

Casper Booher Family Research Notes

Introduction

The following notes describe some of the research that has been done on various members (children & grandchildren) of the family of Casper & Phoebe (Shaver) Booher. It shows, and attempts to prove, various obscure relationships that were lost and/or forgotten over the years involving the Booheres. It also documents dead ends that have been reached in searching for several members of the family.

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Issue #1

Attempt to prove that Hannah Roberts, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts, was also the wife of James Linn.

What is Documented

- 1) On pages 192 & 193 of the 1905 Clan Linn Book¹, a biography exists for James Linn and his wife Hannah Roberts. The biography was contributed to the book by two of their children. It states that Hannah was born on 15 Mar 1821 to "Pennsylvania German" parents. It also says that after their marriage in 1841 they took up residence in Huntingdon Co., PA.
- 2) In 1876 in Dallas Co., IA, S. L. Rhodes, a son of Joseph Rhodes & Elizabeth Roberts, transcribed information from a family bible that included birth (and some death) dates for Elizabeth's parents (Henry Roberts & Elizabeth Booher) and her siblings. Included was her sister Hannah with a birth date given of 15 Mar 1821. In addition, the entry indicated that Hannah was still living when the transcription was made.
- 3) Henry & Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts and their family lived in Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA at the time of the 1820 and 1830 federal censuses. Although they moved to Bedford Co., PA before the 1840 census, Henry continued to own land in Huntingdon Co. that, upon his death in 1847, he passed on to his oldest son.

Discussion & Conclusion

Based on the common name, common birth date from two entirely unrelated sources, and common ties to Huntingdon Co., PA, it is concluded that Hannah Roberts, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts, was also the wife of James Linn.

Issue #2

Attempt to prove that Mary “Polly” Booher, daughter of Jacob and Mary Booher, was also the wife of David W. Stevens & Cyrus Brown.

What is Documented

- 1) The 1864 will of Jacob Booher (Huntingdon Co., PA Will Book Vol. 6, P. 100) refers to all seven of his children by name, including Polly Stevens. Note that Polly is a nickname for Mary.
- 2) David W. Stevens died on 8 May 1864 while serving during the Civil War. The “Roster of Known Union Soldiers buried in Fredericksburg National Cemetery”² that is published by the research staff associated with the cemetery shows David's burial (p. 182) and also cites the National Archives (NARA) as the source for the name of David's wife which is given as Mary Booker.
- 3) Federal Census Records: The 1860 census shows David Stevens (Age: 30) and his wife Mary (30) living in Springfield Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA (P. 2, Entry #11). Along with them are children William (7), Marella (5), Virginia (2), and Lucinda (11m).

The 1870 census shows Mary (39) living with her four children: William (17), Marilla (15), Jennie (12), and Naomi (8) in Springfield Twp. (P. 3, Entry #22). The fact that David is missing is consistent with an 1864 death.

The 1880 census shows Cyrus Brown (53) and his wife Mary (?9) living in Springfield Twp. (ED #204, P. 10) along with Virginia (22) and Naomi (18) who are identified as stepdaughters.

- 4) The 1897 Juniata Valley Biographical Encyclopedia³ (Vol. 1, P. 158) identifies the wife of Cyrus Brown as “Mrs. Mary Bucher”.
- 5) In Huntingdon Co., PA Will Book Vol. 7, Pg. 161, Elizabeth Duffey and Mary Brown renounced their rights to administer the estate of their brother, Samuel Booher, in May 1871.
- 6) In Huntingdon Co., PA Will Book Vol. 15, Pg. 58, Mrs. M. J. Wear, Mrs. Virginia Puckey, and Mrs N. E. Irwin renounced their rights to administer the estate of their mother, Mary Brown, in April 1897.
- 7) In 1933, an Emory M. Stevens completed an unpublished biography⁴ on his Stevens family. This document was transcribed and updated later by Norman L. Stevens and his son Donald E. Stevens and then published online. This biography contains detailed information on the family of Benedict and Eve (Ow) Stevens Jr. and their children, including David W. Stevens. The information provided for David includes his full name (David White Stevens), birth date (28 Apr 1827), wife's name (Mary Booher), and their marriage date (19 Aug 1852). Information on their children is also included.

