**The Southern Illinois Connections of the Baldwin Family**

**of Prince Edward County, Virginia**

2 March 2022

Three children and at three grandchildren of Francis Baldwin moved from Daviess County, Indiana to Southern Illinois. Francis Baldwin was born about 1782 in Virginia [1850 Daviess County, Indiana Census, p. 210], undoubtedly Prince Edward County where his father William Baldwin is listed on the 1782 and 1783 Personal Property Tax lists [p. 3; p. 4]. William Baldwin (S-161313) testified in applying for his Revolutionary pension that he moved from Prince Edward County, Virginia to Union District, South Carolina in 1786 and to Daviess County, Indiana in 1817. Francis’ mother was Mary (Collicot), widow of James Griffin. Francis’ wife Sarah was born in North Carolina about 1786 according the 1850 census, but some of his children gave the state as South Carolina. Her maiden name is unknown. Francis died testate in Daviess County (WS 31 August 1850; WP 25 September 1850). He directed that upon his wife’s death that his personal property be sold and the proceeds divided among his children, most not named in the will. The petition of executor Elias Stone named heirs at law, including children Sarah “who intermarried with Salem Sinks” and Lydia “who intermarried with Coleman C. Jones,” William H. Baldwin, and the father of Francis’ three grandchildren who moved to Southern Illinois, Moses Baldwin.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Sarah (Baldwin) Sinks, daughter of Francis Baldwin, moved to Williamson County with her husband, Salem Sinks, and two her of her three sons, Abram Thomas Sinks and Daniel Sinks by the time of the 1850 census [p. 254 left].[[2]](#footnote-2) A third son, Francis Asbury Sinks, is inexplicably missing from the 1850 census, but Sarah was in his household and listed as his mother in the 1880 Franklin County Census [p. 608 right]. Sarah was born about 1814 in South Carolina. She married Salem Sinks in Daviess County on 2 May 1829 [Indiana Marriages, 1810-2001]. Sarah’s death record shows that she died on 1 April 1886 at age 72 in Frankfort Twp., Franklin County [Death Register 1, p. 55]. She is buried in the Trinity Methodist Church Cemetery in West Frankfort, Illinois according to a deceased generation who remember seeing her now-missing tombstone. The tombstone of her husband, Salem, is still standing in that cemetery. He died on 26 October 1869, aged 69 years, 11 months, and 13 days. All three sons resided in Southern Illinois for the remainder of their lives. Abram died in Union service in the 110th Illinois Infantry and is buried in the Nashville National Cemetery, Davidson County, Tennessee. No dates are on his tombstone, but from his application to purchase government land and his military service record it is known that he was born on 17 September 1835 and died on 30 December 1862. Francis is buried in Oddfellow Cemetery, West Frankfort, Franklin County, born 20 November 1837, died 17 January 1909. The Salem Sinks Bible recorded Daniel’s date of birth as 1 February 1841. He died on 28 December 1924 in Johnston City, Williamson County [Bk. 6, p. 192]. He is buried in the Boner Cemetery south of West Frankfort in Franklin County.

Lydia, daughter of Francis Baldwin, and her husband Coleman C. Jones were in Williamson County, Illinois at the time of the 1850 census, listed immediately below the household of Salem and Sarah (Baldwin) Sinks [p. 254 left]. In 1860 they are also listed in Williamson County [p. 186]. The two records give Lydia’s ages as 19 and 26 and Coleman’s 28 and 34, with both born in Indiana. The couple had married on 30 July 1845 in Daviess County, Indiana [Indiana Marriages, 1810-2001]. From these census records two children have been identified: Eliza Ann Jones and John Ray Jones. Eliza Ann married Aaron O’Daniel in Williamson County on 26 July 1863. After Aaron’s death she married Perry Roundtree on 18 November 1888 at the home of her brother in Franklin County [Record Marriage License 1885-1891, p. 340]. She married a third time after Perry’s death on 30 January 1902. Alfred Moulton was her new husband. Eliza is buried in Oddfellow’s Cemetery in West Frankfort, Franklin County. Her tombstone gives her dates of birth and death as 11 September 1846-15 June 1924. John Ray Jones married Nancy Palmer. They buried in Tower Heights Cemetery, West Frankfort, Franklin County. Their dates of birth and death are 22 June 1849-7 January 1940 and 25 March 1856-28 November 1932.

