Thomas A. DeBlack, "Civil War through Reconstruction, 1861 through 1874," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* (www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net : accessed 21 March 2018).

¹⁵ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, slave schedule, Sulphur Springs and Polk, p. 141 (penned); digital images 2-3, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432.

¹⁶ Southern Publishing Company, *Biographical and historical memoirs of western Arkansas: comprising a condensed history of the state, a number of biographies of distinguished citizens of the same, a brief descriptive history of each of the counties mentioned, and numerous biographical sketches of the citizens of such counties* (Chicago: Southern Publishing Company, 1891) p. 467; digitized book, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org> : accessed 2 April 2018).

¹⁷ *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) "United States presidential election, 1860," reviewed 23 March 2018, 1:10pm.

Valentine and his family were still residing in Montgomery County, Arkansas in 1860.¹⁸ His two brothers, however, had left. In 1854, "Moses W. Isonhour" appears on the tax list of Cass County, Texas.¹⁹ Barnet's family migrated to Texas also. In 1860, Barnet's wife Mary Ann and their children were enumerated in Johnson County, Texas with Esquire Blevins.²⁰ Barnet Isonhour likely died between 1850 and 1860 in either Arkansas or Texas, and Mary Ann remarried.

Moses' wife Amanda appears on the 1860 census of Cass, Texas in the household of J.T. Summerlin, but Moses is absent.²¹ Where did Moses go? Previous research has already shown that Moses W. Isonhour was a Confederate soldier who served in the 11th Arkansas Infantry regiment.²² Why didn't he enlist in a Texas regiment? And how did the other brothers in this southern family respond to the national crisis over the spread of slavery? Barnet Isonhour was deceased, but perhaps Valentine and Josiah joined the Confederate army like their brother Moses.

Research Findings

Valentine Isonhour

Research found that "V. Isonhour" was the county coroner for Montgomery County, Arkansas from 1856-1858.²³ The statutes of Arkansas in 1848 stated that a coroner should be elected in

¹⁸ 1860 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Caddo, "Page No. 32" (penned in top right), p. 882 (penned in top left) dwelling 259, family 247, Valentine Isonhour household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 Oct 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 46.

¹⁹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910," Cass county, 1854, line 37, Moses W. Isonhour, image 14, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 22 March 2018); citing State Archives, Austin.

²⁰ 1860 U.S. Census, Johnson County, Texas, population schedule, Comanche Peak Post Office, p. 24 (penned), household 167, family 168, Esquire Blevins household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 21 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication 653, roll 1298.

²¹ 1860 U.S. Census, Cass County, Texas, population schedule, Beat 1, p. 31 (penned), household 215, family 219, J.T. Summerlin household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 20 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1290.

²² Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 Arkansas Infantry (Confederate); "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/271/221329313> : accessed 10 October 2017); citing Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Confederate Organizations, compiled 1903 - 1927, documenting the period 1861 - 1865, Record Group 109, The National Archives.

²³ Charlie Daniels, *Historical Report of the Arkansas Secretary of State 2008* (University of Arkansas press, 2009) p. 482; digitized book, Google Books (<https://books.google.com> : accessed 20 March 2018).

each county and hold office for a term of two years. The duties of a coroner were to investigate the cause of death for persons who were killed or who died an unnatural death and bring to trial those responsible.²⁴ Valentine's brother Moses, "M. Isenhour," took on the duties of county coroner from 1860-1862.²⁵

Valentine left Montgomery County, Arkansas, sometime between 1860 and 1870, when he appeared on the U.S. Federal Census in Navarro County, Texas, with his spouse, MA [Margaret Ann] and four children.²⁶

Locality		1870, Navarro County, Texas, Beat 4							
Enumeration Date		7 July, 1870							
	House/	Description			Value of Estate		Birth		
Page	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Real	Pers.	Place	Remarks
43	320	Isenhour V	54	M	Farmer	-	-	NC	
		MA	31	F	K House			Ala	Cannot write
		SE	15	F				Ark	Attended school within the year, cannot write
		V	11	M				Ark	Attended school within the year, cannot write
		NJ	8	F				Texas	
		MA	2	F				Texas	

Valentine's two youngest children were born in Texas. The calculated birth year of the first child born in Texas is 1862, giving an estimated time frame of their migration from Arkansas to Texas as 1860-1862. Valentine could have enlisted in a Confederate regiment in either state.

Confederate service records in Arkansas and Texas were searched but yielded no results for Valentine Isenhour.²⁷ Likewise, no record was found for him in Union records from Arkansas and

²⁴ E.H. English, *A Digest of the Statutes of Arkansas, Embracing All Laws of a General and Permanent Character in Force at the Close of the Session of the General Assembly of 1846: Together with Notes of the Decisions of the Supreme Court Upon the Statutes* (Little Rock: Reardon & Garritt, 1848) p. 272-274.

²⁵ Daniels, *Historical Report of the Arkansas Secretary of State* 2008, 482.

²⁶ 1870 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Beat 4, p. 43 (penned), dwelling 320, family 320, V Isenhour household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 October 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1600.

²⁷ "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Arkansas," negative search for Valentine Isenhour; database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 8 November 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M317, Record Group 109. See also *Ancestry.com*., "Texas, Muster Roll Index Cards, 1838-1900," negative search for

Texas.²⁸ Confederate Compiled Military Service Records are not complete, as many Confederate records were lost during the war.²⁹ If he did enlist, it's possible that his service record is lost.

Gravestone inscriptions may list a man's regiment or provide other clues to military service. It is assumed that Valentine died sometime between 1870-1880 in Texas, but no gravestone in a Texas cemetery was found for him.³⁰

Valentine was older than the average age of a Confederate soldier. At the time war broke out in 1861, Valentine was about 41 years old. In both the Union and Confederate armies, most soldiers were under age 30.³¹ It is likely that he did not volunteer because he was older and had a large family to care for. He was within the age range of the Confederate Conscription Act after amended in October 1862.³² If he enrolled in the draft and was called up, it is possible that he did not respond to the call.³³

The 1880 Census was searched for Valentine Isenhour, his wife, and children. Valentine and Margaret were not found on the census. Valentine's oldest son, Sam V. Isenhour, was found living in Navarro County, Texas with his wife.³⁴ Valentine's youngest daughter, Margaret Ann Isenhour, age 12, was found boarding in a different house with a family called Tomas.³⁵ It is likely that both Valentine and Margaret died prior to 1880.