Discussion & Conclusion

There are many paths through the preceding evidence to show that Mary Booher, daughter of Jacob, was the wife of David Stevens and later, Cyrus Brown. The census data provides the thread to connect Mary to the two men, and other sources then connect the wives of these two men back to the Booher family. The age for Mary given in the census records is consistent with the 1831 birth year for the daughter of Jacob.

Issue #3

Attempt to prove that Casper Bucher, who died in 1855, was the son of John and Barbara Booher, and the wife of Susan Noble.

What is Documented

- 1) Casper Bucher is buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery. His tombstone shows that he died on 11 Feb 1855 in the 36th year of his life.
- 2) A death registration for a Casper Bucher exists in Perry Co., PA. It states that he died on 11 Feb 1855 in Petersburg, PA. Petersburg was the former name of Duncannon, PA in eastern Perry Co. A copy of the death registration may be found on microfilm #0022004 at the LDS Family History Library; an online transcription may be found at <http://files.usgwarchives.org/pa/perry/vitals/drperry.txt>. (Entry #142).
- 3) The family bible for Casper & John Booher shows that John's son, Casper, was born on 27 Jan 1820.
- 4) Federal Census Records: The 1850 census shows Casper Bucher (age: 30) and his wife Susannah (26) living in Newton Hamilton, Mifflin Co., PA (P. 721, Entry #61). In the household is a son, John Emery (2). Note that Newton Hamilton is only a few miles east of Mt. Union and Huntingdon Co. Also of note is that the neighbors of Casper and Susannah in the census were Aron and Mary Rickets. It is possible that Mary (See **Issue #4**) was the sister of Casper.

The 1860 census shows that Susan Bucher (36) was then living with her brother Fletcher Noble (27), and two children, L. D. Bucher (6) and Dora M. Bucher (10) in Metal Twp., Franklin Co., PA (P. 153, Entry #1105). Next door were her parents John (75) & Sarah (64) Noble. (Note that Fletcher was in John & Sarah's household in the 1850 census.)

The 1870 census shows that Susan Bucher (45) and her daughter Dora (19) resided in Licking Creek, Fulton Co., PA (P. 19, Entry #131). Her son, Samuel D. Bucher (the L. D. in the 1860 census should have probably been S. D.) was living with the Franklin Dyson family in Chambersburg.

- 5) The Rev. John Wesley Buckley, who was the son of Jacob & Elizabeth (Booher) Buckley, kept a diary for many years. During the period between 04 Mar 1873 and 12 Mar 1873, Rev. Buckley recorded a trip that he made to Chambersburg, PA in which he refers to visiting his "Aunt Susan Bucher," his "Cousin Dora Bucher," and his "cousin Sammie Bucher." Note that John's mother Elizabeth was the daughter of John & Barbara (Booher) Booher and the sister of Casper who was born in 1820.

Discussion & Conclusion

It is apparent that the Casper Bucher who died in Perry Co. is the same Casper Bucher who was buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery. Also, the age at death of this Casper Bucher is consistent with the 1820 birth date for Casper, the son of John & Barbara (Booher) Booher.

The census records show the evolution of Susan Bucher's family. Unfortunately, a weak link is the lack of common children between the 1850 & 1860 censuses. Looking past this deficiency, the age of Casper in the 1850 census and his disappearance in the 1860 census are consistent with an 1820 birth and an 1855 death.

Finally, the diary entries tie the Buchers in the census records directly back to the family of the author, his parents (Jacob & Elizabeth Buckley) and his maternal grandparents (John & Barbara Booher).

It is noteworthy that the name is consistently spelled "Bucher" in all of the records. Even in the diary where other relatives are referred to by the "Booher" name, this branch is specifically referred to by the "Bucher" name. (Many believe "Bucher" is closer to the original form of the name used by the family.)

Issue #4

Attempt to prove that Mary Booher, the daughter of John & Barbara (Booher) Booher, was the first wife of Aaron Lafayette Ricketts, the son of Hezekiah Ricketts Jr.

What is Documented

- 1) The family bible for Casper & John Booher shows that "Polley Booher" was born on 23 Apr 1822. Note that "Polly" was a nickname for "Mary."
- 2) The family bible for Casper & John Booher also shows that "Mary Tickets" died on 4 Jun 1851. A later transcription of this family bible by Ambrose Booher shows the name as "Mary Ricketts." Perhaps Ambrose corrected the original entry from personal knowledge.
- 3) Federal Census Records: The 1850 census shows Aron L. Ricketts (25), his wife Mary (26), and a son David (1) living in Newton Hamilton, Mifflin Co., PA (P. 721, Entry #62). Casper Bucher, son of John & Barbara Booher, and his family are shown as neighbors (Entry #61) in the census (see **Issue #3**).

