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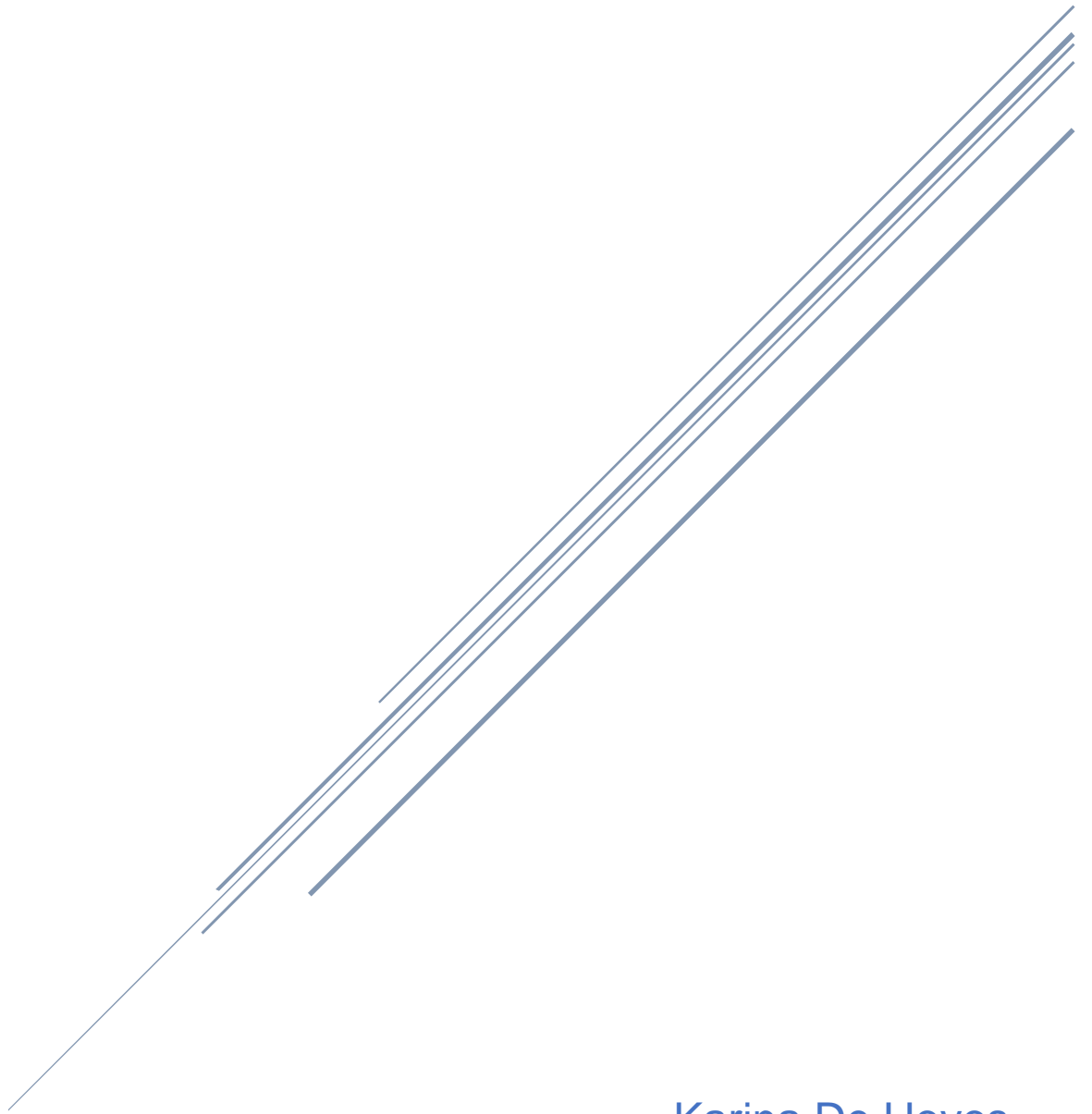
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THE LIFE OF A FORMER SLAVE IN BEXAR COUNTY



Karina De Hoyos
Historical Methods

The Slave Narrative Collection from the WPA Federal Writers' Project, housed at the Library of Congress, has over 2,300 first-person accounts and 500 black and white photographs of people who were born into slavery.¹ Numerous historians have relied on these narratives to help them in their work to have a better understanding of slavery. Many people did not know how, or even where, to start their new lives, but they knew they needed to find a way to make a living, or ultimately seek work from their former masters. Despite numerous obstacles in their lives before and after the Civil War, many of the former slaves living in San Antonio in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were able to accomplish many things throughout their lives. Many former slaves who gave written accounts remained in Texas after gaining their freedom. Albert Todd was one of many who ended up in Bexar county. This paper serves as a tool to highlight their struggles and how they managed to adapt to a new way of living and to recognize these individuals who once resided in Bexar county. The slave narratives that were taken in San Antonio from between the years 1936 and 1938 will be designated as the starting point for this project, not only to better understand the lives of former slaves both during and after slavery, but also to understand how the transition from slavery to freedom influenced the trajectory of the next two generations.