Valentine Isenhour; database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 8 November 2017); citing Civil War Muster Rolls index Cards (both Confederate and Union) and Texas State Rangers. Austin, Texas: Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

²⁸ Compiled Service Records of Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Arkansas," negative search for Valentine Isenhour; database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 Nov 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M399, Record Group 94. See also Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Texas," negative search for Valentine Isenhour; database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 Nov 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M402, Record Group 94.

²⁹ The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, "Civil War Records: Basic Research Sources," *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html> : accessed 29 March 2018) section on Confederate Records.

³⁰ *Find a Grave*, database with images, (<http://findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), negative search for Valentine Isenhour, d. after 1870.

³¹ "Who fought?" *Civil War Trust* (<https://www.civilwar.org> : accessed 27 March 2018) para. 8.

³² James Martin, "Civil War Conscription," *In Custodia Legis, Law Librarians of Congress*, 15 November 2012 (<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/11/civil-war-conscription-laws/> : accessed 28 March 2018), para. 5.

³³ Walter Coffey, "The Confederate Conscription Act," *The Civil War Months: A Month-by-Month Compendium of the War Between the States* 16 April 2017 (<https://civilwarmonths.com> : accessed 3 April 2018), para. 16.

³⁴ 1880 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 4, p. 13 (penned), dwelling 86, family 86, Sam V Isenhour household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 4 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1321.

³⁵ 1880 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 4, p. 10 (penned), dwelling 75, family 76, C.A. Tomas household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 4 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1321.

Moses W. Isenhour

Valentine and Moses Isenhour may have had the closest relationship among the Isenhour siblings. Both migrated to Texas with their families from Montgomery County, Arkansas. Moses followed Valentine in his service as county coroner in Montgomery County from 1860-1862.³⁶ This could explain why Moses was missing from the 1860 census with his family in Cass, Texas, and why he didn't enlist in a Texas regiment.

Previous research found that Moses W. Isenhour enlisted in the 11th Arkansas Infantry and died in 1862.³⁷ However, during this research session, another military record was found for "Mos Isenhower" during the Civil War. A company muster roll of the Texas State troops contains the following:

Mos Isenhower, Pvt. Co K, 1st Regt., Bosque and Coryell Counties, 2nd Brigade, Texas State Troops, age 40 (born about 1823), enlisted August 1863.³⁸

The Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) for "Moses Isonhower" of Arkansas lists the following information, with a different calculated birth year and death date:

*Moses Isonhower, Pvt. Co. I, 11th Regt. Arkansas Infantry; Enlisted 29 October 1861, Age 35 (born about 1826), died 16 February 1862.*³⁹

These two records cannot be for the same man. If "Moses Isonhower" of the 11th Arkansas Infantry died in 1862, he could not have enlisted in the Texas State Troops in 1863.

Which of these two military records belongs to Moses W. Isenhour, son of John D. and Sarah Isenhour? Moses W. Isenhour was born 1823 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, married Amanda McKinney in 1846, and had the middle initial "W."⁴⁰ It is not known where he resided in 1860, only that his wife and children were residing in Cass County, Texas.

³⁶ Daniels, *Historical Report of the Arkansas Secretary of State* 2008, 482.

³⁷ Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 AR Inf. "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers...from...Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3*.

³⁸ Moses Isenhower, Private, Muster roll of Company K, Bosque and Coryell Counties, 1st Regiment, 2nd Brigade, Texas State Troops under Captain W.S. Gouldy, March 18, 1864, Texas State Library and Archives Division, "Texas Adjutant General's Department Civil War military rolls," database with images, *Texas Digital Archive*, (<https://tsl.access.preservica.com/> : 11 Nov 2017) MR 262, Record 0262.

³⁹ Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 AR Inf. "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers...from...Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3*.

⁴⁰ "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, image 394, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 4 November 2017), Moses W. Isenhour and Manda Mckinney, 1 October 1846. See also "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910," Cass county, 1854, line 37, Moses W. Isonhour, image 14, database with images, *FamilySearch*.

To further identify Moses Isenhower, private in the Texas State Troops, the 1860 Federal census records were searched in Bosque and Coryell Counties. A man named Moses Isenhower, residing in Bosque County, Texas, was found:

*Moses Isenhower, head of household, age 36, born in Tennessee (estimated birth year 1823) with other household members including Catherine age 36, Simeon 14, Elizabeth 12, Manda E 10, David F 9, Ellena 7, Rosetta 3, Mary A 6/12.*⁴¹

The image of a gravestone for Moses Isenhower in Milford, Barton County, Missouri, was found.⁴² The inscription reads:

*Moses Isenhower
Born Oct 8, 1823
Died Oct 27, 1906
Catherine Bird, his wife
Born Oct 24, 1824
Died Mar 10, 1905*

These census and gravestone records show that the Texas State Troops muster roll for Moses Isenhower almost certainly belongs to the Moses Isenhower who was born 8 October 1823, died 27 October 1906, and married Catherine Bird. He was not the son of John D. and Sarah Isenhour.

It follows then, that John D. Isenhour's son, Moses W. Isenhour, was almost certainly the soldier who enlisted with the 11th Arkansas Infantry regiment. Although his CMSR has already been located, this research session sought to provide greater understanding of his experience in the Civil War, answering the following questions:

- What battles did he engage in?
- How did he die?
- Where is "Fort Thompson" located?
- Why did Moses report his age as 35 when other sources agree that in 1861, his calculated age should have been 38?

Living descendants of Civil War soldiers often possess family stories about their ancestors' military service. Beth Echols, a second-great-granddaughter of Moses Isenhour was contacted for more information. She sent a paragraph written by an unknown descendant of Moses W.

⁴¹ 1860 U.S. census, Bosque County, Texas, population schedule, p. 27 (penned), dwelling 184, family 190, Moses Isenhower household; database with images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 Nov 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1289.

⁴² *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 11 Nov 2017), memorial 41628818, Moses Isenhower (1823-1906), citing Saint James Cemetery, Milford, Barton County, Missouri; gravestone photograph by Sandy [--?--] (contributor 47007984).

