

# National Genealogical Society Quarterly



Volume 107, No. 4, December 2019

*The*  
National Genealogical Society

presents . . .

# Faces of America

On the Cover:

**“OLD UNCLE DAVIE” DAVID TRUMAN**  
**(about 1810–1903)**

David Truman was born about 1810 in Washington Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, to David Truman, who was formerly enslaved, and an unknown mother. He had an older brother, Samuel, and a younger sister, Lydia. David was known in Fayette County as “Old Uncle Davie.”

His enslaved ancestors had probably migrated from Prince George’s County, Maryland, in 1773 with Margaret Hutton. Widow Hutton, the largest slave owner in Fayette County, owned twenty-five enslaved people. Her 1795 will directed that David’s father, born in 1781, be freed when he turned twenty-five.

David claimed he was born on Captain William Elliott’s place, near Hutton’s farm. At age five he was bound out to David Wells. The Truman and Wells families were members of the Little Redstone Presbyterian Church. David’s mother likely helped support the family by cleaning the church. Later David joined the Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Elizabeth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

David and his wife, Lucinda, had three children. Lucinda died at an early age. David was a farm worker and a laborer. He once drove a wagon on the old National Road. Later in life he was Reverend McGowan’s servant. David shared a small property near the Quaker meeting house in Pleasant Valley in Fayette County with his nephew, David Henry Truman. He lived all his life in Pleasant Valley except for a few teen years in Pittsburgh and with David Henry in Wilson near Elizabeth before he died.

Everyone who knew David said he walked everywhere. When Reverend McGowan died, he walked fifteen miles to the funeral. David died in 1903. His obituary claims he was 107, the oldest man in Pennsylvania. Mr. Burroughs takes issue in his article inside. The obituary attributes David’s advanced age to his excellent physical condition, itself a benefit of his lifelong habit of walking.

**Credits:** Documentation of David Truman’s life is in the files of Tony Burroughs; P.O. Box 53091; Chicago, Illinois, 60653; [Tony@TonyBurroughs.com](mailto:Tony@TonyBurroughs.com). The cover portrait, taken in the late nineteenth century, was owned by Mimm Campbell of Washington, Pennsylvania. Mr. Burroughs, David’s brother’s third great-grandson, obtained a copy from Mimm in 1976.

# National Genealogical Society Quarterly

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# EDITORS' CORNER

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## Where Was Your Ancestor Listed?

"The list is the origin of culture. It's part of the history of art and literature. . . . How does one attempt to grasp the incomprehensible? Through lists, through catalogs, through collections in museums, and through encyclopedias and dictionaries."

—*Umberto Eco, Italian novelist and philosopher, SPIEGEL interview, 11 November 2009*

Humans have created lists since writing began. They fulfill the need to organize, categorize, count, record data, and ensure tasks get done. Commonplace and used daily, modern examples include birthday lists, blacklists, bucket lists, contact lists, friends lists, office directories, and to-do lists. Listicles amuse, entertain, and inform the twenty-first-century reader of limited attention span. Yet today's list-makers are unaware they carry on a practice established long ago.

Ancestors and the institutions that held authority over them created name lists for various purposes. Names appear on Bible records, censuses, electoral registers, juror lists, memorial stones, muster rolls, parish registers, passenger manifests, payrolls, school rosters, tax rolls, workhouse rosters, and yearbooks, to name a few. These records may end up in a library or archive for a descendant's future use in compiling genealogies.

Genealogists like to index lists to make individuals' names easier to find. The index itself becomes a list. Repositories compile catalogs, an indexed list of the records they hold. These become searchable databases so that finding documents becomes easier.

Effective use of a list in a genealogical context requires understanding the who,

why, when, and where of its creation. Not finding an individual in a list can be as meaningful as a successful search.

Lists, correlated with other information, provide tests of evidence. A tax roll correlated with deeds tracks land purchases, sales, and owners. Relationships noted on, or inferred from, a census may be compared with heirs-at-law listed in a probate file.

Authors in this issue use lists to solve problems of age, identity, and kinship. Tony Burroughs analyzes oral histories, census data, and age discrepancy studies to determine a reported centenarian's birth year. Shannon Green sorts identities of same-named men by comparing lists of heirs from multiple probates—including one that flouted New York law. Juror lists from an English manor court figure into Allen Peterson and Stephen Allen's explanation of a puzzling 1705 indenture. Constance Shotts identifies parents by gleaning evidence from census, tax, and other records of three same-named men created over eight decades.

In the new year may your genealogical wish list be honored and your resolutions realized.

—Nancy A. Peters and

Allen R. Peterson

NGSQ, December 2019

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## How Old Was “Old Uncle Davie” Truman of Fayette County, Pennsylvania?

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By Tony Burroughs

*Oral histories’ informants reporting a person’s age as more than one hundred years probably did not witness the centenarian’s birth. Records created closest to the alleged birth year portray a more accurate age at death.*

David Truman was a freeborn son of a formerly enslaved father, David Truman, and an unknown mother. Son David was likely born in Washington Township of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The Trumans lived along a bend on both sides of the Monongahela River from probably 1773 until after 1920. Other than brief periods in Allegheny and Washington counties, Pennsylvania, the Trumans lived primarily on the east side of the river in Jefferson Township, Fayette County.<sup>1</sup> David’s ancestors probably migrated in 1773 from Prince George’s County, Maryland, with their owner, Margaret Hutton. Hutton’s 1795 will freed David’s father in 1806.<sup>2</sup>

David died in 1903, reportedly at age 107.<sup>3</sup> However no birth records survive to prove it. References to his age come from censuses, newspapers, an obituary, and oral histories. Records created closest to David’s alleged birth year provide clues to his age at death.

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© Tony Burroughs; P.O. Box 53091; Chicago, IL 60653; Tony@TonyBurroughs.com; www.tonyburroughs.com. Mr. Burroughs is the author of *Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. In recognition of his distinguished contributions to the field of genealogy, he was named a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association in 2002. He is a great-great-grandson of David Truman, through his son Samuel. Websites were accessed 8 October 2019.

1. David’s birth likely occurred in what became Washington Township, created in December 1783. As the population grew, Jefferson Township was created from part of Washington Township in June 1840. JoAnne Hottenstein and Sibyl Welch, *Incorporation Dates for Pennsylvania Municipalities* (n.p.: Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, 1965), 62.

2. Tony Burroughs, “The African American Truman Family of Fayette County,” *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* 46 (Fall/Winter 2010): 311–26.

3. “Died at age of 107, David Truman of Jefferson Township Is No More,” *Daily News Standard* (Uniontown, Pa.), 30 March 1903, p. 3, col. 2.

## ORAL HISTORIES

The author's 2010 genealogical narrative identifies David's older brother, Samuel.<sup>4</sup> In interviews in the late 1970s three of Samuel's great-grandchildren—Jim Truman, Harriett (Bell) Arnett, and Oliver "Ollie" Truman—told stories about David. All referred to him by his nickname, "Old Uncle Davie." All agree that he was advanced in age and that he walked everywhere. Their oral accounts show David's death age ranges from 107 to 114.

*Jim Truman*

Jim, only four when David died, was the son of Luella Truman.<sup>5</sup> Luella Truman was David Henry and Annie V. Truman's daughter.<sup>6</sup> David Henry was Samuel Truman and Mary Goe's son.<sup>7</sup> Some of Jim's memories may be hearsay.

Question: Do [you] remember when you came to the Dixon farm?

Jim Truman: Well, the way I remembered, when we first went there, he [Uncle Davie] was there soon after, or at the same time.

Question: Right?

Jim Truman: Yeah, he was there. And duh—because he always said—he told people that he didn't care, he liked—he'd be satisfied to go pass away if—when I was able to take care of myself.

Question: Oh, yeah?

Jim Truman: Yeah. (laughter) I don't know why, but that's what he wanted to do. He wanted to live in the—he was—when I first knew about it, they said he was 109 years old then.

4. Burroughs, "The African American Truman Family of Fayette County," 323–24.

5. For relationship, James "Jim" Truman, 7120 Van Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa., interview by author, 17 April 1977; audio cassette tape and transcript privately held by author. For age, "WWI Draft Registrations Cards," digital image, *fold3* (<https://fold3.com/image/571708889>), card for James Henry Truman, serial no. 2484, Local Draft Board 3, Brownsville, Fayette Co., Pa.; from microfilm publication M1509, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington D.C., roll PA99. James of Newell, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, registered 12 September 1918. Clerical error says James was eighteen years old, born 19 October "1918." "Draft Registration Cards for Pennsylvania, 10/16/1940–03/31/1947," digital image, *fold3* (<https://fold3.com/image/544171602>), card for James Henry Truman, serial no. 912, Local Draft Board 5, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co., Pa.; from Record Group (RG) 147: Records of the Selective Service System, 1926–1975: Box 2556; National Archives—St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. James, born 19 October 1899. He was forty-two.

6. 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., population schedule, Jefferson Twp., precinct 3, enumeration district (ED) 408, p. 228 (stamped), dwelling 63, family 66, David H. Truman household; NARA microfilm T623, roll 1368. Luella was born in February 1880.

7. Pa. Department of Health, death certificate, file no. 26706 (stamped), registered no. 453, David Truman (1916); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Division of Vital Records, Pittsburgh.



Question: He was 109. When you knew—when you first—

Jim Truman: When I first knew him, at the Dixon farm. And people was—he'd walk all—even then—he walked a lot. And people would pass him by with the wagon or buggy, they'd pick him up and take him everywhere he was going, or bring it home, something like that. But he'd walk.

Question: Where would he be going when he was walking?

Jim Truman: Well, just walking, more or less. Maybe he'd be going through some of the neighbor farmers that he knew, something like that, just to visit. Naturally didn't work. But he'd get out and walk.<sup>8</sup>

*Harriett (Bell) Arnett*

Harriett, born a year after David died, was the daughter of Hannah C. and George C. Bell.<sup>9</sup> Hannah Cope Truman married George Clark Bell in 1901.<sup>10</sup> Harriett's mother, Hannah, was the daughter of David H. and Annie V. (Smothers) Truman.<sup>11</sup> Hannah and Luella were sisters and granddaughters of Samuel Truman. It is unclear who told Harriett about David.

Uncle Davie was between 107 and 114 when he died. There was a picture of Jim Truman and Uncle Davie that Roxie had. I saw it at Roxie's. Uncle Davie was buried in Perryopolis or Newell [both in Fayette County]. He lived in the country, not in the city until his later years.

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8. James "Jim" Truman, interview, 17 April 1977. John Dixon's farm was just east of Newell, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

9. 1910 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., pop. sch., Elizabeth borough, ED 66, p. 21, dwell. 394, fam. 408, George C. Bell household; NARA microfilm T624, roll 1294. "Hattie" M. Bell was six years old. 1920 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., pop. sch., Elizabeth, ED 98, p. 13v, dwell. 254, fam. 285, George C. Bell household; NARA microfilm T625, roll 1512. Harriet was fifteen years old. "Ohio, Death Records, 1908–1932, 1938–2007," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com/search/collections/ohdeath93-98>), Ohio death index, Harriett Mae Bell Arnett, born 28 January 1904, Pa., died 17 June 1989, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. "Ohio, Cleveland Cemetery Interment Records, 1824–2001," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1884183>) > Browse through 10,585 images > Digital Folder 004466662 > image 136, Cleveland, Ohio, Highland Park Cemetery, Register of Interments, vol. 10:132, interment no. 112807, Harriett Mae Arnett, died 17 June 1989, buried 21 June 1989. Harriett was buried in section 22, lot 1420, plot 2. She was eighty-five years old. "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com/search/collection/ssdi>), entry for Harriett M. Arnett, 1989, SS no. 269-54-2847. Harriet was born 28 January 1904, died 17 June 1989 in Cleveland.

10. "Ohio, County Marriage Records, 1774–1993," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com/search/collections/fsmarriageohio>) > Mahoning > 1901-1903 > image 27, Mahoning Co., Ohio, Marriage record, p. 53, Bell-Truman, 7 March 1901.

11. 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., precinct 3, ED 408, p. 228 (stamped), dwell. 63, fam. 66, David H. Truman household. "Ohio, County Marriage Records, 1774–1993," *Ancestry*, Marriage record, p. 53, Bell-Truman, 7 March 1901. Hannah Cope Truman's mother was Anna Smothers. Hannah lived in Redstone, Pennsylvania.

Uncle Davie was ninety years old walking from Brownsville [Fayette County] to Perryopolis to see his girlfriend. He never married. Uncle Davie always walked a lot. I don't think Uncle Davie was a slave because he lived too far from the South. Jim Truman knows when Uncle Davie died. It was about 1910.<sup>12</sup>

*Oliver "Ollie" Truman*

Oliver Truman was born three months after David died.<sup>13</sup> Oliver was William and Anna Truman's son.<sup>14</sup> William was the son of David Henry and Annie V. (Smothers) Truman.<sup>15</sup> He was Hannah's and Luella's brother. They were Samuel Truman's grandchildren.

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12. Harriett (Bell) Arnett, 3767 East 149th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, interview by author, 30 July 1976; notes privately held by author. Jim Truman and Uncle Davie's photo has not been located. Jim, born in 1899, was four or under when the photo was taken. Roxie Bell (Terrell) Phillips was the granddaughter of Uncle Davie's nephew, David Henry Truman. Harriett did not know sixty-four enslaved people lived in Pennsylvania in 1840. "1840 Census: Compendium of the Enumeration of the Inhabitants and Statistics of the United States," *United States Census Bureau* (<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1841/dec/1840c.html>) > Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States > Pennsylvania, [and five more states]. Furthermore, Harriet did not know that Uncle Davie's father was enslaved, or that he was the first of the Truman family to be freed. Burroughs, "The African American Truman Family of Fayette County," 311–26, particularly 318. Harriett said Uncle Davie never married, which is incorrect. See, "A Venerable Colored Man, A Witness at Court, Who Claims to be 102 Years Old," undated clipping, probably 1898, from an unidentified newspaper. This newspaper article was obtained from Marlene Bransom, who obtained it from a clipping file in the Unionton, Pennsylvania, Public Library. The original has not been located. Perryopolis's cemetery, called Mount Washington, has several Truman burials, but none for David. He might be buried in the Quaker cemetery close to Newell in an unmarked grave, consistent with early Quaker burial practices. Quaker records at Friends Historical Library in Swathmore, Pennsylvania, were searched, but contain no cemetery records with Fayette County names. David is not buried in Green Lane Cemetery, a predominantly African American cemetery in Brownsville, nor in Little Redstone Presbyterian Church Cemetery where his mother worked. Brownsville, Perryopolis, and Newell are in Jefferson Township, Fayette County. The distance between Brownsville and Perryopolis is about eleven miles.

13. "Draft Registration Cards for Pennsylvania, 10/16/1940–03/31/1947," digital image, *fold3* (<https://fold3.com/image/544171627>), card for Oliver Perry Truman, serial no. 1387, Local Draft Board 3, Ferrell, Mercer Co., Pa. Oliver, born 11 June 1903 in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, resided at 320 Adams in Farrell. He was thirty-eight. "Pennsylvania, Veterans Burial Cards, 1777–2012," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com/search/collections/veterburialc>) > Series 4 (Cards and Lists from Revolutionary War to 2012) > Carton 05 > image 1444, Mercer Co., Pa. Veterans burial cards, Mercer County, Veterans Affairs, Veterans Graves Registration Master List, p. 704, Oliver P. Truman, born 11 June 1903, died 16 October 1981, buried in St. Elizabeth Cemetery. *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com>), memorial 97010716, digital image, 13 September 2012, by Andrea Grega, gravestone for Oliver P. Truman (Saint Elizabeth Cemetery, Mercer Co., Pa.). Oliver was born 11 June 1903; died 16 October 1981.

14. 1920 U.S. census, Mercer Co., Pa., pop. sch., Sharon, ward 4, ED 86, p. 35v, dwell. 707, fam. 736, William Truman household; NARA microfilm T625, roll 1602. Oliver was sixteen.

15. 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., precinct 3, ED 408, p. 228 (stamped), dwell. 63, fam. 66, David H. Truman household.

Ollie's memories were probably from newspapers and family stories. Ollie said he "remembers" Uncle Davie living until about 107. Ollie thought Uncle Davie was Grandfather Truman's [David Henry Truman's] cousin. Ollie thought Uncle Davie was a slave. He said Davie walked everywhere he went.<sup>16</sup>

## OBITUARY

David Truman's obituary relates,

David Truman, the oldest man in Pennsylvania, died Friday, March 27, 1903, at the home of his nephew, David [Henry] Truman, Jr., near Elizabeth in Allegheny county. Mr. Truman was said to be 107 years of age and although the exact date of his birth was not known the proofs of his age were substantial. The late William G. Patterson, father of Ex-Commissioner S. S. Patterson, used to say that Truman was a grown man when he was a small boy and if Patterson were living now he would be about 90 years old.

Truman was born in Jefferson township and spent nearly all his life in Fayette county, moving a few years ago with his nephew to Allegheny county. In his later years he was in good health and his vigor was remarkable for a centenarian. He owned a little piece near the old Quaker meeting house in Jefferson township and was a faithful member of the M.E. church. Funeral Monday, March 30th.<sup>17</sup>

In 1900 nephew David H[enry] Truman, born in May 1853, headed a household in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, that included his wife, Annie V., born in January 1855, and five children. David Truman, who died in Allegheny County in 1903, was not present in David Henry's 1900 household.<sup>18</sup>

The obituary does not indicate where David was buried, nor the name of the funeral home, the church, or the minister who handled the burial. It reiterates that he was 107 years old when he died—the same age Harriett and Ollie recalled. Their memories were surely based on David's obituary.

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16. Oliver "Ollie" Truman, Phillips-Truman family reunion, in Ferrell City Park, Farrell, Pa., interview by author, 29 June 1976; notes privately held by author. Uncle Davie was David Henry Truman's (1852–1916) uncle.

17. "Died at age of 107, David Truman of Jefferson Township Is No More," *Daily News Standard*. Uniontown is the county seat of Fayette County. David Truman was listed in the Uniontown Public Library obituary card index.

18. 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., precinct 3, ED 408, p. 228 (stamped), dwell. 63, fam. 66, David H. Truman household.

Searches in the sexton records and grave markers of Elizabeth Cemetery in Elizabeth and Round Hill Cemetery in Elizabeth Township, both in Allegheny County, did not find David.<sup>19</sup> He belonged to the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.<sup>20</sup> The *Christian Recorder*, AME's newspaper, was published from 1852 to 1960. However copies do not survive for 1903, the year of David's death.<sup>21</sup>

## DEATH CERTIFICATES AND DEATH REGISTERS

Pennsylvania's statewide death certificates began in 1906.<sup>22</sup> Earlier Pennsylvania deaths were recorded sporadically by counties. Allegheny County death registers exist for years 1893 to 1905; county deaths were also recorded from 1852–1855. David was not located in the 1893–1905 death records.<sup>23</sup> *Ancestry* has Pennsylvania death certificates online beginning in 1906. Nothing exists there for David dying in 1903.

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

David Truman's age and birthplace were mentioned in an 1898 article.

David Truman, an aged colored man from Jefferson Township, was attending court as a witness last week, and says he is 102 years old. He claims to have been born on the Capt. William Elliott Place in 1796. He was bound out to David Wells when five years old. When young he spent several years in Pittsburg, and says he remembers a murder

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19. Sexton records for Elizabeth and Round Hill Cemeteries, Allegheny Co., viewed by author, 23 May 2007; notes in author's files. The sexton records are located at the cemeteries.

20. "107 Years have passed him by," *Pittsburgh Gazette* (Pittsburgh, Pa.), 5 January 1903, p. 2, col. 4. David attended the Allen Chapel AME Church in Elizabeth. Allen Chapel AME Church is "the oldest black church in Elizabeth, having dedicated its first building on . . . July 16, 1871. . . ." Eliza Smith Brown, *African American Historic Sites Survey of Allegheny County* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Diane Publishing, 1994), 195.

21. "History," *The Christian Recorder* (<https://www.thechristianrecorder.com/our-leadership/history/>); "*The Christian Recorder* is the oldest existing periodical published by African-Americans whose existence dated before the Civil War." Also, "About Christian recorder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. [microfilm reel] (Philadelphia, Pa.) 1852–1960," Library of Congress, *Chronicling America* (<https://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn94090215>).

22. *A Compilation of Laws Relative to the Department of Health of Pennsylvania to Which Are Added Laws Relative to Boards of Health in Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs and Townships and Certain Sanitary Laws of General Application* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Harrisburg Publishing Company, 1907), 25.

23. A written request for a 1903 death record for David Truman was mailed to the Allegheny County Office of Register of Wills in Pittsburgh. A reply was received on 28 December 1995 from the Clerk of Orphan's Court that no record was found. The microfilm roll of the death register for Allegheny County was searched at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh on 18 May 2009. Again, David Truman was not listed. Allegheny Co., Pa., Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphan's Court, Register of Deaths, 1893–1905; microfilm 47.286, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

having been committed there, a man having killed a beautiful young girl because she refused to marry him. He cut her throat from ear to ear, was convicted and hanged on Grant's hill in the presence of about 1000 people. He was 17 years old then and can not recall the names of the parties except that the girl's first name was Dora.

Mr. Truman has lived for the last 40 years in the Pleasant Valley community, near Charles Ford's. He says he was five years old when the first Little Redstone Presbyterian church was built, and his mother had charge of the building. This church was organized in 1797 and the building erected a few years afterwards. Mr. Truman says the records as to his birth, etc., were lost by the man in whose care they were placed. His wife and three children are all dead and he is left alone, living with his nephew, David [Henry] Truman. He was stopping in town with John Smothers, whose grandmother, Lydia Simpson, was Mr. Truman's sister. He once wagoned [*sic*] on the old pike for a Washington countryman. He has been a member of the Methodist church for 70 years.<sup>24</sup>

A 1903 article says David was born in 1795.

David Truman of Elizabeth is perhaps the oldest resident of Allegheny county. He was born on the farm of James Elliott, near Redstone, Fayette county, in 1795, his father having been a slave for many years; but David was born free. He has been a farmer since his youth, and has been a member of the African Methodist Episcopal church since its inception. He now resides with his nephew D. H. Truman, on a farm near Elizabeth.<sup>25</sup>

Reverend P. M. McGowan died on 7 June 1889 at eighty-five years. His obituary called one of his servants "Mr. Truman."

