Esther M. MCNEW was born on 1 April, 1859 in Booneville, Owsley County, Kentucky. Her name was listed as "Easter" in the county records. Her middle name may have been Margaret.

In the 1860 Census she is listed as Esther C., 1 year old². In 1870, she is Esther M., 11 years old³. In 1880, a Maggie MCNEW is listed with her sister Mollie Hansen⁴. Her age is 20. There is no Esther MCNEW listed, and all the other sisters are accounted for. It seems obvious, therefore, that Maggie is really Esther, and like some others in the family, switched to her middle name and took a year off her age.

Very little more is known about Esther. Her mother's obituary in 1903 mentions her as Esther EWELL, deceased. She may have married into the same Ewell family as her sister, Martha. Her marriage and death may have been in Nebraska or in Washington. A photograph of her indicates that she was by far the best-looking of the McNew sisters.



¹ INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX, 1988 edition. Entry dated April 1, 1859:

Easter McNew (f) Father: Moses McNew. Mother: C. J. Jones. ² U. S. CENSUS, 1860, OWSLEY CO, KENTUCKY; Travelers Rest, page 10

³ U. S. CENSUS, 1870, OWSLEY CO, KENTUCKY; page 311, Booneville

⁴ U. S. CENSUS, 1880, PHELPS CO, NEBRASKA; page 83A, E.D. 13, Sheet 1, Williamsburg Precinct.