The 1860 census shows Aaron L. Ricketts (35), his second wife Sarah (25), and four children: David W. (11), Wilber C. (9), Bruce (4), and Aaron L. (2) living in Lancaster Twp., Atchison Co., KS Territory (P. 117, Entry #863).
- 4) John Booher, an older brother of Mary Booher, was married in 1846 to Eliza Jane Ricketts, a younger sister of Aaron L. Ricketts. So obviously there was a relationship between the two families.

Discussion

Working from the aforementioned sources, it is likely that Mary, the daughter of John & Barbara Booher was married to a man named Ricketts before dying in 1851. It is also likely that Aaron Ricketts was married to a woman named Mary, that they had two children (the last one being born about 1851), and that Mary died before about 1856 when Aaron was remarried and had another child. Given the relative scarcity of the names of Booher and Ricketts, and the proximity of Aaron and Mary to both of their families in Huntingdon Co., and especially to Casper Bucher (the son of John & Barbara Booher) in Mifflin Co., it is very likely that Mary, the daughter of John & Barbara Booher, was the first wife of Aaron Ricketts. *However, in my opinion, it is not at this point proven beyond reasonable doubt.*

Additional Ongoing Investigation Notes

In 1880, the Aaron Ricketts family is in Nortonville, Jefferson Co., KS. In 1885, Sarah (Aaron's second wife) along with three children are shown in Nortonville. Although it shows that Sarah was a widow, other evidence indicates that this may not have been correct. Note that there was no way to show on the 1885 census if a divorce had occurred. When Sarah died, some records at the LDS Family History Library indicate that her husband Aaron had been buried in Arkansas. And it turns out that there is an 1891 land record for an Aaron L. Ricketts in northern Arkansas. Further, there are unsourced Rootsweb entries that indicate that Aaron died in 1892 (rather than between 1880 and 1885). There is a tombstone for Aaron L. Ricketts in Ruddick Cemetery in Garfield, Benton Co., AR showing a death date of 1 Jun 1892 at the age of 66y. Are these all the same Aaron L. Ricketts? Obviously, more work is required here.

As early as 1900, the two oldest sons of Aaron, namely David Wesley Ricketts and Wilbur Charles Ricketts are found in Park Co., MT. David died in Livingston, MT in 1933. His death certificate shows that he was born in PA and gives his father's name as Aaron. Unfortunately, it contains no information on his mother. Wilbur Charles Ricketts died in Livingston, MT in 1936. His death certificate contains even less information: it just shows that he was born about 1851; it doesn't even give his marital status.

A useful piece of information to have would be Wilbur C.'s birth date. If it was after the death date of Mary, then Mary Booher was not his mother. If the birth date was just before or the same as Mary's death date, then it would add support to the idea that Mary Booher was the mother and that she died as a result of childbirth which was not at all uncommon in those times.

The obituaries and burial records for David and Wilbur in Livingston, MT provide no additional information on their parentage or on Wilbur's birth date.

Issue #5

Attempt to show that the last name of the wife (Susan) of Samuel Roberts (son of Henry & Elizabeth [Booher] Roberts) was Wilds and that she was the daughter of Benjamin and Rachel Wilds.

What is Documented

- 1) The will of Samuel Roberts in Bedford Co., PA (Will Book 5, Pg. 476) mentions a daughter, Sarah Nycum, a grandson, Wesley A. Nycum, and two nephews, Samuel Irvine Wild and Wesley A. Ramsey.
- 2) On page 160 of the 1905 Clan Linn Book¹, a short outline of the Wilds family is given. The pertinent information is that Benjamin & Ann (Burd) Wilds Sr., had four sons: Benjamin Jr. (1780-1834), William (1781-1827), John (1783-1830) and George (1785-1827).
- 3) Federal Census Records: The 1820 census for Dublin Twp., Bedford Co., PA shows the family of Benjamin Wiles (1M26-45, 1M<10, 1F26-45, 1F16-25, 1F<10) and the family of John Wiles (1M26-45, 1M10-15, 1M<10, 1F26-45, 1F16-25, 1F10-15, 2F<10)

