

Biography of Sheriff William Strong

March 6,2015 by Paul V. Isbell

First-Land Warrants He Received from the Land Office-1837 to 1847 :

STRONG WILLIAM Cross 1 8N 3E 170.58 1838/07/28

STRONG WILLIAM Cross 11 6N 4E 103.03 1846/09/01

STRONG WILLIAM Cross 14 6N 4E 0 1846/09/01

**STRONG WILLIAM Cross 14 6N 4E 80 1843/02/01 Warrant Name:THOMAS J
CORL AND DAVID L PRYOR**

STRONG WILLIAM Cross 14 6N 4E 160 1839/10/10

STRONG WILLIAM Cross 14 6N 4E 150.09 1848/07/10

**STRONG WILLIAM Cross 17 6N 4E 8.73 1843/02/01 STRONG WILLIAM Cross
17 6N 4E 158.53 1838/07/28**

STRONG WILLIAM Cross 9 6N 4E 48.11 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM Phillips 4 1S 5E 57.97 1837/08/21

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 6 4N 4E 89.37 1837/08/15

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 20 6N 4E 160 1847/08/26

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 23 6N 4E 169.3 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 24 6N 4E 61.27 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 101.58 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 55.67 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 82.16 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 82.16 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 82.16 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 82.16 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 26 6N 4E 82.16 1843/02/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 28 6N 4E 133.52 1846/09/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 29 6N 4E 0 1846/09/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 29 6N 4E 0 1846/09/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 30 5N 4E 13.23 1844/10/01

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 30 5N 4E 18.98 1837/06/15

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 30 5N 4E 64.89 1838/07/28

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 30 5N 4E 79.89 1838/08/20

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 30 6N 4E 160 1847/08/26

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 31 5N 4E 282.2 1837/08/15

STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 31 6N 4E 160 1847/08/26

**STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 32 6N 4E 105.54 1839/10/10 LANDS LOCATED
W OF ST FRANCIS RIVER**

**STRONG WILLIAM St. Francis 34 6N 4E 128.85 1839/10/10 LANDS LOCATED
E OF ST FRANCIS RIVER**

Second-Bio per GGGGG Grandson Charles Lokey

William Strong & Crowley's Ridge Thank You !tina@grnco.net

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ar/county/greene/>

William Strong was thought to be a native of Georgia according to Biographical Sketches of Pioneers Buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee. He moved to Arkansas County, Missouri, Territory about 1811. This area later became St. Francis County, Arkansas. William along with the rest of his father's family was on a long boat going down the Mississippi River , transporting goods on the night of December 16, 1811 , when the the New Madrid earthquake occurred. The violent quakes and surges of the Great Mississippi forced them back upstream toward the Ohio. This horrific night was told by Col. Wm. Strong many times. William Strong was listed as a

taxpayer for Arkansas county in 1815 and served as a captain in the Fourth Regiment of the Territorial Militia from Arkansas County in 1820. William Strong had the first store on Crowleys Ridge . This store was situated on the old Crowley homestead, where Walcott is now . Being located at the crossing of the St. Francis river, by the old military road leading from Memphis to Little Rock . Told in the History of Greene County by B.H. Crowley published in the Paragould Soliphone in 1906. Part of William Strong's "delta empire" is preserved at Village Creek State Park , located in Cross and St. Francis County covering 6,908. acres along the Crowley's Ridge . The park contains part of Strong's original Spanish land grants. He built his twenty-room mansion within view of Crowley's Ridge, near the Military Road on land just east of the park boundary. Strong built much of the historic Military Road also known as the Memphis to Little Rock Road , and helped to bring the route through this area ensuring the growth in population. The Military Road also known as the Memphis to Little Rock Road , was authorized on January 31, 1824, when the U.S. Congress passed an act for construction of a road opposite from Memphis , Tennessee. The road was to run through the swamps of east Arkansas to the state's capital , Little Rock. Surveyors Joseph Paxton and Thomas Mathers and a contractor from Memphis , Anderson B. Carr were hired to propose the best route for the Military Road . Carr resigned after a disagreement of which route was the best , his choice was to cross the White River. The other surveyors Paxton and Mathers took the layout of their proposed route to Secretary of War John X. Calhoun on February 12, 1825. Paxton and Mathers , route would go through eastern Arkansas . Crossing Crowley's Ridge through the swamps of east Arkansas along the valley of Village Creek , by the hills of St. Francis , through the Military lands to the Languelle River. Lt. Frederick L. Griffith , was given the job of superintendent on the Memphis to Little Rock Road project on January 27 , 1826 . The road was to be at least twenty four feet wide , with all timber and underbrush removed , swamps and marshes to be filled with poles or split timber for crossing and ditches dug on either side four feet wide and three feet deep for drainage . The hills were to be dug down and curved to make the road passible for carriages or heavy loaded wagons. Advertisements were sent out by Griffith , looking for skilled contractors for the first section of the road project. Griffith contracted A. Carr , N. Anderson and W. Irwin of Memphis for the first 64 miles of road , starting from where