William H. Baldwin, son of Francis Baldwin, was born about 1836 in Indiana, according to the 1880 census of Jefferson County, Illinois [p. 411A].[[3]](#footnote-3) He in moved to Franklin County where he married Selinda Jones on 26 July 1859 [Marriage Record 1856-1865, p. 187]. Her name is spelled various ways, including Celinda and Salinda. In 1860 they were listed on the Franklin County census in Benton, with William 24, Salinda 25, and both born in Indiana. The couple had three known children: Orlando, Emma B., and Nancy. In 1900 Salinda was a widow living in the household of her son, Orlando, in Union County, Illinois [p. 16B] and in 1910 in the household of her son-in-law Willis A. Sumner, husband of Emma [p. 9A]. Both the 1900 and 1910 census show that Selinda was the mother of five children, three of whom were living. Selinda died on 11 February 1915 and is buried in the Cobden Cemetery, Union County. Orlando and Emma are also buried in that Cemetery. Orlando was born on 2 November 1861 and died on 25 December 1927. Emma’s tombstone gives her years of birth and death as 1869-1921. Nancy married William E. Hoyt. In 1910 they resided in Carbondale, Jackson County where William was a railroad Division Storekeeper. They had been married 18 years and the birthplace of Nancy’s parents was listed as Indiana.. Nancy died in Memphis, Tennessee on 12 October 1925 [Tennessee Deaths & Burials Index, 1874-1955]. The record listed her residence and burial as Water Valley, Mississippi and her father as William H. Baldwin. The dates of birth and death on their tombstone in the Oak Hill Cemetery, in Water Valley, Yalobusha County were for William Edwin Hoyt 1870-1925 and for Nancy A. 1872-1925.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Lydia (Baldwin) Jones and William H. Baldwin were siblings. Their spouses, Coleman C. Jones and Celinda (Jones) Baldwin were also siblings. The two couples each sold 1/11th undivided interest in Williamson County land of Thomas Jones, dec’d (Deed Bk. O, p. 426, p. 427].[[5]](#footnote-5) Thomas died intestate in Williamson County on 17 January 1857. Although more information on the Jones family is available in ***Sinks: A Family History*** (1980), a brief overview here is useful. Thomas died intestate in Williamson County on 17 January 1857, but his probate file is names heirs. His wife Priscilla was the daughter of William Horrall, a Revolutionary pensioner (S-17427) who after the Revolution moved from Amherst County, Virginia to Union District, South Carolina in 1784, and on to Knox County (now Daviess County), Indiana in 1809. Priscilla first married Thomas Stafford in Knox County in 1817. She had two children by that marriage, William and Trice. The latter is listed on the same page of the 1860 Franklin County census as William H. Baldwin and buried in the Boner Cemetery south of West Frankfort. Thomas Stafford died about 1820 and Priscilla married Levi A. Jones on 25 January 1823 in Daviess County, Indiana. Many descendants of William Horrall and his brother Thomas settled in Franklin County, especially in the vicinity of old Frankfort.

The three grandchildren of Francis Baldwin who moved to Illinois are children of Moses B. Baldwin. Moses is listed immediately below the household of his father in the Daviess County census of 1850 [pp. 210-211].[[6]](#footnote-6) Moses was born about 1806 in South Carolina. He married Harriet Helphinstine on 10 March 1828 and then Hannah Miller on 27 November 1832 [Indiana Marriages, 1810-2001]. Both marriages were in Daviess County, Indiana. Four children in his household in 1850: Caleb M. aged 11, Lydia aged 8, Francis M. aged 5, and Jacob T. aged 3. Moses disappears from Daviess County after 1860. Moses disappears from Daviess County after 1860 and three of his children appear in Southern Illinois in the 1860s, suggesting that he himself might have moved there. No record has been found to confirm this.

Lydia Ann Baldwin, born about 1842, married William A. Potts in Franklin County, Illinois on 27 May 1864 [Marriage Record 1856-1865, p. 478]. She was living in Franklin County at the time of the 1870 census [p. 230 left]. William was 42 and Lydia was 28. Both were born in Indiana. Lydia married a second time in Perry County, Illinois on 29 January 1872 [Marriage Register B, p. 14]. Her husband was John Hutchings and Lydia is named as “Mrs.” in the marriage record. The family is listed on the 1880 census of Perry County [p. 12C]. John was 49 and born in Illinois; Lydia was 38 and born in Indiana.

