

## Jennie Cora (Clough) Busby (1857-1928)

The main sources for information on Jennie are (1) William S. Coleman III, "Worcester's first African-American school teachers: Jennie Cora Clough and Sarah Ella Wilson," *InCity Times*, Jun-15-2009, at [this address](#) on the web, and (2) the Worcester Women's History Project brief on her at [this address](#).

Jennie Cora Clough was born in 1857 in Worcester, the eighth of nine children of Francis A. Clough and Harriett (Rich) Clough. Francis (1815-1894) was a barber with his own shop at various dates on Summer, Main, and Houghton Streets. About the time Jennie turned thirteen, in January 1870, her mother, only 51 years old, died of consumption (tuberculosis). Eight of the nine siblings, some of them in their twenties and unmarried, were still living at home at the time with Francis, who was 54.

After graduation from Worcester High School in 1875 or 1876, Jennie was a member of the fourth class of the State Normal School for teachers, graduating in 1878. She then became a teacher with Worcester Public Schools, the first person of African origin to be hired for such a position. She taught first grade in the Thomas Street school for a few years, then at the Providence Street school, putting in a total of fifteen years before having to retire upon her marriage, as was the practice at the time.

Neither of the obituary notices found for her even mentioned her teaching career, or any additional activities or involvements of her life. From the description of her husband's tailoring business as implied in his advertisement in the 1897 City Directory, it appears that she worked in the business with him in various capacities, including that of a seamstress, as was said to be her occupation in the 1910 census. Jennie and Alfred raised two sons, the adult life of each of whom is outlined below.

WORCESTER EVENING GAZETTE, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1928.

# OBITUARY

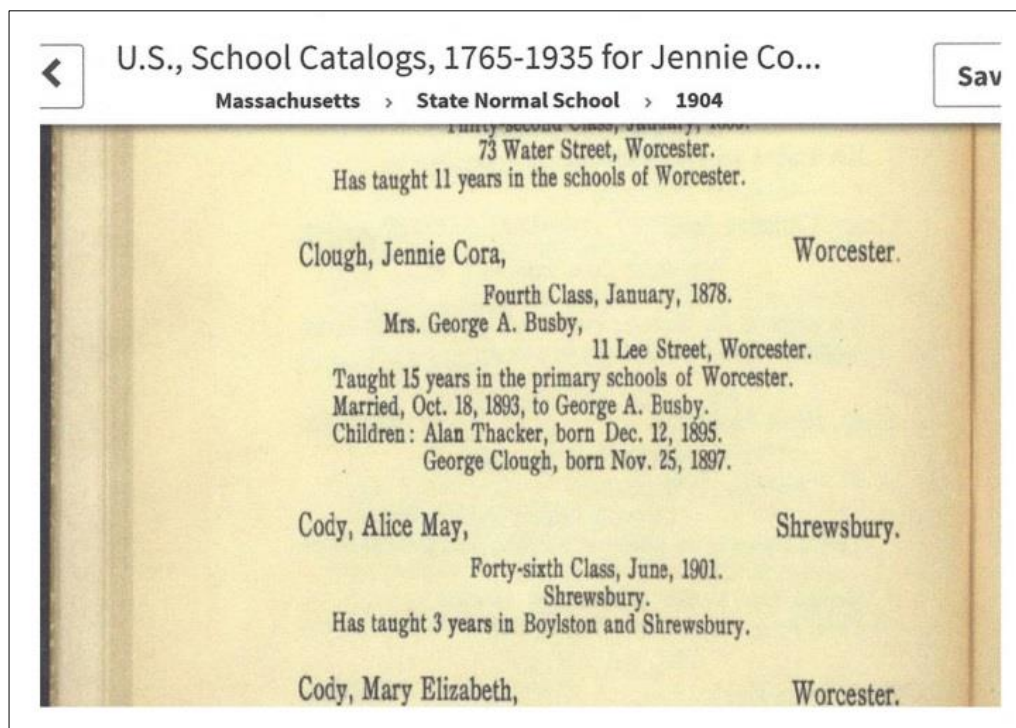
<p><b>MRS. MARY E. WILSON</b> The funeral of Mary E. (Ward), widow of Richard B. Wilson, will be at 2.30 p. m. tomorrow in Zion A. M. E. Church. Burial will be in Hope cemetery.</p>	<p><b>JAMES MCGOURTY</b> An anniversary high mass of requiem will be celebrated at 7.30 a. m., tomorrow, in St. Bernard's church, for the repose of the soul of James McGourty.</p>
<p><b>MRS. EMILY GARDNER</b> The funeral of Emily (Smith), widow of Delbert N. Gardner, will be held this afternoon at 4 o'clock from the home chapel of George Sessions Sons Co., 71 Pleasant street. Rev. Clifton H. Mix of the Pleasant-street Baptist church will officiate. Burial will be in Richville, N. Y.</p>	<p><b>GIACOMO ANGARANO</b> The funeral of Giacomo, son of Angelo and Maria (Lamanuzzi) Angarano, who died last night in the home of his parents, 12 Seward street, will be at 10 a. m. tomorrow. Burial will be in Notre Dame cemetery.</p>
<p><b>MRS. G. ALFRED BUSBY</b> Jennie C. (Clough), 71 years old, wife of G. Alfred Busby, 15 Fruit street, died this morning. She was born in Worcester, daughter of Francis A. and Harriet E. (Rich) Clough. She leaves her husband; two sons, Alan T. of Mississippi and George C. of Tuskegee, Ala.; and a brother, Benjamin H. of Worcester. The funeral will be at 2.30 p. m., Monday, in the funeral parlors of Darius A. Putnam, Inc., 866 Main street. Burial will be in Hope cemetery.</p>	<p><b>FLORENCE N. PREFONTAINE</b> The funeral of Florence N., 3-year-old daughter of Joseph and Mattie Prefontaine, 329 Cambridge street, who died last night, will be at 1.45 p. m. tomorrow in the home and will be followed by a service at 2 in the Holy Name of Jesus church. She was born in Brooklyn. Burial will be in Notre Dame cemetery. She leaves her parents, a sister, Josephine, and two brothers, Leonard and Roy.</p>
<p><b>MRS. FRANK M. LORD</b> Alice Miller (Rich), 76 years, wife of</p>	<p><b>JAMES J. MASON</b> The funeral of James J. Mason was this morning in Callahan Brothers' funeral suite, 36 Trumbull street. A high mass of requiem followed in St. John's</p>

