

Where Did Thomas L. Marsalis Go?

By: Jim Barnes, architect and Sharon Marsalis

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Thomas L. Marsalis came to Dallas with the first railroad, in 1872. He was nineteen years old. He rapidly made a fortune in the wholesale grocery business. In 1873 Marsalis married Elizabeth Josephine (Lizzie) Crowds, the daughter of Dr. J. W. Crowds, one of Dallas' wealthiest citizens and its future mayor. The couple's three children, Allene, Laila, and Thomas, Jr., were all born in Dallas. Allene died in 1878 at age four and was buried in the Crowds family plot at the Dallas "Pioneer Cemetery".

Thomas L. Marsalis was credited with helping to establish the Dallas fire department, initiating the pavement of streets, helping to capitalize a new newspaper, The Dallas Morning News, and acting as a Director for the Dallas State Fair in its Semi-Centennial celebration of 1886; but most of all, Marsalis is remembered today as "the Father of Oak Cliff". His real estate development of Oak Cliff was a huge investment with its own steam railroad, water supply system, and public streets and parks. The Oak Cliff venture launched like an economic rocket but rather quickly fizzled back down to earth as a financial dud. After his demise with Oak Cliff, Thomas L. Marsalis disappears from the pages of Dallas histories.

Amateur historians of the Dallas Historical Society's internet "Message Board" have collaborated on a two and half year long research investigation into the fate of Thomas L. Marsalis. We herein offer corrections to some often repeated, but inaccurate, myths about his life.

Myth #1—Marsalis was a son of Dutch Quaker immigrants:

The popular history The Hidden City: Oak Cliff, Texas starts a biographical profile of Thomas L. Marsalis with the commonly repeated misstatement: "His parents were Dutch Quakers who left Holland for Pennsylvania in the 1840s."¹ The truth of the matter turns out to be that Marsalis' ancestor Pieter van Marselis and family came to America from Holland aboard the ship 'Beaver' (Bever) in 1661² and settled in Bergen County, New Jersey where they were members of the Dutch Reform Church, not Quakers.³ Five generations later, Thomas L. Marsalis' grandfather, Peter H. Marsalis, left the Bound Brook, New Jersey area and migrated south to Georgia and then west to Amite County, Mississippi. There, one of Peter H. and Mary Magdalene Gordon Marsalis' five sons, Patterson Marsalis, was born in 1813. Patterson married three times. His second wife, Martha Terrell, gave birth to Thomas Lafayette Marsalis [pronounced *mār-sā'lis* by this branch of the family] in Amite County, Mississippi on October 4th, 1852.⁴

In a 1916 conversation with U. S. Senator Stephens of Nebraska, Thomas L. Marsalis remarked that his American ancestry went back over 240 years.⁵ He himself was well aware of his family's historical American roots.

Myth #2—Marsalis, bankrupted by the Panic of 1893, leaves Dallas

The gist of this second prevalent myth is that Marsalis' Oak Cliff investments were stopped by a great national economic depression called "the Panic of 1893", and that a bankrupt Marsalis then moved to New York City. Dallas Rediscovered gives an example: "The year 1893 witnessed two important events in the evolution of Oak Cliff: the completion of the first public school ...and the complete collapse of the fortunes of Thomas Marsalis. By 1892, Marsalis had invested well over \$1 million in his Oak Cliff venture... The Panic of 1893 almost completely stifled growth not only in Oak Cliff but all over Dallas, where the total population declined by nearly 5,000 between 1892 and 1894. Completely bankrupt, Marsalis was forced to sell his business interest in the Dallas and Oak Cliff Railway..., the Oak Cliff Water Supply and Electric

Light and Power Company..., and The Park Hotel... He left for New York to begin a new career, but died a poor man just a few years later.”⁶

Several features of this myth turn out to be incorrect. First of all, Marsalis’ Oak Cliff ventures were already failing before the Panic of 1893 ever began. The Ogden Standard Examiner on the 11th of June 1891 reported that Marsalis’ Dallas Land & Loan Company was forced to “make an assignment” to “protect its assets”. “The Company was the principal owner of the Oak Cliff, a suburb across the river from Dallas, and had to carry so much paper that they got caught in a tight place”. The Marsalis family apparently left for Philadelphia and New York City shortly thereafter, because The Dallas Morning News announced the return of Mrs. Marsalis and the children after an absence of “several months” during the first week of October 1891.⁷ Philadelphia and New York City were places to find fresh capital to fuel the Oak Cliff venture; and Marsalis’ search for new funds was successful – at first.

