

## Coats Family Cemetery

This table lists the family members buried in the Coats Family Cemetery, as well as historical information obtained during the bridge history research.

Name	Date	Notes
Blair, Margaret	B Jan 12, 1877 D. Unknown	These two graves share a headstone and are the children of John W. Blair and Anna B. Gresham Blair (1). The dates for these children don't quite match up, but they may have been twins who were born 1/4/1877 and died 1/12/1877.
Blair, Martha	B. Jan 4, 1877 D. Jan 12, 1877	
Blair, Thomas Joseph	B. Feb. 2, 1875 D. Dec 27, 1876	Child of J.W. & A.B. Blair. J.W. & A.B. Blair probably means John W. Blair and Anna B. Gresham Blair. There is no information about how this child died, but in looking at his date of death and the date of birth/death for Margaret and Martha Blair, the end of 1876 and the beginning of 1877 was a tragic time for the Blair family; it appears that they lost three children within about three weeks.
Gresham, J.G.	B August 22, 1816 D 1902	J. G. Gresham (Joseph G. Gresham) was the husband of Martha Coats Gresham and the father of Anna B. Gresham Blair and Benjamin Gresham. If Martha Coats Gresham and William Coats were siblings, then J.G. Gresham would have been the brother-in-law of William Coats. The tombstone is broken into three parts and the month of the date of death is no longer legible. Per the info on findagrave.com , only the day and year are legible (X/15/1902).
McGinnis, Anna M.	B. Oct. 1, 1833 D. Nov 12, 1869	Anna M. McGinnis was Anna M. Coats, daughter of William and Sarah Coats. Inscription on the tombstone: Age 36 yrs 1 mo 12 days. Wife of O.H.P. McGinnis.(2)
Riverse, J. R.	B Oct. 26, 1861 D Nov 25, 1865	Tombstone inscription: Age 1 yr 27 days. Son of W. & S.E. Riverse The last name was misspelled (Riverse rather than Rivers). This child would have been the son of Sarah Elizabeth Coats Rivers and William Rivers and the grandson of William Coats. The date of birth for J.R. Riverse does not quite match up with dates of birth for other children of William and Sarah E. Coats Rivers. (3)
Sandifer, Willie	B 1875 D 1902	The findagrave.com listing for this grave includes photos of Willie Sandifer's house on Lower Elgin Rd. and a photo of him (4).
Wilson, Martha J.	B July 15, 1849 D. Dec 5, 1872	Martha J. Gresham Wilson was the daughter of Martha Coats Gresham and J.G. (Joseph) Gresham, the sister of Benjamin Gresham, and possibly the niece of William Coats. See Note (1)

(1) Anna Gresham Blair was one of the sisters of Benjamin Gresham, who was the business partner of William Henry "Bud" Rivers. Anna's and Benjamin's mother was Martha Coats Gresham (B 10/21/1824 D 3/5/1910). William Coats and Martha Coats Gresham were both from Georgia, and although they are most likely related, our research was not able to determine who their parents were or exactly how they are related. They may have been siblings, but we were not able to document that.

(2) Anna M. Coats and O.H.P. McGinnis were married on Jan. 13, 1869, and Anna died on November 13, 1869. No information was available about her cause of death; however, Anna and O.H.P. were married for ten months before her death and the census records show that they had a daughter (Melina "Lena" or Ruth McGinnis. No birth date was available for this child, other than an estimated year of 1870), but it may be that Anna died in childbirth or as a result of complications from childbirth. O.H.P. McGinnis was a justice of the peace at the time of his marriage to Anna and later went on to serve in the Texas House of Representatives. He married several more times and had several more children after Lena/Ruth.

(3) Sarah E. Coats Rivers and William Rivers had several other children. The findagrave.com listing shows three children for Sarah E. Coats Rivers; the Coats Cemetery lists another child, and the census information for William Coats lists another child:

- William Henry Rivers (1853-1909) [findagrave.com]
- Mary Eliza Rivers Straus (1857-1915) [findagrave.com]
- Ida Bell Rivers Allen (1864-1954) [findagrave.com]
- J.R. Riverse (Rivers) (October 26, 1861 – November 25, 1965)
- Joseph Edward Rivers (Sept 28, 1861 – Feb 19/1934) (1880 census info for William Coats)

The birth dates for J.R. Riverse buried in the Coats family cemetery and Joseph Edward Rivers don't quite match up. It may be that

the birth date for J.R. was incorrect and that J.R. and Joseph Edward were twins, however, this was not something that research either confirmed or denied.

Other interesting information about Sarah and William Rivers. William's date of death was Aug. 19, 1878; Sarah's date of death was Sept. 14, 1878. Because they died within less than a month of one another, and no cause of death was listed for either, it is possible that they died from some kind of contagious disease that would have been curable today. Research focusing on epidemics in Bastrop County in 1878, however, did not yield anything definitive. That doesn't mean, however, that it wasn't something like flu, which could be deadly back then.

(4) It is not clear why Willie Sandifer would have been buried in the Coats family cemetery. One of the daughters of Martha Coats Gresham, Sarah Antonett Gresham (AKA Nettie) married Joseph Napoleon Sandifer (AKA Polie). Although it is reasonable to assume that Willie Sandifer is somehow connected with Nettie and Polie Sandifer, details about this were not found. Judging from the birth dates, Willie could have been the son of Nettie and Polie. If Martha Coats and William Coats were siblings, then Nettie would have been William's niece. The listing for his grave at findagrave.com includes several photos. One of the photos shows a house located on lower Elgin Road that is near the Coats family cemetery; per the family source of the photo, Willie Sandifer built the part of the house that was original.