**Jennie (Clough) Busby**  
*Evening Post, May-12-1928*

**MRS. JENNIE C. BUSBY**  
The funeral of Jennie C. (Clough) Busby, 71, wife of G. Alfred Busby, of 15 Fruit Street, who died yesterday, will be held Monday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock in the Darius A. Putnam, Inc., funeral parlors, 866 Main Street. Burial will be in Hope Cemetery. She was born in this city, the daughter of Francis A. and Harriet E. (Rich) Clough. Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, Alan T. of Missouri, and George C. Busby of Tuskegee, Ala., and a brother, Benjamin H. Clough of Worcester.

(continues)

Part of the page from the 1904 alumni directory of the State Normal School, showing the entry for Jennie:



Jennie and Alfred had two sons: Alan Thacker Busby, born in 1895; and George Clough Busby, born in 1897. Allen's middle name, Thacker, was the last name of a boarder in the home from about the time of the Busby marriage to the early 1910s: Lucy L. N. Thacker. The census record for 1910 describes her occupation as a "laundress," suggesting that she was part of the clothes cleaning, or "renovating," business of "Busby the Tailor." Why the Busbys named their first son after Lucy's surname is unknown (here).

Both Alan (or Thacker, as he was called in his high school yearbook) and George apparently had left Worcester by 1920, as neither the census nor the city directory of that or any following year found either of them in the city. They both "reverse migrated," from the north to the south, one ending up in Alabama, the other in Missouri.

The following section about the two sons is also included in the G. Alfred Busby entry in the WorcesterThen Obituary.

Jennie (Clough) Busby died May 11, 1928, in Worcester, at the age of 71.