the road left the Mississippi , four miles north of Memphis. The cost of \$160 per mile when the first section was complete would open a route nearly to Bayou de View. The work began in September and was completed by the following January . With the first section completed the second section began September 14, 1826 , Lt. Charles Thomas replaced Griffith as superintendent on the Military Road project , October 1826. There were sickness and fatigue , strickened the workers in the swamps of eastern Arkansas. Thomas reported on January 17, 1827 that Carr's road project was making progress but needed some changes in the route . Lt. Thomas complained that the route of Paxton and Mathers was inaccurate in the description of the land through which it would cross. They were informed by the pioneers living in the area of the flooding by the Mississippi and St. Francis Rivers would make the Military road impassible during the rainy seasons . Thomas , requested that a new route was needed to reach the crossing of the White River . After the approval of the route changed , Thomas contracted William Strong to bridge the L'anguille River and and construct the road from the 64th mile to the ferry on White River which is now known as Clarendon. Strong built his home on the eastern side of Crowley's Ridge in 1827 , a house four stories high with 20 rooms and a veranda completing the entire house . It was known as the largest and most expensive building in Arkansas at that time. Strong bid the job at \$1,600 to construct the 93 1/2 mile road to the White River ferry , January 1828 . The road being completed June 1, 1828 . A piece of the newly constructed road is known today as the Henard Cemetery Road in Monroe County. Henard Cemetery Road is listed with The National Register of Historic Places under the multiple- property listing "Historic and Archeological Resources Associated with the Cherokee Trail of Tears. William Strong is listed as the builder of this historic Military road that lead through the eastern areas in Arkansas. This piece below is from the Journal of John M. Millard who assisted in the removal of the Chickasaws on March 9, 1837 . The party camped for two days about three miles west of Strong's then headed on to the L'anguille River where they camped for one night. Millard's journal entry for the 15th reads : 15 July , Camp Upshaw This day drive has been a good one considering the very bad condition of the roads and the heavy rains which have just fallen . The distance is 11 1/2 miles from cypress , the country is flat and covered with post oak timbers. The entry above

