

## Benjamin Nicholas Best

- *Name:* Benjamin Nicholas BEST
- *Given Name:* Benjamin Nicholas
- *Surname:* Best
- *Sex:* M
- *Birth:* 4 Nov 1859 in Darlington Co, South Carolina
- *Death:* 20 May 1941 in Hylton, TX
- *Burial:* Hylton Cemetery, Hylton, TX
  - *Notes:*

Ben was born in Darlington, SC. His family and extended family were of the more privileged class. They owned plantations and slaves. All this changed with the Civil War. James P Best, Benjamin's father was wounded in the Battle of Morris Island and possibly taken prisoner. He returned home but died soon afterward. Mary McNeese married the executor of James' will, John Thomas. In the 1870 census for Hill Co, TX, Pct number 5 (Hillsboro), the John W Thomas family is shown with the Best children and Thomas children.

Benjamin and brother, Simon, are found in the 1880 census for Eastland County, TX. They are single, listed as boarders, and are working with a railroad crew.

Mary and John Thomas moved to Limestone County at some time, as did the Bests.

The 1910 census for Coke Co, TX shows the Benjamin Best and Julia McLaughlin Best family. Benjamin is a farmer. He may have owned property in Coke County at this time, but some of his children are shown in the Hylton School photo. David N McLaughlin, Julia's father, was then living in Nolan County with James, his son, and Benjamin may have had a residence there, also. (David Neal McLaughlin was born about 1828 and was about thirty years older than Benjamin Best)

Benjamin, age 61 is listed on the 1920 census for Precinct 3, Nolan Co, TX.

*Father:* James P. BEST b: 1834 in South Carolina

*Mother:* Mary McNeese b: 17 Apr 1832 in Darlington Co, SC.

*Marriage* 1 Julia Ann (Twin) MCLAUGHLIN b: 31 Jan 1861 in Gilmer, Upshur, TX

- *Married:* 1884

### Children

1. Mary Ellen (Ellie) BEST b: 4 Jan 1886 in Limestone Co, TX and died 22 June 1948 in Fluvanna, Scurry Co, TX. She is buried in the Fluvanna Cemetery, Scurry Co, TX.

She

married Robert Lee Lightfoot b: 7 Oct 1873 in Clark County, Arkansas. He was the son of

Richard Henry Lee Lightfoot and Casandie Elizabeth Widener.

2. **Otha Ann BEST** was born 13 Aug 1887 Mexia, Limestone County, Texas and died 20

May 1972 in Littlefield, Lamb, TX. She married **Rufus Albert NOBLE** 28 Oct 1907 in Sweetwater, Nolan Co, TX. He was the son of **Joseph A. NOBLE** and **Priscilla Alice FINLEY**. He was born 8 Aug 1880 in Ladonia, Fannin, TX (?), and died 13 May 1921 in Blackwell, Nolan, TX. She married George W. MILLER 3 Feb 1923 at Sweetwater, TX.

He was born abt 1850. *Otha is buried in Littlefield Cemetery, Littlefield, Lamb Co, Texas.*

3. Roy BEST (*believe he died young*)
4. James (Jim) Neal BEST was born 27 Oct 1891 in Mexia, Limestone County, Texas and died 6 Oct 1978 in Sweetwater, Nolan Co, TX. He was a lifelong bachelor.
5. Julia Bessie (Bess) BEST was born abt 1894 in Texas. She married Ernest Patterson.
6. Jesse Simon BEST (Simon) was born Dec 1896 in Armour (was near Coolidge), Limestone County, Texas and died 20 Feb 1982 in Odessa, Ector Co, TX. He married Ruth Unknown. She was born 18 July 1899 and died 12 Dec 1975 in Snyder, Scurry County, TX.
7. Flora Odessa (Odess) BEST was born abt 1899 in Texas. She married Johnnie Armstrong.
8. Hanna Estelle (Estelle) BEST was born 30 Dec 1900 in Armour (was near Coolidge, Limestone County), Texas. She married Charles Dalton Stracener. He was born 03 Sep 1893/4 at New Hope, AR to William and Mary Jane Huey Stracener. He died 08 Jan 1954 at Sweetwater, Nolan County, TX.
9. Rufus Bernard (RB) BEST was born 18 Oct 1904 and died 13 Jun 1977 at Sweetwater, Nolan County, TX. He married Bernice Kent

## Robert Lee Lightfoot

Birthdate: October 7, 1873  
Birthplace: Clark, AR, USA  
Death: Died February 26, 1953  
Immediate Family: Son of [Richard Henry Lee Lightfoot](#) and [Cansadie Elizabeth Lightfoot](#)  
Husband of [Mary Ellen Lightfoot](#)  
Father of [Truman Lightfoot](#)