Isenhour who postulated that Moses lied about his age when he enlisted in 1861 "because the army was not taking volunteers at age 38, especially those with a family."⁴³

Moses' CMSR shows a reported age of 35 (calculated birth year 1826).⁴⁴ His reported age on the 1850 census and marriage record agree on a calculated birth year of 1823.⁴⁵ Many reasons could explain the difference in Moses' reported ages. A likely explanation for this difference is a misreading of the original muster roll as it was copied to the index card during the creation of Compiled Military Service Records in 1903.

Moses would not need to lie about his age to enlist, as the army was accepting volunteers of all ages. A conscription law was passed in April 1862 by The Confederate States of America requiring white males ages 18-35 who were citizens of the Confederacy to enroll.⁴⁶ In October of that year, the age parameters were broadened to 18-45.⁴⁷ We know Moses was not drafted. He enlisted in the 11th Arkansas Infantry, a regiment composed of volunteer companies.⁴⁸ Even if he hadn't volunteered, he would have still been within the ages eligible for conscription at age 38.

Beth Echols also knew about a biography of Moses' son, William Martin Isenhour, that mentioned "Moses Isenhower" and his military service.⁴⁹ The biography was located and contains the following information:

- "Moses gained pioneer honors in Texas and prior to the Civil War he here gave service as overseer for a number of the largest slave-owners in the state, including Reese Hughes, Mark Sumner, Wilber Peacock, and a widow named Driver."
- "When the Civil War was precipitated he entered service as a loyal soldier of the Confederacy, and at the battle of New Madre, near Memphis, Tennessee, he received a

⁴³ Beth Echols, Cass County, Texas [E-ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE] to Nicole Dyer, message communicated via Ancestry.com e-mail, 24 March 2018, "Echols and Isenhour tree," Personal Correspondence Folder, Isenhour Research Files; privately held by Nicole Dyer (nicole@familylocket.com, [STREET ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Tucson, Arizona, 2018.

⁴⁴ Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 AR Inf. "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers...from...Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3*.

⁴⁵ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Sulphur Springs, p. 394 (stamped), dwelling 9, family 9, Moses W. Isenhour household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 November 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28. See also "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, image 394, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 4 November 2017), Moses W Isenhour and Manda Mckinney, 1 October 1846; citing Montgomery, Arkansas, United States, county offices, Arkansas; FHL microfilm 1,011,071.

⁴⁶ Martin, "Civil War Conscription," para. 2.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 5.

⁴⁸ *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) "11th Arkansas Infantry Regiment," reviewed 28 March 2018, 10:00am.

⁴⁹ Clarence Ray Wharton, "William Martin Isenhower, *Texas Under Many Flags: Texas biography* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1930), vol 3, 167-168; image copy, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 24 March 2018), digital image 660 of 1350; citing FHL microfilm 1000594.

severe wound in the head, he having been taken to a military hospital in Memphis and his death having there occurred, in 1864, as a result of his wound.”

- “William M. Isenhower was a child at the time of the family removal from Arkansas to Texas, and his early education was acquired in the schools of Cass and Johnson counties.”

This biography sheds light on Moses’ cause of death during the Civil War. How reliable is this information? It was published in 1930, three years after Moses’ son, William Martin Isenhower, died. The author/informant is unknown, but that person almost certainly was not an eyewitness to Moses’ death. At best, the information is third-hand, passed on from William Martin Isenhower to one of his children.

What do original records, created close to the time of Moses’ military service, reveal about his cause of death? The CMSR for Moses Isenhour, compiled from original muster rolls, states that Moses enlisted in Captain Cunningham’s Company on 29 October 1861 in Little Rock, Arkansas. This company later became Company I in the 11th Arkansas Infantry.⁵⁰ In October, Moses was near the end of his duty as elected coroner of Montgomery County, Arkansas.⁵¹ He travelled 50 miles to Little Rock, Arkansas, to enlist.⁵² The distance from Mt. Ida to Little Rock, Arkansas, is about 100 miles. Where was Moses traveling from, if not the county seat? Company I of the 11th Arkansas regiment was formed from men living in Saline County, Arkansas, which bordered Montgomery County to the east.⁵³ It seems likely that Moses was living in Montgomery County near the border with Saline county when he enlisted and travelled 50 miles to Little Rock.

The CMSR does not contain detailed information about the movements of a soldier’s regiment. To learn which battles Moses’ regiment was involved in, a regimental history was located about the 11th Arkansas Infantry Regiment.⁵⁴

Most of the 11th Arkansas enlisted in July 1861 in Little Rock. They proceeded to Pine Bluff, then Oakland, then Memphis Tennessee. They lacked proper rifles so the colonel of the regiment, Jabez M. Smith, went to New Orleans repeatedly to procure weapons. In September 1861, the regiment moved to Fort Pillow, Tennessee. Moses, with Company I, joined the regiment in November, when they moved up the Mississippi River to Island Number Ten.⁵⁵

⁵⁰ Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 AR Inf. "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers...from...Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3*.

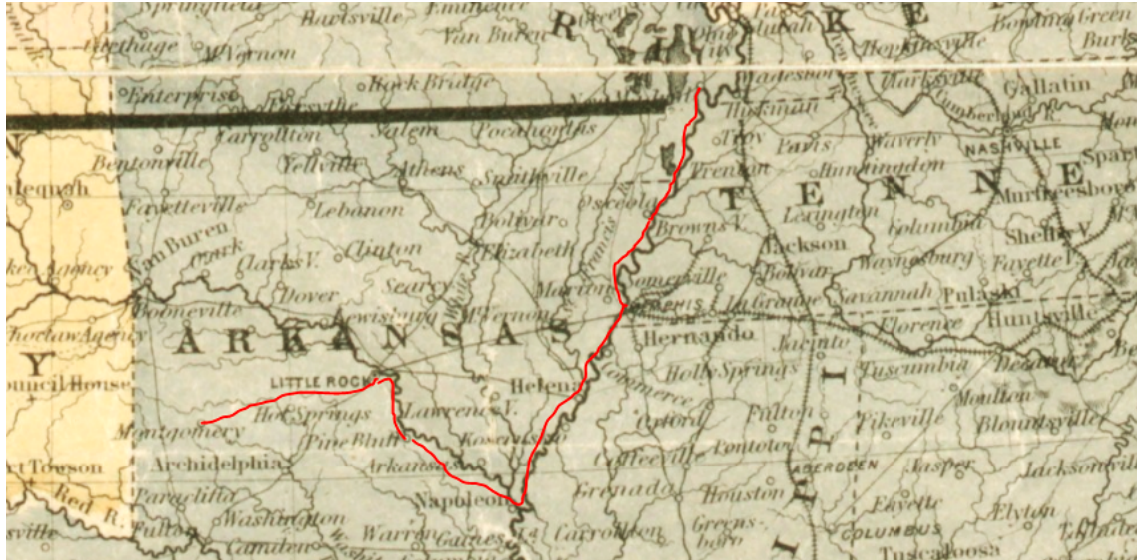
⁵¹ Daniels, *Historical Report of the Arkansas Secretary of State 2008*, 482.