Albert Todd was born into the institution of slavery on June 9th, 1855, in Russellville, Kentucky. He was the son of Albert Todd Sr. and Polly Todd, both of whom were born in Russellville, Kentucky. There are no confirmed records, such as death certificates, for his parents, although research does point to a possible date, place, and age of death. An Arkansas

¹ Aside from Slave Narratives, the Library of Congress holds an extensive collection on topics like science, U.S. & foreign law, aeronautics, and much more.
<https://www.loc.gov/>

Death Index had an Albert Todd listed, who could potentially be his father, as date and place of death match, but there was no actual death certificate on record.²

Being a slave meant you were not viewed as an individual, but as someone else's property in a lucrative institution. Todd was owned by a Captain Hudson who owned a fruit orchard. He describes his "regular" work as a child slave as being the protector of the "young missus, Nannie Hudson." Nannie Hudson is, of course, the daughter of Captain Hudson. It was young Albert Todd's duty to watch after Hudson's child. At the age of just eight years old, while Nannie was eleven, he would accompany her on her five mile walks every day to school. While Nannie was in class, young Albert Todd would wait on the steps for her to walk her back home. He was there all throughout her life to witness Nannie grow up, get married, and eventually pass away. At the age of eighty-six, even after so many years, he was able to recall Nannie in his narrative and how he "allus loved her."³

There were several people with the surname of Hudson, but there were only a few that fit the criteria of being Captain Hudson, former master of Albert Todd. An 1850 census included a man named James H. Hudson, from Garrard, Kentucky⁴, who would be the closest possible match. In 1835, James H. Hudson married Elizabeth Burnside⁵ and together they had many

² "Arkansas, Death Index, 1914-1950," digital image s.v. "Albert Todd" (death 2 Jan. 1926), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 12, 2020.

³ Many of the interviewees were white and not trained in phonetic transcription of speech.
Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narrative Project, Vol. 16, Texas, Part 4, Sanco-Young
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/articles-and-essays/note-on-the-language-of-the-narratives/>

⁴ 1850 United States Census, 1 Division, Garrard, Kentucky, digital image s.v. "James H. Hudson," *Ancestry.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

⁵ "Kentucky, County Marriage Records, 1783-1965," s.v. "Elizabeth Burnside" (1835) *Ancestry.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

children.⁶ Nancy, who went by the nickname Nannie, was one of the many children of James and Elizabeth.⁷ According to Todd's narrative, Todd mentioned that he and Nannie were close in age, but in the 1850 census, Nancy was already 10 years old.⁸ This would mean that Albert Todd's listed birth year of 1855 was off by a couple of years.

In the year 1860, the Hudson family lived in Logan County, Kentucky.⁹ On an 1860's slave schedule, Hudson was listed as having eight enslaved people. If the birth year was off, this would leave two potential matches that could be Albert Todd, a thirteen year old and an eight year old.¹⁰ James H. Hudson died on July 31st, 1860.¹¹ This was about a year before the Civil War started. According to Todd, Hudson would have died during the Civil War but there was no death certificate to confirm his death. Soon after James H. Hudson's death the "missus" decided to pack up and head to Texas which would land them on a farm in Lavernia, Texas. Todd mentions that his "missus" was good to them and describes the cruelty of the neighbor who would cut the ears of his slaves so he could identify them if they ran away. Nannie got married to a man named William R. Trainer on August 11, 1864 in Bexar County.¹² This leads to further

⁶ 1850 United States Census, 1 Division, Garrard, Kentucky, digital image s.v. "James H. Hudson," *Ancestry.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

⁷ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/116600103/person/370172876163/facts>

⁸ 1850 United States Census, 1 Division, Garrard, Kentucky, digital image s.v. "James H. Hudson," *Ancestry.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

⁹ 1860 United States Census, District 2, Logan, Kentucky, digital image s.v. "Jas H. Hudson," *Ancestry.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

¹⁰ 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules, District 2, Logan, Kentucky, digital image s.v. "Jas H Hudson," *Ancesrty.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

¹¹ James H. Hudson, grave marker, Old Red Oak Cemetery, Logan County, Kentucky, digital image s.v. "James H. Hudson" *FindaGrave.com*, accessed May 5, 2020.

¹² "Texas, Marriage Index, 1824-2014," s.v. "Nancy B. Hudson," (1864) *Ancestry.com*

confirmation that this was the potential Hudson family that Todd was owned by. Nannie had three children and later died in 1869.¹³ Which would then validate Albert Todd's narrative saying he was in her life when she had passed away. There were no definite results that concretely verify these memories, but that does not mean they are wholly inaccurate.

