Delphia Welford (9 September 1875 - 14 November 1992) of Mississippi/Tennessee

Introduction

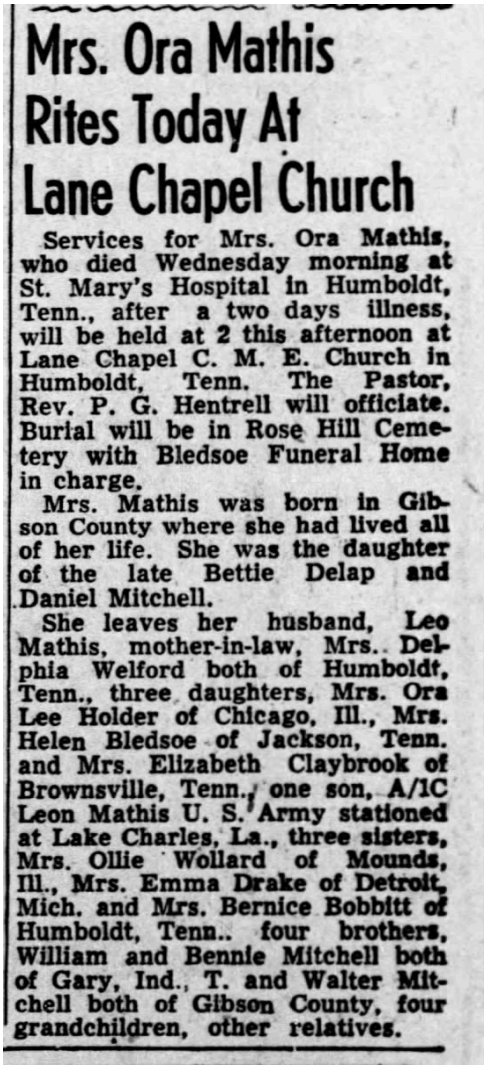
Delphia Welford was likely born in Okolona, Mississippi on 9 September 1875 as the daughter of Richard and Heddie Welford. The family moved to Humboldt, Gibson, Tennessee when Delphia was still a child. She had one son, Leo Mathis in the late 1890s. Delphia never married and spent the rest of her life in Humboldt. Delphia Welford died in Humboldt, Tennessee on 14 November 1992, likely aged 117 years, 66 days.

Contact with great-great-granddaughter, Delphia Boykin (b. 1967)

- Delphia Boykin is named after Delphia Welford. Her father was Richard Boykin, the son of Ora Lee Mathis, who was the oldest daughter born to Leo Mathis and his wife Ora Mitchell
- Delphia Welford never married and had one child together with a white man:
    - Leo Mathis (1897-1966) married Ora Mitchell and had four children:
        - Ora Lee (1919-1997) married Richard Boykin and had one son, Richard
            - Richard (1939-1980) married Edna and had two children;
                - Delphia (1967-) and Daryl (1970-)
        - Helen (1921-2008) married Charles Bledsoe and had three children; Beverly, Deborah and Bruce
        - Elizabeth (1924-2006) never married and cared for Delphia Welford during her centenarian years
        - Leon Mathis (1927-2004) had three daughters; Carolyn, Dolores and Debbie
- Delphia Welford lived in Humboldt, TN from at least around the time Leo Mathis was born until her death in 1992

Articles

The Jackson Sun, 5 Sep 1954



Mrs. Ora Mathis Rites Today At Lane Chapel Church

Services for Mrs. Ora Mathis, who died Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Hospital in Humboldt, Tenn., after a two days illness, will be held at 2 this afternoon at Lane Chapel C. M. E. Church in Humboldt, Tenn. The Pastor, Rev. P. G. Hentrell will officiate. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery with Bledsoe Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Mathis was born in Gibson County where she had lived all of her life. She was the daughter of the late Bettie Delap and Daniel Mitchell.

She leaves her husband, Leo Mathis, mother-in-law, Mrs. Delphia Welford both of Humboldt, Tenn., three daughters, Mrs. Ora Lee Holder of Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Helen Bledsoe of Jackson, Tenn. and Mrs. Elizabeth Claybrook of Brownsville, Tenn., one son, A/1C Leon Mathis U. S. Army stationed at Lake Charles, La., three sisters, Mrs. Ollie Wollard of Mounds, Ill., Mrs. Emma Drake of Detroit, Mich. and Mrs. Bernice Bobbitt of Humboldt, Tenn., four brothers, William and Bennie Mitchell both of Gary, Ind., T. and Walter Mitchell both of Gibson County, four grandchildren, other relatives.

The Jackson Sun, 10 July 1966

Leo H. Mathis Rites Today

Funeral services for Leo Henry Mathis, 64, who died at 5 a.m. Thursday at his home, 1101 12th Avenue, Humboldt, after a lengthy illness, will be at 2 p.m. today at Lane Chapel CME Church in Humboldt with the pastor, the Rev. Louis T. Purham officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery with Bledsoe Funeral Home in charge.

Mr. Mathis was born in Gibson County where he had lived all his life. He was a farmer and landowner. He was a member of Lane Chapel CME Church where he served as a member of the Steward Board and chairman of the trustee board. He attended the public schools of Gibson County.

Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Delphia Welford of Humboldt; three daughters, Mrs. Ora Lee Holder, Elizabeth Mathis, both of Chicago, Ill., and Mrs. Helen Bledsoe of Jackson; a son, Leon M. Mathis of Hartford, Conn.; a sister, Mrs. Mammie Watt of Humboldt; five grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Pallbearers will be trustees of Lane Chapel CME Church.

The body will be at Mims Funeral Home in Humboldt.

The Jackson Sun, 24 July 1966

Card Of Thanks

The family of the late Leo Mathis, wishes to thank their friends and neighbors, for kindness tendered it during the illness and death of its love one.

They especially wish to thank: Revs. Louis T. Purham, J. D. Atwater and J. T. Freeman for their helpful words of comfort: the Lane Chapel C.M.E. Church and choir for their music and service: Mrs. N. F. Williams for solo; the friends for condolences, telegrams, food and flowers; the Middle West Tennessee Funeral Directors Association and staff of Bledsoe Funeral Home for their courteous service.

May the Heavenly Father bless each of you.

Mrs. Delphia Welford, mother
Mrs. Ora Lee Holder,
Mrs. Helen Bledsoe and
Mrs. Elizabeth Mathis,
daughters
Leon Mathis, son
Mrs. Mammie Watt, sister

The Jackson Sun, 21 Apr 1971

Charlie Welford Sr. Services Thursday

Funeral services are scheduled Thursday for Charlie Welford Sr., 84, of Humboldt, who died Sunday at his home after a long illness.

Services are set for 8 p.m. at the St. James Baptist Church in Humboldt, with the Rev. J. T. Freeman officiating. A wake will be held at the church from 7 to 8 p.m.

Mr. Welford was the son of the late Rev. Richard Welford and Mrs. Heddie Welford. He was born in Okolona, Miss., and moved to Humboldt as a child.

He was a lifelong member of St. James Baptist Church, joining under the pastorate of Rev. W. E. Harrison.

Mr. Welford married the former Miss Cleora Greer, who preceded him in death. To that union, 10 children were born, three of whom preceded him in death .

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Corinne Regans of Humboldt. They were married in 1938.

Also surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Jewel Jones, Mrs. Grenada Myhand, Mrs. Margaret Ward and Mrs. Margaret Ward, all of Gary, Ind., and three sons, James, Charlie Jr., and Lloyd L. Welford, also all of Gary.

Two sisters survive, Mrs. Delphia Welford, Humboldt, and Mrs. Mamie Mitchell, Detroit, in addition to 18 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, four sons-in-law, three daughters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Rawls and Baskerville Funeral Home.

The Jackson Sun, 25 Apr 1980

Richard Henry Boykin Jr.

Services for Richard Henry Boykin Jr., 40, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Bledsoe Funeral Home with the Rev. Albert Kirk officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery in Humboldt.

Mr. Boykin died Tuesday from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Chicago.

Born and reared in Jackson, he attended the former St. Joseph Catholic School in Jackson and Lane College.

He was employed by the Board of Education in Chicago and was a member of Our Lady-Gate of Heaven Catholic Church in Chicago. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Edna Boykin; a daughter, Ms. Delphia Boykin of Chicago; a son, Darryl Boykin of Chicago; his mother, Mrs. Ora Lee Holder of Chicago; his father, Richard H. Boykin Sr. of Cleveland, Ohio; and his maternal grandmother, Ms. Delphia Welford of Humboldt.

Pallbearers will be Elijah Armour, Willie G. Bledsoe Jr., Ernest Lee Bledsoe, Thomas Pillow, James R. Grimes and Fred Malone.

The family will receive friends 7-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

The Jackson Sun, 9 Oct 1992

Sanford F. Holder

Services for Mr. Sanford F. Holder, 81, will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Bledsoe Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. T. R. Crosslin officiating. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery.

Mr. Holder died Sunday at South Chicago Community Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Holder, the son of the late Dr. William D. and Bessie Southern Holder, attended the public schools of Jackson and was a graduate of Lane High School and Lane College. He taught high school in Henderson County before moving to Chicago in 1942. He was a retired employee of General Motors Corporation, General Electric Division in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Holder was a member of Mother Liberty C.M.E. Church of Jackson and was a very supportive member of the Lane College Alumni Association.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ora Lee Holder of Chicago, Il.; a brother, Julius W. Holder of Las Vegas, Nv.; two grandchildren, Delphia Brooks and Darryl Boykin both of Chicago, Il.; a great-grandson, Darnzell Townsend of Chicago, Il.; three cousins, Ollie Dell Jones and Loretta Drake both of Chicago, Il. and Frederick Southern of Jackson; a nephew, Bruce Bledsoe (Theresia); two nieces, Beverly Tyson and Deborah McDade all of Jackson; a grandmother-in-law, Delphia Welford of Humboldt; a brother-in-law, Leon Mathis of Hartford, Ct.; two sisters-in-law, Helen Bledsoe of Jackson and Elizabeth Mathis of Humboldt; a daughter-in-law, Edna Boykin of Chicago, Il. and a host of other great nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

The Jackson Sun, 17 Nov 1992

Delphia S. Welford

Services for Ms. Delphia S. Welford, 111, will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Lane Chapel C.M.E. Church in Humboldt, Tennessee with Dr. Arthur David officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery with Bledsoe Funeral Home of Jackson in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Welford died Saturday morning at Parkview Manor Health Care Center in Humboldt.