⁵² Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 AR Inf. "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers...from...Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3*.

⁵³ *Wikipedia* "11th Arkansas Infantry Regiment," reviewed 24 November 2017, 2:30pm.

⁵⁴ Anthony C. Rushing, *Ranks of Honor: A Regimental History of the eleventh Arkansas Infantry Regiment & Poe's Cavalry Battalion C.S.A., 1861-1865* (Little Rock: Eagle Press, 1990).

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 4-10.



Map showing the route Moses W. Isenhour took from Montgomery County, Arkansas, to enlist in Little Rock. Then showing the route of the 11th Arkansas Infantry to Pine Bluff, following the Mississippi River to Memphis, then north to Fort Pillow (near Osceola), and to New Madrid, Missouri.⁵⁶

The Confederate Army of the Mississippi chose Island Number 10 to defend the Mississippi River from Union forces. Nearby town, New Madrid, Missouri was a weak point. The Confederate Army fortified it with Fort Thompson and Fort Bankhead.⁵⁷

New Madrid, Missouri and Island Number 10 were the Confederate Army's last stronghold in the State of Missouri.⁵⁸ The 11th Arkansas was ordered to New Madrid on 26 December 1861 where they performed picket duty in mud and bad weather until February, when they were ordered to garrison Fort Thompson on the 26th in preparation for a battle with Union forces who were closing in. In the ensuing battle of Island Number 10, Union forces commanded by General John Pope overtook the Confederate Army of the Mississippi, surrounding them with Ironclad ships on the river as well as land troops. Most of the 11th Arkansas Infantry was captured on 8 April 1861 and the prisoners were sent to Fort Douglas.⁵⁹

Before the battle of Island Number 10, and before the 11th Arkansas participated in any skirmishes, Moses W. Isenhour died on 16 February 1862. Anthony C. Rushing states that

⁵⁶ John Charles Fremont and G.W. Elliott, *Map of the United States, showing by colors the area of freedom and slavery, and the territories whose destiny is yet to be decided, exhibiting also the Missouri compromise line, and the routes of, and the routes of Colonel Fremont in his famous explorations* (New York: G.W. Elliott, 1856); cropped portion of the digital image with route annotation added, Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center (<https://collections.leventhalmap.org> : accessed 26 March 2016)

⁵⁷ City of New Madrid, "Civil War in New Madrid," *New Madrid, Missouri* (<http://www.new-madrid.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=152> : accessed 21 November 2017), para. 2.

⁵⁸ City of New Madrid, "Driving Tour of Civil War Sites of New Madrid," front brochure page, image online, *New Madrid, Missouri* (<http://www.new-madrid.mo.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/422> : accessed 21 November 2017), col. 3, bullet point 3.

⁵⁹ Rushing, *Ranks of Honor*, 10.

many members of the regiment succumbed to illness during the winter months leading up to the battle of Island Number 10.⁶⁰

No burial site was located for Moses Isenhower, but the City of New Madrid tourist pamphlet points out several cemeteries containing Civil War soldiers who are in unmarked graves, including the East Side Cemetery and the Sand Hill Cemetery.⁶¹

The evidence in Moses' CMSR and the regimental history conflict with the biography of Moses' son, William Martin Isenhower, which states that Moses received a head wound in the battle of New Madre [sic] and died in a Memphis, Tennessee hospital in 1864.⁶² The third-hand information from the biography is less reliable than the CMSR. Although the CMSR is a derivative record, it was carefully compiled from original muster rolls which were penned by eyewitnesses from Moses W. Isenhour's regiment. It must be taken as more reliable than a biography printed in 1930, many years after Moses' life.

Moses left a 32 year-old widow and five children when he died in 1862. Amanda did not remarry. In 1870, she lived in Hopkins County, Texas, with her three youngest sons, George, James, and John. George was engaged in farming and Amanda was keeping house. The value of real estate she owned was \$600 and personal estate, \$358.⁶³ In 1880, Amanda was still in Hopkins County with her two youngest sons, James and John.⁶⁴ Most Southern states offered pensions to indigent soldiers and their widows who resided in their state after the Civil War. Texas did not offer pensions to disabled Confederate veterans or their widows until 1899.⁶⁵ Amanda died in 1892, so no pension application exists for her.⁶⁶

⁶⁰ Ibid., 14.

⁶¹ City of New Madrid, "Driving Tour of Civil War Sites of New Madrid," front brochure page, image online, *New Madrid, Missouri*, No. 13. East Side Cemetery. See also City of New Madrid, "Driving Tour of Civil War Sites of New Madrid," back brochure image online, *New Madrid, Missouri* (<http://www.new-madrid.mo.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/423> : accessed 21 November 2017), No. 7, Sand Hill Cemetery.

⁶² Wharton, "William Martin Isenhower, *Texas Under Many Flags: Texas biography*, vol 3, 167-168.

⁶³ 1870 U.S. Census, Hopkins County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 2, p. 54 (penned), dwelling 381, family 379, Amanda Isenhower household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 October 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1592.

⁶⁴ 1880 U.S. Census, Hopkins County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 2, p. 18 (penned), dwelling 161, family 165, Amanda Isenhower household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 4 April 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1311.

⁶⁵ Edmund Thornton Miller, "A Financial History of Texas" *Bulletin of the University of Texas* 37 (July 1916): 250; image copy, *Google Books* (<https://books.google.com> : accessed 4 April 2018).