By the end of 1891 Marsalis had organized new stockholders into several corporations⁸ and continued to expand his Oak Cliff residential land holdings.⁹ On December 31st 1891, Marsalis personally bought 302 acres of land in an area we now call Kessler Park for \$41,925¹⁰ and then the very next day he sold it to one of his own new corporations, the North Oak Cliff Company, for a surprising \$330,000.¹¹ His undaunted expansive optimism was expressed that same New Year’s Day in a Marsalis letter from Philadelphia quoted by The Dallas Morning News: “Dallas should prepare to have 150,000 in five years”¹². In reality, it took twenty-five years for Dallas’ population to reach that size.¹³

It became common knowledge in Dallas that Marsalis’ businesses were not on solid footings, as a Dallas Daily Times Herald article announcing a new Marsalis railroad line through West Dallas to Mountain Creek, makes apparent.¹⁴ Marsalis returned to Texas in April of 1892¹⁵, but left again the following September.¹⁶ Trouble worsened. In March of 1893, the North Oak Cliff Company defaulted and the assets that Marsalis had so profitably transferred to it only the year before were auctioned away.¹⁷ The following month his railroads were sold off.¹⁸ After all this had already happened, prices on the New York Stock Exchange suddenly collapsed on May 5th and only then did the “Panic of 1893” begin.

In June 1893, a month after the start of the worst economic depression America had so-far experienced, Marsalis wrote in a lengthy newspaper monograph, “A new era is now dawning upon the state, especially upon Dallas, and by proper co-operation of the investment public of Texas, Dallas will forge ahead...”¹⁹ But Dallas didn’t forge ahead with Marsalis that year. He was 40 years old.

The failure of Marsalis in Oak Cliff is certainly part of a larger national economic situation unfolding both before and after the stock market price collapse; but it appears to be more accurate to say that Marsalis’ investments helped to cause the “Panic of 1893” than to believe that his failure in Oak Cliff resulted simply because of the sudden nationwide constriction of business activities following the falter of stock values.

Marsalis and his family stayed in New York City and sought new opportunity there. By July of 1894 he had a job as President of the American Grocery Company, a re-organization and re-capitalization of a gigantic but insolvent wholesale grocery firm, the former Thurber-Wyland Company.²⁰ Almost three years later, in April of 1897, angry stockholders claimed that the company was faltering again, blamed Marsalis, and publicly called for his resignation.²¹ Marsalis refused to quit. The dissident stockholders filed a lawsuit. Unknown to them, the firm had been borrowing cash for its daily operations and when the unexpected allegations paralyzed the firm’s credit standing, halting its loans, virtually all of its business activity suddenly ceased. Neither side would relent. Finally, the courts were petitioned to liquidate the American Grocery Company.²²

Let us back up a bit to ask: if Thomas L. Marsalis went bankrupt in 1893, then where did he get the money to set himself up as “chief executive officer” of a multi-million dollar corporation the following year? The New York Times reported that as part of the recapitalization of the American Grocery Company “Marsalis and certain friends had paid in \$100,000.”²³ We ran across no evidence that Marsalis personally, or that any of the corporations he established to develop Oak Cliff, ever went into any formal bankruptcy. Ten years after the demise of Oak Cliff, Marsalis’ original Dallas Land and Loan Company and his North Oak Cliff Company were still intact and selling real estate in Oak Cliff.²⁴ No systematic historical review of the many court cases involving Thomas L. Marsalis has ever been published; a true accounting of the structure of his retreat from Oak Cliff’s insolvency remains untold.