He was kept a slave three years after the war, which ended in 1865 that would make him ten years old. This seems to make sense as he states in his narrative how he "didn't know nothin' bout bein' free" and how he got picked up by a Mrs. Gibbs who was nothing but evil to him. During his attempt to run away, he was found by his sister who takes him to a ranch owned by a man named Widman. Albert Todd and his sister remained living on the ranch and he ended up working there. There are no records of a sister, Mrs. Gibbs, or Widman.¹⁴

He would be a free man in the year 1868, being around the age of thirteen. At this time in his life, he was still possibly working with Widman since he does mention he worked there a long time and that he was "free from that Gibbs woman." However, he was not listed in the 1870 census, when he would have been listed as being around fifteen years old. Roughly twelve years from the point of being a free man in the year 1868, he appears in the 1880 census.¹⁵

The family tree I was able to construct for Todd and his family essentially starts with the 1880 census, but his spouse's situation seems a little odd. Todd got married on June 11th, 1876 in Wilson County, Texas to Amy Johnson at the age twenty-one.¹⁶ Sources indicate that Todd and Amy Johnson had fifteen children, and this was the only marriage for which there was a

¹³ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/116600103/person/370172876163/facts>

¹⁴ *Federal Writers' Project: Slave Narrative Project, Vol. 16, Texas, Part 4, Sanco-Young*

¹⁵ 1880 United States Census, 149 District, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

¹⁶ "Texas, Marriage Index, 1824-2014," s.v. "Amy Johnson" (11 Jun 1876), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

certificate. Their children's death certificates, however, show discrepancies in regard to the name of their mother, listing either Amy Johnson or Amy Stevenson, which was very likely to be a mistake. The marriage certificate for one of their children had Amy Johnson listed as the mother, while the death certificate for the same person gives Annie Stevenson as the mother. They are more than likely to be the same person, but were spelled incorrectly.

In 1880, Albert Todd was a twenty-five-year-old farmer in Wilson County, which in present day consists of several small towns: La Vernia, Sutherland Springs, Stockdale, Pandora, Denhawken, Poth, Floresville, Dewees, and Calaveras.¹⁷ He was the head of the household and lived with his wife Amy, who did the keeping of the house. During this year, neither Albert Todd nor his wife were able to read or write. At the time of the 1880 census, they had four children: Fearmon who was five, Fanny who was four, Charlie who was two, and Rob who was possibly two months old at the time, considering he was born in 1880. Other than their names, no additional information could be found on the children.¹⁸ Currently, no 1890 census record was available which could possibly provide more background information on which children survived and which did not.¹⁹

By 1900, Albert Todd was still living in Wilson County as a farmer and head of the household, 20 years after the last known census he was listed on. Albert Todd, who was forty-five years of age during this year, could not read or write, unlike his wife who had learned. Together, they rented their home and lived on a farm. He and his wife had a total of fifteen children. They also had an orphan girl named Ally Taylor, 15, who was living with them. Albert

¹⁷ <https://goo.gl/maps/x237YMSvuTobqJAA8>

¹⁸ 1880 United States Census, 149 District, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020.

¹⁹ Census' population schedules were badly damaged in a fire in the Commerce Building.
https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/availability_of_1890_census.html

Todd's sons George, 11, and Jefferson, 10, did attend school and were able to read and write at this age. Todd's daughters, whose ages ranged from 4 to 8, did not attend school. Only seven out of fifteen of Todd's children were listed on the census.²⁰ This could possibly mean that several of that older children were already married and no longer lived with Todd.

By 1910, Todd and his family had moved from Wilson County to 120 Sherman Ally, San Antonio, Texas in Bexar County.²¹ Todd was still the head of the family, but his occupation had changed. Around this time, he no longer was a farmer, but worked as a laborer in the city. His wife, Amy, was a laundress at their home. Still, ten years later, seven out fifteen children were still in the household, including a granddaughter. The record shows that the three children who attended school were all girls whose ages ranged from 10 to 14. The granddaughter, who was five years old, does not attend school at this time.²² It is worth noting that the 1910 census indicates that Albert Todd was able to read and write.²³ This highlights a major accomplishment for this individual who was born into slavery and was not able to get an education.

In 1920, Todd was still renting, but moved from the home on Sherman Ally to 329 Pass Hondo Street.²⁴ This is where the discrepancy with the wife's name occurs. The listed name changes from Amy to Annie. During this year, there were fewer children living in the home. The grandchildren who lived in the home consist of both boys and girls, ranging from ages 7 to 14

²⁰ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020.

²¹ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020.

²² 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020.

²³ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020.

²⁴ 1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

years old, all attending school.²⁵ The household now had a son-in-law and six grandchildren added on the record.²⁶ Todd was working as a yardman for a private family, while his wife was listed as being unemployed.