The 1830 census for Dublin Twp., Bedford Co., PA shows the family of Benjamin Wiles (1M30-39, 1M10-14, 1F90-99, 1F40-49, 1F10-14, 1F5-9) and the family of John Wiles (1M40-49, 1M20-29, 1M10-14, 2M5-9, 1F40-49, 1F20-29, 2F15-19, 1F<5)

The 1840 census for Dublin Twp., Bedford Co., PA shows the family of Rachel Wilds (1M15-19, 1F50-59, 1F20-29, 1F15-19) and the family of Kesiah Wilds (1M30-39, 1M15-19, 1F50-59, 1F10-14)

The 1850 census shows Samuel Roberts (34), Susan Roberts (30), Sarah Roberts (9) and Rachel Wilds (67) in Dublin Twp., Fulton Co., PA (P. 157, Entry #49).

Discussion & Conclusion

Without going through the logic here, a close study of these census records shows two Wilds families living in Dublin Twp., Bedford/Fulton Co., PA: the John and Kesiah Wilds family which may have consisted of as many as 8 children (4 boys & 4 girls) and the Benjamin & Rachel Wilds family which may have consisted of 3 children (1 boy & 2 girls).

Since it was Rachel Wilds that was living with Samuel & Susan Roberts in 1850, it is the Benjamin Wilds family in which we have an interest. The mere fact that Rachel was in this household at all is a strong indication that she was Susan's mother.

The two nephews mentioned in Samuel Roberts' will are likely from his wife's side of the family since from what is currently known about the Roberts family, there were no Wilds or Ramseys. Assuming this is the case, it should be possible to track down these nephews in the census records. To this point, I haven't been able to definitively nail down Wesley Ramsey. There are references to a Wesley A. Ramsey in some of the Civil War records, but I'm not sure it is the one of interest. "Samuel Irvine Wild" was likely the son of Thomas & Margaret Wilds. Thomas and his family showed up in Cromwell Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA (P. 536, Entry #14) in 1850; Dublin Twp., Fulton Co., PA (P. 223, Entry #1618) in 1860; and in Wyandot, Bureau Co., IL (P. 5, Entry #30) under the name of Isaac in 1870. By 1880, Samuel is married and found in Westfield Twp., Bureau Co., IL (ED #26, P. 4, Line #45) under the name of Irving. In 1900 he is in Galesburg, Knox Co., IL (ED #42, P. 9, Line #38) under the name of Irvin S. Thomas Wilds was likely the lone son of Benjamin & Rachel Wilds (and brother of Susan) who showed up in the early census records; his age shown in the later census records is consistent with that implied in the earlier census records.

Although it is not entirely conclusive that Susan was the daughter of Benjamin & Rachel Wilds, the evidence is sufficient to say that her last name was Wilds until additional evidence is found to prove otherwise.

Issue #6

Attempt to show that Jacob Roberts, son of Henry & Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts, was married to his first cousin, Nancy Booher, daughter of John & Barbara (Booher) Booher.

What is Documented

- 1) In 1876 in Dallas Co., IA, S. L. Rhodes, a son of Joseph Rhodes & Elizabeth Roberts, transcribed information from a family bible that included birth (and some death) dates for Elizabeth's parents (Henry Roberts & Elizabeth Booher) and her siblings. This transcription shows a birth date for Elizabeth's brother Jacob of 04 Apr 1818 and a death date of 22 Oct 1849.
- 2) In Nov 1849, Nancy Roberts, the widow of Jacob B. Roberts (late of Dublin Twp.), petitioned the Bedford Co., PA Orphans court to appoint a guardian for her minor son, Henry (Orphan's court book Vol. 7, P. 46).
- 3) The Rev. John Wesley Buckley, who was the son of Jacob & Elizabeth (Booher) Buckley, kept a diary for many years. On Oct. 1, 1859, he records a visit from his "Aunt Mrs. Roberts." Note that Elizabeth (Booher) Buckley was a daughter of John & Barbara Booher as was Nancy.
- 4) At some later point in his life, Rev. Buckley also started to compose a short biographical sketch. It contains the following passage: "In 1850 on the death of Uncle Jacob Roberts below Fort Littleton at the request of the widdow & other friends we moved on his farm where we remained five years ..."
- 5) Federal Census Records: The 1870 census shows Nancy Roberts (age: 56) living in Dublin Twp., Fulton Co., PA (P. 21, Entry #149). Note that Dublin Twp. became a part of Fulton Co. when it was created from Bedford Co. in 1850.