Rev. McGowan, after a long illness, died at his residence on Third Street on Friday last, in his 86th year. The funeral took place from the M. E. church on Monday, the services conducted by the Rev. J. B. Taylor, and the remains were taken to Brownsville for interment. Mr. Truman, an old colored gentleman, aged 82 years, and who was for many years a servant in Rev. McGowan's family, walked all the way from his home in Dawson, Pa., to this place, a distance of fifteen miles, to attend the funeral.<sup>26</sup>

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24. "A Venerable Colored Man, A Witness at Court, Who Claims to be 102 Years Old," clipping file, Uniontown Public Library. The article says Truman was "born on the Capt. William Elliott Place in 1796." Truman was reported to be 102 years old, which means he testified in 1898. The murder story and subsequent hanging could not be verified.

25. "107 Years have passed him by," *Pittsburgh Gazette*, 5 January 1903.

26. "California," *Washington Daily Reporter* (Washington, Pa.), 18 June 1889, p. 1, col. 6.

## CENSUS RECORDS

From 1840 to 1880 censuses name David Truman. He was probably one of the unnamed, living in his father's household in 1820 and 1830.

1820: Washington Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The household of probable father, David Truman, included two free colored males under fourteen, one free colored male fourteen to twenty-six, two free colored males forty-five and older, and one free colored female fourteen to twenty-six.<sup>27</sup> David was probably one of two males born 1806–1820.

1830: Washington Township, Fayette County. The household of probable father, David Truman, included one free colored male ten and under twenty-four, one free colored male thirty-six and under fifty-five, two free colored females under ten, three free colored females ten and under twenty-four, and one free colored female thirty-six and under fifty-five.<sup>28</sup> David was probably the male born 1806–1820.

1840: Jefferson Township, Fayette County. David Truman's household included one free colored male under ten, one free colored male twenty-four to thirty-five, one free colored female under ten, one free colored female twenty-four to thirty-five, and one free colored female thirty-six to fifty-four.<sup>29</sup> David was the male born 1804–1816.

1850(a): Jefferson Township. The household included Samuel Truman, forty-five; Mary Truman, thirty; Mary E. Truman, thirteen; Rachel Truman, three; Samuel Truman, one; David Truman, forty; and George Truman, ten. All were born in Fayette County.<sup>30</sup> David was born about 1810.

1850(b): Buffalo Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. The household included David Truman, forty, and Lucinda Truman, thirty. Both were Pennsylvania-born.<sup>31</sup> David was born about 1810. Lucinda may have been David's wife.

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27. 1820 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., pop. sch., Washington Twp., p. 116 (stamped), line 35, David Truman household; NARA microfilm M33, roll 103.

28. 1830 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., Washington Twp., p. 250 (stamped), line 23, David Truman household, NARA microfilm M19, roll 162.

29. 1840 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., Jefferson Twp., p. 281 (stamped), line 10, David Truman household, NARA microfilm M704, roll 281.

30. 1850 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa. pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., p. 276B (stamped), dwell./fam. 90, Samuel Truman household, NARA microfilm M432, roll 780. The visitation occurred on 24 July 1850.

31. *Ibid.*, Washington Co., Pa., pop. sch., Buffalo Twp., p. 440 (stamped), dwell. 72, fam. 73, David Truman household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 834. It appears David was enumerated twice. He and his wife divorced, she left, or she died. His son, George, was living with him after 1850. She is not listed in the 1850 mortality schedules. The visitation occurred on 14 September 1850.



1860: Perry Township, Fayette County. The household included Samuel Truman, a fifty-two-year-old laborer; Mary Truman, forty-seven; Samuel Truman, twelve; David Truman, six; David Truman, forty-nine; and George Truman, twenty-two. All were Pennsylvania-born.<sup>32</sup> David was born about 1811.

1870(a): Jefferson Township. The household included David Freeman, sixty; Mary Freeman, fifty-four; Samuel Freeman, twenty-one; David Freeman, seventeen; David Holmes, thirty-six; Susan Holmes, twenty-six; Mary Holmes, eight; Rachel Holmes, three; and Mary Holmes, eighteen. All were Pennsylvania-born.<sup>33</sup> David Freeman was born about 1810.

1870(b): Perry Township. David was a fifty-five-year-old farm worker on J. W. Francis's farm. He was born in Pennsylvania.<sup>34</sup> David was born about 1815.

1880: Jefferson Township. The household included David Truman, sixty-seven, and Mary Truman, a sixty-seven-year-old sister-in-law. Both were born in Pennsylvania.<sup>35</sup> David was born about 1813.

Forty-year-old David Truman appears twice in 1850—once in Fayette County and again in Washington County. George Truman, ten years old, appears beneath David in the 1850 Fayette County census and was twenty-two, again below David in 1860. He is probably David's son. George Truman, a twenty-three-year-old, colored, married laborer from Jefferson Township, registered for the Civil War draft in June 1863.<sup>36</sup> He was likely the male under ten in David's 1840 household.

David was enumerated twice in Fayette County in 1870. His primary residence was probably in Jefferson Township, where he was listed David Freeman [Truman]. He may have been a temporary farm laborer in Perry Township.

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32. 1860 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., pop. sch., Perry Twp., p. 646 (stamped), dwell. 170, fam. 161, Samuel Truman household, NARA microfilm M653, roll 1110. Perry Township was created on 7 June 1839 from Franklin, Tyrone, and Washington townships. Hottenstein and Welch, *Incorporation Dates for Pennsylvania Municipalities*, 62.

33. 1870 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., pp. 223r–v, dwell./fam. 170, David Freeman household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1342. David Truman was enumerated as "Freeman." This was probably an enumerator's error. Other Freeman family members—Mary, Samuel, and David—have similar calculated birth years in Samuel Freeman's 1860 household.

34. *Ibid.*, Perry Twp., p. 34, dwell. 238, fam. 246, J. W. Francis household.

35. 1880 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., ED 43, p. 261 (stamped), dwell. 24, fam. 25, David Truman household, NARA microfilm T9, roll 1130.

36. "U.S., Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863–1865," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com/search/collections/consolidatedlistofcivilwarreg>) > Pennsylvania > 21st > Vol 2 of 3 > image 189, Indiana, Westmoreland, and Fayette cos., Pa., Civil War Draft Registrations, folio 185r, entry 28, George Truman, June 1863.

David's 1870 Jefferson Township household included David Holmes and his presumed wife Susan. The author's 2010 genealogical narrative indicates Susan was David Truman's niece and daughter of David's sister Lydia.<sup>37</sup>

In 1870 David's probable son, George Freeman [Truman], a thirty-eight-year-old, Pennsylvania-born laborer, headed a household in Jefferson Township four houses from David Freeman [Truman]. His household included twenty-six-year-old Hester, born in Maryland, and three-year-old George W., born in Pennsylvania.<sup>38</sup>

George Truman had moved to Washington Township by 1880, when he was reportedly a forty-eight-year-old laborer born in Pennsylvania. His wife Esther, thirty-four, was born in Maryland. Pennsylvania-born children included W. George, thirteen; Jessie, five; and "Arther," two.<sup>39</sup>

In 1880 Mary Truman, David's sixty-seven-year-old widowed sister-in-law, was likely the same forty-seven-year-old Mary Truman in Samuel's household in 1860. This confirms Samuel, fifty-two in 1860, was David's older brother. Samuel and David may have been the two boys under fourteen in their father's 1820 household. Samuel Truman, a Pennsylvania-born, sixty-seven-year-old married laborer, died of consumption in May 1870.<sup>40</sup>

#### AGE DISCREPANCY STUDIES

Studies of elderly African Americans with varying ages reported in different records illustrate the inaccuracy of age listings. For example, Thomas Wilson is shown as a "63 year old Black laborer" in the 1850 Herkimer County, New York census. In 1860 he is seventy-seven. Wilson died five years later. His obituary in the *Little Falls Journal* says, "[Thomas] reached the ripe old age of 96 years and was universally known and respected. . . ."<sup>41</sup> Between 1850 and 1865 he had aged thirty-three years.

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37. Burroughs, "The African American Truman Family of Fayette County," 325–26.

38. 1870 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., pop. sch., Jefferson Twp., p. 223r, dwell./fam. 166, George Freeman household.

39. 1880 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., pop. sch., Washington Twp., ED 60, p. 572 (stamped), dwell. 176, fam. 200, George Truman household.

40. 1870 U.S. census, Fayette Co., Pa., mortality schedule, Jefferson Twp., p. 1, line 7, fam. 170, Samuel Truman; NARA microfilm M1838, roll 6.

41. "On the Subject of Determining Age," *Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society* 5 (Summer 1984): 60–1.

In another example Sarah Pugsley is a "52 year old Black housewife" in 1850 Herkimer County. She is sixty-two in 1860. In 1870 she is eighty years old, having aged eighteen years. Sarah died six years later. A week after her death in 1876 the *Little Falls Journal* says, "Mrs. Sarah Pugsley, the old colored woman whose death was reported last week, is said to have been over 100 years old."<sup>42</sup>

A 1973 age-discrepancy study finds only 44.7 percent of African American males and 36.9 percent of African American females had the same birth year reported in death certificates as calculated from the 1860 census.<sup>43</sup>

One demographic study compares the consistency of ages among elderly African Americans in death certificates with Social Security records. It finds only 63 percent of African Americans over the age of sixty-five have the same age reported in both the death certificate and their Social Security record. However, the differences were not great; 79 percent of the records differ by one year or less, and in 8.1 percent of cases they differ by more than four years. The study finds age reporting in Social Security records superior to that in death certificates.<sup>44</sup>

Inaccurately reported ages are not limited to African Americans. Genealogist Stan Beck compares death ages in the Alpena County, Michigan, death book; death notices in a county newspaper; and grave markers in three local cemeteries. He finds few correlations and concludes that genealogists should not rely on only one source to prove genealogical events.

1. Courthouse and newspapers agree 50 percent of the time.
2. Courthouse and cemetery records agree 41 percent of the time.
3. Cemetery records and newspapers agree 32 percent of the time.
4. Records recorded in all three sources agree 25 percent of the time.<sup>45</sup>

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42. "On the Subject of Determining Age," 60–61.

43. E. M. Kitagawa and P. M. Hauser, *Differential Mortality in the United States: A Study in Socioeconomic Epidemiology* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1973), 239.

44. Irma T. Elo et al., "Consistency of Age Reporting on Death Certificates and Social Security Records Among Elderly African Americans," *Social Science Research* 25 (September 1996): 292–307.

45. Stan Beck, "Documenting Your Research," *Family Trails* 6 (Winter 1979): 19–21. Beck's study included 414 deaths recorded in Alpena Co., Mich., Death Book A (1871–9), Alpena County Courthouse, Alpena.

These studies show that records created closer to the time of the event, by a knowledgeable informant, are usually more accurate. Historically, Social Security applications were normally created when a person was young and applying for a job. The information was supplied by the applicant. Death certificates are created at the end of a person's life with information provided by the next of kin, an in-law, a friend, an associate, or a medical attendant. Family or nonfamily members may not know the deceased's age. Even Social Security data for older African Americans may be inconsistent. Demographers found lax procedures used to verify age for Social Security prior to 1965. The Social Security Administration did not verify proof of birth for people born near the turn of the twentieth century when many African Americans did not have birth certificates.<sup>46</sup>

## RECORD DISCREPANCIES

Resolving record conflicts requires consulting the most credible sources. The most reliable evidence usually comes from primary information chronicled in original records—information provided by a witness to the event and recorded close to when the event occurred. No primary information for David Truman's birth—from sources such as a baptismal record, a Bible record, a birth certificate, or a midwife's record—is available.

Correct ages in censuses hinge on reliable informants. Determining informant reliability in David's census records is impossible. Birth years in obituaries may be first- or secondhand information. Whether the informant witnessed the deceased's birth is usually unknown. David's obituary's author was not likely living when David was born. Similarly, sources for ages in late-twentieth-century oral histories were far removed from David's birth near the beginning of the nineteenth century. Newspaper articles often do not offer information from a reliable informant. Some sensationalize to sell papers.

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46. Elo, "Consistency of Age Reporting on Death Certificates and Social Security Records Among Elderly African Americans," 301. The earlier years of the Social Security program would have had a much more varied roster of applicants, from the young working their first job to older workers on or past the cusp of receiving benefits.

Table 1 summarizes discrepancies in records pointing to David's birth year.

Table 1  
**Records for David Truman's Birth Year**

| RECORD                       | AGE     | BIRTH YEAR |
|------------------------------|---------|------------|
| 1820 census                  | 0–14    | 1806–1820  |
| 1830 "                       | 10–24   | 1806–1820  |
| 1840 "                       | 24–36   | 1804–1816  |
| 1850(a) "                    | 40      | 1810       |
| 1850(b) "                    | 40      | 1810       |
| 1860 "                       | 49      | 1811       |
| 1870(a) "                    | 60      | 1810       |
| 1870(b) "                    | 55      | 1815       |
| 1880 "                       | 67      | 1813       |
| 1889 Rev. McGowan obituary   | 82      | 1807       |
| 1898 newspaper article       | 102     | 1796       |
| 1903 newspaper article       | 107     | 1796       |
| 1903 David Truman obituary   | 107     | 1796       |
| 1976 Harriett Bell interview | 107–114 | 1789–1796  |
| 1976 Ollie Truman interview  | 107     | 1796       |
| 1977 Jim Truman interview    | 109     | 1794       |

*Sources:* See text. David was likely shown as a male in the home of his father David Truman, in 1820 and 1830. David may have been one of six black males in the 1810 census. No age ranges were reported for them.

## CONCLUSION

The records closest to the time of David Truman's birth are censuses. Table 1 shows censuses provide a wide range of possible birth years from 1804 to 1820. Whereas David's inferred birth year is consistently 1810–11 when he headed a household or lived with family members from 1850 to 1870. Later records providing birth information move his birth year back in time.

Two 1850 censuses say David was born in 1810, the 1860 census suggests birth in 1811, and two 1870 censuses say he was born in 1810 and 1815. David's age given in his home in Jefferson Township in 1870 is likely more reliable than that given in Perry Township, an outlying township where David was working. Birth years inferred from the 1850–1870 censuses are within the age range reported in 1820 and 1830 censuses—when David probably lived with his father and the informant was likely a family member who knew David's age. The age range reported in 1840—when David headed the household—also agrees with later censuses.

Only after David was more than eighty years old was his age reported more than one hundred. If Truman died in 1903 and was likely born in 1810 or 1811, he was likely ninety-two or ninety-three years old when he died. This was still old enough to earn his moniker, “Old Uncle Davie.”

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### Borrowing the Baby

In the fall of 1878 Lorenzo Wood left his wife, Arloia, and children in Kalamazoo, Michigan. A year later, in December 1879, he reappeared in Kalamazoo, and evidently was welcomed home. “While she was getting him something to eat he took the child and ran through the rain to the depot and his wife after him. Some men on Burdick street saw the race and went for Wood, returning the mother her child.”<sup>1</sup>

A happy ending ensued, sort of. Later on, Lorenzo persuaded her to let him take the child, promising to send for Arloia and the other children soon.<sup>2</sup> The local newspaper scoffed, but evidently he did. In 1880 the family was living in Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, where he was employed a day laborer.<sup>3</sup>

Later records suggest that marital turmoil persisted. Lorenzo was called a widower in 1910, when his wife was still alive.<sup>4</sup> Arloia was called a widow at her death in 1912, when her husband was still alive.<sup>5</sup>

#### Sources:

1. “Lorenzo Wood,” *Daily Gazette* (Kalamazoo, Mich.), 11 December 1879, p. 4, col. 2.
2. Ibid.
3. 1880 U.S. census, McHenry Co., Ill., pop. sch., Marengo, ED 142, p. 190A, dwell. 195, fam. 202, Lorenzo Wood household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 228.
4. 1910 U.S. census, Kalamazoo Co., Mich., pop. sch., Schoolcraft Twp., ED 164, p. 1A, dwell. 9, fam. 10, Robert Schreeve household for Lorenzo Wood, widowed; NARA microfilm T624, roll 655.
5. “Michigan, Death Records, 1867–1950,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60872/>) > certificates 1897–1920 > 169:Ingham–Grand Rapids 1912 > image 3211; Kalamazoo Co., Mich., death cert. 729, 20 November 1912, Arlone [Arloia] D. Wood. For Lorenzo's death, “Obituary: Lorenzo Wood,” *Kalamazoo Gazette* (Kalamazoo, Mich.), 22 June 1915, p. 12, col. 4.

—Contributed by Harold Henderson, CG, La Porte, Indiana



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## Two Probates and Three Richards: Who Was Richard Bedell of Hempstead, Queens County, New York?

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By Shannon Green, CG

*Multiple probates and multiple families for Richard Bedell led to confusion, compounded by multiple same-named men. Thorough research separated the identities.*

Richard Bedell's estate was administered in 1857. Richard Bedell's will was proved in 1878. Do both proceedings pertain to the same man, despite differing death dates and heirs-at-law? At the same time three adult Richard Bedells lived in Hempstead, Queens County, New York. Which was the testator? Proving the probates refer to the same decedent, then distinguishing the three Richards provided answers.

### INTESTATE RICHARD

Richard Bedell died intestate on 22 December 1854.<sup>1</sup> He was buried in the Rushmore Addition to Hempstead's Old Town Burying Ground, lot thirty-two. His tombstone's inscribed age gives Richard a calculated birthdate of 1 March 1771. Two other Bedell men were interred in lot thirty-two: another Richard who died in 1867 and Joseph who died in 1869.<sup>2</sup>

The court granted letters of administration to Richard's son Charles more than two years after Richard's death.<sup>3</sup> Beginning in 1830 New York law required probate

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1. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/usprobateny/>) > Queens > Administrations Records, 1855–1857 > image 428, Queens Co., N.Y., Richard Bedell estate, Charles H. Bedell, Application for Letters of Administration, 20 March 1857.

2. John Dean Fish, "Inscriptions from Hempstead's Old Town Burying Ground, the Rushmore Addition," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 55 (July 1924): 245.

3. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005526562>), digital film 005526562, image 474, Queen's Co., N.Y., Surrogate's Court, Richard Bedell estate, Charles H. Bedell, Letters of Administration, I:95, 30 March 1857.

petitions to name the heirs-at-law, even if no will existed.<sup>4</sup> Charles Bedell identified intestate Richard's heirs-at-law: his widow Elizabeth and four children—Jordan Bedell, Augusta Southard, Mary Frost, and Charles H. Bedell.<sup>5</sup> The one-hundred-dollar administrator's bond indicates Richard's personal estate was minimal.<sup>6</sup> Surrogate court files contain no inventory or final account.<sup>7</sup>

## TESTATE RICHARD

In 1878 Richard's son Charles presented his father's will for probate.<sup>8</sup> Richard's will names his wife Elizabeth and children Jordan, Augusta, Mary, and Charles.<sup>9</sup> The probate petition indicates Richard died in December 1851 and left a widow, Elizabeth, who had since died, and four children: Jordan Bedell; Mary Bedell, wife of Elisha Bedell; Charles H. Bedell; and Rosetta Fowler. The testator's daughter, Augusta Southard, had since died. The file notes no previous administration or explanation for the extended gap between the testator's death and the will's submission to the court.

## TWO PROBATES, ONE DECEDENT

Comparison of heirs listed in the will and two probate petitions shows all three documents refer to the same family, aside from the curious addition of Rosetta

4. Gordon L. Remington, *New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records*, 2nd ed. (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011), 33–34. Also, Isaac Dayton, *The Office of Surrogate, Surrogates' Courts, and Executors, Administrators, and Guardians, in the State of New York*, 3rd ed. (New York: Banks & Brothers, 1861), 150–52, 242–43.

5. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry*, Queens Co., Richard Bedell estate, Charles H. Bedell, Application for Letters of Administration, 20 March 1857.

6. *Ibid.* > image 427, Richard Bedell estate, administrators' bond, 20 March 1857. The law at the time required a bond at least twice the value of the personal estate: Dayton, *The Office of Surrogate . . .*, 242.

7. "New York, Queens County Probate Records, 1785–1950," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1916211>) > Inventories of accounting 1856–1857 and Inventories of accounting 1857–1858; no inventory was filed; author's image-by-image search. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005526556>), digital film 005526556, images 311–603, Queens Co., Accounts of executors and administrators, vol. 2, 1857–1865; no final account was included; author's image-by-image search.

8. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Probate Records, 1878 > image 91, Queens Co., Richard Bedell estate, Charles H. Bedell, Petition for Letters Testamentary, 31 July 1878. In the form's preprinted text "year one thousand eight hundred and seventy \_\_\_\_," "seventy" is overstruck and replaced with "fifty." The word "four" is handwritten in the blank, overstruck, and replaced with "one," indicating death occurred in 1851. The "one" appears to have been written in different ink at a different time.

9. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Wills Records, 1877–1878 > images 473–76, Queens Co., Richard Bedell, will, written 2 August 1851, proved 23 August 1878.

Fowler in the 1878 petition. See table 1. Daughter Mary's first husband, Israel Frost, apparently died and she married Elisha Bedell in 1859, which explains her surname change.<sup>10</sup>

Table 1  
**Heirs of Richard Bedell**

| WILL WRITTEN, 1851 <sup>a</sup>      | PROBATE PETITION, 1857 <sup>b</sup> | PROBATE PETITION, 1878 <sup>c</sup>  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| wife, Elizabeth                      | widow, Elizabeth                    | widow, Elizabeth,<br>"since deceased"  |
| child, Jordan Bedell                 | child, Jordan Bedell                | child, Jordan Bedell   |
| child, Mary, wife of<br>Israel Frost | child, Mary Frost                   | child, Mary Bedell,<br>wife of Elisha Bedell   |
| child, Charles Henry<br>Bedell       | child, Charles H. Bedell            | child, Charles H. Bedell   |
| child, Augusta Southard              | child, Augusta Southard             | grandchild, Priscilla<br>[Southard] Smith, wife of<br>Abram Smith and dau. of<br>Augusta Southard, deceased<br><br>child, Rosetta Fowler |

*Sources:*

a. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/usprobateny/>) > Queens > Wills Records, 1877–1878 > images 473–76, Queens County, N.Y., Richard Bedell, will, written 2 August 1851, proved 23 August 1878.

b. *Ibid.* > Administrations Records, 1855–1857 > image 428, Queens Co., Richard Bedell estate, Charles H. Bedell, Application for Letters of Administration, 20 March 1857.

c. *Ibid.* > Probate Records, 1878 > image 91, Queens Co., Richard Bedell estate, Charles H. Bedell, Petition for Letters Testamentary, 31 July 1878.