A 1930 census shows that Albert Todd moved from his home on Pass Hondo Street to 125 Potomac street.²⁷ He lived in this home with his Amy, Zadie, son-in-law Idell, and three grandchildren. Todd was still a yardman, however, he was working for the public. Unfortunately, nearing the end of the decade in 1938, Amy died at the age seventy-six of bronchopneumonia and cardiac failure. She was buried in Eastview Cemetery.²⁸

In 1940, the family had moved a few blocks down from their home at 125 Potomac Street to 610 Potomac Street. During this year, Albert Todd was no longer the head of the house; Todd's daughter Zadie was in charge of the household. There was no job listed for Albert Todd since he was eighty-five years old in the year 1940. By looking at the census, one can assume that Zadie took care of her father since he was listed in her household, as opposed to her being

²⁵1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

²⁶1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

²⁷ 1930 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

²⁸“Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982,” digital image s.v. “Annie Todd” (1861-1938), *Ancestry.com*, accessed January 29, 2020.

listed on his census.²⁹ Albert Todd died later that year in June at the age of eighty-five years old: he was buried at Eastview Cemetery.³⁰

Research on Albert Todd's children was more complex due to there being several children who do not have death certificates. After searching for additional information regarding these documents, it was discovered that death certificates were made statewide in 1908.³¹ While Todd and his wife had a total of fifteen children, only eight death certificates have been found.

Fearmon Todd was Albert Todd's oldest child, born on July 16th, 1875 in La Vernia, Texas³² Although Fearmon never had a birth certificate, his death certificate confirms his birth year of being in 1875. His first time listed in public records was on his father's 1880 census, however, he was listed as being three years old.³³ Fearmon never attended school as a child and did not yet know how to read or write, at least not until 1920.³⁴ In 1896, Fearmon Todd married Charity Fitzgerald in Floresville, Texas.³⁵ In the 1910 census, Fearmon and Charity lived on a farm and together they had a total of seven children, but one had passed away sometime before the census was taken. The six children listed on the census were Zelia, Fannie, Marita, Adolph, Central, and William. Only Zelia, 12, and Fannie, 11, attended school and were able to both read

²⁹ 1940 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2030

³⁰ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Albert Todd" (1855-1940), *Ancestry.com*, accessed January 29, 2020.

³¹ Death certificates become statewide in 1808
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Texas_Death_Records

³² "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Fearmon Todd" (1875-1950), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020.

³³ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Fearmon Todd" (1875-1950), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020

³⁴ 1920 United States Census, District 0204, Precinct 6, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Fearmon Dodd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed 18 Apr 2020.

³⁵ "Texas, Select County Marriage Index, 1837-1965," s.v. "Ferryman Todd" (1896), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

and write.³⁶ Their son James appears on the 1920 census at seven years old, which makes his birth year around 1913.³⁷

By the year 1920, they still rented a home in the Wilson County area. The Fearmon household was full of boys whose ages ranged from 7 to 15 years old. They all attended school and could read and write. He was still a farmer, but by this year he, too, was able to both read and write.³⁸ The Fearmon Todd household downsized in 1930, as it was just Fearmon, his wife, and his youngest son, James, who was eighteen and a laborer. He had continued being a farmer and he owned his home.³⁹ The home would get even smaller in 1932 when his wife Charity died at the age of fifty-six.⁴⁰ In 1940, Fearmon, who was no longer farming at the time, lived alone in his home. Although he owned this new home, he was sixty-four and widowed. During this time, he worked as a day laborer doing odd jobs.⁴¹ Ten years later, Fearmon Todd died on June 13th, 1950 at the age of seventy-four.⁴²

³⁶ 1910 United States Census, District 0163, Justice Precinct 6, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Famon Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

³⁷ 1920 United States Census, District 0204, Precinct 6, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Charity Dodd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

³⁸ 1920 United States Census, District 0204, Precinct 6, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Fearmon Dodd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed 18 Apr 2020.

³⁹ 1930 United States Census, District 0012, Precinct 6, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Charity Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020

⁴⁰ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Charity Todd" (1973-1932), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁴¹ 1940 United States Census, 247-11, Other Places, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. "Faymon Todd" *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁴² "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Fearmon Todd" (1875-1950), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020.

Fearmon Todd's daughter, Zelia, married Chas Applewhite, but died at the age of thirty-nine in the year 1939.⁴³ It is unknown if Zelia had any children. Fannie Todd, Fearmon's second daughter, married a man named Herbert Hartfield, and had one child named Herbert Hartfield Jr. Unfortunately, records show that in 1948⁴⁴, their baby died as an infant less than a day old. There is no known no death certificate on Fannie Todd. Fearmon Todd's last daughter, Marita, got married to Thomas Jackson, but other than her marriage, no other information is available.⁴⁵

Fearmon's son, Adolph, married Josephine Sheppard, together having four children.⁴⁶The youngest child, Ada Mae, died at the age of five years old in 1940.⁴⁷ There was no other information on Fearmon's sons, neither Leslie nor Bradley Todd. His other son, Persley, marries Marlene Bellinger⁴⁸ and had a child, but the information is withheld on Ancestry.com because they are living. This child would be Albert Todd's great-grandchild. Although there is no information available on two of Fearmon's sons, information was available for one son, Central. Central who was born on March 21st, 1907⁴⁹, and eventually married Lottie, having a total of

⁴³ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Zelia Applewhite" (1899-1938), *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020.