She was born in Okolona, Mississippi, the daughter of the late Rev. Richard and Heddie Welford. She moved to the Gibson County area with her family as an infant and remained there for her entire life. She was a member of Lane Chapel C.M.E. Church. She was preceded in death by her only son, Leo Henry Mathis and a great-grandson, Richard Henry Boykin.

Survivors are four grandchildren, Ora Lee Holder of Chicago, Il., Helen I. Bledsoe of Jackson, Elizabeth Mathis of Humboldt and Leon Mathis of Hartford, Ct.; three great-grandchildren, Bruce Bledsoe (Theresia), Beverly Tyson and Deborah McDade all of Jackson; ten great-great grandchildren, Sean Bledsoe (Phyllis) of Jackson, Kimberly Tyson of Memphis, Chris Cherry of Atlanta, Ga., Delphia Brooks (Brian) of Chicago, Il., Darryl Boykin of Chicago, Il., Sarad Bledsoe, Shara Bledsoe, Keisha Tyson, Sabra Bledsoe and Joshua McDade all of Jackson; two great-great-great grandchildren, Darnzell Townsend of Chicago, Il. and Christopher Grimes of Jackson; nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Her remains will be at the church in Humboldt Wednesday from 11 a.m. until time of service.

Bledsoe Funeral Home-
427-1521

Relevant information

- Delphia Welford was likely born in Okolona, MS
- Delphia's parents were Richard and Heddie Welford
- She moved to Gibson, TN as an infant and lived there her entire life
- Delphia Welford was supposedly born in 1880 or 1881, based on her claimed age at the time of her death on 14 November 1992
- Delphia had at least two siblings, Charlie Welford (c. 1886 or 1887) and Mamie Mitchell
- Delphia had one or two children: Leo Mathis and possibly Mammie Watt
- Leo H. Mathis was supposedly born in 1901 or 1902
- Leo had at least four children, three daughters: Ora Lee Holder, Helen Bledsoe and Elizabeth Mathis and one son: Leon Mathis

Documentation

1880 US Census I

Richard	Welford	Self	M	28	Virginia
Hettie	Welford	Wife	F	24	Mississippi
Carter	Welford	Son	M	7	Mississippi
Delpha	**Welford**	**Daughter**	**F**	**5**	**Mississippi**
Melissa	Welford	Daughter	F	2	Mississippi
	Welford	Son	M	3/12	Mississippi

This 1880 US Census lists Richard and Hettie Welford as living in Okolona, MS. Their children are Carter, Delpha, Melissa and an unnamed newborn son. This match is highly intriguing because it lists a five-year-old daughter named Delpha

1880 US Census II

Mary	Johnson	Self	F	50	Alabama
Richd	Nabers	Father	M	80	Kentucky
Richd	Welford	Son-in-law	M	30	Virginia
Hetty	Welford	Daughter	F	26	Mississippi
Astera	Welford	Granddaughter	F	7	Mississippi
Delphia	**Welford**	**Granddaughter**	**F**	**5**	**Tennessee**
Melissa	Welford	Granddaughter	F	2	Mississippi
Johnson	Welford	Grandson	M	3/12	Mississippi
Jennie	Jerrold	Adopted	F	12	Tennessee

The Welford family was enumerated twice in the 1880 US Census, this time the Welfords are living with Heddie's parents in Okolona. The given ages are fairly consistent with the census enumerated three weeks earlier. Richard and Heddie are both two years older now while their children have the same ages as in the previous census. Delphia Welford is listed as being five years old and is now listed as having been born in Tennessee rather than Mississippi.

1880 MS State Census Under-21 I

Castoria	Welford	7	Mississippi
Delpha	**Welford**	**5**	**Mississippi**

1880 MS State Census Under-21 II

Astera	Welford	8	Mississippi
Delphia	**Welford**	**4**	**Mississippi**
Malissa	Welford	2	Mississippi
Johnson	Welford	Inf	Mississippi

These documents from 3 Mar 1880 list Delphia and her siblings as living in Chickasaw, MS. Their father is listed as being Richard Welford. Delphia is listed as being five and four years of age, supporting a birth in 1874 and 1875 respectively.

1885 MS Enumeration of Educable Children

C	Welford	12	F
D	**Welford**	**8**	**F**
M	Welford	6	F

This listing from Chickasaw lists Delphia and her sisters as well as mentions their father as being R Welford. Delphia is listed as being eight years old, Castora is twelve and Melissa is listed as being six. This document supports a birth in 1876.

1892 MS Enumeration of Educable Children

Castola	Welford	19	F
Delpha	**Welford**	**16**	**F**
Malissa	Welford	14	F
Charley	Welford	7	M
Howard	Welford	5	M

This document lists the Welford children as attending school in Okolona and having Richard and H Welford as their parents. Delphia is listed as being 16 years old, supporting a birth in 1875.