⁶⁶ *Find A Grave*, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 April 2018), memorial 135262666, Amanda Martha McKinney Isenhour (1830–1892), citing Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, USA; memorial maintained by Charlotte Hardamon Coble (contributor 46886606). See also "Alabama, Texas and Virginia, Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958" [database on-line], negative search for Amanda Martha Isenhower; *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 November 2017); citing Texas, Confederate Pension Applications, 1899-1975. Vol. 1–646 & 1–283, Austin, Texas: Texas State Library and Archives Commission.



United States War Dept., 1866 - Battle map of Island No. Ten in the Mississippi River during the American Civil War⁶⁷
 Timeline of the 11th Arkansas Infantry July 1861 - April 1862

⁶⁷ United States War Dept., "Map Showing the System of Rebel Fortifications on the Mississippi River at Island No. 10 and New Madrid also the Operations of the U.S. Forces Under General Pope Against These Positions," 1866, image online, *Wikipedia* (<https://commons.wikimedia.org> : accessed 21 November 2017).

Summary of events from the regimental history of the 11th Arkansas Infantry.⁶⁸ Entries in bold are from the CMSR of Moses W. Isenhour.⁶⁹

July 1861	After enlisting in Little Rock, AR, the regiment trekked to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, then headed downstream for Memphis, TN
19 September 1861	Moved to Union City, TN; Col. Smith went to New Orleans seeking better guns
26 September 1861	Embarked for Fort Pillow
October 1861	90% of men still unarmed, yet started drilling at Fort Pillow. Men uneasy, wanted guns
29 October 1861	"Moses Isenhower" enlisted in Captain Cunningham's Company at Little Rock, Arkansas
November 1861	Captain Cunningham's Company joined the regiment and became Company I. Col. Smith left again to get weapons.
20 November 1861	Regiment moved to Island Number Ten, made camp near Reelfoot Lake and hunted wild game
27 November 1861	Bivouacked on Island Number Ten, built works and batteries with picks and shovels. Col. Smith returned with no rifles
December 1861	Col. Smith sent 1 Lieutenant Selvidge to new Orleans to stay until he got the weapons. He returned with them in a few weeks
26 December 1861	Moved to New, Madrid, Missouri, west side of river
December - March 1862	Regiment did picket duty around New Madrid; bad weather and mud. Much disease and men sent to hospitals; many men died and some never returned to the ranks until later that fall.
16 February 1862	"Moses Isenhower" died at Fort Thompson
26 February 1862	Regiment ordered to garrison Fort Thompson along with the 12th Arkansas infantry
28 February - 8 April 1862	Battle of Island Number 10 / New Madrid. Federals captured the entire regiment. All were taken prisoner and sent to Camp Douglas

⁶⁸ Rushing, *Ranks of Honor*, 14.

⁶⁹ Compiled service record, Moses Isonhower, Pvt., Co. I, 11 AR Inf. "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers...from...Arkansas," database with images, *Fold3*.

Josiah E. Isenhour

Did Josiah know about his brother Moses' death in February 1862? How was Josiah involved in the struggle between the states?

Census records showing Josiah E. Isenhour's residence in 1850-1860 had not been found prior to this project. Research had located an obituary for Josiah in New Orleans, Louisiana. A well-known businessman, Josiah's death was announced in several newspapers.⁷⁰ In one obituary, Josiah was described as "a true man, a southern man, as kindhearted and generous soul as this world ever saw."⁷¹

Josiah's will and succession documents were recorded in the Cape Girardeau Will Book, with extensive testimony from his associates about whether or not he had any living parents or "ascendants" to inherit.⁷² These documents were originally filed in the Second District Court for the parish of Orleans. Because a copy of the succession documents was also filed in Cape Girardeau County, it is likely that Josiah still owned land there at the time of his death.⁷³

In the succession documents, Josiah's business partner, B.M. Horrell, testified about Josiah's residence and involvement with the business. He reported that Josiah was a clerk for Mr. Breward and Mr. Gayle in the town of Jackson in Cape Girardeau County. Breward, Gayle, and Horrell then moved to New Orleans to do business under the name of Horrell, Gayle & Co.⁷⁴ By 1868, Mr. Gayle had passed away and Josiah was a junior partner in "B.M. Horrell & Co., Western Produce and cotton factors."⁷⁵

Josiah's business associate, Patrick Blake, testified that Josiah had resided in New Orleans for 20 years.⁷⁶ Based on this statement, Josiah left Cape Girardeau County about 1848. This conflicts with the statement in Josiah's obituary that he had resided in New Orleans for 24 years,

⁷⁰ "General Items," (*Alexandria*) *The Louisiana Democrat*, 23 December 1868, p. 2, col. 5; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com>: accessed 12 November 2017). See also "Local Intelligence," (*Louisiana*) *The New Orleans Crescent*, 15 December 1868, page 1, column 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/?spot=3687578> : accessed 5 November 2017); citing *Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers & Louisiana State University*. See also "The Daily Picayune," (*New Orleans, Louisiana*) *The Times-Picayune*, 15 December 1868, page 1, column 5; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com>: accessed 10 November 2017).

⁷¹ "Local Intelligence," *The New Orleans Crescent*, 15 December 1868.

⁷² Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Will Record, Vol D 1867-1894, Succession of Josiah E. Isenhour, 30 December 1868, p. 57-64; "Missouri, Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2017), digital images 36-40.

⁷³ "General Items," *The Louisiana Democrat*, 23 December 1868.

⁷⁴ Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Will Record, Vol D 1867-1894, Succession of Josiah E. Isenhour, 30 December 1868, Testimony of B.M. Horrell, p. 61.

⁷⁵ "The Daily Picayune," *The Times-Picayune*, 15 December 1868.

⁷⁶ Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Will Record, Vol D 1867-1894, Succession of Josiah E. Isenhour, 30 December 1868, Testimony of Patrick Blake, p. 60.

putting his calculated migration year at 1844.⁷⁷ Patrick Blake began working for Horrell, Gayle & Co. in about 1852, so he was not an eyewitness to Josiah's migration.⁷⁸ The author of Josiah's obituary may have been an eyewitness to the move, but the author is unknown. Josiah likely moved to New Orleans between 1844-1848. Given that Josiah resided in Louisiana after 1848, military service records in Louisiana should be searched.