⁴⁴ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Herbert Hartfield" (1948-1948), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁴⁵ There is a box that has marriage and has a date and some number that could be a file number for the actual certificate but there is no actual source available. https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/19860139/person/19694247880/facts?_phsrc=dfF545&_phstart=successSource

⁴⁶ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/19860139/person/19276678189/facts>

⁴⁷ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Ada Mae Todd" (1934-1940), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁴⁸ Shows Marlene Bellinger as his spouse. <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/19860139/person/20001747897/facts>

⁴⁹ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Central Todd Sr." (1907-1972), *Ancestry.com*, accessed, April 18, 2020.

thirteen children. Central worked at the Wiseman Animal Hospital as a veterinary helper. He died on November 20th, 1972.⁵⁰

Albert Todd's oldest daughter, Fanny, was included on the 1880 census, however, there was no birth certificate to confirm her date of birth.⁵¹ While the 1880 census did state her birth year as being 1876, her death certificate lists her birth year being 1898.⁵²

J. Charlie, son of Albert Todd, has no death certificate associated with his name, but he does appear on the 1900 census where he is listed as a widower.⁵³ He is later listed on his father's 1920 census⁵⁴ working as a laborer. J. Charlie also appears to have remarried at this point in his life. The census shows some grandchildren are present, but it does not confirm that they are his children. No other information was found on him.

Robert Todd was born in the year 1880 in La Vernia, Texas.⁵⁵ He was the third child of Albert and Amy Todd. Robert Todd died fairly young on March 18th, 1912, at the age of thirty-two years old.⁵⁶ By following his death certificate, a wife can be found, listed as Malvena Todd. Robert and Malvena had three children: a son, Hillery, who was eight, and two daughters, Alto and Thelma, who are five and seven. All three children appear on the 1910 census.⁵⁷ This census record matches Roberts age, mother and father's birthplace, as well as his own spouse, who was

⁵⁰“Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982,” digital image s.v. “Central Todd Sr.” (1907-1972), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁵¹ 1880 United States Census, 149 District, Wilson, Texas, digital image s.v. “Albert Todd,” *Ancestry.com* accessed February 26, 2030

⁵² “Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982,” digital image s.v. “Fannie M. Clack” (1898-1964), *Ancestry.com* accessed, May 10, 2020

⁵³ 1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. “Albert Todd,” *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020

⁵⁴ 1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. “Albert Todd,” *Ancestry.com*

⁵⁵ “Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982,” digital image s.v. “Robert Todd” (1880-1912), *Ancestry.com*

⁵⁶ “Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982,” digital image s.v. “Robert Todd” (1880-1912), *Ancestry.com*

⁵⁷ 1910 United States Census, District 0054, San Antonio, Bexar Ward 7, Texas, digital image s.v. “Robert Todd,” *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020

the informant on his death certificate. His occupation was listed as an inspector for the railroad and the census states that he owned his home and it also had a mortgage. His home was listed as being located on Iowa St. This was the last census he appeared on since he died two years later. There was no information on the two daughters, but through research, it was presented that Hillery Todd, Robert Todd's son, later had a daughter named Joyce. This would make Joyce the great-granddaughter of Albert Todd, but there was no additional information on her.⁵⁸

Amy Todd was born on December 12th, 1882 in La Vernia, Texas⁵⁹. Amy does not appear on any of Albert Todd's census records. There was a marriage index where an Amy Todd married man named Andrew Fitzgerald in 1898 in Floresville, Texas.⁶⁰ Amy would have been about sixteen years old at the time of marriage. This was later confirmed on both Amy and her husband's death certificate, with their informant being their daughter Helen Mc. Intyre. Amy had three children: Lena, Helen, and Robert Fitzgerald. Her husband, who was a farmer, died in 1947.⁶¹ Amy died several years later on June 3rd, 1968, at the age of eighty-five years old. She was buried in Cruse Colony Cemetery alongside her husband.⁶²

⁵⁸ This shows a daughter named Joyce but shows no spouse. https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/73955138/person/46286044812/facts?_phsrc=dfF550&_phstart=successSource

⁵⁹ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Amy Fitzgerald" (1882-1968), *Ancestry.com*

⁶⁰ "Texas, Select County Marriage Index, 1837-1965," s.v. "Amy Todd" (1898), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020

⁶¹ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Amy Fitzgerald" (1882-1968), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020

"Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Andrew Fritzgerald" (1881-1947), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁶² Andrew Fitzgerald, grave marker, Cruse Colony Cemetery, La Vernia, Wilson County, Texas, digital image s.v. "Andrew Fitzgerald," *FindaGrave.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

Amy Todd Fitzgerald, grave marker, Cruse Colony Cemetery, La Vernia, Wilson County, Texas, digital image s.v. "Amy Todd Fitzgerald," *FindaGrave.co*, accessed April 18, 2020.