10. For Mary's first marriage, see "Married," *Long-Island Farmer and Queens County Advertiser* (Jamaica, N.Y.), 18 July 1843, p. 3, col. 3; Israel Frost to "Miss Mary daughter of Richard Beedle, Esq." For second marriage, see *ibid.*, 6 September 1859, p. 3, col. 1; Elisha Bedell of Hempstead to Mary Frost.

The Richard Bedell who died in 1867 and was buried with intestate Richard left a will identifying a brother, Joseph Bedell, and a sister, Rhoda Fowler.<sup>11</sup> The 1868 probate petition for his estate identifies half siblings Jordan Bedell; Mary Bedell, wife of Elisha Bedell; and Charles Henry Bedell and half niece Priscilla (Southard) Smith, daughter of Augusta Southard deceased.<sup>12</sup>

Joseph Bedell died in 1869, two years after his brother Richard. Joseph was also buried with intestate Richard who died in 1854. Joseph left a will bequeathing everything to his sister, Rozatta Fowler.<sup>13</sup> The probate petition for Joseph's estate identifies the same half siblings and half niece as the probate petition for his brother's estate.<sup>14</sup> Richard, Joseph, and Rosetta were, therefore, children from one marriage and the other children—Jordan, Augusta, Mary, and Charles—were from a different union.

Intestate Richard Bedell's death date on his tombstone, 22 December 1854, matches the death date reported in the 1857 probate petition. Testate Richard's son Charles reported his father's death as December 1851 when he petitioned the court to probate his father's estate in 1878. He likely misremembered the year his father died, a reasonable assumption given almost twenty-four years had passed. The death month is the same.

Intestate and testate Richards were one man with two different families. Evidence in town, county, and federal records shows which Richard Bedell of Hempstead he was.

## MULTIPLE RICHARD BEDELLS IN HEMPSTEAD

Only one Richard Bedell appears in the Queens County enumerations of 1790, 1800, and 1810.<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, at least three adult men by this name had

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11. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Wills Records, 1867–1868 > images 417–20, Queens Co., Richard Bedell, will, 23 February 1864, proved 21 May 1868.

12. *Ibid.* > Probate Records, 1868 > images 108–19, specifically 119, Queens Co., Richard Bedell estate, Joseph Bedell, Petition for Letters Testamentary, 7 May 1868.

13. "New York Probate Records, 1629–1971," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234>) > Queens > Wills 1867–1871 vol 14–17 > images 507–8, will book 16:135–38, Joseph Bedell, will, 11 September 1869, recorded 11 January 1870.

14. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Probate Records, 1869–1870 > images 356–65, specifically 365, Queens Co., Joseph Bedell estate, Rozatta Fowler, Petition for Letters Testamentary, 14 December 1869. Records variously refer to Rosetta as Rosatti, Rozatta, and Rhoda.

15. Hempstead was located in Queens County until 1899 when it became part of the newly formed Nassau County. See John H. Long, ed., *New York Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 153–55. 1790 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., South Hempstead, p. 70 (penned), Richard Beedle; microfilm publication M637, roll 6; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C. Also, 1800 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 564 (penned), Richard Beagle; NARA microfilm M32, roll 25. All Bedell families in town appear as "Beagle" in 1800 census. Also, 1810 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 412 (penned), Richd Bedell; NARA microfilm M252, roll 34.

connections to Hempstead. Which was the Richard Bedell who died in 1854, whose estate was administered in 1857, and whose will was probated in 1878?

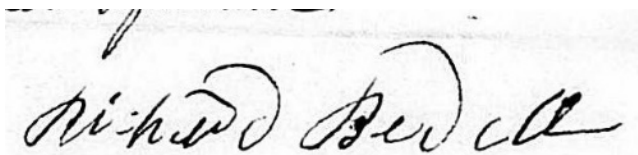
*Richard, Son of Jeremiah*

Jeremiah Bedell married Mary Balden in 1745.<sup>16</sup> He was still “of South Hempstead” and married to Mary in 1787 when he wrote his will, which included bequests to his son Richard.<sup>17</sup> A published genealogy suggests he had ten children with Mary.<sup>18</sup> Its list of children matches the names in his will but also includes children not named in the will.

Richard Bedell, son of Jeremiah, petitioned the court in 1818. He wanted an accounting from the surviving executor of his father’s estate.<sup>19</sup> The response informed him of debt against the estate, so no inheritance was paid.<sup>20</sup> Although only one signature sample was found for Richard, son of Jeremiah, it distinctively differs from those of the other two Richard Bedells. See figure 1.

Figure 1

**Signature of Richard, Son of Jeremiah, 1818**



Petition, 1818

*Source:* “New York Probate Records, 1629–1971,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234>) > Queens > Accounts, 1800–1834 > images 236–37, Queens Co., N.Y., Jeremiah Beadle estate, Richard Bedell petition, 2 February 1818.

16. Benjamin D. Hicks, “Records of St. George’s Church, Hempstead, L.I., from June 5, 1725—Marriages,” *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 12 (April 1881): 82. Jerimiah Bedle Jr. and Mary Balden married 26 April 1745.

17. “New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999,” *Ancestry* > Queens > Wills Records, 1787–1795 > images 111–13, Queens Co., Jeremiah Bedel, will, 2 June 1787, proved 16 March 1789.

18. Mary Powell Bunker, *Long Island Genealogies: Families of Albertson, Andrews, Bedell, . . . Wright, and Other Families Being Kindred Descendants of Thomas Powell, of Bethpage, L.I., 1688* (Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell’s Sons, 1895), 173–74.

19. “New York Probate Records, 1629–1971,” *FamilySearch* > Queens > Accounts, 1800–1834 > image 236–37, Queens Co., Jeremiah Beadle estate, Richard Bedell petition, 2 February 1818.

20. *Ibid.*, images 230–31, Queens Co., Jeremiah Beadle estate, Thomas Clowes, Account of administration on the estate of Jeremiah Beadle, 12 February 1818.

Before February 1818 Jeremiah's son Richard moved from Hempstead to Saratoga County, New York.<sup>21</sup> This was possibly Richard Bedell, born 10 April 1762 in Hempstead, and died 20 December 1851, who is buried with his wife, Ruth (Clements) Bedell, in Watervliet, Albany County, New York.<sup>22</sup> No probate was found for Richard or Ruth.<sup>23</sup>

*Richard, Son of Joseph*

Richard, son of Joseph, received personal and real estate by Joseph's 1784 will. Among other bequests, Richard and his brother Silvester were to share a piece of land.<sup>24</sup> Only one Richard Bedell appears in the 1790 Hempstead census, just three households from Silvester. They were likely Joseph's sons.<sup>25</sup>

One Richard Bedell was enumerated in the 1800 census. Only one was assessed tax on real and personal estates 1799–1803. Richard's real estate was worth significantly more than Silvester's.<sup>26</sup> This difference agrees with the terms of their father's will, which gives more real and personal property to Richard than to Silvester. No evidence shows Richard sold the land he inherited from his father before 1820, so the census and tax records likely refer to Richard, son of Joseph.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, the lone Richard Bedell in the 1810 Hempstead census is likely Joseph's son Richard.<sup>28</sup>

21. "New York Probate Records, 1629–1971," *FamilySearch* > Queens > Accounts, 1800–1834 > image 237, Queens Co., Jeremiah Beadle estate, Richard Bedell petition, 2 February 1818.

22. "Menands, New York, Albany Rural Cemetery Burial Cards, 1791–2011," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/albanycemburialcards/>), entry for Richard Bedell, died 20 December 1851. *Ibid.*, entry for Ruth Clements Bedell, died 18 December 1854.

23. "New York Probate Records, 1629–1971," *FamilySearch* > Albany > Wills and Administration index 1787–1895 > image 15, chronological list by first letter of last name for wills. Also, *ibid.*, image 136, chronological list by first letter of last name for administrations.

24. "New York County, New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1658-1880 (NYSA)," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/general-60387/>) > J0043-92: Record of Wills and Probates, 1664–1799 > Vol 035–039, 1782–1787 > images 171–72, New York Co., N.Y., Joseph Beadle, will, will book 36:247–48, 15 January 1784, proved 10 February 1784.

25. 1790 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., South Hempstead, p. 70 (penned), Silvester Beedle, Richard Beedle.

26. 1800 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 564 (penned), Richard Beagle. "New York, Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799–1804," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nytaxassessment/>) > Queens > 1799 > Hempstead > image 4, Silvester Bedell, and image 5, Richard Bedell. *Ibid.*, 1800 > Hempstead > image 4, Silvester Bedell, and image 5, Richard Bedell. *Ibid.*, 1801 > Hempstead > image 4, Silvester Bedell and Richard Bedell. *Ibid.*, 1802 > Hempstead > image 5, Silvester Bedell and Richard Bedell. *Ibid.*, 1803 > Hempstead > image 5, Silvester Bedell and Richard Bedell.

27. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008122285>), digital film 008122285, images 368–78, Queens Co., Grantor index B, 1686–Nov 1871; no listing for Richard Bedell as grantor 1784–1820; author's image-by-image search.

28. 1810 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 412 (penned), Richd Bedell.



Meanwhile, Richard Bedell took a prominent role in Hempstead's governance. He served as town clerk for one year beginning 7 April 1795.<sup>29</sup> He was elected town supervisor from 1802–1810 and again 1812–1818.<sup>30</sup> He was justice of the peace in 1814.<sup>31</sup> In these capacities he left examples of his distinctive signature, encompassing the years 1795–1826. His 1814 oath before a Queens County surrogate calls him “Richard Bedell, Esq of Hempstead in the sd. County yeoman”—a description consistent with land ownership and respect within the community.<sup>32</sup>

In 1810 Richard Bedell was appointed guardian of the late Zophar Hawkins's minor son.<sup>33</sup> Two years later, Richard sold a portion of Zophar's estate in Rockaway, Queens County, presumably acting as guardian.<sup>34</sup> The 1812 deed identifies Richard's wife as Mary; his signature on the guardian record connects him to the Richard Bedell who was active in government. See figure 2.

Ages reported on census records suggest a birth range of 1756–1765.<sup>35</sup> Richard Bedell married Mary Pearsall in 1784 at St. George's Church, an Episcopalian church in Hempstead.<sup>36</sup> This record likely pertains to Joseph's son Richard because the date aligns with his reported age and the wife's given name matches that in the 1812 deed. His birth-year range is also consistent with someone who served as town clerk and town supervisor.

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29. Town of Hempstead, N.Y., Indentures – 1788–1797, p. 17 of “Town Records” [each section restarts pagination], for Richard Beadle elected as town clerk; Town Hall, Hempstead.

30. Ibid, p. 41 of Town Records, for Richard Bedell elected as supervisor in 1802. Notations of town supervisor appear throughout this book. Also, “Town of Hempstead Elected Officials,” spreadsheet prepared in Town Clerk's Office; Archives, Town Hall, Hempstead.

31. “New York, Queens County Probate Records, 1785–1950,” *FamilySearch* > Inventories of accounting 1814–1817 > image 45, Queens Co., William Pettit estate, oaths of Samuel Elderd and Barnabas Pettit, 14 April 1814.

32. “New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999,” *Ancestry* > Queens > Wills Records, 1812–1817 > images 259–60, Queens Co., Phebe Smith, will, 3 August 1813, proved 13 October 1814.

33. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008350235>), digital film no. 008350235, image 142, Queens Co., Surrogate's Court, Guardian Proceedings, vol. 1, 1803–1823, loose papers (rough date order), Richard Hawkins, petition for a guardian, 25 July 1810.

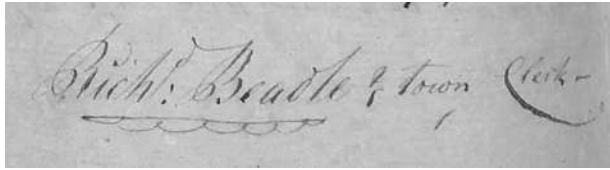
34. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008627615>), digital film no. 008627615, images 68–69, Queens Co., Deed book 179:169–71, Richard Bedell to Henry Hewlett, 13 April 1812, rec. 4 June 1860.

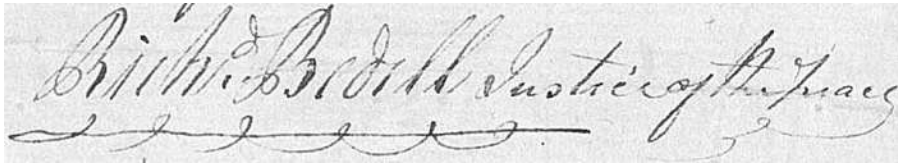
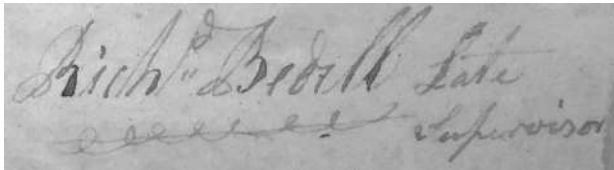
35. 1790 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., South Hempstead, p. 70 (penned), Richard Beadle. Also, 1800 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 564 (penned), Richard Beagle. Also, 1810 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 412 (penned), Richd Bedell.

36. Hicks, “Records of St. George's Church, Hempstead, L.I.,” *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 15 (October 1884): 176. Richard “Bedel” married Mary Pearsall 22 February 1784.

Figure 2

## Signatures of Richard, Son of Joseph, 1795–1826


 A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich<sup>d</sup>. Beadle & Town Clerk". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.
Town Clerk, 1795<sup>a</sup>

 A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich<sup>d</sup> Beadle Guardian". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.
Guardian, 1810<sup>b</sup>

 A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich<sup>d</sup>. Beadle Justice of the Peace". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.
Justice of the Peace, 1814<sup>c</sup>

 A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich<sup>d</sup> Beadle Late Supervisor". The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.
Late Supervisor, 1826<sup>d</sup>*Sources:*

a. Town of Hempstead, N.Y., Indentures – 1788–1797, p. 16 of “Indenture Records” [each section restarts pagination], for Richard Beadle as Town Clerk; Town Hall, Hempstead.

b. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008350235>), digital film no. 008350235, image 142, Queens Co., N.Y., Surrogate’s Court, Guardian Proceedings, vol. 1, 1803–1823, loose papers (rough date order), Richard Hawkins, petition for a guardian, 25 July 1810.

c. “New York, Queens County Probate Records, 1785–1950,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1916211>) > Inventories of accounting 1814–1817 > image 45, Queens Co., William Pettit estate, oaths of Samuel Elderd and Barnabas Pettit, 14 April 1814.

d. Town of Hempstead, Indentures – 1788–1797, paper receipt inserted between pp. 76 and 77 of Town Records. This is an 1826 approval of expenses from 1816 for Richard Bedell as Late Supervisor.

*Richard, Son of Abijah*

Richard, son of Abijah, was executor for three relatives' estates. Richard's signature in these probate files links them:

- Uriah Bedell, will proved 1816, his probable uncle<sup>37</sup>
- Abijah Bedell, will proved 1817, his father<sup>38</sup>
- Abijah Jr., will proved 1824, his brother<sup>39</sup>

Uriah Bedell's estate settlement led to a partition suit in 1821 between Uriah's daughter and four minors represented by their guardian, Richard Bedell: Rosetta Bedell, Amos Bedell, Richard Bedell Jr., and Joseph Bedell.<sup>40</sup> The following information suggests the minors were children of Richard, son of Abijah:

- "Rosattie" Bedell, born 28 December 1804 and the daughter of Richard Bedell and Mary Smith, was baptized along with her parents in Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead.<sup>41</sup> Nineteen years later "Miss Rhoda Bedell, daughter of Richard Bedell, Esq." married Felix Fowler in Hempstead.<sup>42</sup>
- Amos Bedell died intestate in 1830 and Richard Bedell was administrator of his late son's estate.<sup>43</sup>
- Richard Bedell Jr. died on 3 October 1867. His probate petition for his estate identifies Rhoda Fowler as a full-blooded sister; therefore, his parents were also

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37. For role as executor, "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Wills Records, 1812–1817 > images 360–64, Queens Co., Uriah Bedell, will, 18 April 1813, proved 26 March 1816. For probable uncle, Henry Alanson Treadwell Jr., "Robert Bedell of Hempstead, Long Island, and His Descendants," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 72 (April 1941): 147. Also, both Uriah and Abijah Sr.'s wills include land in the Hicks Neck part of Hempstead. They both chose the same executors: Reuben Pine and Richard Bedell.

38. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Wills Records, 1812–1817 > images 496–98, Queens Co., Abijah Beedle Sr., will, 15 March 1817, proved 16 April 1817. The will specifies their relationship.

39. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Real Estate Wills, Vol E, 1821–1827 > images 121–22, Queens Co., Abijah Beadle, will, 14 July 1823, proved 21 June 1824. The will specifies their relationship.

40. "Queens County Common Pleas," *Long Island Farmer* (Jamaica, N.Y.), 13 December 1821, p. 3, col. 5.

41. John Dean Fish, "History and Vital Records of Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead, Long Island, New York," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 53 (October 1922): 388. The baptisms took place 8 September 1805.

42. "Married," *National Advocate* (New York, N.Y.), 23 January 1823, p. 2, col. 5. Records variously refer to her as Rosattie, Rosetta, Rozatta, and Rhoda.

43. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Letters of Administration, Vol C–G, 1815–1847 > image 455, Queens Co., Amos Bedell estate, Richard Bedell, Letters of Administration, 2 March 1830.

Richard Bedell and Mary Smith.<sup>44</sup> His age at death calculates to a birthdate of 7 May 1808.<sup>45</sup>

- Joseph Bedell died on 17 November 1869. The probate petition identifies Rozatta Fowler as a sister and others as half siblings.<sup>46</sup> Therefore, his parents were also Richard Bedell and Mary Smith. His gravestone indicates he was born on 3 January 1811.<sup>47</sup>

This list of children matches that from the first marriage for the Richard Bedell whose estate was probated twice. The signature on the will presented for probate in 1878 is similar to the signatures attributed to Richard, son of Abijah. See figure 3.

Richard, son of Abijah, likely lived with his father until his father's death in 1817, explaining Richard's absence as head of a census household before then. In 1810 Abijah's household included a man and woman age forty-five and over—likely Abijah and his wife. Others in the household could be Richard, his wife, and three children born before 1810.<sup>48</sup> In 1820 five Richard Bedells appear in Queens County, but only one household includes a man forty-five and over. His name appears on the same page as Felix Fowler, a future son-in-law of Richard, son of Abijah, suggesting this could be he.<sup>49</sup>

Richard, son of Abijah, had connections to Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead. He, his wife, and daughter Rosattie were baptized there in 1805.<sup>50</sup> Identified as Rhoda, his daughter married at the church in 1823.<sup>51</sup> Richard's first wife likely died, as Richard married second Elizabeth Elsworth in 1820 in the same church.<sup>52</sup>

44. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Probate Records, 1868 > image 119, Queens Co., Richard Bedell estate, Joseph Bedell, Petition for Letters Testamentary, 7 May 1868.

45. Fish, "Inscriptions from Hempstead's Old Town Burying Ground, the Rushmore Addition," 245. Richard died 3 October 1867 at 59 years, 4 months, and 26 days.

46. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* > Queens > Probate Records, 1869–1870 > image 365, Queens Co., Joseph Bedell estate, Rozatta Fowler, Petition for Letters Testamentary, 14 December 1869.

47. Fish, "Inscriptions from Hempstead's Old Town Burying Ground, the Rushmore Addition," 245.

48. 1810 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hempstead, p. 281 (penned), Abijah Bedell.

49. 1820 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., population schedule, [no town stated], pp. 5-A, 12-A, 13-A, 68-B (all penned), for Richard Bedell households; NARA microfilm M33, roll 78. *Ibid.*, p. 23-A (penned) for Richard Bedell and Felix Fowler households. The Queens County census was not divided into townships.

50. Fish, "History and Vital Records of Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead, Long Island, New York," 388.

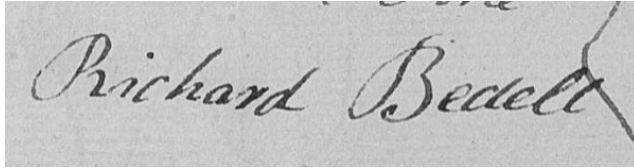
51. *Ibid.*, vol. 53 (July 1922): 244.

52. *Ibid.*, 243.

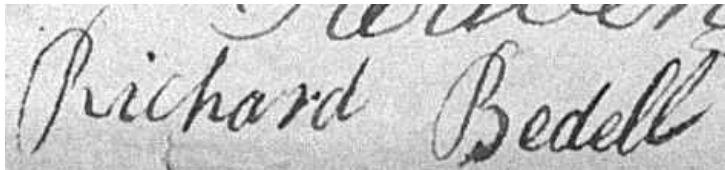
Figure 3

**Signatures of Richard, Son of Abijah, 1816–1851**

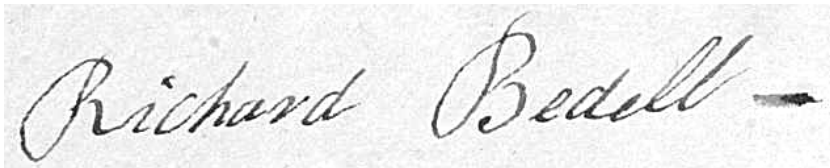
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Uriah Bedell Estate Inventory, 1816<sup>b</sup>



Abijah Bedell Estate Inventory, 1817<sup>a</sup>



Abijah Bedell [Jr.] Estate Inventory, 1824<sup>c</sup>



Richard Bedell's Will, 1851<sup>d</sup>

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*Sources:*

a. "New York, Queens County Probate Records, 1785–1950," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1916211>) > Inventories of accounting 1814–1817 > image 335, Queens Co., N.Y., Uriah Bedell estate, inventory, 27 April 1816.

b. *Ibid.* > Inventories of accounting 1817–1820 > image 112, Queens Co., Abijah Bedell estate, inventory, 16 October 1817.

c. *Ibid.* > Inventories of accounting 1899–1852 > images 270–77, Queens Co., Abijah Bedell [Jr.] estate, inventory, 29 June 1824.

d. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659–1999," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/usprobateny/>) > Queens > Wills Records, 1877–1878 > images 473–76, Queens Co., Richard Bedell, will, written 2 August 1851, proved 23 August 1878.