Research was conducted to determine whether or not Josiah E. Isenhour served in the Confederate army or navy. With Josiah's death date known to be 1868, a search was performed for his gravestone in New Orleans, to see if it contained any regimental information in the inscription. No gravestone was found.⁷⁹

To further identify the place of Josiah's residence in 1850, the U.S. Federal Censuses were searched in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, with no results.⁸⁰ In 1860, a census record for Josiah was located. He resided in the 3rd ward of the City of New Orleans, Orleans Parish. His occupation was merchant. This matches previously known information about Josiah's employment in Horrell, Gayle & Co., a produce business.⁸¹ Historical newspapers were searched for more information about the company. The *New Orleans Daily Crescent* reported on "Receipts of Produce" meant for consignment in New Orleans by Horrell, Gayle & Co., including cotton, corn, flour, eggs, bran, and bacon.⁸²

Knowing Josiah's residence in 1860 helped locate his Civil War Service record. Searching within the Louisiana Confederate service records revealed the Compiled Military Service Record of J.E. Isenhour.⁸³ He was a private in Company K of the Confederate Guards Regiment, Louisiana Militia, located in New Orleans.

In 1850, New Orleans was the sixth largest city in the United States and the largest in the South, with over 100,000 people.⁸⁴ It was a major export for Southern goods and contained

⁷⁷ "General Items," The Louisiana Democrat, 23 December 1868.

⁷⁸ Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Will Record, Vol D 1867-1894, Succession of Josiah E. Isenhour, 30 December 1868, Testimony of Patrick Blake, p. 60.

⁷⁹ *Find a Grave*, database with images, (<http://findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), negative search for Josiah Isenhour, d. 1868.

⁸⁰ 1850 U.S. Census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, negative search for Josiah Edmond Isenhour, database with images, FamilySearch.org (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 11 Nov 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

⁸¹ 1860 U.S. Census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, New Orleans, p. 55 (penned), dwelling 282, family 392, J. L. Isebour; image, FamilySearch.org (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 November 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 417.

⁸² "Receipts of Produce" (New Orleans, Louisiana) *New Orleans Daily Crescent*, 5 March 1861, Morning p. 8, col 3, para 1; image, *Chronicling America* (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> : accessed 5 April 2018).

⁸³ Compiled service record, J.E. Isenhour, Pvt., Co. K, Confederate Guards Regiment, LA Militia, "Carded Records ... from the State of Louisiana," database with images, *Fold3*.

⁸⁴ *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) "New Orleans in the American Civil War," reviewed 24 November 2017, 1:30pm.

many federal buildings, including the New Orleans Mint. In 1857, the majority of Louisiana's \$156 million dollars of exports was cotton.⁸⁵ New Orleans was a very valuable city for the Confederacy. As stated before, this is where Colonel Smith of Moses W. Isenhour's regiment went to secure rifles for the 11th Arkansas Infantry Regiment.

On 14 January 1861, New Orleans Governor Thomas Moore anticipated that the Louisiana Secession Convention would vote to secede from the Union. He ordered the organization of the militia throughout the state with the intention to seize U.S. military posts in the city.⁸⁶ When the Ordinance of Secession passed on January 22, New Orleans became a source of troops, supplies, and resources for the Confederacy - as well as a prime target for the Union army and navy.⁸⁷

Over the next year, the militia remained mostly inactive. Then in the fall, Governor Moore issued an order to regulate the militia and commence organizing and drilling.⁸⁸ In November, Governor Moore ordered that the entire First Division of Militia Troops, about 24,000, assemble in New Orleans on Canal street for review by himself and Major General Mansfield Lovell of the C.S.A.⁸⁹ It is likely that Josiah was among these troops.

Mansfield Lovell had been appointed as a major general in October 1861 in command at New Orleans. Many were disappointed at the appointment, preferring either P.G.T. Beauregard or Braxton Bragg.⁹⁰ The leaders of the Confederate Army and Navy in Richmond, Virginia, did not believe that a naval attack on New Orleans was likely. They gave Lovell few troops and supplies and he focused on plans to prevent a land attack on the city from the north.⁹¹ Most of the troops from New Orleans were sent to other battlefields, leaving only the militia behind to guard the city.⁹²

With the objective of shutting down the source of the Confederacy's supplies, the Union Navy began assembling ships in the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans in early 1862.⁹³ In response, on February 17th, Governor Moore ordered that the First and Second Brigade, volunteer troops be ready for marching on twenty-four hours notice.⁹⁴ Five days later, Moore transferred the First

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Napier Bartlett, *A soldier's story of the war; including the marches and battles of the Washington Artillery, and of other Louisiana Troops*, (New Orleans: Clark & Hofeline, 1874), 245-6; digitized book Internet Archive (<https://archive.org> : accessed 25 Nov 2017). See also *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) "Thomas Overton Moore," reviewed 24 November 2017, 2:00pm.

⁸⁷ *Wikipedia* "New Orleans in the American Civil War," reviewed 24 November 2017, 1:30pm.

⁸⁸ Bartlett, *A soldier's story of the war*, 244.

⁸⁹ Ibid. 244-245.

⁹⁰ *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) "Mansfield Lovell," reviewed 27 March 2018, 5:20am.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) "Thomas Overton Moore," reviewed 24 November 2017, 2:00pm.

⁹⁴ Bartlett, *A soldier's story of the war*, 255.

Brigade, volunteer troops and Second Louisiana Militia to General Lovell.⁹⁵ General Lovell ordered the troops to outfit two of the ships that had been seized the year prior into gunboats. The Third Brigade of the Volunteer State Troops was also transferred to General Lovell.⁹⁶ This brigade included Josiah's unit, the Confederate Guards, and was led by Brigadier General S.M. Westmore.