1900 US Census of Richard Welford

Richard	Weleford	Head	M	May 1845	Virginia
Castorine	Weleford	Daughter	F	Oct 1879	Mississippi
Charlie	Weleford	Son	M	Mar 1885	Mississippi
Howard	Weleford	Son	M	Feb 1886	Mississippi
Mary A	Weleford	Daughter	F	Oct 1889	Mississippi

The 1900 US Census shows that the Welford family was now residing in Humboldt, TN and that Richard had been widowed. Delphia is not listed with her family, neither are the other children from the 1880 US Census, except possibly Castorine, who might be Melissa or Astera. Charlie from the obituary is listed, but is two years older than the obituary suggests. Mary A might be Mamie.

1900 US Census

Patt	Darety	Head	M	Dec 1856	Tennessee
Jane	Hughs	Sister	F	Mar 1843	Tennessee
John	Delap	Boarder	M	Jan 1877	Tennessee
Newt	Walker	Boarder	M	Mar 1877	Tennessee
Della	**Wiliford**	**Servant**	**F**	**Apr 1876**	**Tennessee**
Mattie	Rhodes	Servant	F	Jan 1888	Tennessee
Leo		Boarder	M	Dec 1896	Tennessee

The 1900 US Census lists a Della Wiliford as working as a servant in Civil District 2 (Humboldt[1]), Gibson, Tennessee. There are two children living here as well, Mattie and Leo Rhodes. Della Wiliford is listed as having been born in April 1876.

1910 US Census

J B	Dardy	Head	M	56	Tennessee
Leo	**Mathis**	**Servant**	**M**	**14**	**Tennessee**
Delphia	**Weliford**	**Head**	**F**	**27**	**Tennessee**
Mattie	**Roe**		**F**	**22**	**Tennessee**
John	Mclemore		M	19	Tennessee
Luther	Jackson		M	19	Tennessee

The 1910 US Census lists Delphia Weliford and Mattie Roe from the 1900 US Census as well as Leo Mathis, who is very likely the child named Leo listed as having been born in December in the 1900 US Census, as living in Humboldt, TN. The ages of Leo and Mattie are fairly consistent with the 1900 US Census listings, while Delphia's listed as being about seven years younger than expected.

[1] https://statisticalatlas.com/county-subdivision/Tennessee/Gibson-County/Gibson-District-2/Overview

WWI Draft Card of Leo Henry Mathis

Name:	**Leo Henry Mathis**
Draft Date:	12 Sep 1918
Address:	Humboldt, Gibson, Tennessee
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	25 Nov 1897
Employer:	J B Dardy
Relative:	**Delphia Welford**

This WWI Draft Card of Leo Henry Mathis shows that he was still employed by J B Dardy in 1918 and that he was living with his mother in Humboldt, TN. Leo's birth date is given as 25 November 1897, which is decently consistent with the 1900 US Census listing as having been born in December 1896 and his age of 14 in 1910.

1919 Marriage of Leo Mathis

Name:	**Leo Mathis**
Marriage Date:	15 May 1919
Event Place:	Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Gender:	Male
Spouse's Name:	Ora Mitchell

This Marriage Record from 1919 shows that Leo Mathis married Ora Mitchell in Gibson, TN on 15 May 1919.

1920 US Census

Delphi	**Wetherford**	**Head**	**F**	**46**	**Mississippi**
Leo	Mathis	Son	M	22	Tennessee
Ora	Mathis	Daughter-in-law	F	21	Tennessee
Mattie	Roe		F	36	Tennessee
Bessie	White		F	14	Tennessee
Lessie	Trigg		F	10	Tennessee
Ora Lee	Mathis	Granddaughter	F	0	Tennessee
Oss	Winfield		M	36	Tennessee

The 1920 US Census lists Delphi Wetherford, her son and daughter-in-law, a grandchild and Mattie Roe (from the 1900 and 1910 US Censuses) plus some unrelated people as living in Humboldt, TN. J B Daley is listed in the household above Delphi. Delphi's age of 46 suggests a birth in 1873/1874.

1930 US Census

Leo	Methis	Head	M	36	Tennessee
Ora	Methis	Wife	F	42	Tennessee
Ora Lee	Methis	Daughter	F	8	Tennessee
Helen	Methis	Daughter	F	6	Tennessee
Elizabeth	Methis	Daughter	F	4	Tennessee
Milton	Methis	Son	M	2	Tennessee
Delpha	**Wilford**	**Mother**	**F**	**50**	**Tennessee**