*Signatures Comparison*

The signatures of the three Richard Bedells are distinctive, while other records do not characterize the men. No middle initial, occupation, or other note distinguishes the men in town and court records.<sup>53</sup> Both Richard, son of Joseph, and Richard, son of Abijah, married women named Mary. Both used the notation “Esq.” at times.

Other distinctions, however, emerge among the three men. Richard, son of Jeremiah, relocated from Hempstead. Richard, son of Abijah, affiliated with the Presbyterian church, whereas Richard, son of Joseph, married in the Episcopalian church. Richard, son of Joseph, was involved with town governance; Richard, son of Abijah, was not. Signatures on extant documents connect the records and allow three identities to emerge.

**CONCLUSION**

Multiple probates and multiple families for Richard Bedell led to confusion, compounded by two other adult Richard Bedells in Hempstead. Thorough research, including signature comparisons, separates their identities.

- Two probates usually indicate separate individuals. Comparison of heirs-at-law, however, confirmed the proceedings of 1857 and 1878 pertained to one Richard who died in December 1854.
- Charles Bedell did not comply with the law when he omitted three surviving children from Richard’s first marriage as heirs-at-law in his 1857 petition for administration.
- The list of children for Richard, son of Abijah, correlates with children from the first marriage of the Richard who died in December 1854.
- Richard’s signature from his 1851 will appears similar, although in a shakier hand, to his earlier signatures.

Richard Bedell whose estate was probated in 1857 and 1878 is one man—Richard, son of Abijah Bedell.

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53. Town supervisor records, which might contain distinctions are no longer extant for the time period: Thomas Saltzman, Hempstead Town Historian, interview by Shannon Green, 23 October 2018; notes held by interviewer. Town meeting records for the time period 1787–1820 provide no distinctions: Town of Hempstead, *Indentures – 1788–1797*, page-by-page search; Town Hall, Hempstead. This bound volume contains a variety of records, including the original town meeting notes, which cover 198 pages. The town records portion of this book was numbered separately from the rest of the book and the pagination added at a later date. There are several references to “Richard Beadle,” all without distinguishing characteristics. Therefore, it is impossible to say which Richard Bedell they refer to, except where signatures accompanied a role such as town clerk, town supervisor, or justice of the peace.



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## Thomas James Allen of Lyme Handley, Cheshire County, England: One Man or Two?

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By Allen R. Peterson, AG, CG, and Stephen J. Allen

*One individual identified in an early-eighteenth-century indenture becomes two when a comma separates his first and middle names. Manor and other records clarify relationships among those named in the document.*

By a 1705 indenture Peter Legh, Esq., leased Hilltop Farm to John Allen of Lyme Handley in Cheshire County, England. The term was for “the Naturall Lives of Hannah Allen daughter to said Thomas James Allen her Sone and James Kenyon sone of Henry Kenyon of Haydock in the County of Lancaster and the Longest Liver of them.”<sup>1</sup>

This is puzzling. How was “Thomas James Allen” both Hannah’s father and son? What was his relationship to others in the indenture? Punctuation in English documents did not appear until the nineteenth century. A comma between the first and middle names makes the lease term clear to current readers. Manor and other records explain associations.

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© Allen R. Peterson, AG, CG; 20106 Brondesbury Dr.; Katy, Texas 77450; apeter2280@aol.com. Mr. Peterson is the coeditor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He is a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Stephen J. Allen, genealogist and family historian, is a direct descendant of John Allen of Hilltop Farm in Lyme Handley, Cheshire County, England. Mr. Allen, lately retired, lives in Disley, Cheshire County. Cited digital images were viewed on 2 October 2019. Dates appear as in the original record and are not modified to reflect the Gregorian calendar. Nancy A. Peters, CG, CGL, edited this article. Like all *NGS Quarterly* submissions, the original essay was double-blind reviewed.

1. University of Manchester, “Rylands Collection,” *Luna* (<https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/detail/Manchester~91~1~419856~157177>), image JRL 16052066, Cheshire Co., Eng., title deed, Legh of Lyme, box I, bundle A1, Lease of Hill Top Farm, Lyme Handley, Peter Legh, Esq., to John Allen, 1 August 1705; John Rylands Library (JRL), Deansgate, Manchester, U.K. Ibid. (<https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/detail/Manchester~91~1~419857~157176>), image JRL 16052067, memorandum 19 April 1705, endorsement 9 January 1710. An indenture is a deed with two or more parties agreeing to grants or obligations. The document’s top edge is indented. “[T]he majority of deeds of this period have been endorsed, usually somewhat later than they were written.” N. W. Alcock, *Old Title Deeds: A Guide for Local and Family Historians* (Shopwyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex, U.K.: Phillimore, 2001), 51 for quotation, 122 for definition. Lyme Handley is a small civil parish between Disley and Stockport in northern Cheshire County. Its primary residence was the manor house of Lyme Park, south of Disley. The Leghs received support from the collieries of sister estate Newton-le-Willows, near Haydock, Lancashire. Kedrun Laurie, *Cricketer Preferred, Estate Workers at Lyme Park, 1898–1946* (Lyme Park, Cheshire, U.K.: Lyme Park Joint Committee, 1979), 3. Hilltop Farm is located in Higher Poynton, about a mile and a half west of Disley, on the west bank of the Macclesfield Canal, and about eight hundred feet south of the railway connecting Buxton, Derbyshire, with Stockport.

## JOHN ALLEN'S LEASE

John Allen, a tailor, paid an entry fine of "Sevenscore pounds of good and Lawf<sup>d</sup> English money . . . [for a] Messuage and Tenement with the appurtenances Situate Lying and being affores<sup>d</sup> comonly called the Hill topp and Middle Cale [Township] and now heretofore in the possission of William Andrew. . . ." <sup>2</sup> The leasehold was for three lives, with thirteen shillings yearly rent. <sup>3</sup> John promised to keep the property in good repair. If tenant Thomas Richardson or his heirs failed to pay rent, the lease allowed Peter Legh "to reenter and . . . repossess and reenjoy" the premises. Edmund Platt of Lyme was Peter's attorney. William Rowbotham and John Richardson witnessed John Allen's signature. In April 1705 Elizabeth Andrew and William Forner witnessed a memorandum that declared Platt had granted the premises to Richardson. <sup>4</sup>

A 1710 title abstract says, "A Messuage Tenement and Lands with the appurtenances Let by Lease" was in possession of John Allen and "James his son" for three lives. Rent included "makeing of an Acre and halfe of Hay and reapeing of one Acre of Corn Yearly haveing Seven Shillings and nine pence allowed Yearly for the Same and upon the death of every principall Tenant his or her best Good for a Harriot Fine paid One Hundred and Forty pounds." <sup>5</sup>

The 1737 and 1738 tenant rolls show John Allen paid "Boones" for one and one-half acres of hay and one acre of corn valued at seven shillings and nine pence. <sup>6</sup> James Allen of Lyme paid the same in 1741. <sup>7</sup> From 1734 through 1742 John Allen

2. *Luna*, images JRL 16052066 and 16052067, Cheshire Co., title deed, Lease of Hill Top Farm, Lyme Handley, 1705. An entry fine was money paid by a tenant to the lord for granting a lease. See Alcock, *Old Title Deeds*, 122 for "Fine."

3. Leasehold property is held by right of a lease. A three-life-lease lasts until the deaths of three persons named in the lease—often the leaseholder, his wife, and his heir. See Alcock, *Old Title Deeds*, 122–23 for "Lease," "Leasehold," and "Tenure."

4. *Luna*, images JRL 16052066 and 16052067, Cheshire Co., title deed, Lease of Hill Top Farm, Lyme Handley, 1705. Re-entry is the "resumption of possession" of leasehold property by a landlord when the tenant fails to meet the obligations of the lease. Henry Campbell Black, *Black's Law Dictionary*, 2d ed. (St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing, 1910), 1004, "re-entry."

5. Legh's of Lyme Muniments, Abstracts of Title, box L, bundle A (box 100), page 2, Peter Legh, Esq., to John Allen, 1 August 1710; JRL. "Heriot: a fine paid on the death of a tenant (holding by copy or by three-life lease), either a sum of money (often a year's chief rent) or the best beast or best possession." Alcock, *Old Title Deeds*, 122.

6. Legh's of Lyme Muniments, Abstracts of Title, box P, bundle M, 1724–1829, Tenants homes, John Allen, 1737 and 1738; JRL. Boones or boon work was a "manorial duty to do such seasonal work as ploughing and harvesting. The original sense of the word was 'favour,' but such tasks became compulsory." See Oxford University Press, "Overview: boon work," *Oxford Reference* (<https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095518140>).

7. Legh's of Lyme Muniments, Abstracts of Title, box P, bundle M, 1724–1829, Tenants homes, James Allen, 1741; JRL.

paid six shillings and six pence rent to Peter Legh. He received a deduction of seven shillings and nine pence for “boon works” in 1738, 1740, and 1741.<sup>8</sup>

A 1686 survey reveals Thomas Andrews held “Wood, Stubing, Households & outlett, Croft, Lowercroft, Knowle, Lower Medow, Higher Medow, Close at Brookside, [and] Midle cale Medow & clough” valued at forty-six pounds, two shillings, and thirty-five pence. In the left margin a notation in a different hand says, “Jn<sup>o</sup> Allen.”<sup>9</sup> William Andrew named in the 1705 indenture may have been Thomas Andrews’s heir.

#### THOMAS RICHARDSON, THE HILLTOP TENANT

In August 1714 the minister of Disley, Cheshire County, buried “Old Thomas Richardson of Lyme.”<sup>10</sup> He was probably the tenant named in John Allen’s lease. Thomas had written his will in December 1711. He gave his son-in-law John Allin ten shillings and his daughter Hanna Allin twenty. Henery Kenion, his son-in-law, also received ten shillings. Thomas’s daughter Jane Kenion was given twenty. To his son-in-law Phillip Platt he gave ten shillings. He gave daughter Esther Platt twenty. Wife Susana received Thomas’s bed and bed clothes. The remainder of his estate went to his son, Henery Richardson. Edmund Platt, John Platt, and Matthew Pickford witnessed the signing.<sup>11</sup>

#### THE THREE LIVES

##### *First life: Hannah Allen*

Hannah, “wife of John Alin of Hill top,” was buried in December 1737.<sup>12</sup> She may have been the daughter named in Thomas Richardson’s will. John Allen, of “Hill top Lyme” and Peter Legh’s leaseholder, died in May 1745.<sup>13</sup> He probably was Richardson’s son-in-law.

8. Legh’s of Lyme Muniments, Rents in Lyme Handley, 1734, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1740, 1741, and 1742; JRL.

9. Survey of Lyme and Handley Belonging to Richard Legh of Lyme in the Coventry [*sic*] of Cheshire Esquire Observed Ano Domini 1686, box Q, bundle A1, Thomas Andrews; JRL.

10. *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004017820>), digital film 004017820, image 129, Disley, Cheshire Co., Eng., Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Thomas Richardson, 10 August 1714.

11. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004012028>), digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Cheshire Co., Archdeaonry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714; Cheshire Record Office (CRO), Chester, Cheshire, U.K.

12. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 161, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Hannah Alin, 17 December 1737.

13. *Ibid.*, image 258, John Allen, 17 May 1745.

John Allen of Lyme Handley had been named in the 1727 poll of Macclesfield Hundred in Cheshire County.<sup>14</sup> In 1736 he signed as a juror in Peter Legh's Court Baron.<sup>15</sup>

*Second life: Thomas James Allen or James Allen?*

No baptismal or burial record in Disley names Thomas James Allen.<sup>16</sup> Middle names were rare in the early eighteenth century, except for the gentry. Thomas James was not likely of the gentry. The 1710 abstract says John Allen's son was James. The poll of 1727 for Macclesfield Hundred mentions James Allen of Lyme Handley but no Thomas James.<sup>17</sup>

James, son of John Allan, was baptized in Pott Shrigley, Cheshire, on 19 February 1692.<sup>18</sup> He signed a bond on 6 November 1716 to marry Mary Brown of Poynton in Prestbury Parish, Cheshire. John Gaskell of Manchester in Lancashire County was James's surety. Margaret and Ruth Assheton witnessed the bond.<sup>19</sup> James and Mary married the same day in Manchester Cathedral.<sup>20</sup>

In 1727 Edmund Brown of Poynton gave his son-in-law, James Allen, one shilling in silver and his daughter Mary one gold guinea. He gave his "Grandson John Allen Five pounds wherewith to bind him to Apprentice."<sup>21</sup>

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14. "U.K., Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538–1893," *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/ukpollbooks>) > 1727 > image 180, Cheshire Co., Eng., Poll Books and Electoral Registers, John Allen entry, 1727.

15. Legh's of Lyme Muniments, Jury Lists, box P, bundle M, 1734–1829, John Allen entry, 1736; JRL.

16. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, baptisms and burials, 1591–1739.

17. "U.K., Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538–1893," *Ancestry*, James Allen entry, 1727.

18. Registers of St. Christopher Church, Pott Shrigley, Cheshire, baptisms, 1630–1883, James Allan, 19 February 1692; reference MFPR 457, Manchester Central Library (MCL), St. Peter's Square, Manchester, U.K.

19. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004018550>), digital film 004018550, image 98, Chester, Archdeaonry of Chester, Consistory Court, Marriage bonds and allegations, A–I, 1716, Allan-Brown, bond, 6 November 1716.

20. *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004497749>), digital film 004497749, image 830, Manchester, Lancashire Co., Eng., Parish registers for Manchester Cathedral, 1573–1946, register book, 1700–1728, date ordered, Allin-Brown marriage, 6 November 1716.

21. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004012035>), digital film 004012035, images 336–39, Chester, Archdeaonry of Chester, will, Edmund Brown, 29 August 1727, proved 1 October 1729.

James was buried in Disley in October 1750.<sup>22</sup> His gravestone says, “Here lyeth the body of James Allen of the Hilltop in Lyme who departed this life September the 28:1750 in the 66 year of his age Also Mary his wife who Departed this life December 17:1734 in the 37 year of her age.”<sup>23</sup> Mary was buried the same day in 1734.<sup>24</sup> The calculated birth year from James’s gravestone differs by about seven or eight years from his baptismal record.

James’s will names these parties:

- Apparent second wife, Elizabeth, received goods valued at ten pounds, plus six pounds yearly
- Son John received five pounds
- Daughters Hannah Adsil and Frances Platt received one hundred pounds apiece
- Daughter and executor Mary Allen and her heirs received personal and real estate
- Sisters Hannah and Frances would inherit upon Mary’s death
- James’s brothers Henry, Thomas, and Joseph received ten shillings and six pence each
- Joseph Brocklehurst, Joshua Royle, and Peter Wood witnessed James’s hand<sup>25</sup>

John, the recipient of five pounds, was Edmond Brown’s grandson, the future apprentice.

In August 1746 James paid a £112 fine for a reversion “for adding 2 Lives in Hill Top Tenement in Lyme.” He paid six shillings and five and a half pence interest on the fine in November 1746.<sup>26</sup>

22. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 260, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, James Allen, 1 October 1750.

23. St. Mary’s Churchyard (Disley, Cheshire, Eng.), James Allen monumental inscription, photographed and transcribed by Stephen J. Allen (Disley, Cheshire), 2014.

24. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 157, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Mary Allen, 17 December 1734.

25. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004011974>), digital film 004011974, images 520–21, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, James Allen, 27 June 1750, proved 7 November 1750.

26. Legh’s of Lyme, Cheshire Rental & Accounts, James Allen’s fine for two lives on Hill Top tenement, 19 August 1746, and interest on the fine, 22 November 1746; ref. GB124.E17/30/1, MCL. “With three-life leases, reversions were often granted ‘to add one life to two.’ This lease started on the death of the two surviving lives, and so brought the number of people on whom the tenancy depended back to three.” Alcock, *Old Title Deeds*, 60 for quotation, 123 for “Reversion.”

Table 1 contains a list of jurors who served in Legh’s manor court from 1742 through 1755. Prominent land and leaseholders in Legh’s manor were selected as jurors. James’s death in 1750 resulted in daughter Mary, as James’s principal heir, becoming a juror. With her marriage, Mary’s responsibilities fell to her new husband, Thomas Shrigley.<sup>27</sup> In 1755 juror duty passed to Thomas Bolton. He paid the tithe for Hilltop in 1790.<sup>28</sup> In 1800 the lease transferred to Joshua Barnsley.<sup>29</sup>

Table 1

Jurors for the Court Baron, Lyme Handley, Cheshire, 1742–1755

| YEAR | NAME                      | RELATIONSHIP                        |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1742 | James Allen               | Self                                |
| 1744 | "                         |                                     |
| 1746 | "                         |                                     |
| 1748 | "                         |                                     |
| 1749 | "                         |                                     |
| 1750 | Mary Allen                | James Allen’s daughter and heir     |
| 1751 | "                         |                                     |
| 1752 | Thomas Shrigley           | Mary’s husband                      |
| 1753 | "                         |                                     |
| 1754 | "                         |                                     |
| 1755 | Thos Shrigley Thos Bolton | No relationship to the Allen family |

Source: Legh’s of Lyme Muniments, Jury Lists, box P, bundle M, 1734–1829; John Rylands Library, Deansgate, Manchester, U.K.

27. “Marriages bonds for the county of Cheshire, 1750–1800,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004018071>), digital film 004018071, image 197, Chester, Diocese of Chester, Shrigley-Allen, marriage bond, 21 June 1752. Also, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004011833>), digital film 004011833, image 186, Bowden, Cheshire, Bishop’s transcripts for St. Mary’s Church, 1600–1900, marriages, Shrigley-Allan, 21 June 1752.

28. Legh’s of Lyme Muniments, Lyme Hanley [sic] Tythe Valuation, Thomas Bolton, 31 October 1790; JRL.

29. Ibid., Lyme Hanley Suit Roll, Joshua Barnsley, 24 November 1800. A suit roll is a list of tenants. “On some manors it seems to have been the practice to maintain lists of tenants purely for administrative purposes. These could take the form of suit rolls: lists of all those who owed suit to the manor courts. Researchers will also occasionally come across call books: These listed the tenants who owed suit to the court but . . . they were also used as court attendance registers.” Mary Ellis, *Using Manorial Records*, Public Record Office Readers’ Guide no. 6 (Kew, U.K.: PRO Publications, 1997), 64.

Tax records name Thomas Bolton as the proprietor of Lyme Handley from 1785–1787, 1789–1791, 1793–1797, and 1800. Thomas Peter Legh, Esq., was the proprietor in 1808 and 1809 and from 1811–1813. During Legh's tenure, Joshua Barnsley occupied Lyme Handley.<sup>30</sup>

*Third life: James Kenyon, son of Henry*

James, son of Henry Kenyon of Haydock, Lancashire County, was baptized in 1700 in Winwick, Lancashire.<sup>31</sup> Henry had married Jane Richardson in February 1695, in Stockport, Cheshire.<sup>32</sup> He likely was the son-in-law named in Thomas Richardson's will. Jane would have been Thomas's daughter.

Henry Kenyon of Haydock died in January 1739/40.<sup>33</sup> Late of Sutton in Lancashire County, Henry named executor James Kenion in his will, which was probated in March 1739/40:

The last Will and Testament of Henry Kenion late of Sutton in the County of Lancaster and Diocese of Chester Yeoman deceased was Insinuated proved, approved and decreed Valid and Execution of the Same and Administration of the Goods, Chattels and Credits of the decedent were granted to James Kenion William Travers and William Orford the Executors therein named being first Sworn before the reverend John Haddon Clerk Surrogate & the right of every person being Saved and time allowed to exhibit an Inventory.<sup>34</sup>

James Kenion of Haydock married Sarah Carter by license in January 1720.<sup>35</sup> James Kenyon of Sutton died in late October 1744.<sup>36</sup> He was Henry's executor and his son.

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30. "England, Cheshire, Land Tax Assessments, 1778–1832," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1595000>), Lyme Handley, entries for Thomas Bolton and Joshua Barnsley, 1785–1820.

31. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008099239>), digital film 008099239, image 306, Winwick, Lancashire, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, 1563–1909, baptisms, 1695–1716, James Kenyon, born 15 May 1700, received into the congregation 12 June 1700. Winwick is about twenty-two miles northwest of Lyme Handley.

32. Ibid. (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004019074>), digital film 004019074, image 152, Stockport, Cheshire, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1584–1901, marriages, November 1673–November 1696, Kenion-Richardson, 14 February 1695.

33. Ibid. (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004321586>), digital film 004321586, image 31, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, 1563–1909, burials 1733–1756, Henry Kenyon, 8 January 1739/40.

34. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008477486>), digital film 008477486, image 151, Chester, Probate records for the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Chester, Act books, vol. 14, Henry Kenion, 1 March 1739/40.

35. Ibid. (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004420940>), digital film 004420940, image 727, Winwick, Bishop's transcripts, marriages, 1701–1724, Kenion-Carter, 15 January 1720.

36. Ibid., digital film 004321586, image 45, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, 1563–1909, burials 1733–1756, James Kenyon, 30 October 1744.



## CONCLUSIONS

“Thomas James Allen” in the 1705 indenture was two individuals. Serial commas placed between names make the meaning clear: “the Naturall Lives of Hannah Allen daughter to said Thomas [Richardson]<sub>[1]</sub> James Allen her Sone<sub>[1]</sub> and James Kenyon sone of Henry Kenyon of Haydock. . . .” Minus punctuation two identities merge, and key wording is confusing to modern readers.

Hannah Allen, John’s wife and Thomas Richardson’s daughter, was the first life of the three-life-lease. Thomas was the Hilltop tenant named in the indenture. Hannah died before she could inherit. John and Hannah’s son James Allen was the second life. James Kenion was Henry and Jane’s son and the third life in his uncle’s lease. Jane was Thomas Richardson’s daughter.

After James Kenion died in 1744, second life James Allen obtained a reversion for two additional lives—his daughter Mary and perhaps one of two daughters, Hannah Adsil or Frances Platt. The reversion brought the lease back to three lives.