description of the section of the Memphis to Little Rock Road that survives today as the Henard Cemetery Road. Though the Military Road was finished by the end of August 1828 , the road was left to improvement from the Eastern Arkansas floods left the road impassible several months out of each year. The eastern section of the Military Road continued to be plagued by floods for years to follow . Pioneers continued to travel the road to eastern Arkansas , taking chances of crossing the wilderness and swamps. Arkansans petitioned Congress to repair the road , which would bring settlers and growth to the area and help protect them from attacks by the Indians. On July 3, 1832 , Congress approved \$20,000 for repairs to the Military Road. The money was used to improve and repair the road between Little Rock and Strong's . The Arkansas Gazette advertised on May 23, 1837 that a contractor on the Memphis and Little Rock Road (Wm. Strong , Esq.) advertised for one thousand laborers to go work on the road for purposes of its completion . However the road would later become part of the Cherokee Trail of Tears between Memphis and Little Rock when completed. Frederich Wilhelm Gerstaeker a journalist that traveled through Arkansas hunting and camping and writing about his exploits. Mentioned William Strong in his journal . It became quite popular in Germany as a travel guide. It gave some insight on what traveling the old Military Trail was like . One thing that I found disturbing was his account of crossing the Military Trail shortly after the passage of large trains of Indians from the removal. He said that the land was littered with their bones. He found it disturbing. He mentioned that during the removal there were clouds of buzzards and packs of wolves following the processions of Indians. The contractors involved in moving the Indians didn't allow them to bury their dead. They were told to place them in the woods wrapped in blankets or whatever was handy and move on. Strong became one of the largest landowners and leading politicians in the region between 1820 and 1840. He became the first postmaster along the Military Road and served as the first sheriff of St. Francis county . He was a delegate to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention in 1836, the year of the state's admission into the Union, and a delegate to the Arkansas General Assembly in 1840. He was also a member of the mercantile firm in Memphis , Dixon , Strong & Co. He retired to his home three miles northeast of Memphis , and became th "model farmer " of Shelby County , Tennessee. His eldest son Erastus was the first graduate from the state of Arkansas at West Point and

the only one for over 30 years. He was killed in Mexico at the Battle of Molina Del Ray during the Mexican American War. Erastus Strong's body was brought back from Mexico and reburied in Memphis in the 1870s .

He was about 70 years old at the time of his death with interment in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee

Third-Research by Loyd N. Sybert

Birth: Dec.10,1791 Franklin Co., Ga.

Death: Jun.29,1863 Shelby Co., Tenn.

On Find A Grave:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=33413653>

The following remarks about William Strong are found in a book on file at the Elmwood Cemetery. The book gives a biographical sketch of some of the pioneers buried in the cemetery. Col. William Strong was a native, we believe, of Georgia. He, with the rest of his father's family were descending in the Mississippi in a flatboat, when the violent earthquakes of 1811-1812 occurred at New Madrid. The flatboat occupied by the pioneers was wrested from its moorings, and swept backward during the night many miles toward Ohio. The amazement of those on board the "broadhorn" was boundless, and the strange incident was often mentioned by Col. Strong. He was a member of the great mercantile firm of his time in Memphis,, that of Dixon, Strong & Co., and built much of the roadway, under contract with the government, across the lowlands from Memphis to the St. Francis River. This firm, about the years 1836-1840, issued change notes, which for a time constituted the greater part of currency in Memphis. He retired, at length, to his home three miles northeast of the city, and became the "model farmer" of Shelby County. His perfect integrity was never impeached. He was about seventy years of age at the time of his death. Research by Loyd N. Sybert

Spouse: Mourning Cooper Strong (1798 - 1866)* Children: Erastus Burton Strong (1823 - 1847)* Juliet Filingim Strong Winn (1833 - 1880)*

Spouse:Mourning Cooper Strong:

Buried at Elmwood next to Husband:

Birth: Feb. 25, 1798 Stewart County, Tennessee, USA

Death: Jul. 18, 1866 Shelby County, Tennessee, USA

Family history research has revealed that this "M. Strong" buried next to William Strong, is Mourning Fillingin Strong, the wife of William Strong at the time of his death. Mourning Cooper Fillingin Strong was born February 25, 1798. She was the daughter of Vincent Cooper of Stewart County, Tennessee and mentioned in his will dated September 1, 1836 (2). It is thought that she was the widow of Jonathan Fillingin who died shortly before January 17, 1821. William Strong was the administrator of the estate of Jonathan Fillingin (3).Proof of the marriage of William Strong to Mourning Fillingin is furnished in an indenture made by Vincent C.Fillingin to

Erastus B. Strong, September 6, 1843 (4). The document is somewhat in the form of a will.

Spouse 2 of William Strong=Mourning Cooper

Born: 25 Feb 1798 Stewart Co.Tenn.

Died: 18 Jul 1866 Shelby Co.,Tenn.