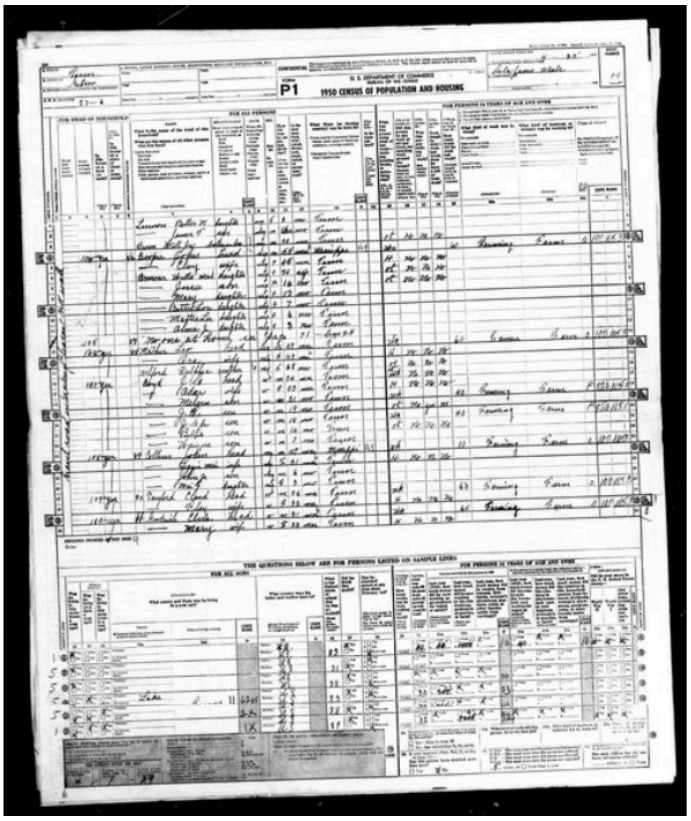
The 1930 US Census lists Delpha and her family as living in Humboldt, TN. Leo's now listed as being the father of four children. The names of the daughters are consistent with the names in his obituary while the name of his son is different. Delpha Wilford is listed as being 50 years old, supporting a birth in 1879/1880.

1940 US Census

Leo	Mathis	Head	M	45	Tennessee
Ora	Mathis	Wife	F	39	Tennessee
Helen	Mathis	Daughter	F	18	Tennessee
Elizabeth	Mathis	Daughter	F	16	Tennessee
Leon	Mathis	Son	M	12	Tennessee
Richard	Boykin	S.-in-law	M	24	Mississippi
Ora Lee	Boykin	Daughter	F	20	Tennessee
Richard	Boykin	Grandson	M	0	Tennessee
Delphia	**Wilford**	**Mother**	**F**	**60**	**Tennessee**

The 1940 US Census lists Delphia and her family as living in Humboldt, TN. Milton Mathis is now listed as Leon Mathis, which is consistent with Leo's obituary. Leo's oldest daughter, Ora, has now married Richard Boykin and has a son named Richard (who is the person in the 1980 obituary). Delphia Wilford is now listed as being 60 years old, suggesting a birth in 1879/1880.

1950 US Census



The 1950 US Census lists Delphya Welford as living in Humboldt, TN with Leo Mathis and his wife. Delphya is listed as being 68 years old, supporting a birth in 1881.

1965 SSA

Name:	**Delphia Welford**
Gender:	Female
Birth Date:	9 Sep 1880
Death Date:	Nov 1992
Claim Date:	22 Sep 1965
SSN:	408849019

This SSA from 1965 shows that Delphia Welford claimed to have been born on 9 September 1880 when she applied for Social Security

1966 Death of Leo Mathis

Name:	Leo Henry Mathis
Gender:	Male
Race:	Negro (Black)
Age:	64
Birth Date:	24 Nov 1901

Birth Place:	Tennessee
Death Date:	7 Jul 1966
Death Place:	Humboldt, Gibson, Tennessee, USA
Mother:	**Delphia Welford**
Spouse:	Ora Mathis

SSDI

Name:	**Delphia Welford**
SSN:	408-84-9019
Last Residence:	Humboldt, Gibson, Tennessee, USA
Born:	9 Sep 1881
Died:	Nov 1992
SSN issued:	Tennessee (1965)

The SSDI confirms that Delphia Welford died in November 1992 but now lists Delphia as having been born on 9 September 1881.

Investigation on family members

Richard and Heddie Johnson Welford
1871 Marriage

Name:	Richard Wilford
Spouse:	Hettie Johnson
Event Date:	30 Nov 1871
Event Place:	Chickasaw,Mississippi

This Marriage Index shows that Richard and Heddie were married in November 1871.

1920 US Census

Charles	**Wellerford**	**Head**	**M**	**38**	**Mississippi**
Cleora	Wellerford	Wife	F	31	Tennessee
Fernanda	Wellerford	Son	M	10	Tennessee
Jewell	Wellerford	Son	M	2	Tennessee
Dick	**Wellerford**	**Father**	**M**	**66**	**United States**

The 1920 US Census shows that Richard Welford was still alive and that he lived with his son Charles' family in Humboldt, TN.

Charlie Welford
1908 Marriage

Name:	**Charley Welford**
Marriage Date:	04 Jun 1908
Event Place:	Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Spouse's Name:	Chleora Greer

This marriage record from 1908 shows that Charlie Welford married Cleora Greer in Gibson, TN on 4 June 1908.

1910 US Census

Charley	**Wefard**	**Head**	**M**	**24**	**Mississippi**
Clara	Wefard	Wife	F	22	Tennessee
Fernandas	Wefard	Son	M	1	Tennessee

The 1910 US Census lists Charlie as living in Humboldt, TN with his wife and son.