Following James’s death in 1750, his daughter Mary became the second life. Mary’s husband, Thomas Shrigley, transferred the lease to a third life, Thomas Bolton, in 1755. Bolton’s lease reverted to the Legh family in 1800, when Joshua Barnsley became the occupant.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARIES:  
ALLEN, RICHARDSON, AND KENION FAMILIES

*Descendants of John Allen*

*Generation One*

**1. John/ Allen**, birth date and place unknown; buried 17 May 1745 in Disley, Cheshire County, England.<sup>37</sup> He married **Hannah Richardson**.<sup>38</sup> Hannah was buried 17 December 1737 in Disley.<sup>39</sup>

John and Hannah had six known children:

- + 2      i. JAMES<sup>2</sup> ALLEN, baptized 19 February 1692 in Pott Shrigley, Cheshire County;<sup>40</sup> died 28 September 1750 in Lyme Handley, Cheshire, and buried

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37. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 258, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, John Allen, 17 May 1745.

38. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714.

39. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 161, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary’s Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Hannah Alin, 17 December 1737.

40. Registers of St. Christopher Church, Pott Shrigley, baptisms, 1630–1883, James Allan, 19 February 1692; MCL.

- 1 October 1750 in Disley.<sup>41</sup> He married (1) Mary Brown 6 November 1716 in Manchester, Lancashire County, England.<sup>42</sup> He married (2) Elizabeth [—?—].<sup>43</sup>
- 3 ii. JOHN ALLIN, baptized 23 May 1696 in Pott Shrigley;<sup>44</sup> buried 18 July 1696 in Disley.<sup>45</sup>
- 4 iii. HENRY ALLEN, baptized 2 January 1704 in Pott Shrigley;<sup>46</sup> buried 30 November 1766 in Disley.<sup>47</sup> He married Mary Hattfield 14 October 1731 in Prestbury, Cheshire.<sup>48</sup>
- 5 iv. THOMAS ALLEN, buried 29 April 1774 in Stockport, Cheshire.<sup>49</sup> He married Elizabeth Burgess 11 April 1730 in Prestbury.<sup>50</sup>
- 6 v. JOSEPH ALLEN, buried 4 June 1779 in Disley.<sup>51</sup> He married Ann Brown of Norbury, Cheshire, 24 June 1739 in Manchester.<sup>52</sup>
- 7 vi. CHILD ALLIN, buried 26 April 1712 in Disley.<sup>53</sup>

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41. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 260, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, James Allen, 1 October 1750.

42. *Ibid.*, digital film 004497749, image 830, Manchester, Parish registers for Manchester Cathedral, marriages, Allin-Brown, 6 November 1716.

43. *Ibid.*, digital film 004011974, images 520–21, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, James Allen, 27 June 1750, proved 7 November 1750.

44. *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004011908>), digital film 0004011908, image 286, Pott Shrigley, Cheshire, Bishop's transcripts, 1679–1851, baptisms, 1696, John Allin, 23 May 1696.

45. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 119, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, John Allin “of lime,” 18 July 1696.

46. Registers of St. Christopher Church, Pott Shrigley, baptisms 1630–1883, Henry Allen, 2 January 1704; MCL.

47. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 273, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, Henry Allen, 30 November 1766.

48. *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004018873>), digital film 004018873, image 712, Prestbury, Cheshire, Parish registers, 1560–1990, marriages, 1721–1746, Allen-Hattfield, 14 October 1731.

49. *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004019075>), digital film 004019075, image 41, Stockport, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1584–1901, burials, July 1762–January 1782, Thomas Allen, 29 April 1774.

50. *Ibid.*, digital film 004018873, image 707, Prestbury, Parish registers, 1560–1990, marriages, 1721–1746, p. 91, Allen-Burgess, 11 April 1730.

51. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 284, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, Joseph Allen, 4 June 1779.

52. “Lancashire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1812,” *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/lancashireparish>) > Bishop's Transcripts > Manchester > 1730–1739 > image 193, Manchester, Lancashire, Eng., Bishop's transcripts for Manchester Cathedral, marriages 1730–1744, Allen-Brown, 24 June 1739. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004018583>), digital film 004018583, image 919, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, Consistory Court, Marriage bonds and allegations, A–S, 1739, Allen-Brown, bond, no. 3749, 23 June 1739. Joseph Allen was from Lime, Prestbury Parish, and Ann Brown was from Norbury, Stockport Parish.

53. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 127, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Child of John and Hannah Allin who was not baptized, 26 April 1712.

## Generation Two

**2. James<sup>2</sup> Allen** (John<sup>1</sup>), baptized 19 February 1692 in Pott Shrigley;<sup>54</sup> died 28 September 1750 in Lyme Handley, buried 1 October 1750 in Disley, supposedly in his sixty-sixth year.<sup>55</sup> He married **(1) Mary Brown** 6 November 1716 in Manchester.<sup>56</sup> Mary, daughter of Edmund Brown, was born 23 November 1697 and baptized 19 December 1697 in Prestbury; she was buried 17 December 1734 in Disley, in her thirty-seventh year.<sup>57</sup> James married **(2) Elizabeth** [—?—].<sup>58</sup>

James and Mary had seven known children:

- 8      i. JOHN<sup>3</sup> ALLEN, died 6 November 1800 in Whaley, Cheshire, and was buried 9 November 1800 in Disley.<sup>59</sup> He married Elizabeth Berly 19 May 1745 in Peak Forest, Derbyshire County, England.<sup>60</sup>
- 9      ii. WILLIAM ALLEN, baptized 7 March 1718 in Disley;<sup>61</sup> died in Lyme Handley and was buried 12 June 1729 in Disley.<sup>62</sup>
- 10     iii. HANNAH ALLEN, baptized 14 October 1721 in Disley.<sup>63</sup> She married James Adshead [Adsil?] 2 April 1741 in Prestbury.<sup>64</sup>

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54. Registers of St. Christopher Church, Pott Shrigley, baptisms, 1630–1883, James Allan, 19 February 1692; MCL.

55. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 260, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, James Allen, 1 October 1750.

56. *Ibid.*, digital film 004497749, image 830, Manchester, Parish registers for Manchester Cathedral, marriages, Allin-Brown, 6 November 1716.

57. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 157, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Mary Allen, 17 December 1734.

58. *Ibid.*, digital film 004011974, images 520–21, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, James Allen, 27 June 1750, proved 7 November 1750.

59. St. Mary's Churchyard (Disley, Cheshire), John Allen monumental inscription, photographed and transcribed by Stephen J. Allen, 2014. John Allen died 6 November 1800, age 84. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 304, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, John Allen, 9 November 1800.

60. *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004450834>), digital film 004450834, image 283, Peak Forest, Derbyshire, Parish registers, 1674–1936, marriages, 1727–1815, Allen-Berly, 19 May 1745.

61. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 214, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, baptisms, 1591–1739, William Allen, 7 March 1718.

62. *Ibid.*, image 149, burials, 1591–1739, William Allen, 12 June 1729.

63. *Ibid.*, image 221, baptisms, 1591–1739, Hannah Allen, 14 October 1721.

64. *Ibid.*, digital film 004018873, image 777, Prestbury, Parish registers, 1560–1990, marriages, 1721–1746, Adshead-Allen, 2 April 1741. James was from Pointon and Hannah was from Lyme.

- 11     iv. MARY ALLEN, born about 1728 in Lyme Handley.<sup>65</sup> She married Thomas Shrigley 21 June 1752 in Bowden, Cheshire.<sup>66</sup>
- 12     v. FRANCES ALLIN, buried 2 May 1730 in Disley.<sup>67</sup>
- 13     vi. FRANCES ALLEN, baptized 5 October 1732 in Disley;<sup>68</sup> buried 9 April 1798 in Disley.<sup>69</sup> She married William Platt 15 April 1749 in Marple, Cheshire.<sup>70</sup>
- 14     vii. ELIZABETH ALLEN, buried 8 December 1734 in Disley.<sup>71</sup>

*Descendants of Thomas Richardson*

*Generation One*

**1. Thomas<sup>1</sup> Richardson**, birth date and place unknown; buried 10 August 1714 in Disley.<sup>72</sup> He married **(1) Elizabeth Garner** in 1663.<sup>73</sup> He married **(2) Susanna** [—?—]. She was buried 25 December 1731.<sup>74</sup>

Thomas and Elizabeth had four known children:

- + 2     i. HANNAH<sup>2</sup> RICHARDSON, buried 17 December 1737 in Disley.<sup>75</sup> She married John Allen.<sup>76</sup>

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65. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004011974, images 520–21, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, James Allen, 27 June 1750, proved 7 November 1750.

66. *Ibid.*, digital film 004011833, image 186, Bowden, Bishop's transcripts for St. Mary's Church, 1600–1900, marriages, Shrigley-Allen, 21 June 1752.

67. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 151, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Frances Allen, 2 May 1730.

68. *Ibid.*, image 240, baptisms, 1591–1739, Frances Allen, 5 October 1732.

69. *Ibid.*, image 302, burials, 1739–1812, Fanny Platt, 9 April 1798.

70. *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004019030>), digital film 004019030, image 390, Marple, Cheshire, Parish registers, 1655–1925, marriages, 1746–1773, Platt-Allen, 15 April 1749.

71. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 157, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Elizabeth Allen, 8 December 1734.

72. *Ibid.*, image 129, Thomas Richardson, 10 August 1714.

73. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004018557>), digital film 004018557, image 547, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, Consistory Court, Marriage Act Book, 1661–66, bond and license, Richardson-Garner, 1 October 1663. Thomas Richardson “of Lime” obtained a license and bond from the ministers of Great Budworth and Tarvin in Cheshire to marry Elizabeth Garner of Kelsall, Cheshire. Peter Bramhall of Kelsall was the surety.

74. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 152, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Shusanna [sic] Richardson, 25 December 1731.

75. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 161, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Hannah Alin, 17 December 1737.

76. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714.

- + 3 ii. JANE RICHARDSON, she married Henry Kenion 14 February 1695 in Stockport, Cheshire.<sup>77</sup>
- 4 iii. ESTHER RICHARDSON, she married Phillip Platt 31 May 1703 in Prestbury.<sup>78</sup>
- 5 iv. HENRY RICHARDSON<sup>79</sup>

### *Generation Two*

**2. Hannah<sup>2</sup> Richardson** (Thomas<sup>1</sup>), birth date and place unknown; buried 17 December 1737 in Disley.<sup>80</sup> She married **John Allen**.<sup>81</sup>

Hannah and John had six known children:

- 6 i. JAMES<sup>3</sup> ALLEN, baptized 19 February 1692 in Pott Shrigley;<sup>82</sup> died 28 September 1750 in Lyme Handley and buried 1 October 1750 in Disley.<sup>83</sup> He married (1) Mary Brown 6 November 1716 in Manchester.<sup>84</sup> He married (2) Elizabeth [—?—].<sup>85</sup>
- 7 ii. JOHN ALLIN, baptized 23 May 1696 in Pott Shrigley;<sup>86</sup> buried 18 July 1696 in Disley.<sup>87</sup>

77. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004019074, image 152, Stockport, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1584–1901, marriages, Kenion-Richardson, 14 February 1695.

78. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714. Also, *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004011900>), digital film 004011900, image 902, Prestbury, Bishop's transcripts, 1596–1858, marriages, 1703–1704, Platt-Richardson, 31 May 1703.

79. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714.

80. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 161, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Hannah Alin, 17 December 1737.

81. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714.

82. Registers of St. Christopher Church, Pott Shrigley, baptisms, 1630–1883, James Allan, 19 February 1692; MCL.

83. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 260, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, James Allen, 1 October 1750.

84. *Ibid.*, digital film 004497749, image 830, Manchester, Parish registers for Manchester Cathedral, marriages, Allin-Brown, 6 November 1716.

85. *Ibid.*, digital film 004011974, images 520–21, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, James Allen, 27 June 1750, proved 7 November 1750.

86. *Ibid.*, digital film 0004011908, image 286, Pott Shrigley, Bishop's Transcripts, 1679–1851, baptisms, 1696, John Allin, 23 May 1696.

87. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 119, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, John Allin “of lime,” 18 July 1696.

- 8     iii. HENRY ALLEN, baptized 2 January 1704 in Pott Shrigley;<sup>88</sup> buried 30 November 1766 in Disley.<sup>89</sup> He married Mary Hattfield 14 October 1731 in Prestbury.<sup>90</sup>
- 9     iv. THOMAS ALLEN, buried 29 April 1774 in Stockport.<sup>91</sup> He married Elizabeth Burgess 11 April 1730 in Prestbury.<sup>92</sup>
- 10    v. JOSEPH ALLEN, buried 4 June 1779 in Disley.<sup>93</sup> He married Ann Brown of Norbury 24 June 1739 in Manchester.<sup>94</sup>
- 11    vi. CHILD ALLIN, buried 26 April 1712 in Disley.<sup>95</sup>

**3. Jane<sup>2</sup> Richardson** (Thomas<sup>1</sup>), birth date and place unknown. She married **Henry Kenion** 14 February 1695 in Stockport.<sup>96</sup>

Jane and Henry had one known child:

- 12     i. JAMES<sup>3</sup> KENION, born 15 May 1700, probably in Haydock, Lancashire, and baptized 12 June 1700 in Winwick, Lancashire.<sup>97</sup> He died 30 October 1744 in Sutton.<sup>98</sup> He married Sarah Carter 15 January 1720 in Winwick.<sup>99</sup>

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88. Registers of St. Christopher Church, Pott Shrigley, baptisms, 1630–1883, Henry Allen, 2 January 1704; MCL.

89. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 273, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, Henry Allen, 30 November 1766.

90. *Ibid.*, digital film 004018873, image 712, Prestbury, Parish registers, 1560–1990, marriages, 1721–1746, Allen-Hattfield, 14 October 1731.

91. *Ibid.*, digital film 004019075, image 41, Stockport, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1584–1901, burials, July 1761–January 1782, Thomas Allen, 29 April 1774.

92. *Ibid.*, digital film 004018873, image 707, Prestbury, Parish registers, 1560–1990, marriages, 1721–1746, Allen-Burgess, 11 April 1730.

93. *Ibid.*, digital film 004017820, image 284, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1739–1812, Joseph Allen, 4 June 1779.

94. “Lancashire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1812,” *Ancestry*, Allen-Brown, 24 June 1739. Joseph Allen was from Lime, Prestbury Parish, and Ann Brown was from Norbury, Stockport Parish.

95. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004017820, image 127, Disley, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1591–1958, burials, 1591–1739, Child of John and Hannah Allin who was not baptized, 26 April 1712.

96. *Ibid.*, digital film 004019074, image 152, Stockport, Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, 1584–1901, marriages, Kenion-Richardson, 14 February 1695.

97. *Ibid.*, digital film 008099239, image 306, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, baptisms, 1695–1716, James Kenyon, born 15 May 1700, baptized 12 June 1700.

98. *Ibid.*, digital film 004321586, image 45, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, burials, 1733–1756, James Kenyon, 30 October 1744.

99. *Ibid.*, digital film 004420940, image 727, Winwick, Bishop's transcripts, marriages, 1701–1724, Kenion-Carter, 15 January 1720.

*Descendants of Henry Kenion**Generation One*

**1. Henry<sup>1</sup> Kenion**, birth date and place unknown; buried 8 January 1739/40 in Winwick.<sup>100</sup> He married **Jane Richardson** 14 February 1695 in Stockport.<sup>101</sup>

Henry and Jane had one known child:

- +2 i. JAMES<sup>2</sup> KENION, born 15 May 1700, probably in Haydock, and baptized 12 June 1700 in Winwick.<sup>102</sup> He died 30 October 1744 in Sutton.<sup>103</sup> He married Sarah Carter 15 January 1720 in Winwick.<sup>104</sup>

*Generation Two*

**2. James<sup>2</sup> Kenion** (Henry<sup>1</sup>), born 15 May 1700, probably in Haydock, and baptized 12 June 1700 in Winwick.<sup>105</sup> He died 30 October 1744 in Sutton.<sup>106</sup> He married **Sarah Carter** 15 January 1720 in Winwick.<sup>107</sup>

James and Sarah Kenion had five known children:

- 3 i. JAMES<sup>3</sup> KENION, born 11 February 1721 in Haydock, baptized 23 February 1721 in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire.<sup>108</sup>
- 4 ii. HENRY KENYON, born 9 April 1736, baptized 14 April 1736 in Ashton-in-Makerfield.<sup>109</sup>

100. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004321586, image 31, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, burials, 1733–1756, Henry Kenyon, 8 January 1739/40.

101. *Ibid.*, digital film 004012028, images 204–5, Chester, Archdeaconry of Chester, will, Thomas Richardson, 15 December 1711, proved 21 October 1714.

102. *Ibid.*, digital film 008099239, image 306, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, baptisms, 1695–1716, James Kenyon, born 15 May 1700, baptized 12 June 1700.

103. *Ibid.*, digital film 004321586, image 45, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, burials, 1733–1756, James Kenyon, 30 October 1744.

104. *Ibid.*, digital film 004420940, image 727, Winwick, Bishop's transcripts, marriages, 1701–1724, Kenion-Carter, 15 January 1720.

105. *Ibid.*, digital film 008099239, image 306, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, baptisms, 1695–1716, James Kenyon, born 15 May 1700, baptized 12 June 1700.

106. *Ibid.*, digital film 004321586, image 45, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's Church, burials, 1733–1756, James Kenyon, 30 October 1744.

107. *Ibid.*, digital film 004420940, image 727, Winwick, Bishop's transcripts, marriages, 1701–1724, Kenion-Carter, 15 January 1720.

108. *Ibid.* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004133891>), digital film 004133891, image 27, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, Parish registers, 1698–1900, baptisms, 1698–1792, p. 44, James Kenion, born 11 February 1721, baptized 23 February 1721.

109. *Ibid.*, image 52, p. 93, Henry Kenyon, born 9 April 1736, baptized 14 April 1736.



- 5    iii.    JOHN KENNION, born 27 April 1737 in Haydock, baptized 4 May 1737 in Ashton-in-Makerfield.<sup>110</sup>
- 6    iv.    HENRY KENYON, born 28 November 1738 in Haydock, baptized 24 December 1738 in Ashton-in-Makerfield;<sup>111</sup> buried 14 June 1740 in Winwick.<sup>112</sup>
- 7    v.    SARAH KENYON, born 5 March 1739 in Haydock, baptized 14 March 1739 in Ashton-in-Makerfield.<sup>113</sup>

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110. Ibid., image 55, p. 96, John Kennion, born 27 April 1737, baptized 4 May 1737.

111. *FamilySearch*, digital film 004133891, image 58, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Parish registers, 1698–1900, baptisms, 1698–1792, p. 105, Henry Kenyon, born 28 November 1738, baptized 24 December 1738.

112. Ibid., digital film 004321586, image 32, Winwick, Parish registers for St. Oswald's, 1563–1909, burials 1733–1756, Henry Kenyon, 14 June 1740.

113. Ibid., digital film 004133891, image 61, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Parish registers, 1698–1900, baptisms, 1698–1792, Sarah Kenyon, born 5 March 1739, baptized 14 March 1739.

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### An Elopement and Robbery in Oldham, Lancashire County, England

At the Oldham Police Court, on Thursday, a young man named James Maidwell, a labourer, was charged with being concerned in a robbery of money, the property of William Howe, also a labourer, residing in Derker-street, Oldham [Lancashire County]. It appeared the prisoner had lodged with Howe for about a year and a half. On the 20th ult. he and Howe's wife were seen to walk together to one of the railway stations, and afterwards to leave together in a train. After they had gone an inquiry was set on foot, and it was found that £16, which Howe had allowed his wife to place in the bank in her name, had been withdrawn, and also £6 which had been deposited in a co-operative society. Information was given to the police at the time, but nothing was heard of the truants till Wednesday night, when the prisoner, who had evidently deserted the woman, was arrested in Oldham, having about £7 in his possession. Mrs. Howe, it was stated, is at Lees, and, pending her arrival, the prisoner was remanded.

—“Elopement and Robbery at Oldham,” *Manchester Weekly Times and Examiner* (Manchester, England), 18 April 1874, p. 3, col. 3.

### **Two Ducks and Bigamy in Yorkshire, England**

A March 1844 news item relates an unusual case of bigamy prosecuted at the Yorkshire Spring Assizes. At her trial neither of Ann North Kaye's husbands offered a defense of their wife's actions.

Ann North Kaye was indicted for having, on the 21st Oct. 1839, at Elland, feloniously and unlawfully intermarried with James Lodge, her first husband, Charles Kaye, being then alive.

Mr. Hall and Mr. Pickering were counsel for the prosecution, Mr. Wilkins for the prisoner.

Mr. Hall briefly stated the case for the prosecution; he said that the prisoner was, on the 3rd of August, 1837, lawfully married, at Almondbury Parish Church, to Charles Kaye, and that whilst he was still living, she afterwards, on the 21st October, 1839, married James Lodge, at Elland Church.

The circumstances of the case were rather singular. Shortly after Kaye married the prisoner, he enlisted for a soldier, went to India, and some time after, she married Lodge, who had lived in the same neighbourhood with her, and had known of her former marriage. She had one child by her second marriage, and after they had lived tog[e]ther some time, Charles Kaye returned from India, on which she left her second husband, and went to live with her first one. Lodge lived with her two years and four months, and within a fortnight after Kay[e] returned, she went to him. No steps were taken to prosecute her, until a dispute arose as to the maintenance of her child by Lodge, both husbands refusing to contribute towards its support. Though the prisoner was married at Elland, a spinster, it was proved that her second husband knew of her previous marriage, because he had presented them with a couple of ducks for the wedding dinner.

The jury found the prisoner Guilty, and she was sentenced to be imprisoned in York Castle for four calendar months.

— "Bigamy at Elland," *Leeds Times* (Leeds, Yorkshire, England),  
23 March 1844, p. 7, col. 6.

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## Dr. Peter Trisler and the Younger Woman: Parents of John Trisler of Kentucky and Indiana?

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By Constance T. Shotts, EdD, CG

*John Trisler was born with no records directly linking him to his parents.  
Indirect evidence reveals his illegitimate birth and curious family relationships.*

John Trisler, born about 1805 in Kentucky, lived in Monroe and Lawrence counties, Indiana.<sup>1</sup> He married four times between 1827 and 1880 and died in 1882 in Lawrence County.<sup>2</sup> No direct evidence identifies his parents. Nevertheless, pieces of evidence from many sources combine to reveal John's illegitimate birth and unusual family relationships.