The failure of the American Grocery Corporation to survive under his new management must have been a frustrating and bitter second defeat for Thomas L. Marsalis. The damage to his reputation might have been hampering his search for another new job opportunity in the New York City area because on the 16th of November 1898, Marsalis arrived back in Dallas.²⁵ His return seems to have been widely welcomed. During the Christmas holiday of 1898, he was made the special guest of honor at a banquet in Oak Cliff attended by its mayor and numerous area business leaders. He gave “an hour’s talk” about “his experiences in Texas from 1871 until the crisis of 1893” and proposed that Oak Cliff merge with Dallas. The Dallas Morning News reported that Marsalis would return to New York later that week²⁶, but subsequent reports have Marsalis planning the construction of “Lake Llewellyn” (now called Lake Cliff)²⁷ and then suing the lake’s builders for errors in construction”.²⁸ The U.S. Census of 1900 lists Marsalis as a “capitalist” boarding at the Windsor Hotel in downtown Dallas. By October of that year his wife Lizzie was also staying in Dallas, along with their daughter Laila, who had recently graduated from Vassar College. There were social parties where Lizzie wore “jeweled lace and diamonds”²⁹ and there was a debutante ball for Laila.³⁰ The Marsalises maintained residency in New York City³¹, but this new period in Dallas lasted almost five years.

Thomas Marsalis was involved in various other new business activities during this prolonged re-association with Dallas. He sued the Oak Cliff Sewage Company and by decision of the Texas Supreme Court, wrested ownership to his own name.³² Also he became the local manager of an enterprise building an interurban railroad between Dallas and Fort Worth.³³ The new rail line was successfully completed in 1902³⁴, but Marsalis wound up suing its owners, George T. Bishop & Associates of Cleveland, for “\$3.5 million in stocks and bonds” due to “violations of contract”. In March of 1903 the voters of City of Oak Cliff approved a merger with the City of Dallas. Laila and Lizzie Marsalis were mentioned in various Dallas society reports through that year’s October social season; but the entire family had apparently returned to New York City before the end of the next month.³⁵ After twelve years of shuttling back and forth, this return to New York City became Thomas L. Marsalis’ final departure from Dallas; we found no record of any subsequent visit.

The St. Louis lender who had foreclosed ten years earlier on the gigantic mansion Marsalis had started building for himself in Oak Cliff finally put it up for public auction the last day of November 1903³⁶, right after Marsalis’ final departure. While part of the financial community may have been wary of Marsalis, as a whole he was still highly regarded by the citizens of Dallas. In 1905 the Dallas City Council waived its policy of never naming streets for living people, and changed the name of Oak Cliff’s Grand Avenue to Marsalis Avenue, in honor of Thomas L. Marsalis.³⁷

Myth #3 – Marsalis died in poverty, the location and date of his death unknown

The Handbook of Texas Online (sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin) ends its biography of Thomas L. Marsalis with: “Marsalis left for New York City in 1894 to try new business endeavors, but died a poor man a few years later. The location and date of his death are unknown.”³⁸

Information we were able to accumulate about the life of Thomas L. Marsalis after 1903 is relatively sparse. Simple facts about his life in New York were difficult to find without going there for research work. We wound up piecing together the stories of the ends of his family members’ lives in a reverse chronological order. Each new bit of information provided just enough clues to enable us to uncover the previous stage of events. Our research employed a combination of careful deduction and hit-or-miss guesswork. The guesswork often led us nowhere, but it scored enough successes to keep us learning. We were left with a collection of somewhat odd looking facts, pieces of a puzzle which fit together better using one simple hypothesized theory about the fate of Marsalis’ fortune. The factual pieces read as follows.

