

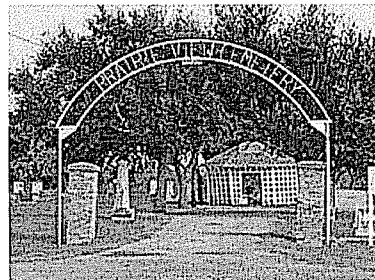
Birth: Sep. 8, 1868  
 Strafford  
 Greene County  
 Missouri, USA  
 Death: Oct. 3, 1944  
 Ingleside  
 San Patricio County  
 Texas, USA

It has been said that Mary 'abandoned' her husband and children. When the truth of the matter is that Mary and her husband William Acuff went to the Koreshan Unity Settlement (K.U.) in Estero, FL thinking they would get a new start at life. Packing up the family from Texas and moving to Estero, FL where they arrived at Bamboo landing on the Koreshan settlement and immediately were taken to the office where they were required to sign and hand over all of their worldly possessions leaving them completely dependent on the K.U. Then the K.U. proceeded to separate the entire family including the children. When Mary gave birth in 1901 to Arthur in a thatched cottage on the Estero river in 1901, she would take him in a box back and forth to work in the kitchen, since she was nursing him. At the point Arthur was 1 year old and could walk, the K.U. took Arthur away from his mother, Mary, and placed him in with the other children. Mary, was distraught over this and was kicked out of the Unity and was not allowed to see any of her children or her husband. She sought the assistance from a Deputy Sheriff named J.A. Mayfield who tried to help her see and/or get her children away from the Unity. They were unsuccessful. Arthur grew up believing that his Mother had abandoned him, which couldn't be farther from the truth. Very sad that he died with this weighing on his mind because he had been told so for so many years. Sad that he didn't seek out his Mother and ask her.

Mary also lost her oldest daughter, Maude, to the Typhoid epidemic in the early 1900's. Her other daughter, Clara, had a nervous breakdown due to very upsetting circumstance that occurred at the K.U. that only the family and close friends are aware of the details. Clara was sent away to the Florida Hospital for the Insane, which is where she died and is buried in cemetery #3. The hospital had deplorable conditions and mistreated their patients. Numerous complaints were filed and sadly none of them were corrected until after Clara died. So she had to endure that terror as well as the reasons she was placed at the facility in the first place.

I am not aware of any of the children speaking to Mary once she was ordered to leave the K.U. It was the story of the K.U. that made everyone believe that she abandoned her family because she was a 'beauty' in her early years. I really don't know why her beauty had anything to do with it.

Family links:  
 See more...



Cemetery Photo

Added by: [Tombstoner & Family](#)



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My dear Aunt, youngest sister of my gr-grandad Frank Tally, I have finally found you. I wish I knew where your Mother and Dad were buried so I could get you and siblings all reunited but to have found you is enough. You have been reunited with your fami...(Read more)

- [Caroline Barrow](#)

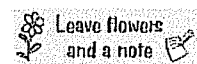
Added: Aug. 8, 2011



You were a very special person and a wonderful Mother who fought for what you believed in and for that I commend you. You are gone but not forgotten.

- [Fernandez Family of Estero](#)

Added: Jan. 26, 2011



Spouses:

John A. Mayfield  
William Sylvanus Acuff (1854 - 1928)\*

Children:

Maude Acuff (1887 - 1905)\*  
Elbert Sylvanus Acuff (1889 - 1956)\*  
Clara Fannie Acuff (1892 - 1918)\*  
Rupert A Acuff (1897 - 1979)\*  
Eustace Lloyd Acuff (1899 - 1985)\*  
Arthur Vincent Acuff (1901 - 1985)\*

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Prairie View Cemetery  
Aransas Pass  
San Patricio County  
Texas, USA

[Edit Virtual Cemetery info \[?\]](#)

Created by: [Fernandez Family of Este...](#)

Record added: Jan 15, 2011

Find A Grave Memorial# 64232832