

## ***Eliza L. Wellborn Boggess***

***July 10, 1806 - April 18, 1873***

***By***

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Eliza's Wellborn's family relocated from Wilkes County, Georgia to Madison County, Alabama probably about 1817 when her Grandfather, Isaac Wellborn purchased land there and she was a young girl age 10 or 12. She represents the blending of two families of significant interest to us. Her Wellborn line brings very interesting lineage to join with the Boggess line when she took Bennett Boggess, Jr. as her husband. Eliza was a 6th generation American, her great great great grandfather being John Wellburne who floated into Jamestown on a post-ship wreck raft with other survivors on May 25th, 1610. This Wellburne line represents the earliest arrival in the New World of any of the family lines that are in this family's heritage. The Wellborn meaning derives from the idea about people who are well born and who have status in life.

Eliza was the youngest of the five children of Shelton and Pauline Wellborn. The man Eliza married, Bennett Boggess, Jr., was an established citizen of substance in Madison County. His name appeared on numerous legal documents in the 1820's and 1830's on record at the courthouse. He often assumed some legal responsibilities for orphans. Her three brothers were William, Starnes and Isaac. Her sister was Pauline.

Her grandfather, Isaac Wellborn, was the patriarch leading the family from Georgia to Madison County, Alabama about the time Alabama was being organized as a state. They lived in and around Huntsville, which became the county seat. Isaac was elected as one of five representatives to the very first session of the Legislature of the State of Alabama in 1818. So, Eliza was accustomed to seeing her family give leadership in the community around them.

Eliza and Bennett were married only 12 years before his death at the young age of 43, yet they gave issue to seven children, the last one being born after Bennett died. Their children were Harriett Eliza, Thomas Shelton (who died as an infant), Mary Polena, Thomas Shelton (a second use of that name after the death of the first), Vashti Eliza, Eugene Virginia and the daughter born after Bennett's death, Bennett Hepsabath Stearnes. It is of interest to note that the name Thomas Shelton Boggess received continued use to where Thomas Shelton Boggess V now

lives in Arizona. Actually, there were six of them, but the one dying in infancy did not get counted in the affixing of suffixes onto the names.

Widowed at age 36, she moved to Noxubee County where two of her brothers had resided since the 1833 founding of Noxubee County. For many years, the Boggess family of Noxubee County did not know what brought Eliza and her children to Mississippi. The light finally dawned upon the discovery in the County Courthouse records was made of the transaction whereby Eliza purchased land.

She had sold land in Madison County, Alabama in 1853 and purchased land in Noxubee Dec. 29, 1856 with funds borrowed by those brothers. She was age 50 at that time. Prior to that discovery, the Boggess family had not realized that her brothers somehow had migrated from Georgia to Mississippi. Of further mystery is that documentation about her brothers continued presence in Noxubee County has not yet been found. We do not know what may have happened to them or to any descendants they may have had, as that Wellborn name seems to have dropped out of the names of Noxubee County citizens.

The Boggess family has a Loving Cup she won in Macon at the Noxubee County Fair for culinary accomplishments. The engraving on the cup states, "Premium Noxubee Fair, 1859" and it is in the possession of T. S. Boggess, Jr. of Macon. The time of the family's arrival in Noxubee County is uncertain, but probably was shortly after selling the property in Alabama in 1853.

Eliza was a woman of character and determination. She raised a family that has provided a strong presence of leadership in the Noxubee County life, particularly giving leadership to for several generations in the Noxubee County Fairs.

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