
Cornett - Beaumont

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The Periodic Newsletter on Family History and Genealogy of
Joseph McClanahan Cornett (1888-1924) and Aloysia "Louie" Beaumont (1891-1943)

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Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Louie

I have recently concentrated on learning more about Aloysia Beaumont, who most of her life went by the name "Louie." Here are highlights of what I have been able to uncover.

- Louie was born in July 1891, the first child of William Perkins Beaumont and Sarah Martha Evans Beaumont. At age 19 Louie married Joseph McClanahan Cornett in Waco, TX. They had three sons, John Beaumont Cornett (1911-2007), Joseph M. Cornett, Jr. (1914-1939), and Sanford Heyck Cornett (1919-1979). Her husband Joseph died in 1924, and sometime between then and 1930, she married William Hale Parsons in Waco. According to Holly Browning, Curator of Collections for the Historic Waco Foundation, "Mr. Parsons had his own [insurance] business, located in the ALICO building." Louie died 7 October 1943 and is buried in Waco's Oakwood Cemetery, along with her husband William Parsons and her middle son Joseph Cornett, Jr.
- "Louie" was not her given name, but rather it was a diminutive of her true given name, Aloysia. She was already being called Louie by the time she was nine years old, and, as far as I can tell, she never used any other first name the rest of her life. The name, however, did occasionally cause confusion. Her membership certificate for the Daughters of the Texas Republic listed her name as "Mrs. Louise Beaumont C. Parsons."
- Louie's daughter-in-law, Stephanie Falcon Cornett (wife of Sanford), used to tell the story of Louie's birth and how she got her name. According to the story, Waco was under attack by Indians at the time her mother was ready to give birth in 1891, so she was taken to a convent where Louie was delivered by the nuns there. In appreciation for the nuns' services, Louie's parents "named her after the nuns" — Aloysia diGonzaga Beaumont. Yes, there was a Saint Aloysius [di] Gonzaga, and so I am

working with Ms. Browning of the Historic Waco Foundation to find out if there really was a convent or hospital named after St. Aloysius.

- Both of Louie's lineages (her father's Beaumont line and her mother's Evans line) reveal some very interesting people and facts, which will be the focus of the final two bullet points.
- There is a poster-size Beaumont Family Tree that was probably commissioned by Louie's mother, Sarah Martha Evans Beaumont. It documents the progeny of one man, William Beaumont (born ca.1760) of England, through five generations, ending with Louie, her sisters, and her numerous cousins. (She is listed on the Family Tree as Aloysia, one of the extremely rare places where that name is used.) William has an interesting notation next to his name on the Family Tree: "was 6 ft. 8½ in. in height; weighed 364 lbs." William's son Godfrey (Louie's great-grandfather) immigrated to the US in 1817 at the age of 33, settling in Platte County, Missouri. Godfrey's son Thomas Beaumont (Louie's grandfather) was about the age of 2 when his family came to America. He became a physician, and had six wives. It was by wife number five, Lucy Jane Sanford, that Louie's father, William Perkins Beaumont, was born in Missouri. When Louie named her third son, she gave him Lucy's maiden name, Sanford. By 1900, William had moved to Waco, TX, become a manager at an oil mill there, married Sarah Martha Evans (the youngest daughter of a famous man in Texas; see below), and had all four of his daughters: Louie, Beatrice, Marie, and

Patricia. He died in 1923 when Louie was 32 years old. The very next year, she would also lose her husband, Joseph McC. Cornett.

- Louie's mother Sarah became very interested in her family's genealogy, and used the information she and her



ALOYSIA "LOUIE" BEAUMONT

sister researched as the basis for joining the Daughters of the American Revolution. Later, Louie would also join based on that genealogy; the DAR membership number 131197 is still shown today as belonging to "Louie Beaumont Parsons." Louie was a direct descendant of Ezekiel Evans (1737-1806) and his son James Evans (1761-1822), both of whom were born in Ireland, immigrated to the US in 1774, arrived at the port of

Charleston, SC, and lived their lives in Abbeville, SC. More to the point of Sarah Evans Beaumont's DAR application, they are both documented as having served in the American Revolutionary War. Their service was chronicled in a memoir written by James' son Samuel Robinson Evans (Louie's great-grandfather). Samuel eventually moved to Mississippi, where his son Andrew Jackson Evans was admitted to the Bar in 1852. Jackson moved to Waco, TX and became a famous Son of Texas, his bio appearing in the publication *The Handbook of Texas*. He was elected in 1856 to the Seventh Texas State Legislature, and later in his career, he would serve a lawyer, Presidentially appointed U.S. District Attorney, Texas State Senator, and judge. Though he served in the Confederate Army and his daughter became a charter member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Jackson's bio notes that "during the Civil War, Evans remained a committed Unionist, making several speeches in and around his home in Waco."