In the June of 1904, late in the spring following Thomas L. Marsalis final exit from Dallas, young Thomas, Junior graduated from Harvard College and moved back to New York City to live with his parents and sister. The Marsalis’ only son Thomas Lafayette Marsalis, Jr. had been born in Dallas on the 5th of February 1884. He had been only seven years old when the Oak Cliff development had started faltering and he had grown up in Manhattan. The 1910 Census lists the entire family residing at 227 Riverside Drive, a prestigious New York City address on the western edge of the island with a magnificent view across the Hudson River to New Jersey. His New York City friends included Helen Sousa, daughter of famed musician John Phillip Sousa, and young Marsalis wound up being “best man” at her wedding in 1912.³⁹

Thomas Marsalis Junior became a stockbroker. In 1914 he married Lillian Davenport of Brooklyn⁴⁰, a descendant of an old Connecticut family. In 1915 their only child, Barbara, was born. In 1916 they built a new \$20,000 home at the top of the mountain in Montclair, New Jersey.⁴¹ He opened his own stock brokerage firm, the Thomas Marsalis Company, in 1917 and handled distribution of Standard Oil issues on the “Curb Market”.⁴²

The occupation of his father Thomas L. Marsalis, Senior was listed as “investor--real estate” or a “real estate dealer” during this period. Thomas, Sr.’s name briefly splashed around national newspapers one final time in 1916. Just prior to America’s entry into World War I, he was portrayed as being a “lobbyist” in Washington D.C.; allegedly working for pro-German forces trying to convince United States Senators to keep America out of the World War.⁴³ Little came of the fracas. America joined the fight. Thomas Junior was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army in October 1918. The conflict ended soon thereafter and he was discharged on December 2nd of that year.⁴⁴

In a rare inaccuracy, the W.P.A. reported that Thomas L. Marsalis, Sr. was buried in the old “Pioneer Cemetery” in downtown Dallas⁴⁵; but that turns out to be untrue. After weeks of illness Thomas L. Marsalis, Senior died from “lobar pneumonia” in a house at 454 East 31st Street in Paterson, New Jersey at 10:25 p.m. on Sunday, the 20th of April 1919.⁴⁶ The following morning a local news paper carried a “Death Notice” which promised to follow up with later information about funeral services⁴⁷; however no further obituary was found in that journal, nor were we able to find another death notice in any other newspaper, anywhere. His son bought a cemetery plot at the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Paterson on the 25th of April and Thomas L. Marsalis, Sr. was buried there the next day.⁴⁸

Marsalis’ death certificate listed his occupation as “real estate broker”. We were never able to find any reason as to why he was in Paterson during his final illness. Though the local Paterson directories had never listed his name as an inhabitant⁴⁹; Marsalis had established legal residency there. The probate of his estate was filed in New Jersey courts, even though his widow

and daughter continued to live at 227 Riverside in New York City. Thomas L. Marsalis left no written will. His son, Thomas Marsalis, Junior was made Administrator and swore in an affidavit that the value of his father's estate was \$6,239 (year 2007 value, based on the Consumer Price Index, would be a little less than \$75,000.) Court records include no inventory. New Jersey law granted the widow 1/3 with the remaining 2/3 being equally divided between the children. A year later, the three heirs (wife, daughter, and son) each pledged the estate Administrator an \$8,000 bond, covering the portion they had each received.⁵⁰ In March of 1920, a month before those final releases for the inheritance were signed, a small classified advertisement was posted in The New York Times by a Marsalis of 227 Riverside Drive offering a reward for a "diamond platinum barpin, emerald centre" lost on "Broadway between 98th and 90th Street."⁵¹

Four months after the final settlement of the estate, in an unexpected turn of events, daughter Lalia died from post operative tetanus on the 20th of November 1920.⁵² She too was buried at Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Paterson, New Jersey. Laila had lived to the well-concealed age of 42, residing with her mother. She had no business occupation, no marriage, no children. Her death was intestate and her estate was valued at "less than 1,000".⁵³

The stock brokerage business of Thomas Marsalis Jr. continued to prosper and he became a founding member of the American Stock Exchange during 1921. His mother, Elizabeth Marsalis, age 71, died from a cerebral hemorrhage at her 227 Riverside Drive residence on the 12th of April 1926.⁵⁴ She was buried in Cedar Lawn Cemetery between her husband and her daughter. Their graves were marked by a suite of gray granite. Her death was intestate and her estate was valued at "less than 1,000".⁵⁵ The Dallas Morning News featured an obituary.⁵⁶