### JOHN TRISLER BORN IN KENTUCKY AND DIED IN INDIANA

On 12 March 1827 John Trisler signed a bond in Fayette County, Kentucky, to marry Sally [Sarah] Wagamon, with Sally's father, John Wagamon, as surety.<sup>3</sup> John Trisler unsuccessfully applied for benefits earned by the military service of his son,

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© Constance T. Shotts, EdD, CG; 104 Locust Run; Monroe, NC 28110; constanceshotts@theancestorsearch.com. Dr. Shotts, a retired school administrator with a doctorate in curriculum and instruction, has held the Certified Genealogist credential since 2011. She specializes in forensic genealogy. Dr. Shotts works with SNA International, a forensics company contracted by the U.S. Army Casualty Office, Past Conflict Repatriations Branch, to identify and locate living relatives and DNA-eligible donors for missing WWII U.S. soldiers. Websites were accessed on 22 November 2019.

1. 1850 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ind., population schedule, Perry Township, p. 313 (stamped), dwelling/family 265, John Trissler household; microfilm publication M432, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C., roll 161. 1860 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ind., pop. sch., Clear Creek Twp., p. 31, dwell. 220, fam. 210, John Thrisher household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 471. 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ind., pop. sch., Shawswick Twp., pp. 14–15, dwell./fam. 107, John Trisler household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 335.

2. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007724545>), digital film 007724545, images 718–19, Fayette Co., Ky., Marriage bonds, 1825–1829, Trisler-Wagamon, bond 12 March 1827. Monroe Co., Ind., Marriage book 3:112, Trisler-Ensey, 4 July 1854; Monroe County Historical Society, Genealogy Library, Bloomington. Lawrence Co., Ind., Marriage book D:110, Trisler-Thornburg, 10 May 1861; Clerk's Office, Bedford. Lawrence Co., Marriage book G:43, Trisler-Pruitt, 27 May 1880; Clerk's Office. "Deaths," *New Albany Ledger* (New Albany, Ind.), 26 January 1882, p. 4, col. 2.

3. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007724545, images 718–19, Fayette Co., Marriage bonds, 1825–1829, Trisler-Wagamon, bond 12 March 1827.

John Trisler Jr., who died in 1862 during the Civil War. The 1881 pension affidavit says the father, John Trisler, obtained a marriage license in Lexington, Fayette County, and was married in 1827 by Pleasant Alverson, a Methodist minister in Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky.<sup>4</sup> John Trisler would have been at least twenty-one in 1827, suggesting birth in the early 1800s.<sup>5</sup>

In 1830 John Trisler headed a household in Jessamine County with two boys under five, one man twenty to twenty-nine, and a woman twenty to twenty-nine.<sup>6</sup> His 1840 household comprised one boy under five, two boys five to nine, another boy ten to fourteen, one man thirty to thirty-nine, one girl under five, one girl five to nine, and a woman thirty to thirty-nine.<sup>7</sup>

Three Indiana censuses agree John was born 1805–6 in Kentucky:

- 1850—Forty-five-year-old John Trissler, born in Kentucky, headed a household in Monroe County. It comprised Kentucky-born Sarah, forty-three; Joshua, twenty-two; Jonathan, twenty; Martha, nineteen; James, thirteen; and Mary, ten. Three were born in Indiana: Daniel, fifteen; John, seven; and Margaret, eighteen.<sup>8</sup> Daniel's birth about 1835 in Indiana suggests the family moved from Kentucky before Daniel was born and then returned for James's birth about 1837. They likely settled permanently in Indiana before John's birth about 1843.

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4. Affidavit of applicant, 25 April 1881, John Trisler, father's pension application no. 267,460, service of John Trisler [Jr.] (Pvt., Co. I, 59th Ind. Vols., Civil War); Case Files of Disapproved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Veterans of the Army and Navy, 1861–1934; Record Group (RG) 15: Records of the Department of Veteran Affairs, National Archives (NA), Washington, D.C. On 25 April 1881 John Trisler stated he was the father of John Trisler Jr. He married Sarah Wagoman on 27 March 1827 in Nicholasville, Kentucky. He confirmed that he "procured" his marriage license at Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, on or about 24 March 1827. For minister, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007901261>), digital film 007901261, image 94, Marion W. Mahin and Mrs. Howard Johnson, compilers, "Jessamine County, Kentucky, Marriage License W-Y-Z found in Old Box 11–Old Box 12 . . . 1799–1867, Court House, Nicholasville, Kentucky," (typescript, Nicholasville, Ky.: Trabue Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1955), p. 37(1), "List of Ministers who performed marriage ceremonies in Jessamine County, Ky.," 1799–1867, Pleasant Alverson.

5. "The Federal and State Constitutions, Vol. III Kentucky-Massachusetts," *Online Library of Liberty* (<http://oll.libertyfund.org>), Constitution of Kentucky—1799, Article 6, Section 8. This section provided that laws in force in the State of Virginia shall also be in force in Kentucky and included the Virginia statute Act VI, which placed the legal age for marriage without parental consent at twenty-one. William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, From the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619*, vol. 1 (New York: R. & W. & G. Bartow, 1823), 156–57.

6. 1830 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., p. 211 (stamped), John Trisler household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 38.

7. 1840 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., p. 222 (stamped), John Trisler household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 116.

8. 1850 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ind., pop. sch., Perry Twp., p. 313 (stamped), dwell./fam. 265, John Trissler household.

- 1860—John Trisler of Monroe County, a “R[ail] R[oad]” worker and widower, was fifty-four and born in Kentucky. His household included James, eleven; Nancy, eight; and Emeline, three.<sup>9</sup>
- 1870—John Trisler of Lawrence County, a sixty-five-year-old stone quarry worker, was born in Kentucky. His household included Kentucky-born Jane, forty; Amanda Sullivan, nineteen; Franklin Thornburg, fifteen; and Indiana-born Mary Thornburg, fourteen; Mary Trisler, twelve; and Laura Sullivan, one.<sup>10</sup> Jane was probably Jane Thornburg who married John in 1861.
- 1880—John Trisler was not found in the 1880 enumeration of Lawrence or Monroe counties, Indiana.<sup>11</sup>

Tables 1 and 2 summarize John’s possible family members in 1830 and 1840.

| Table 1  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| 1830 Census in Jessamine County, Kentucky,<br>Showing Possible John Trisler Family Members   |     |   |
| GENDER/AGES  | NO. | POSSIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS                       |
| Male < 5   | 2   | Joshua (born abt. 1828), Jonathan (abt. 1830) |
| Male 20–29   | 1   | John (abt. 1805)                              |
| Female 20–29   | 1   | Sarah (abt. 1807)                             |
| <i>Source:</i> 1830 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., p. 211, John Trisler; microfilm publication M19, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., roll 38. For family members, see text. |     |   |

9. 1860 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ind., pop. sch., Clear Creek Twp., p. 31, dwell. 220, fam. 210, John Trisler household.

10. 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ind., pop. sch., Shawswick Twp., pp. 14–15, dwell./fam. 107, John Trisler household.

11. The 1880 U.S. census was searched in Lawrence and Monroe counties, Indiana, on *Ancestry* for all persons named Trisler, born about 1805 in Kentucky; spreadsheet in author’s files.

Table 2

**1840 Census in Jessamine County, Kentucky,  
Showing Possible John Trisler Family Members**

| GENDER/AGES  | NO. | POSSIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS                             |
|--------------|-----|---|
| Male < 5     | 1   | James (born abt. 1837 in Kentucky)                  |
| Male 5–9     | 2   | Jonathan (abt. 1830), Daniel (abt. 1835 in Indiana) |
| Male 10–14   | 1   | Joshua (abt. 1828)                                  |
| Male 30–39   | 1   | John (abt. 1805)                                    |
| Female < 5   | 1   | Mary (abt. 1840)                                    |
| Female 5–9   | 1   | Martha (abt. 1831)                                  |
| Female 30–39 | 1   | Sarah (abt. 1807)                                   |

*Source:* 1840 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., District 2, p. 49, John Trisler; microfilm publication M432, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., roll 208. For family members, see text.

John's first wife, Sarah, died in Indiana on 1 September 1853.<sup>12</sup> He became the guardian of their younger children, heirs of grandfather John Wagamon.<sup>13</sup>

A January 1882 newspaper says "John Trisler, an old citizen of Bedford, dropped dead from his chair yesterday just after eating his dinner, from heart disease."<sup>14</sup> He was supposedly buried in Bedford, Lawrence County. His *Find A Grave* memorial claims he was Henry and Mary (Barr) Trisler's son.<sup>15</sup>

John may have been the son of Dr. Peter Trisler of Jessamine County. Bennett Young's unsourced history claims Trisler led a group of German Protestants from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Fayette County (area that became Jessamine County in December 1798), Kentucky, about 1791.<sup>16</sup>

12. Declaration for father's army pension, 9 June 1880, John Trisler, father's pension application no. 267,460; RG 15, NA-Washington.

13. Monroe Co., Ky., Deed book P:398–400, John Trisler, Guardian to John Wagamon, 10 October 1853; Monroe County Historical Society. Monroe Co., Probate, order book 1:231, June 1803–April 1859, John Trisler, guardianship bond, 25 October 1853; Clerk's Office, Bloomington.

14. "Deaths," *New Albany Ledger*. Joyce Shepherd of the Lawrence County Museum of History and Edward L. Hutton Research Library in Bedford, Indiana, to Constance T. Shotts, email, 6 July 2007. Shepherd emailed, "No death record, will or probate file for John Trisler at Courthouse."

15. *Find A Grave*, memorial 111962152, 7 June 2013, by "Lynn," John Trisler (Bedford, Lawrence Co., Ind.). No gravestone image. John was born in 1805 and died 26 January 1882.

16. Bennett H. Young, *A History of Jessamine County, Kentucky, From Its Earliest Settlement to 1898* (1898; repr., Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publications, 1979), 44–45. "Kentucky," Newberry Library, *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* (<https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/pages/Kentucky.html>). Jessamine County was created from Fayette County by the Kentucky Acts of 1798–99.

## DOCTOR PETER TRISLER OF JESSAMINE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Two court cases say Doctor Peter Trisler settled in Kentucky before 1800—Trisler v. Schagg in 1789 and Trisler v. Bates in 1798.<sup>17</sup> He appears in the *Kentucky Gazette* in 1798–1801 and the *Kentucky Herald* in 1798.<sup>18</sup> Peter was the man over forty-five in 1810, suggesting birth before 1765.<sup>19</sup> He was over forty-five in 1820.<sup>20</sup> A Bible record says Dr. Peter Trisler was born in “Sustersbachville,” Germany, in 1745.<sup>21</sup>

Peter Trisler and his wife, Elizabeth, had ten children.<sup>22</sup> The following are their five known children:

1. Elizabeth Trisler, born about 1770<sup>23</sup>
2. Henry Trisler, born about 1778<sup>24</sup>

17. Jessamine Co., Ky., Circuit Court, Loose papers, 1789–1801, box 3, file 8, location C-11-F-3, Dr. Michael Schagg v. Dr. Peter Trisler, 1789; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), Frankfort. Ibid., 1798–1803, box 5, file 13, loc. C-11-F-3, Dr. Peter Trisler v. James Bates, 1798.

18. “I hereby give notice,” *Kentucky Gazette* (Lexington, Ky.), 6 June 1798, p. 3, col. 2. “Notice to Public,” *Kentucky Herald* (Lexington, Ky.), 21 August 1798, p. 1, col. 1. “Letters Left at Post Office,” *Kentucky Gazette*, 4 July 1799, p. 1, col. 2. “I hereby give notice,” *Kentucky Gazette*, 16 January 1800, p. 3, col. 2. “Doctor Trisler,” *Kentucky Gazette*, 24 August 1801, p. 3, col. 3.

19. 1810 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., p. 48, Peter Trisler household; NARA microfilm M252, roll 7.

20. 1820 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., p. 90, Dr. Peter Trisler household; NARA microfilm M33, roll 24.

21. Martin Cawby Family Bible, *Die gantzte Bibel, das is alle bücher allts vnnd neüws Testaments . . .* [The complete Bible, including all books of the Old and New Testaments] (Zurich: Christoffel Froschouer, 1536; repr., Strasbourg: Simon Kürssner/Cantzley, 1744); privately held by a direct descendant of Dr. Peter Trisler; notes in author’s files. An inside page says, “This was the property of D<sup>r</sup> Peter Trisler Born in Sustersbachville in Germany 1745. . . .”

22. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, Loose papers, 1806–1811, box 8, file 56, loc. C-11-F-4, Chancery bill, Elizabeth Trisler v. Dr. Peter Trisler; KDLA. “[Y]our Oratrix [Elizabeth Trisler] further Shews that she has lived with the s<sup>d</sup> def<sup>t</sup> [Dr. Trisler] [blank] years and have had ten children by the s<sup>d</sup> Def<sup>t</sup>.”

23. Ibid., Loose papers, 1824–1827, box 72, file 216, loc. C-11-F-8, Overholster & wife v. Trislers, 24 September 1827; KDLA. Deposition by Elizabeth Waggermon gives her age “fifty-five years and upwards.” *Acts Passed At The First Session of The Twenty-Fifth General Assembly, For the Commonwealth of Kentucky* (Frankfort, Ky.: Gerard & Kendall, 1817), 92–93. In “An Act for the benefit of Caty and Rosa Bennett,” Caty and Rosa Bennett, Dr. Trisler’s granddaughters, were named as daughters of Elizabeth Trisler.

24. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, box 42, file 125, Complaint, Heirs of John Moss v. Henry Trisler, 27 March 1821; KDLA. “John McKinney junr. one house & field lying on the waters of Jessamine being the land recovered of the s<sup>d</sup> Henry & Peter Trisler his father. . . .” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834466>), digital film 007834466, image 27, Jessamine Co., Ky., Tax books 1799–1813, 1815–1817, 1819–1830, p. 21 (1799), Henry Trisler entry.



3. Peter Trisler Jr., born about 1783<sup>25</sup>
4. Catherine Trisler, born about 1787<sup>26</sup>
5. Susannah Trisler, born about 1788<sup>27</sup>

Table 3 shows Peter Trisler—called “Dr.” in 1812, 1815, 1819, and 1820—was taxed in Jessamine County from 1799 to 1820.

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25. Miscellaneous manuscripts and codices, 1674–1911, box 3, folder 79, letter, Peter Trisler, Jr. (The Moravian Villages) to Dear Father, 8 October 1813; Reuben T. Durrett Collection; University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. Peter Jr. was at least twenty-one years old in 1804. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 203, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 28 (1804), Peter Trisler Jr. entry.

26. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007724991>), digital film 007724991, images 99–101, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, 1799–1867, file 5, vol. H, Horrein-Trisler, bond 1 May 1804. The bond includes Dr. Peter Trisler’s handwritten note of consent, indicating Catherine was under age twenty-one: “I do Hereby Certify that I have no objections against the marriage of Jacob Horrein and Caterina Trisler a daughter of mine as Witness my Hand & seal this first Day of May 1804.” Witnessed by Peter Trisler Jr. and Henry Horrein. Russell Aubrey Hunt, *The Ancestors and Descendants of John Henry Horine and Virginia Washington Overstreet* (Griffith, Ind.: Golden Rule Press, 1966), 13. Mr. Hunt stated that much of his unsourced information came from interviews with the oldest living family members.

27. Martin Cawby Family Bible, *Die gantze Bibel*. An inside page says, “This was the property of D<sup>r</sup> Peter Trisler Born in Sustersbachville in Germany 1745 And now the property of his Grand Son J. T. Cawby Born 1 day September 1810 in County of Jessamine and state Ky.” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007724988>), digital film 007724988, images 513–14, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, 1799–1878, file 2, B–C, Cauvey-Trisler, bond 6 November 1809. Dr. Trisler signed as bondsman. Grandson J[ohn] T[homas] Cawby was the son of Susannah (Trisler) Cawby and Martin Cawby, owner of the Bible and signer of the 1809 bond.

Table 3

**Tax Records for Peter Trisler  
in Jessamine County, Kentucky, 1799–1820**

| YEAR | ACRES | MALES ABOVE 21 | HORSES/MULES |
|------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 1799 | 0     | 1              | 3            |
| 1801 | 400   | 1              | 7            |
| 1802 | 200   | 1              | 2            |
| 1803 | 0     | 1              | 5            |
| 1804 | 0     | 1              | 4            |
| 1805 | 80    | 2              | 5            |
| 1806 | 80    | 1              | 2            |
| 1807 | 32    | 1              | 2            |
| 1808 | 80    | 1              | 2            |
| 1809 | 80    | 1              | 2            |
| 1810 | 32    | 1              | 2            |
| 1811 | 32    | 1              | 6            |
| 1812 | 32    | 1              | 10           |
| 1813 |       |                |              |
| 1815 | 32¼   | 1              | 5            |
| 1816 | 32¼   | 1              | 2            |
| 1817 |       |                |              |
| 1819 | 0     | 1              | 4            |
| 1820 | 100   | 1              | 2            |

*Source:* *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834466>), digital film 007834466, image 27, Jessamine Co., Ky., Tax books 1799–1813, 1815–1817, 1819–1830, p. 21 (1799); image 91, p. 18 (1801); image 130, p. 33 (1802); image 169, p. 29 (1803); image 203, p. 28 (1804); image 233, p. 21 (1805); image 264, p. 24 (1806); image 292, p. 22 (1807); image 324, p. 25 (1808); image 355, p. 24 (1809); image 356, p. 25 (1809); image 393, p. [?] (1810); image 429, p. 29 (1811); image 462, p. 25 (1812); image 491, p. 23 (1813); image 529, p. 31 (1815); image 569, p. 29 (1816); image 609, p. 30 (1817); image 658, p. 39 (1819); and image 703, p. 35 (1820); Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort.

Peter did not patent land in Fayette County.<sup>28</sup> Fayette County holds no deeds for him between 1787 and 1802.<sup>29</sup> Deeds show his Jessamine County land transactions:

- 1802—Nicholasville trustees Thomas Caldwell, Richard Hightower, Joseph Jones, and William Moss sold to Peter Trisler lots 99, 100, and 107 in Nicholasville for five pounds.<sup>30</sup>
- 1808—Peter Trisler sold John McKinney lot 99 for twenty-five dollars.<sup>31</sup>
- 1818—Jessamine County Sheriff John Medcalf sold lots 100 and 107—properties of Doctor Peter Trisler—to Arthur Hopkins, the highest bidder in a public auction. On 14 June 1804 lot 100 was sold for twelve dollars and the same day lot 107 sold for three dollars and seventy-five cents.<sup>32</sup>

The two lots sold at auction in 1804 satisfied Dr. Trisler's debt to Abraham Houser. Houser assigned the judgment to Thomas Helm. Helm sued for payment and won.<sup>33</sup>

In 1778 John Bowman surveyed 400 acres on Jessamine Creek. He received a grant of 400 acres in 1799.<sup>34</sup> In 1803 Bowman sold the tract "on which Doctor Trisler lives" to George Hoover.<sup>35</sup> Dr. Trisler was taxed, probably as an occupier of

28. "Index for Virginia Surveys and Grants," *Kentucky Historical Society* (<http://kyhistory.com/cdm/ref/collection/LIB/id/1144>) > Content > 976.904k37mc6\_pp217.

29. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007833954>), digital film 007833954, images 60–64, Fayette Co., Burnt Records 1787–1802, Clerk of the Fayette County Court, pp. 368–76. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008141011>), digital film 008141011, image 24, Fayette Co., Clerk of the County Court, District Court, Deed index, 1794–1798, Deed book A.

30. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008141327>), digital film 008141327, images 193–94, Jessamine Co., Deed book A:374–75, Nicholasville Trustees to Peter Trisler, 14 October 1802, recorded November court 1802.

31. Ibid., image 483, Jessamine Co., Deed book B:366, Peter Trisler to John McKinney, 19 July 1808, rec. July court 1808.

32. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007899075>), digital film 007899075, images 154–55, Jessamine Co., Deed book E:293–95, Sheriff John Medcalf to Arthur Hopkins, 20 April 1818, rec. 20 April 1818.

33. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, box 4, file 12, loc. C-11-F-3, Thomas Helm v. Peter Trisler, 1803; KDLA.

34. "Virginia and Old Kentucky Patents Series," *Kentucky Secretary of State* (<http://apps.sos.ky.gov/land/nonmilitary/patentseries/vaandokpatents/Default.aspx>) > Master Index: Virginia Surveys & Grants > Virginia Patent Series > Name/Description > VA 8966.0, Bowman, John, Virginia Surveys and Grants, book 2:46–47, survey no. 8966, John Bowman, surveyed 19 January 1784, granted 12 March 1799; Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), Frankfort.

35. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008141327, images 276–77, Jessamine Co., Deed book A:538–39, John Bowman to George Hoover, 19 December 1803, rec. December court 1803.

Bowman's land, on 400 acres in 1801 and 200 acres in 1802. He was not assessed in 1803 or 1804, suggesting Peter moved before Bowman's land sold in late 1803.<sup>36</sup>

Between 1805 and 1816 Dr. Trisler was taxed on either 32 or 80 acres, probably as an occupier.<sup>37</sup> Other than the sale of lot 99 in 1808, Peter did not buy or sell land between 1805 and 1816.<sup>38</sup>

When Thomas Bennett died in 1810, Dr. Trisler was appointed administrator of Bennett's 190-acre estate on Jessamine Creek.<sup>39</sup> A court case was filed on behalf of Bennett's two illegitimate daughters—Trisler's granddaughters and children of his daughter, Elizabeth.<sup>40</sup> In 1817 an "Act for the Benefit of Caty and Rosa Bennett" passed the state legislature.<sup>41</sup> Dr. Trisler continued living on Bennett's land which he leased until his death in 1821.<sup>42</sup> Taxes assessed on 100 acres in 1820 may have been for the Bennett lease.

Dr. Peter Trisler died in 1821.<sup>43</sup> On 19 June 1821 Abraham Houser and William McConnell became administrators of his estate, with Samuel Rohrer as security.<sup>44</sup> Dr. Trisler owed Houser money in 1804. On 21 November 1821 Trisler's estate sale was recorded. A list of notes for his estate was recorded on 21 May 1822.<sup>45</sup>

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36. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 91, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 18 (1801); image 130, p. 33 (1802); image 169, p. 29 (1803); and image 203, p. 25 (1804), Peter Trisler entries; KHS.