Francis M. Baldwin was in Illinois by 15 March 1865, when he mustered into Co. C, 6th Illinois Cavalry on 15 March 1865 while living in Moultrie County, Illinois. He used the nickname “Frank.” His nativity was given as Davis [sic. Daviess] County, Indiana. He was discharged on 5 November 1865. He married Lucinda Duncan in Franklin County on 3 December 1868 [Marriage Record 1865-1872]. By 1870 he was in Jefferson County [p. 433 left]. In 1880 he was still in Jefferson County on the same page with his uncle, William Baldwin [p. 411A]. Like William’s widow Selinda (Jones) Baldwin, he resided in Union County in 1900 and 1910 [p. 116A; p. 2A]. In 1930 he was in retirement in Broward County, Florida. The Florida Death Index gives the year of Francis’ death as 1934 in Broward County. Francis is buried in Dania, Florida with a military tombstone that bears no date of birth or death.

Jacob T. Baldwin, son of Moses B. Baldwin, was in his father’s household in 1850 in Daviess County Indiana, aged 3 and born in Indiana [pp. 210-211]. He married Amanda Williams in Franklin County on 2 September 1869 [Marriage Record 1865-1872, p. 340]. In 1880 he is listed on the Jackson County census, aged 33, with Amanda (aged 37), Edward (8), Oscar (7), Rosa B. (5), Hattie (3), and Homer (1) in the household [p. 163A]. In 1900 Amanda was listed in the household of her son, Oscar. Her birth was given as October 1842 but her age as 67. Two of her other children, Edward O. and Homer were listed in the household and the census said that four of her eight children were then living. The remaining living child was Hattie Balding of Dell, Arkansas. She was named as a surviving child in an obituary of Amanda Baldwin in the Daily Independent of Murphysboro, Jackson County, Illinois [22 February 1930, p. 1]. The obituary said Amanda died on 20 February in Chicago at the age of 87 and that she had been a resident of Cobden 50 year prior when her husband was a millright. Hattie and her husband Robert are on the 1900 census for Mississippi County, with Robert aged 28 and Hattie born in April 1878 [p. 17B]. Hattie’s Hillsborough County, Florida death certificate gives her dates of birth as 20 April 1878 in Murphysboro, Illinois and her death as 2 November 1939. Her parents are listed as Jake Baldwin and Mandy Williams.

The descendants of Francis Baldwin have a well-established lineage going back three more generations on the Baldwin line. Francis’ father William served three tours of duty in the Revolution. William’s father Thomas served on a jury to appraise an estate during the Revolution. Both William and Thomas are on the 1782 and 1783 Prince Edward County, Virginia tax lists. Thomas was the son of an older Thomas who died in Prince Edward County prior to the Revolution. The use of the same given names in different branches of the Prince Edward County Baldwin family has made documenting the correct lineage and Revolutionary service of these Baldwins a significant challenge. For these earlier generations, including the Revolutionary service of nine Prince Edward County Baldwins and eight sons-in-law, see “Revolutionary Services of the Baldwin Family of Prince Edward County, Virginia,” which has been provided to the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois.

1. Other children of Francis named in the petition were Jane, wife of James Benedict, Eliza Ann, wife of John Everett, and Daniel Baldwin. Minor grandchildren were also named. Locating those children on the 1850 census and use of Daviess County marriage record identifies two more children and their spouses: Polly Baldwin, who married Reason Chapman on 17 July 1833 and John Baldwin, who married Rebecca Tisdale on 29 September 1843. After John’s death Rebecca married Mason Palmer on 2May 1848. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For more details about these individuals see Sinks, John D. & Karen M. Cain: ***Sinks: A Family History*** (1980). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Some posted family trees confuse William, son Francis, with William, son of John. The Daviess County death certificate of the latter gives his dates of birth and death as 15 August 1824-16 May 1910 and names his parent as John Baldwin and Susan Webster. The son of Francis was more than a decade younger than the son of John and his wife Selinda was a widow by 1900, a decade before the son of John died. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Illinois Central had a major presence in both Carbondale and Water Valley. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. There were also Baldwin-Jones connections two generations later. Levi A. Jones and his wife Hester J. Odom also sold their 1/11th undivided interest in Thomas Jones’ land. Their grandchildren Erna Mae Jones and Myrtie Verble Jones through Levi Ezra Jones would marry Leonard Edward Sinks and Benjamin Harrison Sinks, great grandsons of Salem and Sarah (Baldwin) Sinks through Abram Thomas Sinks and this son, William Daniel Sinks. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Several family trees posted at ancestry.com erroneously name John Baldwin (son of the pensioner William) as that father of Moses. The 1853 Daviess County distribution of John’s estate does not name a son Moses. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)