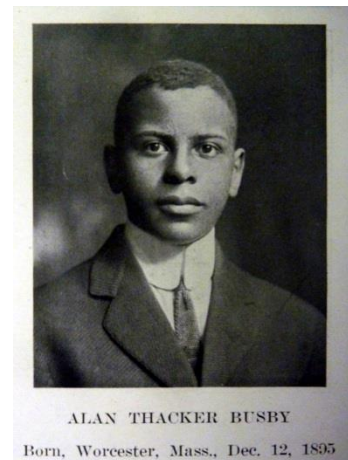
G. Alfred Busby died Nov-01-1934 in Worcester, at the age of 77.

## Sons of G. Alfred and Jennie (Clough) Busby

**Alan Thacker Busby** graduated in 1914, a member of the last class of the combined Classical and English High. He then attended the Connecticut Agricultural College in Storrs, the forerunner of the University of Connecticut, and graduated with the Class of 1918.

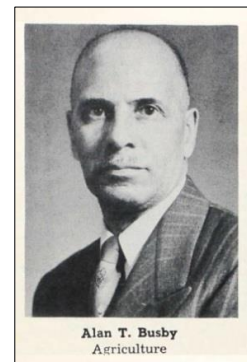
As a member of the college R.O.T.C., he became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U. S. Army in May, 1918 and in mid-September was shipped to France. He was discharged from the Army the following April, and at some date left the Worcester area. His original destination is unknown, as are his reasons for leaving.

Photo from the *Aftermath*, yearbook of Worcester High School, 1914.



Alan's life is unknown from the end of his military service in 1919 until 1943, when he joined the faculty of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, teaching agriculture. After 23 years, he retired in 1966, but remained affiliated with the school as an advisor to veterans. He was married to an Edith O. Busby, but nothing is known of her or of any children they might have had. Alan Thacker Busby died in June, 1992, at the age of 96 and was buried in Jefferson City.


Photo from the faculty pages of the yearbook of Lincoln University, 1954.



U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990 for Allen T Busby  
Missouri > Jefferson City > Lincoln University > 1968

### Veterans get Assistance

For more than 23 years, **Allen T** Busby served on the University's faculty. After his retirement two years ago, Mr. Busby decided to remain around in order to serve as counselor to veterans.



Mr. Allen T. Busby serves as Veteran Counselor.

Mr. Busby listens attentively to a veteran.

A page from the 1968 yearbook of Lincoln University shows Busby in his retirement capacity of advisor to veterans.

Link: A brief and interesting [history of Lincoln University](#) of Jefferson City, Mo.

from Ancestry.com

**George Clough Busby** graduated from the combined English and Commerce High in 1915.

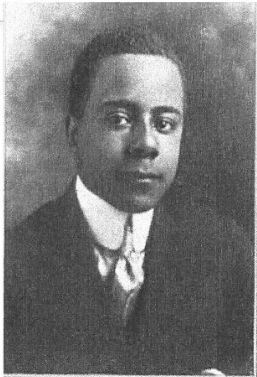
After graduation, he worked at Wickwire Spencer Steel, and he appeared in city directories through 1919. He then or soon afterward moved to Alabama, where in 1926 he married Alice Nesbitt of Montgomery, who, like his mother, was a school teacher.

U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990 for George Clough Busby  
Massachusetts > Worcester > Old English HS and New High School of Commerce > 1915

GEORGE CLOUGH BUSBY.

"A human with a god-like smile."

George is famous because he carries with him a smile that can be seen afar off. He is never disturbed over the conditions of affairs but takes life easy. George likes to plague his darling teachers, for George believes that all should enjoy life as he does. His favorite expression is "Hello, Billy" which he says when passing his friend in the hall. George is popular with both girls and boys.



His senior picture, with a "biography" of him by the editors.

They settled in Tuskegee where he was a bookkeeper and supply officer at the Veterans Administration Hospital located there. In his father's obituary notice he was said to have been an instructor at the Tuskegee Institute, which was also the training location of the famed Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. George and Anita had a son, George Clough Busby, Jr., born in 1930.

An effort to find an obituary notice for him was unsuccessful.