By April, Lovell had accepted eleven regiments and two battalions of volunteer state troops for the defense of New Orleans.⁹⁷ Not all of the regiments were formally mustered in, but Josiah's regiment was. A note on his CMSR states: "Transferred by Gov. T.O. Moore to Maj Gen. Mansfield Lovell, C.S.A., for local defence of the city of New Orleans and its approaches, on March 8, 1862."⁹⁸ March 8, 1862 is also the enlistment date on Josiah's CMSR.⁹⁹

The following month, this small number of local troops and ill-prepared leaders were found vastly insufficient. A report in Napier Bartlett's history reveals events during the surprise capture of New Orleans:

"April 11th.- The enemy with a large fleet have crossed the bar off the Balize and are operating with gunboats and mortar fleet. Bombardment continued without cessation, until April 25th, and subsequently thereto. The troops in the fort act heroically...

"April 24th.- Three gunboats have passed the forts [Forts Jackson and St. Phillip] and are on their way up. The people have not anticipated the event, and the excitement is great. Militia placed under arms - the city filled with startling rumors, as to whether the advance would be made by water or land. Gov. Moore left with the archives. Militia, in the midst of great consternation and excitement, detached to perform police duty.

"April 25th.- Twenty Federal gunboats at Packwood's Plantation, 20 miles below the city. Gen. Lovell calls at 9 o'clock, and invites Gens. Lewis and Grivot, to proceed to the fortifications. Before reaching there the enemy make the attack, and the State troops forced to abandon the guns. An order was now given to evacuate the city, and State troops were making their way out. The Federal gunboats reach the city; the rain meanwhile pouring down in torrents. All of the drays and carts impressed to ship off to

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid., 259.

⁹⁷ Steven A. Cormier, "Confederate Guards Regiment, Volunteer State Troops Militia Infantry," *Acadians In Gray* (<http://www.acadiansingray.com> : accessed 24 November 2017), para. 2; citing Bergeron, La. Confed. Units, 181.

⁹⁸ Compiled service record, J.E. Isenhour, Pvt., Co. K, Confederate Guards Regiment, Louisiana Militia (Confederate); "Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Louisiana," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : Accessed 17 October 2017); citing Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Confederate Organizations, compiled 1903 - 1927, documenting the period 1861 - 1865, Record Group 109, The National Archives.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

stores to Camp Moore and Monroe. All cotton ordered to be destroyed and few bales escaped.”¹⁰⁰

Like most of the state troops, Josiah’s regiment was not engaged in the short Battle of New Orleans.¹⁰¹ The city was captured unopposed after Flag Officer David G. Farragut of the Union Navy fought his way past the two forts guarding the mouth of the Mississippi River. Taking 13 ships upriver toward New Orleans, Farragut found only “three thousand militiamen with sundry military supplies and armed with shotguns” in New Orleans.¹⁰²

The city surrendered and New Orleans was afterward occupied by Union General Benjamin F. Butler. The officers and men of the Volunteer State Troops were arrested as prisoners of war, paroled, and most took an oath stating they would not return to active duty for the Confederacy. Those who did not take the oath were exchanged in October at Vicksburg.¹⁰³

General Lovell was blamed for losing the city and labelled incompetent, yet historians believe that the blame for losing New Orleans lies with Jefferson Davis and Naval Secretary Mallory for focusing on the land war in Virginia instead of defending New Orleans.¹⁰⁴

After being paroled, Josiah likely returned to his home. New Orleans was occupied for the duration of the war and into the beginning of the reconstruction.¹⁰⁵ It appears that Horrell, Gayle & Co. did not conduct business during the occupation. After the Confederate Army surrendered in the Spring of 1865, the business resumed activity as noted in the July 1865 issue of *The Southwestern*:

The old and well known commission house of Horrell, Gayle & Co., New Orleans, have resumed their former business, and, as formerly, will give their whole attention to consignments.¹⁰⁶

When senior partner John W. Gayle died, the firm dissolved and was reorganized under the title B.M. Horrell & Co. A notice on this subject appeared in *The New Orleans Daily Crescent* on 3 January 1868:

¹⁰⁰ Bartlett, *A soldier’s story of the war*, 255.

¹⁰¹ Cormier, "Confederate Guards Regiment, Volunteer State Troops Militia Infantry," *Acadians In Gray*, para. 1; citing Sifakis, *Compendium of C.S. Armies: Louisiana*, 122.

¹⁰² *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org>) “Capture of New Orleans,” reviewed 3 April 2018, 6:30am.

¹⁰³ Cormier, "Confederate Guards Regiment, Volunteer State Troops Militia Infantry," *Acadians In Gray*, para. 2; citing Bergeron, *La. Confed. Units*, 181.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ *Wikipedia* "New Orleans in the American Civil War," reviewed 24 November 2017, 1:30pm.

¹⁰⁶ "The old and well known commission house of Horrell, Gayle & Co..." (Shreveport, Louisiana) *The Southwestern*, 19 July 1865, p. 2, col. 4, section 10; image, *Chronicling America* (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> : accessed 5 April 2018).

The old firm of Horrell, Gayle & Co. has been dissolved by the death of Mr. John W. Gayle, and that the surviving partners, Mr. B.M. Horrell and Mr. J.E. Isenhour, have reorganized it under the title of B.M. Horrell & Co., who will continue the business at 192 Gravier street. The old firm of Horrell, Gayle & Co., was so well known here that it is superfluous to say anything in their praise - and in the survivors, who are members of the new firm, the public will recognize merchants of long standing and of the first responsibility, whom not even the shocks of war have shaken.¹⁰⁷

After Josiah's death in December of 1868, the partnership between him and Benjamin M. Horrell was dissolved and Horrell associated with two new partners - Patrick Black and Abraham T. Bird.¹⁰⁸

It is clear that Josiah's short stint in the Louisiana volunteer state troops was not a significant part of Josiah's life. His military service was not mentioned in his obituary.¹⁰⁹ Rather, he was known for being a partner in a well-known business. Josiah died soon after the war ended, in 1868.¹¹⁰

Louisiana probate law required that Josiah's estate be left to family members, a system called forced heirship. The Louisiana civil code published in 1853 stated, "If a person dies, leaving no descendants nor father nor mother, his brothers and sisters, or their descendants, inherit the whole succession to the exclusion of the ascendants and other collaterals."¹¹¹

When Josiah died at age 44 with no descendants, it was necessary to prove that he had no living ascendants (parents or siblings) before his estate could be passed on to his chosen heir, Rachel M. Gayle. Rachel was the sister of Josiah's business partner, Benjamin M. Horrell, and the widow of John W. Gayle.¹¹² Josiah wrote,

First I declare that I have no forced heirs. Second, in consideration of the pure friendship I have for and the many favors I have received from Mrs. Rachel M. Gayle, wife of my highly esteemed friend Jno W. Gayle of New Orleans, I make her my sole heir, and

¹⁰⁷ "Reorganization of an Old House" (New Orleans, Louisiana) *The New Orleans Crescent*, 3 January 1868, p. 4, col 1, para 10; image, Chronicling America (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> : accessed 5 April 2018).