WWI Draft Card

Name:	**Charlie Welford**
Event Type:	Draft Registration
Event Date:	1917-1918
Event Place:	Gibson County, Tennessee, United States
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	14 Feb 1882

The WWI Draft Card lists Charlie Welford as living in Gibson, TN.

1930 US Census

Charlie	**Wellford**	**Head**	**M**	**51**	**Mississippi**
Cleorra	Wellford	Wife	F	41	Tennessee
Fernandus	Wellford	Son	M	20	Tennessee
Jewel D	Wellford	Daughter	F	13	Tennessee
Grenada	Wellford	Daughter	F	9	Tennessee
Marguerite	Wellford	Daughter	F	6	Tennessee
James E	Wellford	Son	M	4	Tennessee
Charlie	Wellford Jr.	Son	M	2	Tennessee

The 1930 US Census lists Charlie and his family as living in Humboldt, TN.

1938 Marriage

Name:	**Charlie Welford**
Marriage Date:	08 Dec 1938
Event Place:	Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Age:	54
Spouse's Name:	Karine Regan
Spouse's Gender:	Female
Spouse's Age:	38

This marriage record shows that Charlie Welford remarried in December 1938.

1940 US Census

Charlie	**Welford**	**Head**	**M**	**49**	**Tennessee**
Corinne	Welford	Wife	F	36	Tennessee
Greneda	Welford	Daughter	F	19	Tennessee
Margree	Welford	Daughter	F	17	Tennessee
James	Welford	Son	M	13	Tennessee
Charlie	Welford	Son	M	11	Tennessee
Elizebath	Welford	Daughter	F	9	Tennessee
Lloydell	Welford	Son	M	7	Tennessee

The 1940 US Census lists Charlie Welford as living in Humboldt, TN with his new wife and his children.

SSDI

Name:	**Charlie Welford**
Birth Date:	16 May 1882
State:	Tennessee
Last Residence:	Gibson, Tennessee
Event Date:	Apr 1971

The SSDI confirms that Charlie Welford died in April 1971 but lists him as having been born on 16 May 1882, which suggests a final age of 88 rather than the claimed 84.

Castoria Welford

1904 Marriage

Name:	Em Bobbitt
Marriage Date:	27 Aug 1904
Event Place:	Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Spouse's Name:	**Castora Williford**

This Marriage Record from 1904 shows that Castora Williford (Carter and Astera in the 1880 US Censuses) married Em Bobbitt in Gibson, TN on 27 August 1904.

1910 US Census

Emerson	Bobbit	Head	M	30	Tennessee
Castoria	**Bobbit**	**Wife**	**F**	**30**	**Mississippi**
Lester	Bobbit	Son	M	5	Tennessee
Ester	Bobbit	Son	M	3	Tennessee
Hesikia	Bobbit	Son	M	0	Tennessee
Maria	Bobbit	Mother	F	65	North Carolina

The 1910 US Census lists Castoria as living in Carroll, TN with her husband and three children. Castoria's age is understated by about seven years compared to the 1880 US Censuses.

1920 US Census

Emersom	Bobbitt	Head	M	55	Tennessee
Castoria	**Bobbitt**	**Wife**	**F**	**37**	**Mississippi**
Elester	Bobbitt	Son	M	14	Tennessee
Hesekih	Bobbitt	Son	M	9	Tennessee
Oreda	Bobbitt	Daughter	F	5	Tennessee
Hettie O	Bobbitt	Daughter	F	2	Tennessee
Mariah	Bobbitt	Mother	F	90	Tennessee

The 1920 US Census lists Castoria as being 37 years old and living in Carroll, TN with her family.

1930 US Census

Emerson E	Babbitt	Head	M	55	Tennessee
Castoria	**Babbitt**	**Wife**	**F**	**53**	**Mississippi**
Orheda	Babbitt	Daughter	F	15	Tennessee
Hettie O	Babbitt	Daughter	F	12	Tennessee

The 1930 US Census lists Castoria as living in Carroll, TN, her age is given as 53, which supports a birth in 1876.

1940 US Census

E Emmerson	Bobbitt	Head	M	67	Tennessee
Castoria	**Bobbitt**	**Wife**	**F**	**69**	**Mississippi**

The 1940 US Census lists Castoria and her husband as living in Carroll, TN. Castoria's age is now exaggerated by two years, compared to the 1880 US Censuses.

1951 Death Record

Name:	**Castoria Bobbitt**
Birth Date:	9 Nov 1883
Birth Place:	Tennessee
Death Date:	25 May 1951
Event Place:	Mckenzie, Carroll, Tennessee
Gender:	Female
Father's Name	Richard Weatherford
Mother's Name	Hettie Johnson

This Death Record for Castoria Bobbitt shows that she died in Carroll on 25 May 1951. At the time of her death, Castoria claimed to be about ten years younger than the 1880 US Censuses suggest.

Howard Welford

1913 Marriage

Name:	**Howard Williford**
Event Type:	Marriage
Event Date:	29 Mar 1913
Event Place:	Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Spouse:	Mary D Mcknight

This marriage record shows that Howard Williford married Mary McKnight in Gibson, TN on 29 March 1913.