Thomas Marsalis Jr. was elected to the Board of Governors of the American Stock Exchange in September of 1929⁵⁷. The following month, a catastrophic collapse of stock prices began the only economic depression in American history worse than the Panic of 1893. During 1930, at age 46, he withdrew to a 750 acre historic farm named "My Lord's Gift" in rural Queenstown, Maryland.⁵⁸ For more than 30 years he and his wife were active in social, civic, and business affairs of the Eastern Shore. Finally after having out-lived his wife, his daughter, and his daughter's husband, Thomas Marsalis, Jr. quietly died in 1966 at age 82.⁵⁹ He was buried in the local Old Wye cemetery. The Dallas Morning News featured an obituary.⁶⁰

Thomas Marsalis Junior had one grandchild and through our internet research we were able to track down that sole descendant of this Marsalis line. We were disappointed when he wrote to us saying that he knew very little about his grandfather Thomas Marsalis, Junior and nothing at all about his great-grandfather who had established Oak Cliff.

Did Thomas L. Marsalis Sr. really die "a poor man"? We don't believe so. If Tom Marsalis had run out of money, his family certainly never acted like it. Considering his past business acumen, the rising success of his son, and the details of his family's lifestyle it becomes rather implausible to arrange the facts into any consistent picture of poverty. We consider it more helpful to hypothesize that prior to his death Thomas L. Marsalis, Sr. had deposited almost all of his financial assets into a "trust", a fund from which he and his family drew money as needed. Such a trust could have completely hidden the extent and character of the family assets from public scrutiny, and thereby helped protect their wealth from predatory lawsuits.

Though we have no direct evidence of such a private trust, this hypothesis would explain the series of odd incongruities that we found. Assets of a trust would never have been required to be revealed in any probate court records. The establishment of residency in New Jersey would have moved probate proceedings out of New York courts and its newspapers altogether, insuring an even greater level of secrecy. The intentional suppression of newspaper obituaries would have maintained this privacy. Each of the heirs signed a probate "release" covering the total amount of the estate because all of the money was being commingled in their family trust. Widow and

daughter could have continued to live quite comfortably without owning any significant property outside of the trust; and a couple of years after son Thomas became the trust's sole surviving beneficiary, he virtually left the world of work altogether to live the luxurious life of a "country squire". By this hypothesis, the absence of any historical account of Thomas L. Marsalis, Sr.'s final passing would not have been accidental at all.

The image of Dallas includes a worldwide reputation for brilliant and often wily acting business characters. We believe that Thomas L. Marsalis, Senior should be considered among one of our first. During his lifetime that witnessed a continual preeminence of American small towns and family farms, Marsalis was possessed with the vision of a culture and economy increasingly dominated by a few large fast-growing cities. His reckless investment in that vision helped make Dallas one such metropolis. We are honored to have been able to rediscover the long lost conclusion of his fate.

Research credits:

This research was made possible by the rapid development of the internet during our preceding decade. Website publications of U.S. Census data, immigration logs, "Death Indexes", and especially the digital scanning and indexing of complete city newspaper archives, have rapidly opened pathways to heretofore obscure historical reference material.

Credit for the collective research effort presented herein is due to:

Dallas Historical Society internet "Message Board" participants (in order of their initial appearance): Jim Barnes; Sharon Marsalis (Raleigh, North Carolina); Jim Wheat; Cecil N. Jones (Houston, Texas); Ralph Black; Greg Jaynes (Texas Gulf Coast); Fred Ragsdale; Vivian Skinner; Hal Prestridge; "Jean"; Dennis Hogan, Clyde W. Howard III (retired attorney), William G. Roberts (New Mexico); David L. McNeely; Troy Johnson; John Little; Leslie Kiser; Debi Giltner; Teresa Jordan; Gene Morris; Bill Crane; Bob Taylor; Peter Kurilecz (Richmond, Va.); Steve Westhafer; Jerry Dealey (en passant), and M.C. Toyer.