Discussion & Conclusion

From the first two aforementioned sources, it is apparent that Nancy was the name of Jacob Roberts' wife. Further, the information provided by Rev. Buckley shows that he had an uncle Jacob Roberts who died around 1850 which is consistent with the first two sources. One complicating factor is that Nancy Roberts does not seem to show up in the 1850 or 1860 censuses, but when she finally does appear in the 1870 census, she has the correct age to be the daughter of John & Barbara Booher and the sister of Elizabeth (Booher) Buckley. Finally, given the relative scarcity of the Roberts name in the Dublin Twp. area during this period and the fact that Dublin Twp. is consistently shown in several of the sources, it is a sure bet that Jacob Roberts and his first cousin, Nancy Booher, were married to each other.

Issue #7

Attempt to show that Catherine Roberts, daughter of Henry & Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts, was the wife of George Hockenberry/Hillberry.

What is Documented

- 1) In 1876 in Dallas Co., IA, S. L. Rhodes, a son of Joseph Rhodes & Elizabeth Roberts, transcribed information from a family bible that included birth (and some death) dates for Elizabeth's parents (Henry Roberts & Elizabeth Booher) and her siblings. This transcription shows a birth date for Elizabeth's sister Catherine of 20 Sep 1807 and further indicates that she was alive when the transcription was made in 1876.
- 2) In the "History of Crawford and Richland Counties, Wisconsin"⁵, on page 1037, there is a short biographical sketch for George Hillberry. It states that George was born in Dec 1807 in Huntingdon Co., PA, his wife Catharine Roberts was born in Sept 1807 in Huntingdon Co., PA, and they were married in 1829.

Issue #8

Attempt to show that Samuel Booher/Booker, son of John & Barbara (Booher) Booher, was first married to Susan Humphrey and then married to Mary Linn.

What is Documented

1) Federal Census Records: In 1850, Samuel Bucher (33) & Mary (33) along with five children, Johnathan (9), Joseph (8), Franklin (6), Samuel (4) and Arabella (1) are found in Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA (P. 355, Entry #24).

In 1860, Samuel Booker (44) & Mary (43) along with seven children, Jonathan (20), Joseph (19), Franklin (17), Arabella (11), Alexander (9), Naressa J. (5) and Margrett (1) are in Pine Creek Twp., Ogle Co., IL (P. 368 & 369, Entry #2677).

In 1870, Mary Booker (55) is with daughters Jennie (14) and Maggie (11) in Rock Creek Twp., Carroll Co., IL (P. 16, Entry #110).

- 2) Page 125 of the 1905 Clan Linn Book¹ shows that Mary Linn (1816-1896) was married in 1848 to Samuel Booher, and page 127 shows that they had four children: Arabella, Jennie, Margaret, and Alexander. Note that the author of the book was a nephew of Mary Linn, so he likely had first hand knowledge regarding her family.
- 3) The marriage documents at the Carroll Co., IL courthouse for Jennie N. Booker and Edward Breen (married on 12 Aug 1885 at Lanark) show that the parents of Jennie were Samuel Booker and Mary Linn, and that Jennie was born in Huntingdon Co., PA.
- 4) Samuel and Mary along with two of their children, Jennie and Margaret are buried in the Lanark (IL) City Cemetery. Although the original tombstones for Samuel and Mary are no longer present, the records at the cemetery confirm the 1869 death date for Samuel and 1896 death date for Mary.
- 5) An unsourced internet website shows that the wife of Samuel, and mother of Franklin, was Susan Humphreys who was married to Samuel on 18 Feb 1839 and died on 20 Mar 1847. I have not been able to confirm any of this information through other sources so far.