1920 US Census

Howard	**Wellerford**	**Head**	**M**	**32**	**Tennessee**
Mary D	Wellerford	Wife	F	21	Tennessee
Julian	Wellerford	Son	M	6	Tennessee
Ida May	Wellerford	Daughter	F	4	Tennessee
R C	Wellerford	Son	M	0	Tennessee

The 1920 US Census lists Howard as living in Humboldt, TN with his family.

1930 US Census

Howard	**Wellford**	**Head**	**M**	**38**	**Mississippi**
Mary D	Wellford	Wife	F	36	Tennessee
Julius	Wellford	Son	M	15	Tennessee
Ida M	Wellford	Daughter	F	13	Tennessee
R C	Wellford	Son	M	9	Tennessee
Louise	Wellford	Daughter	F	4	Tennessee
Ernest	Wellford	Son	M	0	Tennessee

The 1930 US Census lists Howard as living in Humboldt, TN with his wife and children.

1940 US Census

Howard	**Welford**	**Head**	**M**	**42**	**Mississippi**
Mary D	Welford	Wife	F	50	Tennessee
Julius	Welford	Son	M	26	Tennessee
Louise	Welford	Daughter	F	15	Tennessee
Earnest	Welford	Son	M	8	Tennessee
Frances	Welford	Daughter	F	7	Tennessee

The 1940 US Census lists Howard as living in Humboldt, TN with his wife and children.

1962 Death

Name:	**Willie Howard Welford**
Birth Date:	27 Mar 1892
Birth Place:	Mississippi
Death Date:	12 Apr 1962
Death Place:	Humboldt, Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Father's Name:	R C Welford
Mother's Name:	Hattie Johnson

This death record from 1962 shows that Howard died on 12 April 1962 and that his age was deflated by about six years at the time.

Mamie Welford

1941 Marriage

Name:	Charles Mitchell
Marriage Date:	10 May 1941
Event Place:	Lucas, Ohio, United States
Born:	2 Aug 1904
Father:	Allison Mitchell
Mother:	Mary Stustill
Spouse:	**Mamie Or Mami Hutchinson**
Born:	2 Oct 1901
Birth place:	Mississippi
Previous Spouse:	Dave Hutchinson
Spouse's Father:	Richard Welford
Spouse's Mother:	Hettie Johnson

This marriage record from 1941 shows that Mamie Welford Hutchinson married Charles Mitchell in Ohio on 10 May 1941. Mamie claimed to have been born on 2 October 1901, which is impossible since her mother was already deceased by 1900. Considering the age of Mamie's husband, it is likely that she deflated her age.

Mamie Mathis Watt

1910 US Census

Washington	Fly	Head	M	30	Tennessee
Lizzie	Fly	Wife	F	31	Tennessee
Mamie	**Mathies**	**Niece**	**F**	**16**	**Tennessee**
Odes	Mathies	Nephew	M	14	Tennessee

The 1910 US Census lists a Mamie Mathies as living in Humboldt, TN with her relatives.

1919 Marriage

Name:	Fred Wm Watt
Event Type:	Marriage
Event Date:	22 Dec 1919
Event Place:	Gibson, Tennessee, United States
Spouse:	**Mamie V Mathis**

This marriage record shows that Mamie Mathis married Fred Watt in Gibson, TN on 22 December 1919.

1920 US Census

Lizzie	Fly	Head	F	42	Tennessee
Mamie	**Watt**	**Niece**	**F**	**25**	**Tennessee**
Odis	Mathis	Nephew	M	24	Tennessee

The 1920 US Census lists Mamie Watt as being married but still living with Lizzie Fly and Odis Mathis.

1930 US Census

Mamie	**Watt**	**Head**	**F**	**34**	**Tennessee**
Fred	Watt	Son	M	8	Tennessee
Floyd	Watt	Son	M	6	Tennessee
Lizzie	Fly	Aunt	F	48	Tennessee
Catharine	Mathis	Grandmother	F	70	Tennessee

The 1930 US Census lists Mamie Watt as living in Humboldt, TN with her two children and her aunt and grandmother.

1940 US Census

Lizzie	Fly	Head	F	61	Tennessee
Mamie	**Watt**	**Niece**	**F**	**46**	**Tennessee**
Fred	Watt	Grand-nephew	M	17	Tennessee
Floyd	Watt	Grand-nephew	M	16	Tennessee

The 1940 US Census lists Mamie Watt as living in Humboldt, TN with her children and her aunt.

SSDI

Name:	**Mamie Watt**
Birth Date:	20 Apr 1893
State:	Tennessee
Last Residence:	Gibson, Tennessee
Died:	Jan 1972

The SSDI shows that Mamie Watt likely died in January 1972

Family summary

Father:	Richard	Welford	(c. 1850 - after 1920)
Mother:	Heddie	Johnson	(c. 1855 - before 1900)
Sister:	Castoria	Welford	(9 Nov 1873 - 25 May 1951)
Sister:	Melissa	Welford	(c. 1878 - after 1880)
Brother:	Johnson	Welford	(Mar 1880 - after 1880)
Brother:	Charlie	Welford	(< 16 May 1885 - 18 Apr 1971)
Brother:	Howard	Welford	(< 27 Mar 1886 - 12 Apr 1962)
Sister:	Mamie	Welford	(1 Oct 1889 - after 1971)
Son:	Leo	Mathis	(25 Nov 1896 - 7 Jul 1966)

The family listing in the 1900 US Census does appear to have understated the ages of some of the Welford children.