¹⁰⁸ "Partnership -- Dissolution" (New Orleans, Louisiana) *The New Orleans Crescent*, 9 January 1869, Morning, p. 3, col. 3, section 5; image, Chronicling America (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> : accessed 5 April 2018).

¹⁰⁹ "The Daily Picayune," *The Times-Picayune*, 15 December 1868.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ J.B. Steel, *Civil Code of the state of Louisiana: with the statutory amendments, from 1825-1853, inclusive; and references to the decisions of the Supreme Court of Louisiana to the sixth volume of annual reports* (J.B. Steel: New Orleans, 1853) p. 129; digitized book, *Google Books* (books.google.com : accessed 21 March 2018).

¹¹² Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, Will Record, Vol D 1867-1894, Succession of Josiah E. Isenhour, 30 December 1868, p. 64.

legatee bequeathing unto her all my estate real of personal and particularly the profits that I may realize or have realized or be entitled to in the firm of Horrell Gayle Co.

B.M. Horrell testified that Josiah had no living ascendants, but spoke only of Josiah's parents. He stated that John D. Isenhour died before Josiah relocated to New Orleans and that Sarah Isenhour died afterward.¹¹³ No death date is known for Sarah Isenhour, but this testimony suggests it was after 1848.

No mention is made of Josiah's siblings in any of the succession documents, yet three were alive when Josiah wrote his will in 1856, including Valentine, Moses, and Sarah. Twelve years later, when Josiah died in 1868, just Valentine and Sarah were still living. Josiah may not have been in contact with Sarah or Valentine, both of whom had moved to Texas.

Conclusion

The objective of this research project was to discover the actions of Valentine, Moses, and Josiah Isenhour during the Civil War. Original records and authored narratives were found to illuminate their lives. No record was found showing that Valentine Isenhour served the Confederate cause, but each of the brothers were deeply involved in the southern way of life. Josiah was a cotton merchant and militia member, Moses was an overseer and Confederate Army volunteer, and both Moses and Valentine were Texas pioneers. Each had unique experiences and various levels of involvement in the Southern cause during the Civil War.

Summary of Results

Valentine Isenhour

- Analyzed known census and marriage data about Valentine.
- Searched cemetery records for Valentine Isenhour. No results.
- Searched Confederate and Union service records for Valentine Isenhour in Arkansas and Texas. No results.
- Evaluated Valentine's age during the Civil War and hypothesized that he did not join the fight because he was past the usual age of enlistment.
- Located Arkansas secretary of state records showing V. Isenhour and M. Isenhour were coroners of Montgomery County in 1856-1858 and 1860-1862.
- Found Valentine's son and daughter on the 1880 census. Hypothesized that both Valentine and his wife died before 1880.

Moses W. Isenhour

- Analyzed the previously located compiled military service record (CMSR) of Moses W. Isenhour of the 11th Arkansas Infantry Regiment.

¹¹³ Ibid., 62.

- Found another Civil War era service record for “Moses Isenhower” In Bosque and Coryell Counties, Texas. Identified this second Moses as the husband of Catherine Bird, born 8 October 1823 and died 27 October 1906, not the subject of this report.
- Contacted a descendant of Moses W. Isenhour and received additional information about Moses, including a paragraph about him written by one of his descendants.
- Located the biography of Moses W. Isenhour’s son, William Martin Isenhower, which contained details about Moses’ career as an overseer and cause of death.
- Located a regimental history for Moses W. Isenhour’s regiment and extracted information pertaining to Moses’ service.
- Located a battle map of Island No. Ten in the Mississippi River during the American Civil War.
- Created a timeline of the 11th Arkansas Infantry including events from Moses W. Isenhour’s CMSR.
- Hypothesized that Moses died due to exposure and illness prior to the battle of New Madrid/Battle of Island No. Ten.
- Found cemeteries in the City of New Madrid containing Civil War soldiers in unmarked graves; possible locations of Moses W. Isenhour’s burial.
- Evaluated the conflicting evidence about Moses W. Isenhour’s death.

Josiah E. Isenhour

- Evaluated information from 3 newspaper announcements about Josiah’s death.
- Evaluated information from Josiah’s probate/succession file.
- Searched for a gravestone in New Orleans of Josiah E. Isenhour. No results.
- Searched for Josiah’s residence in 1850 within Orleans Parish, Louisiana. No results.
- Searched for Josiah’s residence in 1860 within Orleans Parish, Louisiana, and found a record for him in the 3rd ward of the City of New Orleans, occupation merchant.
- Located the CMSR for J.E. Isenhour in Company K of the Confederate Guards Regiment, Louisiana Militia.
- Located historical narratives about New Orleans, the raising of the militia in 1861, and the capture of the city in 1862.
- Located multiple newspaper articles about Josiah and his company, Horrell, Gayle & Co., and B.M. Horrell & Co. in New Orleans newspapers.

Future Research Suggestions

- Search for the plantation owners that Moses worked for in Texas in the 1860 census: Reese Hughes, Mark Sumner, Wilber Peacock, and a widow named Driver.
- Search for descriptions of Civil War era hospitals in Memphis, Tennessee which may have housed Confederate soldiers from Fort Thompson.
- Search for Moses W. Isenhour in Memphis, Tennessee Civil War era hospital rolls.
- Search for Civil War era cemeteries in Memphis, Tennessee that contain burials of unmarked Confederate soldiers.

- Search for Moses W. Isenhour in Memphis, Tennessee Civil War era cemeteries.
- Locate original succession documents for Josiah E. Isenhour in the Second District Court, Parish of New Orleans.
- Research details about changes in cotton sales in New Orleans during the Union occupation from 1862-1865 and during the first part of the Reconstruction.