Mourning Strong, the wife of William Strong, died July 18, 1866 and is buried in The Elmwood Cemetery, Memphis, Tennessee. William Strong died Jun 29, 1863. The location of his first burial site is unknown. The records of Elmwood Cemetery show that He was buried there on September 14, 1867. It is likely that he was buried there after the death of his wife. They are buried side by side with one tall white stone marking the date of birth and death of Wm. Strong on one side and M. Strong on the other side. Per Loyd N. Sybert Research-Children: Erastus Burton Strong (1823 - 1847)* Juliet Filingim Strong Winn (1833 - 1880)*Spouse: William Strong (1791 - 1863)

Fourth:History from WWW by Date

18150000: <http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=206177&st=1>

**Spouse 1 Matilda Hampton Marriage: abt 1815 Phillips, Arkansas, USA
d.abt.1824 in Arkansas**

18160000: <http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=206177&st=1>

**CHILDREN by First Wife: A. Eveline Strong F 1816 Saint Francis, Arkansas,
USA D.8-6-1850 Harrison, Ark.**

**Husband of Evelene Strong:Allen Dale Burress -sons of the Republic of Texas-
Husband of Evelene**

**Strong:Husband of Evelene Strong:Allen Dale Burress -sons of the Republic of
Texas Born: 1808 Fleming, Kentucky, USA Died: 18 Jun 1860 in Sulphur
Springs,, Texas, USA Marriage: 23 Jan 1834 Phillips, Arkansas, USA**

Husband of Evelene Strong:They moved to Marshall, Texas in 1841

18160926: <http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=206177&st=1>

**William Strong:Husband of Juliet:Kirtley Johnson Winn Born: 26 Sep 1816
Kentucky, USA Died: 21 Oct 1893 in Memphis, Tennessee, USA**

18200602: <http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=206177&st=1>

Marriage to Mourning Cooper

18180000: <http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=206177&st=1>

CHILDREN by First Wife: B.Jane Strong F abt 1818 in Cross, Arkansas d.Unk,

ROSTER OF MILITIA OFFICERS-JUNE 14,1825-ARK.GAZETTE:

**From the books "Territorial Papers - Arkansas Territory 1825-29" pages 68-
76:**

18200810

William Strong Captain Fourth Arkansas 1820 Aug 10

18220604

**Part Seven, "Executive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836". :
1822 Jun 4 Strong, William -Phillips-Magistrate**

18231202: <http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=206177&st=1>

Children of Mourning and William: A.

Erastus Burton Strong M b.2 Dec 1823 Ark d.8 Sep 1847 Molina Del Rey, Mexico

18260301: Arkansas Historical Commission Pamphlett

Post office:Phillips CountySt.Francis-William Strong-dated Mar.1,1826

18250803

Arkansas Territorial Papers:The following was transcribed from the U.S. Government publication, "Territorial

Papers - Arkansas 1819-1825" pages 789-874, Part Seven, "Executive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-

1836". : 1825 Aug 3 Strong, William Arkansas-Chicot Magistrate-Error in issuing Comm.

18260725

Part Seven, "Executive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836". : 1826 Jul 25 Strong, William- Phillips, Johnson, Magistrate

18271110

Part Seven, "Ex,ecutive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836". : 1827 Nov 10 Strong, William St. Francis Sheriff

18271015

Part Seven, "Executive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836". : 1827 Oct 15 Strong, William St. Francis-Johnson-Justice of the Peace

18291103

Part Seven, "Executive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836". : 1829 Nov 3 Strong, William St.Francis Sheriff

18300123

**Part Seven, "Executive Register for the Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836". :
1830 Jan 23 Strong, William St. Francis Sheriff**

18310824: Arkanas Gazette:

**8/24/1831 Sale of Lands for Taxes In St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory-
William Strong, Sheriff and Collector of St. Francis county, Arkansas Territory
August 11, 1831**

**1976-Village Creek State Park dedicated on part of William Strong's Spanish
Land Grants**

**Here is a map of the 1834 Military Road from Memphis to Strong's Home just
north of Forrest City from the National Parks Service:**