Also assisting were: Mike Marsalis (Raleigh, North Carolina), Norman Rutan (Kearny, New Jersey -- from the internet Message Board of the Passaic County genealogy group); Tempe Fenn Crosby (Louisiana); John L. Drye (Houston); Professor Eric T. Laity (Oklahoma City University's School of Law); Ralph Churchill (retired attorney); Jonathan Kammel (architect, New York City); and Arvel Haley, M.D. (retired physician).

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¹ Minutaglio, Bill and Williams, Holly. The Hidden City: Oak Cliff, Texas, Elmwood Press and the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, 1990, page 49.

² “Peter Marcelis van Beest, and Wife and four children and 2 servants” are listed as passengers on the ship “Bever” to New Netherland (New York) in 1661 at the website: <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/nnship18.shtml>; 2005
Also: Holland Society of New York. Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York: 1902. New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1902 (database at: Ancestry.com); and also: Holland Society of New York. The Yearbook of the Holland Society of New York: 1915. Albany, NY: F. A. Bassette Co., 1916; (database online at: Ancestry.com).

³ Burials, death records, and baptisms recorded at Bergen Reform Church, Bergen, New Jersey.

⁴ Genealogical information and prior Marsalis family history was provided through the private research work of Sharon Marsalis. Her sources include:
a. A Search for Polly, compiled by Harry L. Marsalis, Adams Press, 1971;
b. Tempe Fenn Crosby and her manuscript Pieter Marcelisen-Peter H. Marsalis- Six Generations, with Van Vorst, Pintard, Hutchins and Gordon Research Material-- in the Jackson, Mississippi Archives and the McComb, Mississippi Library (plus email correspondence with Sharon Marsalis); and
c. State and Federal Censuses for NY, NJ, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas for years 1800-1930.

⁵ “Lies, Lies, Says Speaker”, The Washington Post, Wed., 8th March 1916, p. 2, col. 4.

⁶ McDonald, William L. Dallas Rediscovered: A Photographic Chronicle of Urban Expansion 1870-1925, with an introductory essay by A.C. Greene; The Dallas Historical Society; 1978; page 220.

⁷ The Dallas Morning News; 3rd October 1891, page 5.

⁸ The Dallas Morning News; 27th December 1891, page 12.

⁹ Dallas County Real Estate Records, Vol. 153, page 290; as also copied in The History of the William Myer Section, Volume 4 -- The Taylor Abstract: An Abstract of Real Estates Property Title for the Oak Cliff Annex addition to the City of Dallas, Texas: 1858-1913; compiled by J. Barnes; 2002; page 69; (a copy can be found in the Dealey Library of the Dallas Historical Society).

¹⁰ Dallas County Deed Records, Book 153, p. 290. -- also copied in The History of the William Myer Section, Volume 4; page 69.

¹¹ Dallas County Deed Records, Book 145, p. 455. Also copied in The History of the William Myer Section, Volume 4; page 70.

¹² “Dallas in 1892”, The Dallas Morning News, 1st January 1892; page 5.