There was a death certificate for one of Amy Todd's daughters, Lena, who was Albert Todd's granddaughter. Lena was born on August 10th, 1900, showing that she was a housewife married to Frasher Hartfield.⁶³ Lena and Frasher had a daughter named Bernice Louise Hartfield.⁶⁴ Lena Hartfield passed away at a very young age of forty-four at the Austin State Hospital, the cause of death being exhaustion from psychosis, with contributing causes listed as manic depressive.⁶⁵ Todd's great-granddaughter, Bernice Louise Hartfield, was married in 1940 and had two children named Sam and Lena Marie, outliving both children. Bernice lived to be 101 years of age, passing away in 2018.⁶⁶ No records were available for Todd's grandson, Robert Fitzgerald's, nor was a death certificate discovered. However, Robert was married to Ira Johnson and he worked in Civil Service as a machinist. Robert died on May 25th, 1982.⁶⁷ No records were found showing if he ever had children.

On a 1910 census, Lena Todd was shown to be twenty-two years old and had one child who appeared at the end of the census.⁶⁸ The child's name was Iona Taylor and she was five years old at the time. This would make Lena about seventeen years old when she had her daughter. Unfortunately, there were no records of her mother, however, on a Texas Marriage

⁶³ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Lena Hartfield" (1900-1944), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁶⁴ Hartfield, Clifton. "Sign In." *Ancestry*. Accessed April 19, 2020. <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/102749156/person/100024731984/story>.

⁶⁵ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Lena Hartfield" (1900-1944), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁶⁶ Hartfield, Clifton. "Sign In." *Ancestry*. Accessed April 19, 2020. <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/102749156/person/100024731984/story>.

1940 United States Census, 94-8, Other Places, Guadalupe, Texas, digital image s.v. "Bernice Ball," *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁶⁷ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital images s.v. "Robert Fitzgerald" (1902-1982), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020.

⁶⁸ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

Index, there was a John Taylor who married a woman named Lena Todd in Floresville, Texas in 1904.⁶⁹ It is uncertain whether this Lena Todd who married John Taylor was the Lena Todd whose father was Albert Todd. If one were to go off these records, Lena would have been sixteen at the time of marriage and Iona would have been born a year later. If Lena Todd was tied to marriage index records, this would make sense as they lived in the same area, unfortunately the actual document was not accessible to confirm if this was Lena Todd, Albert's daughter. Something must have happened between 1920 and 1940⁷⁰, as Lena Todd was absent from census records after 1910. In 1920, Iona Taylor was instead listed on Albert Todd's census, but her mother was not.⁷¹ At this time, Iona was still under the age of eighteen, and was later absent from the 1930 census. Then in 1940, she appeared on Zadie Johnson's census, under Iona Johnson. There, Iona was listed as a niece, working as an unmarried housekeeper. It was possible that her mother passed away, and that Zadie Johnson took her in and changed her name, or she got married.⁷²

George Todd was born around the year 1889 in La Vernia, Texas. His death certificate had some added things, such as being born on August 6th, 1889, showing that he was single.

⁷³When searching for additional information on his life, his name pulls up on the 1900's census,

⁶⁹ "Texas, Select County Marriage Index, 1837-1965," s.v. "John Taylor" (1904), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020.

⁷⁰ 1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

1930 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

1940 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2030

⁷¹ 1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

⁷² 1940 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2030

⁷³ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Geo Todd" (1889-1917), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

where he was eleven years old.⁷⁴ His death certificate had his name shortened to Geo, rather than George. Upon further research, a World War I Draft Registration Card was found that matched his identity.⁷⁵ This card shows George being the age of twenty-seven, although the card does not have a date. The card had a few discrepancies, like his birth year, which was listed as 1890, and that he was married with one child. The card was signed under George Todd, which strengthens the possibility that this was the correct George Todd. Other than the registration card, there was no other information on him. George Todd passed away on June 27th, 1917, of typhoid fever at the age of 29 in La Vernia, Texas, where he lived as a farmer.⁷⁶

Alva, being the eighth child, born around the year 1891 and Izza, the tenth child, born in 1893. There were no known death certificates, although both children appear in the 1900's census only.⁷⁷ It is a possibility that both children passed away and did not receive death certificates, being as they lived on a farm out in the country.

Jefferson J.D. Todd was Albert Todd's ninth child, born on January 15th, 1892.⁷⁸ In Albert Todd's 1910 census, Jefferson was single and was listed as a laborer.⁷⁹ He was later

⁷⁴ 1900 United States Census, District 0121, Justice Precinct 06, Wilson, Texas, digital images s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020.

⁷⁵ "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital images s.v. "Geo Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁷⁶ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Geo Todd" (1889-1917), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁷⁷ 1900 United States Census, District 0121, Justice Precinct 06, Wilson, Texas, digital images s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 18, 2020.