37. *Ibid.*, image 233, p. 21 (1805); image 264, p. 24 (1806); image 293, p. 22 (1807); image 324, p. 25 (1808); image 355, p. 24 (1809); image 356, p. 25 (1809); image 393, p. [?] (1810); image 429, p. 29 (1811); image 462, p. 25 (1812); image 491, p. 23 (1813); image 529, p. 31 (1815); image 530, p. 32 (1815); and image 569, p. 29 (1816), Peter Trisler entries.

38. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008518504>), digital film 008518504, image 120, Jessamine Co., Deed index, grantor index, 1799–1947, T–Z, p. 37. *Ibid.*, image 100, grantee index, 1799–1947, T–Z, p. 33.

39. Jessamine Co., Court Quarter Sessions, 1809–1815, vol. B:52, Peter Trisler granted administration of the estate of Thomas Bennett; Clerk's Office, Nicholasville.

40. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, Loose papers, 1810–1818, box 49, file 146, loc. C-11-F-7, Dr. Peter Trisler and others v. Bennetts, Joint and Several Answers of Doctor Peter Trisler and Moses Hoover, 23 October 1817; KDLA.

41. *Acts Passed At The First Session of The Twenty-Fifth General Assembly, For the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, 92–93, "An Act for the benefit of Caty and Rosa Bennett."

42. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, 1818–1821, box 48, file 143, loc. C-11-F-7, Dr. Peter Trisler v. Bennetts, Lease of Thomas Bennett Property to Dr. Peter Trisler; KDLA.

43. "Died, Dr. Peter Trisler," *Kentucky Gazette*, 3 May 1821, p. 1, col. 3.

44. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008141330>), digital film 008141330, image 692, Jessamine Co., County Court, Order books, 1799–1932, book D:324, Doctor Peter Trisler, administration granted to Abraham Houser and William McConnell, 19 June 1821.

45. *Ibid.*, image 21, book E:28, sale of Doctor Peter Trisler's estate returned and order to record, 21 November 1821. *Ibid.*, image 69, book E:69, notes of Doctor Peter Trisler's estate returned and ordered to record, 21 May 1822.

On 15 November 1824 administrators McConnell and “Howser” asked the court to appoint commissioners to settle administration accounts. The court appointed Thomas E. West, George Mason, Richard West, and Charles West, or any three of them.<sup>46</sup>

### THREE JOHN TRISLERS TAXED IN JESSAMINE COUNTY

Table 4 shows three John Trislars were taxed in Jessamine County between 1811 and 1855: one, 1811–13; another, 1823–55; and the third, 1829–40.

| Table 4  |                        |                            |                            |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tax Records for Three John Trislars<br>in Jessamine County, Kentucky, 1811–55<br>(Acres/Males above 21/Horses and mules) |                        |                            |                            |
| YEAR   | JOHN,<br>BORN CA. 1790 | JOHN SR.,<br>BORN CA. 1802 | JOHN JR.,<br>BORN CA. 1808 |
| 1811   | 0/1/2                  |                            |                            |
| 1812   | 0/1/0                  |                            |                            |
| 1813   | 0/1/0                  |                            |                            |
| 1823   |                        | 0/1/2                      |                            |
| 1824   |                        | 0/1/1                      |                            |
| 1825   |                        |                            |                            |
| 1826   |                        |                            |                            |
| 1827   |                        | 0/1/0                      |                            |
| 1828   |                        | 0/1/0                      |                            |
| 1829   |                        | 0/1/1 (Sr.)                | 0/0/2 (Jr.)                |
| 1830   |                        | 0/1/1 (Sr.)                | 3/1/1 (Jr.)                |
| 1831   |                        | 0/1/0 (Sr.)                | 3/1/1 (Doc <sup>d</sup> )  |
| 1833   |                        | 0/1/0                      | 0/1/3 (Jr.)                |
| 1834   |                        | 0/1/0                      | In Indiana?                |
| 1835   |                        | 0/1/0                      | "                          |
| 1837   |                        |                            | 0/1/0                      |
| 1838   |                        | In Woodford Co.?           | 0/1/0                      |
| 1840   |                        | "                          | 0/1/0                      |
| 1851   |                        | 0/1/0                      |                            |
| 1852   |                        | 0/1/0                      |                            |
| 1855   |                        | 0/1/0                      |                            |
| Sources: See next page.  |                        |                            |                            |

46. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008141330, images 166–67, book E:303–4, Doctor Peter Trisler, appointment of commissioners to settle administration accounts, 15 November 1824.

*Table 4 sources:*

*FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834466>), digital film 007834466, image 429, Jessamine Co., Ky., Tax books 1799–1813, 1815–1817, 1819–1830, p. 29 (1811); image 462, p. 25 (1812); image 491, p. 23 (1813); image 821, p. 38 (1823); image 866, p. 35 (1824); image 910, p. 35 (1825); image 911, p. 36 (1825); image 961, p. 41 (1826); image 1011, p. 40 (1827); image 1067, p. 44 (1828); image 1133, p. 54 (1829); and image 1191, p. 45 (1830); Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), Frankfort. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834467>), digital film 007834467, image 48, Jessamine Co., Tax books 1831, 1833–1835, 1837–1838, 1840–1853, p. 44 (1831); image 99, p. 41 (1833); image 142, p. 35 (1834); image 188, p. 36 (1835); image 227, p. 29 (1837); image 271, p. 33 (1838); image 271, p. 33 (1839); image 328, p. 44 (1840); image 849, p. 38 (1851); and image 893, p. 17 (1852); KHS. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008188375>), digital film 008188375, image 89, Jessamine Co., Tax books, 1854–1866, p. 39 (1855); KHS.

*John Trisler, born 1789, son of Michael*

John Trisler was first taxed for a male above twenty-one in 1811, suggesting birth about 1790. He was assessed the same in 1812 and 1813.<sup>47</sup> A Trisler family Bible says Michael Trisler had five sons: Jacob, born about 1786; John, about 1789; Joseph, about 1790; Leonard, about 1793; and Abraham, about 1797.<sup>48</sup> Michael Trisler was taxed as a male above twenty-one years old in 1799 and 1803 in Jessamine County.<sup>49</sup> John, born about 1790, was probably the man who, on 4 September 1811, signed a bond with Abraham Reed to marry Fanny Reed in Jessamine County.<sup>50</sup>

An obituary says John Trisler was born 31 December 1789 to Michael and Catherine Trisler. He was about ten years old when his father moved to Kentucky and died shortly thereafter. John supposedly reached the age of ninety-one before his death in Brown County, Ohio, in 1880.<sup>51</sup> Michael's arrival in Kentucky explains his appearance in Jessamine County tax records in 1799.

47. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 429, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 29 (1811); image 462, p. 25 (1812); and image 491, p. 23 (1813), John Trisler entries.

48. Trisler Bible records, 1700s–1800s, loose family pages from unknown Bible; photocopies held by Mrs. Alice Marksburg, Bethel, Ohio, 2012. The pages do not contain complete family information. Entries suggest the Bible's earliest owner was John Trisler, son of Michael and Catherine, or one of his siblings.

49. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 27, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 21 (1799), and image 169, p. 29 (1803), Jacob Trisler entries.

50. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007724996>), digital film 007724996, images 157–58, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, file 10, S–T, 1799–1867, Trisler-Reed, 4 September 1811.

51. "John Trisler," *Brown County News* (Georgetown, Ohio), 22 December 1880, p. 5, col. 4. "John Trisler (Deceased)," *The History of Brown County, Ohio* (Chicago, Ill.: W. H. Beers, 1883), 194–95.

The birth of Michael's alleged son—probably John whose tax record suggests birth about 1790—is consistent with a 1789 birth in the Bible and obituary. Born in late 1789 and taxed from 1811 to 1813, John was not John Trisler born about 1805–6 in Kentucky and who died in Indiana in 1882.

*John Trisler Sr., born ca. 1802, son of Henry*

John Trisler first appears in the Jessamine County tax rolls in 1823, suggesting birth about 1802. He was called John “Sr.” from 1829 to 1831. Except for 1825 and 1826, he was taxed through 1835 for a male above twenty-one; then he disappeared. He reappears in the tax rolls in 1851 and was last assessed in 1855.<sup>52</sup>

He likely was John Trisler who signed a bond to marry Mary Combs on 10 July 1832 in Jessamine County, with Sophia Combs as surety. They married on 22 July.<sup>53</sup> John and Mary named a son Henry in 1838.<sup>54</sup>

John—with a woman of comparable age and a son under five—was not enumerated in Jessamine County in 1840. Instead, he headed a household in nearby Woodford County, Kentucky, that included one boy under five, two boys five to nine, a man thirty to thirty-nine, and one woman twenty to twenty-nine.<sup>55</sup> The boy under five may have been Henry, born in 1838. John was the man thirty to thirty-nine. The woman was likely the former Mary Combs. John, above twenty-one, was taxed in Woodford County in 1838 and 1840.<sup>56</sup> He probably moved to Woodford County after being taxed in Jessamine County in 1835. He was not assessed in Woodford County in 1843 (1841–42 tax rolls are missing) and probably moved back to Jessamine County.<sup>57</sup>

52. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 821, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 38 (1823); image 866, p. 35 (1824); image 910, p. 35 (1825); image 961, p. 41 (1826); image 1011, p. 40 (1827); image 1067, p. 44 (1828); image 1133, p. 54 (1829); and image 1191, p. 45 (1830); KHS. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834467>), digital film 007834467, image 48, Jessamine Co., Tax books 1831, 1833–1835, 1837–1838, 1840–1853, p. 44 (1831); image 99, p. 41 (1833); image 142, p. 35 (1834); image 227, p. 29 (1837); image 271, p. 33 (1838); image 849, p. 38 (1851); and image 893, p. 18 (1852); KHS. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008188375>), digital film 008188375, image 89, Jessamine Co., Tax books, 1854–1866, p. 39 (1855); KHS.

53. Ibid., digital film 007724996, images 782–84, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, file 10, S–T, 1799–1867, Trisler-Combs, bond 10 July 1832, married 22 July 1832.

54. Commonwealth of Kentucky, State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 2120 (stamped), registered no. 2, Henry Trisler (1911), Bureau of Vital Statistics, Frankfort. Henry was reportedly born 28 March 1838. His parents were John “Henry” Trisler and “Miss Combs.”

55. 1840 U.S. census, Woodford Co., Ky., Southern District, p. 253, John Trisler household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 126. “Kentucky,” *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*. Woodford County was created from Fayette County on 1 May 1789.

56. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834526>), digital film 007834526, image 1117, Woodford Co., Ky., Tax books 1815–1817, 1819–1830, 1833–1838, p. 26 (1838), John Trisler entry. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008188408>), digital film 008188408, image 23, Woodford Co., Tax books 1840, 1843–1858, p. 19 (1840), John Trisler entry.

57. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008188408, images 91–92, Woodford Co., Tax books, pp. 17–18 (1843). No tax books for 1841–42 survive. See *ibid.*, image 49.



Living with David Smith in Jessamine County in 1850 were Kentucky-born John Trisler, age fifty; Virginia-born Mary Trisler, seventy-six; and Kentucky-born Woodson Trisler, nine.<sup>58</sup> John in the 1850 census was likely John Sr. in the tax records and Mary's son. John's wife, the former Mary Combs, was not present in the Smith home in 1850 and may have died. John perhaps moved back to Jessamine County to be close to family members after his wife died.

The Smith household included forty-seven-year-old Susan Smith, who was likely David Smith's wife.<sup>59</sup> David—perhaps with future father-in-law Henry Trisler as surety—signed a bond on 27 July 1824 to marry Susannah Trisler. They married that day in Jessamine County.<sup>60</sup> Susannah likely was John's sister. Surety Henry Trisler would have been old enough to have fathered siblings John, born about 1800–1802 and Susan, born about 1803.

Jessamine County's first tax roll in 1799 suggests Henry Trisler was born about 1778 or earlier.<sup>61</sup> He was Dr. Peter Trisler's son in a 1821 complaint.<sup>62</sup> Henry's approximate birth in 1778 is consistent with his age twenty-six to forty-four recorded in the 1810 and 1820 censuses. These two enumerations also include a woman twenty-six to forty-four—probably Henry's wife.<sup>63</sup>

Henry Trisler was last taxed in 1827.<sup>64</sup> He probably died about 1829, when alleged wife Mary Trisler was taxed for two horses.<sup>65</sup> In 1850 she may have been seventy-six-year-old Mary, apparently widowed, living with her daughter, Susan Smith, and probable son John Trisler. Mary Trisler, a seventy-year-old widow, died

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58. 1850 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., District 2, p. 49 (stamped), dwell./fam. 156, David Smith household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 208. Woodson Trisler was probably the son of Catherine Trisler, whose identity is unknown. In the June term 1844 it was stated that Catherine had died and left "four male children in a destitute situation without the necessary means of support." One of them would be three years old on 10 June 1844—probably Woodson Trisler. David Smith was present in court and consented to take care of infant Woodson for a year at a cost of \$30.00. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007899107>), digital film 007899107, image 472, Jessamine Co., Order books, 1834–1851, book I:404, Maintenance order, David Smith, June court 1844.

59. 1850 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., District 2, p. 49 (stamped), dwell./fam. 156, David Smith household.

60. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007724996, images 761–63, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, file 10, S–T, 1799–1867, Smith-Trisler, bond 27 July 1824, married 27 July 1824.

61. *Ibid.*, digital film 007834466, image 27, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 21 (1799), Henry Trisler entry.

62. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, box 42, file 125, Complaint, Heirs of John Moss v. Henry Trisler, 27 March 1821.

63. 1810 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., p. 48 (stamped), Henry Trisler household. 1820 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., p. 90, Henry Trisler household.

64. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 1012, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 41 (1827), Henry Trisler entry.

65. *Ibid.*, image 1133, p. 54 (1829), Mary Trisler entry.

on 6 November 1852 in Jessamine County from an abscess. Her death record gives her maiden name, Barr.<sup>66</sup> She was probably Henry's widow and John's mother.

On 26 July 1850 John Trisler was likely John who signed a bond with Thomas Harris in Jessamine County, declaring his intention to marry Lucy Ann Hoover.<sup>67</sup> Since Lucy Ann was not listed with John in Smith's 1850 household, they probably married after the 16 August enumeration.

John Trisler appears on the Jessamine County tax rolls in 1851, 1852, and 1855.<sup>68</sup> He was likely John who died about 1857 in Jessamine County.<sup>69</sup> His death in Jessamine County confirms he was not John Trisler who died in Lawrence County.

*John Trisler Jr., born ca. 1808*

John Trisler's first appearance in 1829 tax rolls suggests birth about 1808. See table 4. However, he might have been born earlier. In the mid-to-late 1820s, perhaps he was taxed as an adult living in a relative's home or overlooked.

John's possible 1840 family depicted in table 2 closely tracks the Jessamine County tax records from 1834 to 1840 for John first taxed in 1829. John born about 1805–6 had an apparent son, Daniel, born about 1835 in Indiana. John was not taxed in Kentucky in 1834 and 1835, suggesting he was John, born 1805–6 in Kentucky, who fathered Daniel about 1835 in Indiana.<sup>70</sup> He may have briefly returned to Kentucky before James's birth about 1837. He was taxed in 1837, 1838, and 1840 (1839 is missing), but he does not appear in the Jessamine County tax rolls from 1841–43.<sup>71</sup> He had probably settled in Indiana before his son John's birth about 1843.

66. "Kentucky, Death Records, 1852–1965," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com/search/collections/kydeaths>) > Death Records, 1852-1910 > Film 994042: Jefferson, Jessamine > image 531, Jessamine Co., Deaths, Mary Trisler, 6 November 1852.

67. *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007724997>), digital film 007724997, image 453–54, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, file 11, T–W, 1799–1867, Trisler-Hoover, bond 26 July 1850. The 1850 census enumerators were supposed to list all persons in each household as of 1 June 1850, regardless of actual visitation date. The enumerator may not have followed instructions.

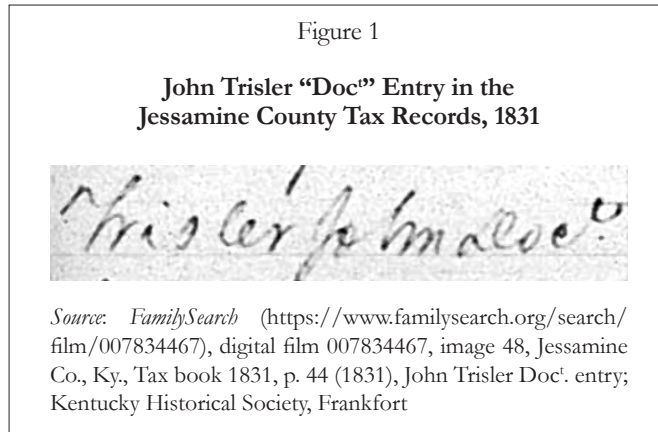
68. *Ibid.*, digital film 007834467, image 849, Jessamine Co., Tax books p. 38 (1851); and image 893, p. 17 (1852), John Trisler entries. *Ibid.*, digital film 008188375, image 89, Jessamine Co., Tax books, 1854–1866, p. 39 (1855), Jno. Trisler entry.

69. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, book L:40, administration granted for the estate of John Trisler; Clerk's Office.

70. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834467, image 142, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 35 (1834), and image 188, p. 36 (1835). The year 1836 is missing.

71. *Ibid.*, image 227, p. 29 (1837); image 271, p. 33 (1838); image 328, p. 44 (1840); image 372, p. 36 (1841); image 416, p. 37 (1842); and image 464, p. 18 (1843); KHS.

In 1829, 1830, and 1833 John Trisler “Jr.” was taxed for three acres.<sup>72</sup> Figure 1 shows John with “Doc” written after his name in 1831, when taxed for the same three acres.<sup>73</sup>



The designations “Jr.” and “Doc” after John’s name was likely the assessor’s way of separating him from the older John, born about 1802, who was simultaneously taxed in Jessamine County between 1829 and 1833. “Doc” may indicate his relationship to a family member.

John Trisler, whose tax records suggest birth about 1808, may have been the man born about 1805–6 and enumerated with Sarah in Monroe County in 1850. He was probably John Trisler who died in Lawrence County in 1882. He was not the son of Henry and Mary (Barr) Trisler, as alleged in the *Find A Grave* memorial.<sup>74</sup>

#### WAS PETER TRISLER JR. JOHN’S FATHER?

The first appearance of Peter Trisler Jr. in the Jessamine County tax rolls is in 1804, suggesting birth about 1783. He was last taxed in Jessamine County in 1827.<sup>75</sup> Born about 1783, he could have fathered John, born about 1805–6.

On 29 January 1806 Peter Trisler Jr. and Jacob Brooner signed a bond stating Peter’s intention to marry Rosana Brooner.<sup>76</sup> Following the probable death of

72. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 1133, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 54 (1829); and image 1191, p. 45 (1830), John Trisler Jr. entries; KHS. *Ibid.*, digital film 007834467, image 99, p. 41 (1833), John Trisler Jr. entry.

73. *Ibid.*, digital film 007834467, image 48, Jessamine Co., Tax books, p. 44 (1831), John Trisler “Doc” entry; KHS.

74. *Find A Grave*, memorial 111962152, 7 June 2013, by “Lynn,” John Trisler.

75. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 203, Jessamine Co., Ky., Tax books, p. 28 (1804), and image 1012, p. 41 (1827), Peter Trisler Jr. entries.

76. *Ibid.*, digital film 007724996, images 105–6, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, file 10, S–T, 1799–1867, Trisler-Brooner, bond 29 January 1806.

Rosana, Peter married Polly Bruner on 12 June 1809, with Jacob Bruner Jr. as Peter's surety. Doctor Peter Trisler, Lewis Backer, and Jacob Bruner Jr. signed the license.<sup>77</sup>

In 1820 Peter was between twenty-six and forty-five years old. Peter's household included a boy ten to fifteen, a girl under ten, a young woman sixteen to twenty-five, and a woman twenty-six to forty-four—probably his wife.<sup>78</sup> Peter does not appear in the 1810 census.<sup>79</sup>

In 1822 Peter's Jessamine County tax record indicates he had one child over four but under fourteen.<sup>80</sup> The child under fourteen was born at the earliest 1808–9 and was probably the boy ten to fifteen in 1820. Rosana possibly died before June 1809 giving birth to the child born 1808–9. Or, the child could have been born to Polly after June 1809. A birth year 1808–9 at the earliest does not match John's birth about 1805–6.

#### ELIZABETH "BETSEY" BRUNER "DOCTOR," THE YOUNGER WOMAN

In the 1806 July court Elizabeth Trisler, who described herself as the legal wife of Dr. Peter Trisler, claimed her husband had abandoned her for a younger woman. She said Peter lived "in open adultery" and fathered a child "above a year old." Elizabeth did not name the woman or the child. She further claimed she was "old and unable to labour" and that Peter did not provide for her. She was living "by the charity of her neighbors." The case continued for five years but was never tried. It was eventually dismissed, probably because Elizabeth died.<sup>81</sup> John, born about 1805–6, would have been "above a year old" in 1806, when Elizabeth filed her complaint. He was not the son of an old woman "unable to labour."

In an 1846 deposition Jacob Hoover said Abraham Rohrer had fathered a daughter named Elizabeth who married Simeon C. Thomas. Elizabeth "was commonly called Elizabeth Doctor sometimes Elizabeth Bruner. Her mother was the woman that old Doctor Trisler kept after his first wife died, and she was generally called Elizabeth Doctor." She "always went by the name of Betsey Doctor." Betsey "was the daughter of Old Jacob Bruner."<sup>82</sup> Betsey Bruner, Dr. Trisler's "kept

77. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007724996, images 7–9, Trisler-Bruner, bond 12 June 1809, married 12 June 1809. The identities of Rosana Brooner and Polly Bruner are unclear. Both may have been daughters of Jacob Bruner Jr.

78. 1820 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., p. 90 (penned), Peter Trisler household.

79. 1810 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky. Digital images on *Ancestry* were searched page-by-page on NARA microfilm M33, roll 24.

80. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007834466, image 775, Jessamine Co. Tax books, p. 25 (1822), Peter Trisler entry.

81. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, Loose papers, 1806–1811, box 8, file 56, loc. C-11-F-4, Chancery Bill, Elizabeth Trisler v. Dr. Peter Trisler; KDLA. The front of the case packet contains notations: "Filed July Court 1806," "1807 Oct., Nov. & Dec. ct<sup>d</sup>," "1808 Jany. Feb. & Mar. ct<sup>d</sup>," "Jul. Aug, Sept., Oct., Nov. & Dec. ct<sup>d</sup>," etc. These notations continue monthly until the note "April 1811 dismissed."

