

JOHN BELL GALLAWAY AND EUDOCIA MARGARET MARTIN

On June 3, 1868, **John Bell Gallaway (1843–1884)**, a twenty-four-year-old railroad employee and a Civil War veteran, married twenty-one-year-old **Eudocia Margaret Martin (1846–1927)** in Corinth, Mississippi.

John Bell Gallaway was born in the town of Moulton in Lawrence County in northwest Alabama, where his father, **Levi James Gallaway (1819–1867)**, was a newspaper editor. John Bell Gallaway's mother, **Rowena McCord (1816–1849)**, died when he was only five years old and his younger sister, **Harriet "Hattie" McCrary Gallaway (1848–1892)**, was one year old. After their mother's death, the two children were primarily raised by their aunt **Cynthia McCord (1818–1889)** in Lawrence County and in Corinth.

At age seventeen, John Bell Gallaway was living with his father and stepmother in Columbus, Mississippi, where he was working as a printer in early 1861, when Mississippi seceded from the Union and the Civil War began. His father, Levi Gallaway, was run out of town for his Union sympathies, but John Bell Gallaway stayed behind and almost immediately joined the Confederate Army. From ages seventeen to twenty-one, John Bell Gallaway experienced a long and rather adventurous Civil War career.¹ In February 1862, he was captured at the Battle of Fort Donelson² on the Cumberland River in Tennessee. His imprisonment lasted for between five and six months, mostly at Camp Douglas³ on the southern side of Chicago. John Bell Gallaway was released in a prisoner exchange in September 1862, and he immediately rejoined his previous military unit. During eight months in 1863, he was stationed in Meridian, Mississippi, to guard the railroad line there. In 1864 he was mostly engaged in the defense of Atlanta, Georgia, which fell to Union forces on September 2, 1864. In late 1864, he was captured about two and one-half weeks after the infamous Battle of Franklin in Tennessee. The final few months of John Bell Gallaway's Civil War career are shrouded in some mystery and adventure.⁴

For the next almost twenty years, John Bell Gallaway was a roving railroad man.⁵ He first worked for the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and later for the Texas & Pacific



John Bell Gallaway, Neville's great-grandfather.



Eudocia Margaret Martin Gallaway, Neville's great-grandmother.

Railway in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was only forty years old when he died in New Orleans on October 24, 1884. His obituary in *The Daily Appeal*, published in Memphis, Tennessee, was quite flowery and complimentary.⁶ He is buried in historic Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.



Eudocia Margaret Martin was born in Houston, Mississippi, and spent her early life⁷ in northeastern Mississippi. She was called Dosha as a child, and as an older woman, she was called both Maggie and Margaret. Between 1869 and 1885, she and her husband had seven children (four girls and three boys). The oldest, **Irene Dabney Gallaway (1869–1957)**, and the two youngest, **Rowena McCord Gallaway (1882–1960)** and **Margaret Bell Gallaway (1885–1964)**, never



*Eudocia Margaret Martin
Gallaway, about age
sixty-three, with her grandson,
Charles Davis Frierson Jr.,
about age two, c. 1909.*

married; they were called “the Aunties.” Of the three boys, **Paul Martin Gallaway (1873–1941)** had one child but no known grandchildren; **Eldon Gallaway (1871–1872)** died in infancy; and **Earle Walker Gallaway (1875–1916)** married, moved to Texas, and had no children. And so, for the Gallaway family, it was left to Neville’s grandmother **Charlotte Martin Gallaway (1878–1968)**, the fifth child of John Bell and Eudocia Margaret Martin Gallaway, to produce descendants. To date Charlotte Martin Gallaway Frierson has had two children, seven grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, and twenty-five great-great-grandchildren.

At age thirty-seven, Eudocia Margaret Martin Gallaway became a widow with five children and one more on the way. With the encouragement and assistance of her brother, **Richard “Dick” Puckett Martin (1848–1931)**, she and her family moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, a university town at the foothills of the Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas. For the next forty-one years, she boarded students and lived there with her three unmarried daughters.⁸

Eudocia Margaret Martin Gallaway died on March 3, 1927, at her home in Fayetteville; she was eighty years old. She was described as a valiant and noble woman by her daughter Margaret Bell Gallaway in a piece entitled “*The Members of My Family as I Knew Them.*”⁹