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- ¹³ The U.S. Census of 1920 gave Dallas a population of 158,976, according to the W.P.A. Guide and History of Dallas, originally completed in 1940—published 1992; edited for publication by Maxine Holmes and Gerald D. Saxon; Dallas Public Library and Texas Center for the Book, University of North Texas Press; page 92.
- ¹⁴ “The West Dallas Railway”, The Dallas Daily Times Herald, 2nd April 1892, page 1, col. 2.
- ¹⁵ “Mr. T.L. Marsalis Coming.”, The Dallas Morning News, 9th April 1892; page 8.
- ¹⁶ The Dallas Morning News, 2nd September 1892; page 8.
- ¹⁷ Dallas County Deed Records, Book 170, p. 290-1; Book 171, page 268; Book 174, pages 8-9 and 12; and Book 73, page 133. -- Also copied in The History of the William Myer Section, Volume 4; page 73-81.
- ¹⁸ “Rapid Transit Line”, Dallas Daily Times Herald, 19th April 1893, p. 1, col. 2.
- ¹⁹ “Mr. Marsalis on Cities”, The Dallas Morning News, 1st June 1893”, page 8.
- ²⁰ “Thurber-Whyland’s Successor”, The New York Times, 1st July 1894, pg. 24.
- ²¹ “American Grocery Company”, The New York Times, 18th April 1897, pg. 27.
- ²² “A Receiver Applied For”, The New York Times, 19th October 1897, pg. 12.
- ²³ “A Big Concern’s Decline”, The New York Times, 11th October 1897, pg. 3.
- ²⁴ “Real Estate Transfers”, The Dallas Morning News, 5th May 1902, pg. 12; and also, “Real Estate Transfers”, The Dallas Morning News, 31st March 1903, pg. 8.
- ²⁵ “Round about Town”, The Dallas Morning News, 17th November 1898, page 8.
- ²⁶ “An Affair Over the River”, The Dallas Morning News, 28th December 1898, page 8.
- ²⁷ “Llewellyn Lake and Park”, The Dallas Morning News, 6th August 1899, page 6; and also, “Let the Contract”, The Dallas Morning News, 29 April 1900, page 7.
- ²⁸ T.L. Marsalis is listed as the plaintiff in legal filings, starting in: “Heavy Damage Suit”; The Dallas Morning News; 8th July 1900; pg. 2.
- ²⁹ “Bachelors Opening Ball”, The Dallas Morning News, 10th October 1900, page 5.
- ³⁰ ”Dallas Society News”, The Dallas Morning News; 14th November 1900; page 10.

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- ³¹ In June of 1900 Thomas L. Marsalis, Junior enrolled in Harvard College. His transcript initially listed the address of his parents as “1 West 81st Street; New York City” (which is on the western edge of Central Park, just north of the American Museum of Natural History). That address is crossed out and immediately underneath it the transcript notes that “the boy’s reports, etc.” were to be sent to his father at: “105 Chambers Street, NYC”. The copy of this transcript was provided in a letter from the Harvard University Archives to Jim Barnes dated 25th January 2005.
- ³² “Back Taxes Remitted”; The Dallas Morning News, 1st February 1903, page 7.
- ³³ “Built Railroad At Night”, The Dallas Morning News, 24th March 1900, page 10.
- ³⁴ “First Trip a Success”, The Dallas Morning News, 2nd of March 1902, page 8; and also, “Interurban Cars Run Today”, The Dallas Morning News, 1st of June 1902, page 9.
- ³⁵ “Sues for \$3,500,000”, The New York Times, 29th November 1903, page 2.
- ³⁶ “Oak Cliff Land Sale”, The Dallas Morning News, 1st December 1903, page 11.
- ³⁷ “Oak Cliff Notes”, The Dallas Morning News, 19th May 1904, page 3; and also, “Names for Streets”, The Dallas Morning News, 15th April 1905, pg. 11.
- ³⁸ Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "MARSALIS, THOMAS," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/fmaag.html> (accessed September 5, 2005)
- ³⁹ “Miss Helen Sousa A Bride”, The New York Times, 18th December 1912, pg. 15.
- ⁴⁰ “Davenport-Marsalis Engagement”, The New York Times, 1 March 1914, pg 15.
- ⁴¹ “Latest Dealings in Realty Field”, The New York Times, 25th June 1916, p.XX3, 1; and also: “Latest Realty Sales”, The New York Times, 2nd September 1917, page 24, 1.
- ⁴² Harvard Class of 1904: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report; privately printed for the Class by the Plimpton Press; Norwood, Massachusetts; June 1929, page 490.
- ⁴³ “Lies, Lies, Says Speaker”, The Washington Post, Wed., 8 March 1916, p. 2, col. 4.
- ⁴⁴ Harvard’s Military Record in the World War; edited by Frederick S. Mead, A.B.; the Harvard Alumni Association; Boston, Massachusetts; 1921; page 641.
- ⁴⁵ W.P.A. Guide and History of Dallas, originally completed in 1940—published 1992; edited for publication by Maxine Holmes and Gerald D. Saxon; Dallas Public Library and Texas Center for the Book, University of North Texas Press; page 364.
- ⁴⁶ Certificate and Record of Death: Thomas L. Marsalis (20 April 1919; Passaic County): Department of Health of the State of New Jersey, Bureau of Vital Statistics, filed April 26, 1919.

