

Rosella (Davis) Alexander
AEHC featured person for the week of May 9, 2021

Rosella (Davis) Alexander
September 16, 1866 – May 14, 1904

Died this week in 1904, Rosella (Davis) Alexander is buried in our cemetery's Section 1, Lot 65, Space 10.

Summary of our research: Rosella (Davis) Alexander was born in 1866 to Elwood Franklin (1840-1923) and Elizabeth (1838-1923) Davis.

Rosella's father Elwood Franklin Davis was the son of Darius Jacob (1812-1892) and Mary (Landis) (1817-1906) Davis. Darius' family came from Kentucky to Ohio, where he was born. Mary's family came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where she was born. Both families were living in the Preble County, Ohio area and that is where Darius and Mary were married in 1839. Darius and Mary were living in Ripley Township on the 1850 Census and in Posey Township on the 1860 Census. Darius passed away in 1892 and Mary in 1906. They are both buried at Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Rosella's mother Elizabeth may have been born in Ohio to Dison Davis in 1838. Her death certificate does not provide a lot of details of her family history. It is not clear how she came to be in Rush County. Some Census reports show her born in Ohio and that both of her parents were born in Ohio.

Rosella's parents were married around 1863 back in Ohio. Rosella was the second child of Elwood and Elizabeth Davis. Her family were well known farmers in the Arlington community. Her parent's both passed away within weeks of each other. Elwood passed first in January 1923 and Elizabeth in March 1923. Elizabeth became ill after her husband's death. They are both buried at Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Rosella (Davis) married Thomas Alexander (1867-1941) in 1891. They had six children (two daughters and four sons) from 1892 through 1903: Lavonne, Leota, Claude Leslie, Merrill Gail, William Edgar, and Everette Eli. Unfortunately, Rosella died suddenly of appendicitis in 1904. A copy of her obituary is attached to this article where it had "She leaves a husband and six sweet children to mourn her loss". Rosella was buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Rosella's family persevered. Some of their children went to live with relatives. On the 1920 Census Thomas and all four of their sons were listed as boarders in a home in Carthage. Thomas and one son (Edgar) were working for the Boxboard

Mill, two sons (Claude & Everette) for Wheel Works, and one son (Gail) at a Poolroom.

Thomas was living in Michigan with their son, Edgar, when he passed away in 1941. He was buried next to Rosella at Arlington East Hill. His obituary did not list the number of grandchildren at the time of his passing. Our research found nine possible grandchildren in the family.

Their daughter, Lavonne (1892-1985) was married to Fred Dagler. She passed away in Arizona. Her and her husband are interred at Rushville East Hill Cemetery.

Their daughter, Leota (1893-1981) married Benjamin Harry Billings. She was living in Michigan and Florida. She is interred in Michigan.

Their son, Claude (1894-1960) served in the US Army near the end of WWI. He was living in Michigan when he passed away and is interred there.

Their son, Gail (1896-1989) was living in Michigan when he passed away, however he was interred in Frankton, Indiana.

Their son, Edgar (1897-1980) was living in Michigan when he passed away and is interred there.

Their son, Everette (1903-1978) retired after 28 years as a Master Sergeant in the US Army. He was living in California when he passed away and is interred there.

(sources: Ancestry, Find-a-Grave, Newspaper archives, and Arlington East Hill Cemetery records)

More information about our cemetery and its history can be found at www.arlingtoneasthillcemetery.com