⁷⁸ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Jefferson J.D. Todd" (1892-1971), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020.

⁷⁹ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020.

married on March 4th, 1911, to Ora Fritzgerald.⁸⁰ Then, in the 1920 census, he was on his father's census, but his wife was not listed. In this census, it listed Jefferson as a porter.⁸¹ On the bottom of the certificate, it states that it was returned on February 2nd, 1971, stating that it is a true copy of the original record with the same date. The marriage certificate had a note on the bottom stating, "information from original."⁸² Jefferson passed on January 23rd, 1971, at the age of seventy-nine years old. He was a retired porter at the S.P. Railroad Company.⁸³ After extensive research, no other information was available, nor were there any records showing that he had children.

Charlie H. was born in June of 1895 in La Vernia, Texas, he was Todd's eleventh child. Charlie H. died November of 1946, at the time he was a widowed carpenter. No other information was present regarding his life. There is, however, a name that is listed as an informant on his death certificate by the name of Albert C. Todd with an address of 216 Illg Ave, San Antonio, Texas. However, there was no other information as to who the informant was.

Zadie Johnson, the twelfth child to Albert and Amy Todd, seemed to be the only constant person throughout their lives. Even after she got married, Zadie is still present in Albert and Amy's life. Zadie was born on August 26th, 1897, in La Vernia, Texas⁸⁴. She attended school

⁸⁰ "The County of Bexar, County Clerk" s.v. "Ora Fritzgerald" (March 11, 1911), bexar.tx.publicsearch.us, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁸¹ 1920 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2020

⁸² "The County of Bexar, County Clerk" s.v. "Ora Fritzgerald" (March 11, 1911), bexar.tx.publicsearch.us, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁸³ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Jefferson J.D. Todd" (1892-1971), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 16, 2020.

⁸⁴ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Zadie Johnson" (1897-1973), *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

and was able to read and write, according to the 1910 census.⁸⁵ On January 31st, 1917, Zadie married Idell Johnson.⁸⁶ Idell served in the Army as a cook during World War I.⁸⁷ In 1930, Zadie and Idell had three children: Willie, Eva, and Charles Etta. At this time, Zadie had no job listed and Idell was listed as doing odd jobs.⁸⁸ By the year 1940, records indicate that she was still living in her home on 610 Potomac Street that she rented. She is a laundress, while her husband is a porter for Southern Pacific Railroad.⁸⁹ Idell died on April 22nd, 1968, and is buried at Fort Sam National Cemetery.⁹⁰

Willie G. Johnson is Zadie Todd's son and Albert Todd's grandson. He was born on November 7th, 1922,⁹¹ and married Bessie Mae Johnson⁹². He served during World War II and

⁸⁵ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

⁸⁶ "The County of Bexar, County Clerk" s.v. "Zadie Todd" (January 31, 1917), bexar.tx.publicsearch.us, accessed April 18, 2020.

⁸⁷ "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital images s.v. "Idell Johnson," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

⁸⁸ 1930 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

⁸⁹ 1940 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 26, 2030

⁹⁰ Idell Johnson, grave marker, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, digital image s.v. "Idell Johnson," *FindaGrave.com*, accessed April 14, 2020.

⁹¹ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Willie G Johnson" (1922-1966), *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020.

⁹² "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Willie G Johnson" (1922-1966), *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020.

was a retired Army soldier.⁹³ He died on May 31st, 1966, due to terminal renal failure.⁹⁴ There were no found records showing if he and Bessie had a child. As for Zadio's other two children, their information was not available. The information that was found was set private on Ancestry.com due to the fact they are still possibly living.

Isabel's approximate birth year is 1896, which makes her fourteen years old in 1910.⁹⁵ A death certificate was found for Isabella Clack who was a resident at Central Texas Nursing Home in Austin, Texas.⁹⁶ Under the father and mother, both Albert Todd and Annie Johnson are listed as Isabella's parents. Although this seems to be a perfect match, the birth year seems to be off by three years, as well as the name being off a couple characters. Also, Ms. Clack is noted as being buried at Eastview Cemetery in San Antonio, which is the same cemetery where both Albert and Annie Todd are buried.⁹⁷ This could be a match for Isabel Todd.

Alma Todd is presented as being twelve years old on a 1910 census.⁹⁸ Here, it states she does have a job as a laundress. It lists that she did not attend school but was able to read and write. Unfortunately, there is no death certificate for her and no additional information on her

⁹³ Willie Johnson, grave marker, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, digital image s.v. "Willie Johnson," *FindaGrave.com*, accessed April 14, 2020.
Bessie M Johnson, grave marker, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, digital image s.v. "Bessie M Johnson," *FindaGrave.com*, accessed April 14, 2020.

⁹⁴ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Willie G Johnson" (1922-1966), *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020.