⁴⁷ “Paterson Morning Call”, Monday, 21st April 1919; page 14, column 4, which stated in full: “MARSALIS—At his home, 434 East Thirty-first street, on Sunday, April 20, 1919, Thomas L. Marsalis in his 67th year. Notice of services later.”

⁴⁸ Records of the Cedar Lawn Cemetery-- Paterson, New Jersey; internments in Section T1; Lot 78; West Division; Thomas L. Marsalis: Internment # 28126. Letter to Sharon Marsalis, dated 18th April 2005.

⁴⁹ Letter from Bruce R. Bardarik, Local Historian Librarian of the Paterson Free Public Library, to Jim Barnes, dated June 23, 2006, which states: “I could not locate a Thomas L. Marsalis in the Paterson city directories from 1903-1919 though I did locate and highlight the names that are similar to the Marsalis name such as Marselis, Marsala, Marrellia, Marrellis, and Marsallo. Please note that there were no city directories published for the years 1908, 1912, and 1918.”

⁵⁰ Probate records for the Estate of Thomas L. Marsalis (Sr.): The Surrogates Office; Paterson, New Jersey, include: Petition for Administration -- Book H, pp. 195-196; Letters of Administration -- Book J, pg. 285; Order Appointing Administrator -- Surrogate’s Record Book B, pg. 223; Administrators Bond to the Court -- Bonds Book C, pg. 53; Order to Limit Creditors -- Surrogates Record Book I, pg. 393; and Releases (3) -- Book O-3, pp. 152-157. None of the original documents remain, only copies in bound books, explained genealogist Maria Jean Pratt Hopper, who procured photo-copies for our research.

⁵¹ Untitled Classified Advertisement, The New York Times, 28 March 1920, page 22.

⁵² Standard Certificate of Death: Laila Marsalis; State of New York, Department of Health of The City of New York, Bureau of Records; Certificate #30270; November 20, 1926.

⁵³ Surrogates’ Court, County of New York, New York: probate records of Laila Marsalis, filed December 21, 1920, Bound Book #577 (Petition for Letters of Administration, by Thomas L. Marsalis, Jr.).

⁵⁴ Standard Certificate of Death: Elizabeth J. Marsalis; State of New York, Department of Health of The City of New York, Bureau of Records; Certificate #11714; April 12, 1926.

⁵⁵ Surrogates’ Court, County of New York, New York: probate records of Elizabeth J. Marsalis, filed May 17, 1926, Bound Book #621 (Petition for Letters of Administration, by Thomas L. Marsalis, Jr.); and also: “Wills for Probate”; The New York Times; 19th May 1926; page 50.

⁵⁶ “Mrs. Tom Marsalis Dies in New York”, The Dallas Morning News, 14 April 1926; Section 1, page 8.

⁵⁷ “Curb Elects Bear and Marsalis”, The New York Times, 14th September 1929; Business and Finance Section, Page 33.

⁵⁸ Harvard Class of 1904: Fiftieth Anniversary Report; pages 302-303; copies provided in a letter from the Harvard University Archives to Jim Barnes dated 25th January 2005.

⁵⁹ Certificate of Death: Thomas Marsalis; Maryland Dept. of Health; Div. of Statistical Research & Records; T. Marsalis (SS#: 220-32-0100); Cert. #08928; 22nd June 1966.

⁶⁰ “Thomas Marsalis, Founder of Stock Exchange, Dies”, The Dallas Morning News, 24th June 1966, Section D, page 3.

⁶¹ The “Message Board” of the Dallas Historical Society is open to the public, free, and may be reached through: <http://www.dallashistory.org>