Case summary

1880 US Census I:	Supports 1874/1875
1880 US Census II:	Supports 1874/1875
1880 MS Census I:	Supports 1874/1875
1880 MS Census I:	Supports 1875/1876
1885 MS School Census:	Supports 1876
1892 MS School Census:	Supports 1875
1900 US Census:	Supports April 1876
1910 US Census:	Supports 1882/1883
1920 US Census:	Supports 1873/1874
1930 US Census:	Supports 1879/1880
1940 US Census:	Supports 1879/1880
1950 US Census:	Supports 1881
1965 SSA:	Supports 9 September 1880
SSDI:	Supports 9 September 1880

There is proof of birth, mid-life documentation, and death. This case is interesting because it appears that most of the Welford siblings deflated their ages later in life. There is strong evidence that the 1880 US Censuses belong to the correct family, the biggest surprise is that a child named Delphia Welford is listed as being five years old in both censuses, ruling out the possibility that her age was inaccurately recorded in one of the censuses. There is furthermore a younger sibling aged two in both the censuses, meaning that a birth in September 1877 or later is extremely unlikely as well.

The 1900 US Census lists a young woman named Della Welford as living in Humboldt, TN. With Della are two individuals that reappear in the definite 1910 and 1920 US Census matches for Delphia Welford, Mattie Roe and Delphia's son Leo.

The 1900 US Census lists a birth in April 1876, which isn't really consistent with her claimed birthdate of September.

The 1910 US Census lists Delphia Welford with her son and a few other people, including Mattie Roe, as living in Humboldt, TN. This document lists Delphia as being 27 years old and her son as being 14 years old, suggesting she gave birth at the age of 13.

The 1920 US Census lists Delphia with her son, his wife and daughter, Mattie Roe and a few other people in Humboldt, TN. Delphia's age is now given as 46 (an age of 36 was first written then crossed out).

The 1930, 1940 and 1950 US Censuses record Delphia Welford as being 50, 60 and 68 years old, respectively. She's listed with her son's family in Humboldt, TN.

The 1965 SSA shows that Delphia claimed to have been born on 9 September 1880 at the time.

The articles from 1966-1992 confirm Delphia's identity and rule out the possibility of an identity mix-up/theft.

The obituary and SSDI confirm that Delphia Welford died in Humboldt, TN on 14 November 1992 and that she claimed to have been 111 years old at the time.

There is very strong evidence supporting Delphia Welford having been born in either 1874 or 1875, rather than 1881 as she herself claimed.
From the investigation on her relatives we see that all the siblings that I could find documentation for deflated their ages by five or more years later in life or at the time of their deaths.
The only possibility that Delphia Welford wasn't extremely old is if she was born in the early 1880s but wasn't enumerated in the school censuses or the 1900 US Census, which appears unlikely considering that there is a 1900 US Census match for a Della Welford listed with two people that appear in the 1910 and 1920 US Censuses for the definite Delphia Welford.
The obituary for Delphia Welford mentions that she was born in Okolona, MS and moved to Gibson, TN as an infant. The 1900 US Census for Gibson, TN list only one possible candidate for Delphia Welford.[2] All other listed people with soundex similar names can be ruled out because they are either listed with their parents or are even older than the woman aged 24 in the census record.
To the mix of deflated ages we can add that Delphia's son, Leo Mathis, claimed to have been born in 1901/1902 at the time of his death but that the 1900-1940 US Censuses all suggest a birth in 1897 or earlier. Leo's SSDI[3] and grave[4] both suggest a birth in the 1800s as well.

The lowest possible age validated as, based on the gathered documentation, would be 9 September 1876 and a final age of 116 years, 66 days (assuming the April 1876 listing in 1900 isn't considered the lowest possible age, then she'd be four months older, or a possible birth in April 1877 but then that would contradict the six earliest documents).
The highest possible age validated as, based on the gathered documentation, would be 9 September 1874 and a final age of 118 years, 66 days.

All this taken together, I find it very likely that Delphia Welford was born on 9 September 1875 and died on 14 November 1992, aged 117 years, 66 days.

---

[2] https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&localeSubcountryName=Tennessee&query=%2Bgivenname%3Adel*~%20%2Bsurname%3Aw*~%20%2Bbirth_year%3A1870-1890~%20%2Bresidence_place%3Agibson~%20%2Bresidence_year%3A1900-1900~%20%2Brecord_country%3A%22United%20States%22%20%2Brecord_subcountry%3A%22United%20States%2CTennessee%22

[3] https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JL4P-ZJS

[4] https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=175862617

Sincerely,
Jimmy Lindberg



Delphia Welford (center) in 1984