82. *Ibid.*, box 117, file 249, loc. C-11-F-7, Simeon C. Thomas and wife v. Jacob Rhorer and others, 3 July 1846.

woman,” and her daughter, Elizabeth Bruner, both went by the surname Doctor. John Trisler, born about 1805–6, was called “Doc” in his 1831 tax entry. Perhaps he was John Trisler Doctor, the son of Dr. Trisler.

In a subpoena in the case of *Jacob Overholster v. Dr. Peter Trisler*, Sheriff Lewis Singleton said, “A notice [was] left at the house and with the wife of Peter Trisler 9 March 1820 he being absent.”<sup>83</sup> Trisler, probably about seventy-five years old, would not have been expected to have a household with young children. Nevertheless, he wrote to the court on 20 April 1820 to explain why he had missed the court date. He stated he had “only one boy” to help with the farm work and a “large family to maintain and [they were] not able to do any for themselves.”<sup>84</sup>

In 1820 Dr. Peter Trisler’s household contained a young, dependent family that included two boys under ten, one boy ten to fifteen, one man over forty-five, two girls under ten, two girls ten to fifteen, and one woman twenty-six to forty-four.<sup>85</sup> Trisler was the man over forty-five. The twenty-six to forty-four-year-old woman may have been Betsey Bruner Doctor, the younger woman Dr. Trisler “kept” after his first wife died. The boy ten to fifteen may have been John Jr., born about 1805–6, whose name was followed by Doc<sup>t</sup> in 1831.

Betsey Bruner, accused of not properly caring for her two minor sons, was summoned to court in August 1827. She was asked to show why “her two sons should not be taken from her and bound out by the court to learn trades according to laws.”<sup>86</sup> The two minors may have been the two boys under ten in 1820, possibly born out of wedlock to Peter Trisler and Betsey Bruner Doctor.

By 1830 Dr. Trisler had been dead for about nine years. “Betsy” Trisler headed a household in Jessamine County that comprised a young man fifteen to nineteen, a man seventy to seventy-nine, one girl five to nine, and a woman forty to forty-nine.<sup>87</sup> The woman forty to forty-nine was probably Betsey Bruner Doctor, who by 1830 had styled herself as Betsy Trisler.

On 1 October 1845 Simeon Thomas and Jonathan Howser signed a bond declaring Simeon’s intention to marry Elizabeth Rhorer. Elizabeth Trisler, probably Betsey Bruner Doctor Trisler and Elizabeth Rhorer’s mother, gave her consent.<sup>88</sup>

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83. Jessamine Co., Circuit Court, Loose papers, box 48, file 143, loc. C-11-F-6, Subpoena, *Jacob Overholster v. Dr. Peter Trisler*, 29 July 1820.

84. *Ibid.*, letter, *Jacob Overholster v. Dr. Peter Trisler*, 25 April 1820.

85. 1820 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., p. 90, Dr. Peter Trisler household.

86. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008191837>), digital film 008191837, image 347, Jessamine Co., Order books, 1821–1834, book F:298–99, Summons to court, *Betsy Bruner*, August court 1827, summons issued 22 August 1827.

87. 1830 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., p. 223, *Betsy Trisler* household.

88. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007724997, images 243–47, Jessamine Co., Marriage licenses and bonds, file 11, T–W, 1799–1867, *Thomas-Rhorer*, bond 1 October 1845.

In 1850 Eliz[abeth] Trisler, sixty-three and born in Pennsylvania, lived with Virginia-born Simeon Thomas, fifty, and Kentucky-born E[lizabeth] Thomas, twenty-three.<sup>89</sup> Elizabeth Thomas was probably the former Elizabeth Bruner Doctor and Abraham Rhorer's daughter who married Simeon in 1845. The girl five to nine in Betsey Trisler's 1830 household was probably twenty-three-year-old Elizabeth Thomas in 1850.

In August 1837 Elizabeth Trisler and John Trisler sold three acres in Jessamine County to Peter Houser. Elizabeth was named first in the deed, suggesting she was not John's wife.<sup>90</sup> She was not Elizabeth Bruner Doctor, who would have only been fourteen in 1837. Elizabeth in the 1837 deed was very likely Betsey Bruner Doctor, Trisler's kept woman and John Jr.'s or Doc<sup>t</sup>'s mother. The three acres sold in 1837 undoubtedly are those on which John Jr. or Doc<sup>t</sup> was taxed in 1830 and 1831.

#### TIMELINE

Table 5 summarizes events in the life of John Trisler [Jr.] from 1805–82.

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89. 1850 U.S. census, Jessamine Co., Ky., pop. sch., District 2, dwell./fam. 123, Simeon Thomas household.

90. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008141329>), digital film 008141329, image 423, Jessamine Co., Deeds 1799–1865, index 1799–1947, Deed book M:272–73, Elizabeth Trisler and John Trisler to Peter Houser, 10 August 1837, rec. 5 October 1837.

Table 5  
**Timeline of Events in the Life of John Trisler [Jr.], 1805–82**  
 (Kentucky events are in Jessamine County, unless noted otherwise)

| YEAR | KENTUCKY                                       | INDIANA                                |
|------|--|--|
| 1805 | Born (about)                                   |  |
| 1820 | 10–15 in Dr. Trisler's home                    |  |
| 1821 | Father Dr. Trisler died                        |  |
| 1827 | Married Sarah Wagamon in Fayette Co.           |  |
| 1827 | Elizabeth Bruner called to court               |  |
| 1829 | Taxed as Jr. for 2 horses/mules                |  |
| 1830 | Male 20–29, female 20–29                       |  |
| 1830 | Taxed as Jr. for 3 acres, 1 horse              |  |
| 1830 | Betsy Trisler 40–49                            |  |
| 1831 | Taxed as Doc <sup>t</sup> for 3 acres, 1 horse |  |
| 1833 | Taxed as Jr. for 3 horses/mules                |  |
| 1834 |  | Probably moved to Indiana              |
| 1835 |  | Son Daniel was born                    |
| 1837 | Taxed for 1 male over 21                       |  |
| 1837 | Son James was born                             |  |
| 1837 | Elizabeth and John sold 3 acres                |  |
| 1838 | Taxed for 1 male over 21                       |  |
| 1840 | Male 30–39, female 30–39                       |  |
| 1840 | Taxed for 1 male over 21                       |  |
| 1842 |  | Probably moved back to Indiana         |
| 1843 |  | Son John was born                      |
| 1850 |  | 45 years old in Monroe Co., Sarah 43   |
| 1853 |  | Wife Sarah died in Monroe Co.          |
| 1853 |  | Guardian bond in Monroe Co.            |
| 1854 |  | Married Emeline Ensey in Monroe Co.    |
| 1860 |  | 54 years old in Lawrence Co., widower  |
| 1861 |  | Married Jane Thornburg in Lawrence Co. |
| 1862 |  | Son John Jr. died in Civil War         |
| 1870 |  | 65 years old in Lawrence Co., Jane 40  |
| 1880 |  | Married Rebecca Pruitt in Lawrence Co. |
| 1880 |  | Petitioned for son John Jr.'s pension  |
| 1882 |  | Died in Lawrence Co.                   |

*Sources:* See text.



## CONCLUSIONS

John Trisler, born about 1805–6, was the illegitimate son of Dr. Peter Trisler and Betsey Bruner Doctor Trisler. He was John Trisler Jr. or Doc' in the Jessamine County tax records. He died in Lawrence County in 1882. Betsey, born about 1787, was Jacob Bruner's daughter. She was about forty-two years younger than Dr. Trisler.

Records separate two other John Trislars from Dr. Trisler's son. Michael's son, John, was born in late 1789 and was taxed between 1811 and 1813. He married Fanny Reed in 1811 in Jessamine County and probably died in Brown County, Ohio, in 1880.

The other John was born to Henry and Mary (Barr) Trisler about 1802 in Jessamine County. He was John Trisler Sr. who was assessed from 1823 through 1855. He married Mary Combs in Jessamine County in 1832 and signed a bond to marry Lucy Ann Hoover in 1850. He died in Jessamine County in 1857.

John Jr.'s illegitimate birth and the tax assessor's way of separating two Johns simultaneously taxed in Jessamine County created a curious twist in the Trisler family's genealogy. Henry Trisler was Dr. Trisler's son and the half brother of John Jr., Dr. Trisler and Betsey's son. Their son, John Jr. in the Jessamine County tax records, was an uncle to John Sr., Henry Trisler's son. The younger man was the older man's uncle.

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## The Course of True Love Never Did Run Smooth

May's Landing, Sept. 24.—Robert Hibbert, who is awaiting trial at May's Landing for shooting Mrs. Phoebe Phillips in Atlantic City on Decoration Day [30 May 1897], was married to Mrs. Phillips in the county jail yesterday afternoon. The prisoner's mother came into the jail as the ceremony was being performed and pleaded with her son to withdraw his consent to the marriage, but he persisted in his determination. Hibbert is 22 years old, while Mrs. Phillips is 43. The bride secured entrance to the jail by stratagem, and they were married before the sheriff had any idea of what was going on.

—“Married His Intended Victim,” *The Post* (Camden, New Jersey),  
25 September 1897, p. 4, col. 1.

# Reviews

*Tracing Their Steps: A Memoir.* By Bernice Alexander Bennett. Published by Shortwood Press; order from Amazon.com; 2019. ISBN 978-1-7336484-0-0. 135 pp. Appendixes, bibliography, illustrations, index. Paperback. \$20.00.

Using a folksy writing style, the author takes readers along on her fifteen-year journey to fulfill a promise made to her maternal grandmother Rebecca Watson Mitchell. According to family legend, Peter Clark, Rebecca's grandfather who was of African descent, had once owned land in Maurepas, Livingston Parish, Louisiana. The author's promise was to identify that land's location. Guided by bits and pieces of oral history, she unearthed evidence of Peter Clark's land ownership in records of the Homestead Act of 1862. Clark's descendants unfortunately allowed the land to fall into a state of disrepair. The abandoned property was subsequently sold for back taxes.

As the book's title implies, in addition to the land search, the journey unearthed interesting details about the lives of other ancestors, which led to a connection with cousins in Edgefield, South Carolina. Thanks to DNA tests the author is enjoying a relationship with descendants of Peter Clark's sister.

The book's significant omissions and errors of fact can confuse and mislead readers. Printed numbers on pages i through x of the front matter are missing. The number printed on the first page of the text is 19, resulting in an inaccurate page count. References to Louisiana's Florida Parishes lack a clarifying note about their political history (pp. 37 and 51). The author's unexplained statement, "If I looked in 1880

US Census, I would miss twenty years of information . . ." assumes readers are aware of the loss of the 1890 U.S. census (p. 49). Describing Marshall Douglas as a drafted volunteer who served in the Civil War is a contradiction in terms (p.86). He was likely a runaway volunteer or was impressed or coerced to join the military.

Those shortcomings notwithstanding, the book has redeeming qualities. It includes several examples of how friends, family, and neighbors assisted each other with land acquisitions. The author introduces novice researchers of African descent to the existence and value of records that are not commonly used such as homestead case files, Freedmen's Bureau labor contracts, and crop liens. The absence of the names of the Peter Clark family in the 1870 census prompted the author to focus her search on their given names (p. 73). The discovery of Clarks enumerated as Johnsons suggests two possibilities: an enumerator's error or an example of the complexities involved in newly freed people's selection of surnames. The decision to look solely at the Clark family's given names in the 1870 census search illustrates the rewards of using an exploratory approach to one's research.

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*Healing the Family Heart Holes: A Genealogical Quest to Solve an Illegal Adoption Mystery Using DNA, Old Records, and Irish Luck.*

By Robin Gerry. Published by the author; order from Amazon.com; 2019. ISBN 978-1-7957-2631-3. x, 207 pp.

Illustrations. Paperback. \$9.95. Kindle. \$7.50.

Some genealogists are surprised to discover a case of misattributed parentage. For others an adoption in the family is not news. In either case, identifying birth parents can be challenging.

Author Robin Gerry confronted the challenge and wrote a book—a travelogue of her experience, rather than a guidebook. She describes the quest to identify her mother's birth parents as “the story of my heart's journey” (p. 9). Her writing is personal, imaginative, and sometimes theatrical. She emphasizes in the title and elsewhere, for example, that her mother's adoption was “totally illegal” (p. 16). However, unregistered or informal adoptions in the 1920s did not violate New York State statutes.

Gerry began with admittedly limited experience in genealogy and DNA. Her willingness to share beginner's mistakes offers value for readers new to genealogy. She confesses to confusing two same-named men. At first she was convinced her grandfather was Joe Kelly of New Jersey. She went to Ireland to visit his roots, but later determined her grandfather was instead Joe Kelly of Manhattan. Elsewhere the author describes succumbing to wishful thinking. She spent much time and money trying to prove a hypothesis because she wanted to believe it, instead of following the evidence. In addition to such useful lessons, the author sets a good example by respecting the privacy of others, using fictitious names when appropriate.

Over time Gerry gained experience and confidence in her conclusions. In embracing interesting stories, however, she often accepts anecdotal lore without proof. For example, her mother's birth father reportedly later married a princess. His family allegedly descends from a Kelly chieftain who fought alongside Irish King

Brian Boru in the year 1014. Gerry provides no evidence to support assertions like these. The book includes no analytical charts, tables, or citations. A reader has insufficient information to confirm her conclusions.

The author used both autosomal and mitochondrial DNA testing. But she chose to omit helpful details and admits to “only a basic understanding of how it all works” (p. 62).

Gerry writes with great passion. Her extended family should find her genealogical adventures and misadventures entertaining. She devotes an entire chapter to visiting a psychic for direction when her research and DNA evidence were inconclusive. Others seeking birth parents may enjoy reading about her success and be inspired to launch their own quests.

As a narrative of her emotional genealogical journey, the book well serves the author's purpose. However, readers looking for guidance on how to solve a family mystery by incorporating best practices of DNA and traditional genealogical research will want to look further.

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*The Adoptee's Guide to DNA Testing: How to Use Genetic Genealogy to Discover Your Long-Lost Family.* By Tamar Weinberg. Published by Family Tree Books, an imprint of F+W Media; 10151 Carver Road, Suite 300; Blue Ash, Ohio 45242; available at Amazon.com; 2018. ISBN 978-1-4403-5337-6. 239 pp. Appendices, illustrations, index, tables. Paperback. \$16.99. Kindle. \$14.99.

The growth and evolution of genetic genealogy has brought new tools and methods to researchers. DNA testing can be a fantastic tool especially for adoptees

searching for their biological families. This book purports to be their guide to doing so, but falls far short. It reads like many other basic DNA books sprinkled with a bit of advice for adoptees. The work suffers from outdated information and lacks focus on adoption-specific issues.

The work includes out-of-date websites, tools, terms, and methodologies. Any book relying heavily on websites and online technologies faces the problem of obsolescence before leaving the warehouse. The author, for example, suggests Google+, which has been shut down. Recommended Google Chrome extensions have been replaced by new tools at various DNA websites. Outdated phrases appear throughout such as “non-paternity event,” rather than the now-accepted (and more correctly named) “mis-attributed parentage event.” The author details the use of “mirror trees” to identify potential family members, although they have been discredited for causing unnecessary server slow-downs, are unnecessary if you conduct a shared match analysis, may imply falsehoods that confuse internal algorithms, and pull together potentially false matches. The author advises against the now commonly accepted use of shared matches (p. 129), saying they “don’t necessarily provide the right information”—a claim backed only by anecdotal evidence.

The book offers adoptees questionable advice on initial correspondence with potential relatives—make contact “under the guise of researching your family genealogy” (p. 28). While it may be shocking to begin a conversation with “I’m adopted, and related to you,” this reviewer believes honesty is best. Beginning the conversation with a falsehood instead of the facts about the adoptee’s search for biological family, may result in people feeling used and lied to when they do find out. While it is everyone’s right to know where they came

from, biological family members are not required to be in a relationship with those who were given up for adoption. The author states, “unfortunately . . . some Facebook users do not make their Friends list publicly accessible” (p. 28). While this is a hurdle, the text ignores the counterpoint that public Friends lists can be harvested by scammers and used to create fake profiles, which also does not help those trying to find living relatives.

Some sensitive issues associated with adoption are omitted. A short section dedicated to setting expectations discusses what an adoptee may find, such as unexpected ethnicities. The text states, “be open to the possibility that the end result of your research might be unexpected” (p. 18). The section gives general advice to “set aside your preconceptions and prepare to embrace your true self and be proud of who you really are” and comments, “your heritage is not something you can control” (p. 19). However, this is insufficient to cope with profound information that might be revealed through DNA including conception as the result of violence or incest.

Sections explain various types of DNA (autosomal, mitochondrial, Y-DNA, X-DNA) used in genealogical analysis. Weinberg goes into detail about each of the testing companies, as well as GEDmatch, and their various offerings. This largest portion of the book does not offer anything not covered by other works authored by leaders in the genetic genealogy field. Despite its title, there is not enough focus on adoptees and how they can specifically use DNA to identify their biological families. Material on adoption is sprinkled throughout the text. Most case studies are high-level stories of someone identifying their biological family, but contain little detail and methodology of how it was accomplished.

Editorial and word-choice issues affect the flow and inclusiveness of the material.

Male pronouns throughout are at odds with current style guides' advice on inclusive language. In the 'One-to-Many' Matches section, the description confuses sex with gender—two different concepts. One editorial mistake affects the text's meaning. Image F in chapter 6 does not match the narrative description of line colors in the chromosome browser—orange and blue are switched. This error will confuse a reader trying to understand the tool.

While much of the book is already outdated, it is somewhat unavoidable because of rapid developments in the field of genetic genealogy. The book lacks discussion of methodology for DNA analysis focused on adoptees' unique issues. That lack of focus may leave adoptees more confused and frustrated than when they began.

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*How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records: A Genealogist's Guide.* By Sunny Jane Morton and Harold A. Henderson, CG. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.; 3600 Clipper Mill Road; Suite 229; Baltimore, MD 21211; <http://www.genealogical.com/>; 2019. ISBN 978-0-8063-2095-3. ix, 143 pp. Illustrations, index. Paperback. \$29.95.

Morton and Henderson have, with great competence, taken on the daunting task of guiding readers through the complexities of Christian denomination histories and records management in the United States. The book is divided into two parts. Part one covers the what and how of church record research. Part two has twelve sections with specific information for researching the records of the larger Christian denominations.

This book does not replace works such

as Virginia Humling's *U.S. Catholic Sources: A Diocesan Research Guide for Family Historians*. Instead, it assists a reader in identifying probable religious affiliations for an ancestor and points to likely record sources if the ancestor's religion is already known. The work serves as a jumping off point to further research.

This is without question an enormous topic: entire books have been, or need to be, written for each denomination. Coverage for some denominations is thin, and many Christian denominations, not to mention non-Christian faiths, are omitted entirely. The authors recognize the book's limitations and challenge "others to extend and improve upon this work" (p. vii). Until more authors take up the challenge, this work serves as a great entrée into the topic.

The book shines in its descriptions of various denominations by cutting through the needlessly complex organizational background information that often mires denominational histories. It presents solid overviews of record types one can expect to find for each denomination, and lays a solid foundation for those wanting to plunge deeper into a denomination's history.

A mere quibble is the lack of a brief but broad historical overview of religion in the United States, which might aid understanding of an ancestor's religion in the greater context of U.S. church history. It may also help readers better understand the work's passing references to such pivotal events as the Second Great Awakening.

A reader's desire for more from the authors is not a critique of the book as much as a validation of the quality and value of this excellent work in an area of research that needs more such books. This will be a great addition to many personal libraries

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# National Genealogical Society Quarterly

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|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| computers and software      | DNA                            |
| ethnic and immigrant groups | methodology and subject areas  |
| records and sources         | religions and religious groups |
| ships                       |                                |

Abbreviations are limited to locations, titles, and the following:

|        |                      |       |               |
|--------|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| ackn.  | acknowledged         | Aka   | Also known as |
| Cem.   | Cemetery             | Ch.   | Church        |
| Co.    | County               | Col.  | Colonel       |
| contr. | Contributor          | Inf.  | Infantry      |
| Par.   | Parish               | Regt. | Regiment      |
| St.    | Saint                | Terr. | Territory     |
| Twp.   | Township             | Univ. | University    |
| Var.   | Variously spelled as | w.    | wife of       |

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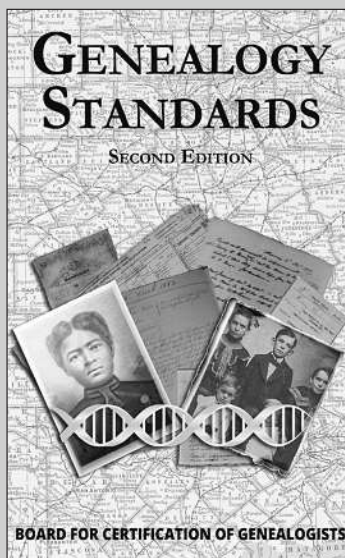
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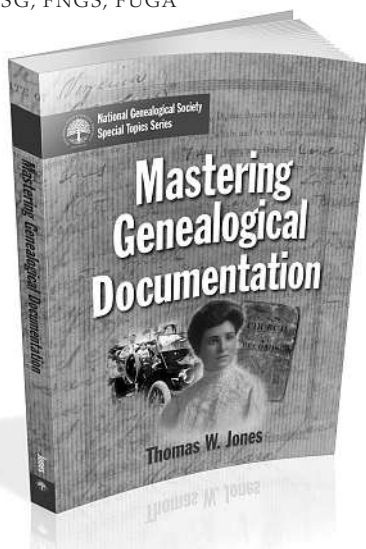
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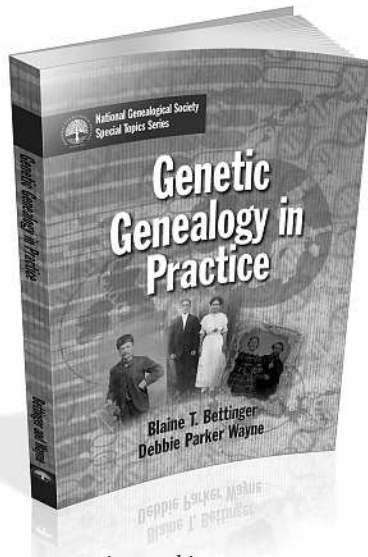
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