

illgitimate child of Ann Smallpiece." Both were destined to become casualties of the Civil War.

On Dec. 8, 1841, James M. Tapley, acknowledging that he was John's blood father, had the lad's name legally changed to John C. Tapley. (James M. couldn't have been the father of Wiley Smallpiece, for there was only a 10-year difference in their ages.)

James M. and Media Ann evidently married before the 1840 census was taken. The household of Sarah (Sally) Tapley in that census included herself (60-69 age category), two males in the 20-29 category, who had to have been James M. and his still-unmarried twin brother, George Washington (Wash) Tapley; a female 20-29, who evidently was Media Ann; two females 10-14, who were too old to have been James M.'s children but may have been Media Ann's from a previous marriage or earlier romantic liaisons that did not result in marriage; and a male under five, who evidently was John.

In April of 1844---which evidently was after the court-house fire, since the record still exists---James M. Tapley was awarded a divorce in a suit, an extremely rare action for those times, in which he was the plaintiff. His wife's name is stated in the suit as Medey Ann Tapley.

"Midey" used in the custody action, "Medey" used in the divorce, "Medy" used in the 1850 census and "Meedy" used when she remarried in 1859 all are reflections of the rural Scotch-Irish brogue's phonetic corruption of the name Media. In censuses after 1850, the name was spelled correctly, but it undoubtedly continued to be mispronounced, since the Scotch-Irish brogue does not permit the enunciation of an "a" sound at the end of a name.

There is some doubt about Media's year of birth and parentage. Although she was an Edenfield when she gave birth to John C. Edenfield (Tapley), that may have been the name of an earlier husband. That possibility is raised by Media's having lived in 1850, six years after her divorce from James M. Tapley and nine years before her marriage to Caleb Love (1790 - 1860-70), in the home of Lavina Webb, whose age of 60 at the time suggests she could have been Media's mother.

The 1840 census, when she evidently was living in the home of her mother-in-law, Sarah (Sally) Tapley, indicated Media was between 20 and 29, an age category that is consistent with her stated age of 45 in the 1860 census, taken shortly after she married Caleb Love, a much older widower, on Sept. 7, 1859. But those two ages are inconsistent with the age of 28 shown for Media in the Webb household in 1850 and the age of 60 given for her in 1870.

The 1830 census of Emanuel County indicates there were seven Edenfield males of the right age to have been a husband of Media, but there also were three Edenfield females who could have been Media. There also was living in Lavina Webb's household in 1830 (Lavina did not appear in the 1840 census) a female of the right age to have been Media. But the most logical assumption is that Media was born an Edenfield and, for whatever reason, chose to live, after her divorce from James M. Tapley, with Lavina Webb. It is possible that Lavina was married first to an Edenfield, by whom she may have had Media, before marrying a Webb.

Living in the Webb household with Lavina and Media in 1850 were two young girls, Allafair, 5, and Ellen, 2, who were still with Media in Caleb Love's household in 1860. Also in the household were three children, Emily, 7, Melvina, 5, and B. Ann, eight months, who were too young to have been Caleb's by his previous wife, Jemima (MNU), b. 1790, with whom he was still living in 1850. All five of those children are presumed to have been born to Media out of wedlock between her two marriages, although it is possible that B. Ann was born, if not conceived, after Media and Caleb married.

By 1870, Caleb had died and Media was living in Washington County as the head of a household that also included all five of the children. Ellafair's name was shown then as Ellapha, Emily's as Alice (Emily Alice?), Melvina's as Shillia (Melvina Shillia?) and B. Ann's as Beamia, their ages confirming they were the same children who were with Media 10 years earlier. There also was a two-year-old girl named Victoria, who was too young to have been the daughter of Media, whose age was given as 60 but probably was about 55.

## **1. John C. (Edenfield) Tapley**

Born John C. Edenfield in 1838, the illegitimate son of James M. Tapley and Media Ann Edenfield. After his parents later married, his father had John C.'s last name legally changed from Edenfield to Tapley. He died about 1865, a casualty of the Civil War. Before leaving home to enter the Confederate Army, John C. made a will, an unusual occurrence in those times for someone so young. The will, which named his father as the executor, bequeathed all his earthly possessions to his "friend," Amanda P. Davis. He evidently used the term "friend" to avoid stating his true relationship to Amanda, which was father. Both Amanda and her younger brother, Emanuel Davis, were John C.'s illegitimate children, born to Vianna Davis (1841 - 3-12-1891), d. of Lewis