⁹⁵ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

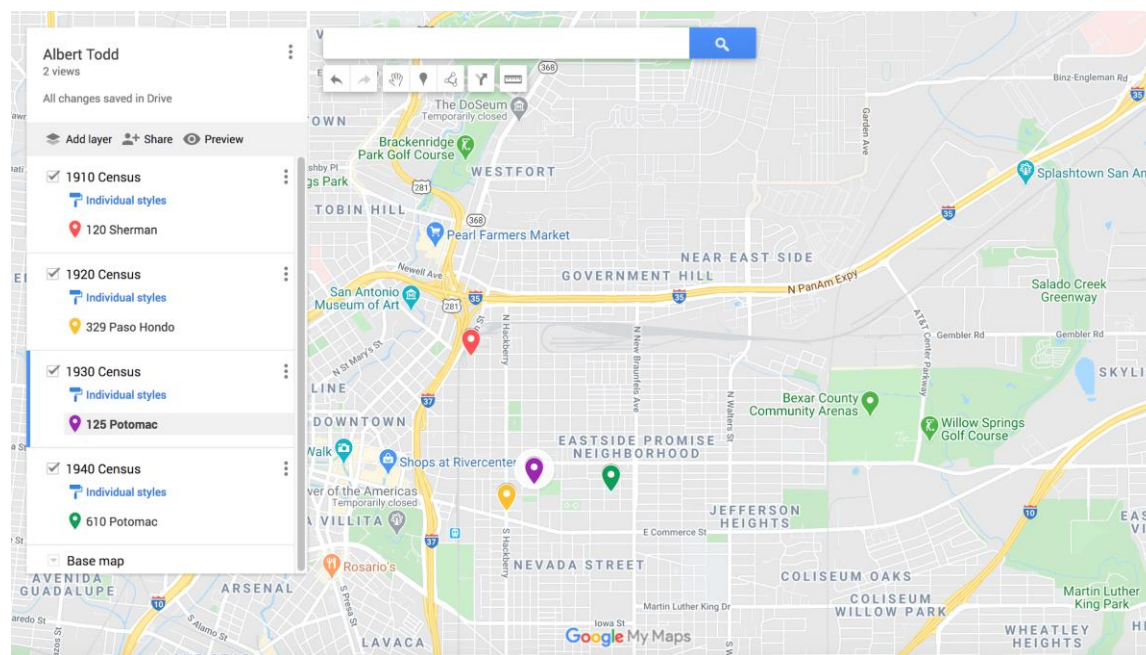
⁹⁶ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Isabella Clark" (1899-1977), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁹⁷ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Isabella Clark" (1899-1977), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 17, 2020.

⁹⁸ 1910 United States Census, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, digital image s.v. "Albert Todd," *Ancestry.com*, accessed February 19, 2020

life. Eva Todd unfortunately died on October 28th, 1916, at the age of eighteen. Eva was buried in La Vernia, Texas.⁹⁹

[Albert Todd's address](#)



The map I constructed above shows the forty years Albert Todd lived in the city. He left his farm in Wilson County after the 1900's to live in San Antonio. Todd moved just about every ten years but stays predominantly in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood.

Albert Todd started out as a farmer, but as he moved to the city, his occupation went from laborer and a yardman over the years. As for his children, many of the older boys were farmers and never moved to the city. Most of the daughters held jobs as laundresses and housekeepers, some even being occasional cooks. Their occupations did not stray far from the home. As for the younger sons, they did have different occupations from their father and older

⁹⁹ "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," digital image s.v. "Eva Todd" (1898-1916), *Ancestry.com*, accessed April 18, 2020.

brothers. They were able to acquire skills for a trade such as carpentry, and some even worked as porters for the S.P. Railroad Co. They were able to have more established jobs than their father.

Occupations for Albert Todd's grandchildren does raise the bar for occupations, such as serving in the military for World War II and retiring from the army, veterinary science as a veterinary helper, as well as working in the Civil Service as machinist. These are all jobs that come a long way from their grandfather's life of a farmer and yarman/laborer.

Neither Albert Todd nor his wife Amy Todd knew how to read until they were adults. Half of Albert Todd's children did attend school, picking up literacy skills, while the other half did not attend school and learned how to read in adulthood. Todd's grandchildren attended school and had literacy skills during childhood.

The life of a slave is one of the hardest things imaginable. Being stripped of not only your freedom, but dignity as well. Some managed to find a better life after gaining their freedom, while others knew it to be a lifelong struggle. Although Albert Todd lived as a slave at one point in his life, he was still able to raise a family of his own. His family was fortunate enough to get educated and eventually find employment. With the help of historians, these former slaves who settled in Texas can live on throughout history with the stories they left behind. By utilizing their narratives and analyzing their family trees, one can paint a picture of these individuals' lives in hopes to better understand their struggles, as well as their accomplishments.



Albert Todd, ex-slave, San Antonio. San Antonio Texas United States, 1937. July 9. Photograph.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/99615383/>.

This is a photograph of Albert Todd that was taken during the time of his interview for his slave narrative in San Antonio, Texas

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