

Isham Roe Towles, CSA

Isham Roe Towles, [pictured here] oldest son of Sarah Ann Robinson and Toliver Towles, was born on 6 March 1834 in Chambers Co, Aalabama. Toliver Towles, son of William and Betty Ann Roe Towles, was born on 7 Jan 1800. He first married about 1829, Eleanor Clark, while still in SC. She bore two known children. Toliver married secondly to Sarah Ann Robinson. Daughter of Isham Robinson and wife Mary Wilson, Sarah Ann was born on 3 March 1813 in Edgefield District, South Carolina, and died on 15 Jan 1899 in Chambers Co, Alabama.

In Chambers County, Isham attended the school held at Union Church where his family worshipped. When only 17 years old, he married Laura Anne Nolen, also 17, on 2 December 1851. These childhood sweethearts remained deeply in love till his death in the War Between the States, and Laura was devoted to his memory, never remarrying, for another 36 years.

In 1854, they moved to Texas with Laura's parents and all of her siblings' families. These families initially settled near Starrville in Smith County. Isham purchased 320 acres from L.E. & Mary A. Harkey, for \$600, on 8 November 1854. Some of the land was later sold to Julius Adonald Kay.



Sarah Ann Elizabeth was their first child and only daughter, born 13 February 1853 in Chambers County. After the move to Texas, three sons were born--Toliver on 1 February 1855; Isham Roe/David 8 March 1859; and Isaac Beauregard on 6 August 1861.

In his sister's family Bible, Isham/David is named Isham Roe, Junior, but on the 1860 Smith Co, TX, census, he is called David. He is called Isham on the 1880 and 1900 censuses. His tombstone at Starrville calls him David Roe (Isham) Towles.

Isham Roe, Sr, at age 28, enlisted as Private, Co. G, 11 TX Infantry, Confederate States of America, on 6 May 1862. His brother-in-law Jacob Lewis Henry Stillwell was Captain of this Company and was then recruiting at Starrville. Four other brothers-in-law were also in this company. Isham was appointed 1st Sgt. on 20 Nov 1862. He died near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on 30 Jan 1863 of a "congestive chill." His gravesite is unidentified. His sons Toliver and Isaac both died within six months. His widow Laura Anne lived till 1899.



**Four Nolen Brothers, CSA
(and brothers-in-law)**

Isaac and Elizabeth Coleman Nolen arrived in Smith Co, TX, in 1854. Accompanying them were their ten children, four of whom were already married and had their own families.

Elizabeth was born on 6 April 1807 to David Roe Coleman and his wife Edith Beam in Fairfield Co, SC, near the village of Feasterville. Isaac's parents were Stephen Nolen III, a Revolutionary War veteran from Frederick Co, VA, and his wife Mary Smith. They lived on a a branch of the Broad River in.

Elizabeth and Isaac's second son, Andrew Jackson Nolen, died in 1855 and was among the first 3 or 4 buried in what later became the Starrville Cemetery. Their youngest son Wade Hobson "Bussy" Nolen, born 1846, was considered too young to enlist.

The eldest of Isaac and Elizabeth's sons was **Robert Wilson** "Witt" Nolen, born 29 Feb 1829, near Indian Springs, Ga. He married Sara Catherine Darden in Chambers Co, AL, on 16 Oct 1851. Sara died between 1863 and the 1870 census, supposedly in Upshur Co. They had three known children, all born in Upshur Co, TX.

Witt served the Confederacy for five months in Co. G, 11th TX Infantry, before being replaced by a substitute.

The 1870 census located him in Smith Co, TX, in the same household as his sister Laura Anne Towles who was widowed during the War. Three children are shown for Witt and two for Laura.

Witt moved to Canton, Van Zandt Co, TX, before 1880. Witt signed his will on 14 Feb 1890 at Canton. He died about 1892, but his burial site has not been located.

Isaac Henry "Ike" Nolen was born on 19 May 1839, the first child born in Chambers Co, Al. After arriving in TX, he married Sarah Elizabeth Clinkscales on 20 Nov 1860. Born 23 July 1843 in Abbeville Dist, SC, she was the daughter of John B. and Jane Kay Clinkscales. Ike served for three months as Private, Co. G, 11th TX Inf. during the War. He received a disability discharge for having hemorrhoids. He and Sarah had six children.

Sarah Clinkscales Nolen died on 29 Dec 1876 and was buried near her parents in the Harris Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, southwest of Winona, Smith Co, TX. Ike's grand-daughter, Dixie Richardson, related how he lost both hands in a sawmill accident and was operated on without anesthesia at Mineola, TX. He managed to function effectively for many years thereafter, serving as Tax Assessor of Smith Co. in 1886-1888 and 1890-1892, and County Treasurer, 1892-1893. He died 2 Dec 1904 and was buried beside Sarah.

John Roe Nolen was born on 31 Dec 1841 in Chambers Co, AL. He, too, served in Co. G, 11th TX Inf, as a Sergeant for the CSA. From at least 4 Nov 1863 through Feb, 1864, he was "detailed as nurse in hospital Opelousas, La." After the War, he married Laura A. Whitmore on 5 Feb 1867 in Smith Co, TX. John served as Postmaster at Winona from 2 Jan 1878 to 24 Sept 1878. John and Laura had six children before he died on 19 Jan 1879 and was buried at the Starrville Cemetery.

Albert Alexander Nolen was born in 1843 in Chambers Co, Al, and enlisted as Private in Co. G, 11th TX Infantry, CSA, on 14 April 1863. He married Arabella Baskin and had three sons, but Albert died in 1873 and was buried at Starrville. Arabella and the sons, Oscar Lee, Albert Sidney and George Tate Nolen, moved to Canton, Van Zandt Co, TX, to live with her parents.

Mary Edith Caroline Nolen, "Carrie," a sister to these Nolen men, was born on 3 March 1832, also near Indian Springs, Ga. She married Jacob Lewis Henry Stillwell (1830-1863) on 6 Sept 1849 in Chambers Co, AL. He served as Captain in Co. G, 11th TX Infantry. He died on 3 Nov 1863 at the Battle of Bourbeaux, LA, and was buried there.

Near the end of the War, Union cavalry stopped for a drink at the family well. Carrie---all 80# of her--- turned them away because the Yankees had killed her husband. (Story per her great-niece Dixie Richardson.) She died in 1892.

Daughter Elizabeth Coleman Nolen was born on 3 Jan 1837 near Indian Springs, GA. On 6 April 1859 she married Erasmus Perkins Moore who was a school teacher and lawyer. He served the Confederacy in Co. B, 10th TX Cavalry and died in 1873 due to wounds suffered during the War.

Laura Anne Nolen Towles was another daughter of his family, but she and her husband Isham R. Towles were discussed in a separate article.