Discussion & Partial Conclusion

Based mostly on the information from the Clan Linn book and supported by the other facts presented, it is apparent that Mary Linn was a wife of Samuel and that she was the mother of the last four of his eight children. This would mean that Samuel had a first wife who was the mother of his first four children. This may be Susan Humphrey, but despite the fact that all of the purported event dates make sense, I have yet to find any supporting evidence to what is found on the one website. There is a marriage recorded for the oldest son in Stephenson Co., IL in 1865, but this may be too early to contain any info on the parents. It does need to be checked at some point. I have not been able to find marriage records for the other three oldest children although I know Franklin was married. Samuel Jr. probably died young.

Issue #9

Subject: George Booher, son of Henry and Nancy Booher

Date of last revision: 05 Oct 2014

Background, Facts, and Discussion:

It can be seen from the census records that George Booher and his family left western Pennsylvania in the 1860s and arrived in Illinois before 1870:

1. The 1850 U.S. census shows George (Age: 30, Born: PA) living with his parents, Henry (A: 68, B: PA) and Nancy (A: 62, B: PA), and two sisters, Phoebe (A: 40, B: PA) and Catharine (A: 37, B: PA), in Shenango Twp., Lawrence Co., PA (Pgs. 355 & 356, Entry #362).
2. The 1860 U.S. census shows George (Age: 35, Born: PA), his wife Sarah (A: 32, B: PA), and daughter Alzina (A: 2, B: PA), in Shenango Twp., Lawrence Co., PA (Pg. 195, Entry #1413) living with his mother, Nancy (A: 68, B: PA), and sister, Phoebe (A: 38, B: PA). [*Note the large age discrepancies; I have no explanation other than it seems to not be uncommon in census records.*]
3. The 1870 census shows the family in Preemption Twp., Mercer Co., IL (Pg. 25, Entry #145): George (A: 49, B: PA), Sarah (A: 49, B: PA), Elginah V. (A: 12, B: NE), George (A: 8, B: PA), and Gladis R. (A: 6, B: PA).
4. George and Sarah are not found in the 1880 census. The three children are found in Buckhorn Twp., Brown Co., IL (Pg. 8, Entry #59). Elzina (A: 21, B: NE) is now married to Steven Lester (A: 26, B: IL) and has a son, Frank (A: 4, B: IL). George (A: 17, B: PA) and Rebecca (A: 15, B: PA) are in the same household.

Despite repeated efforts, it has not been possible to find any of these seven individuals in the 1900 or subsequent U.S. census records—until recently (See Item #10).

It was learned that a G. W. Booker and Sarah Booker were buried at the Richwoods Cemetery near Roodhouse in Greene Co. IL. Pictures of the two tombstones can be found at the Greene County Rootsweb site (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilmaga/greene/cemeteries/richwoods_no.htm):

5. George's tombstone reads: [G. W. BOOHER | BORN | OCT. 3, 1820 | DIED | AUG. 1, 1878]. The name is spelled "Booher" on the tombstone, not "Booker."
6. Sarah's tombstone reads: [SARAH. | WIFE OF | GEORGE W. BOOKER | BORN IN NEW CASTLE PA. | JUNE 23, 1921 | DIED | DEC. 6, 1898 | AGED | 77Y. 5M. 12D.].

Now it is necessary to prove that these two are the George and Sarah that have been traced in the earlier census records from Pennsylvania to Illinois. Encouraged by the late date of death for Sarah, a search is made of the pre-1916 death index for Illinois found at the IRAD (Illinois Regional Archive Depository) website (www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/death.html). There, an index entry is found showing that Mrs. Sarah Booker died on 6 Dec 1898 at Jacksonville, Morgan Co., IL.

7. A copy of the death registration record available from IRAD shows the following information for Sarah: Mrs. Sarah Booker, white female housewife; Widow; Died: 6 Dec 1898 at 77y 5m 13d, N. Clay Ave., Jacksonville, IL; Born: Lawrence Co., PA; Buried: Richwoods Cem., Green Co., IL.

The death registration does not include any information about Sarah's parents. It is known that death certificates in Illinois for this time period also do not contain any information on the parents of the deceased, so ordering one was unnecessary.

8. An obituary for Sarah exists in the 07 Dec 1898 issue of the Daily Illinois Courier newspaper that states that she was survived by a daughter, Mrs. C. D. Seegar, of Jacksonville, and a son living in Dayton, OH.

An inspection of the Illinois marriage index (also at IRAD; www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/marriage.html) shows an entry for the marriage of Rebecca Booker to Calvin D. Seegar on 03 Sep 1881 in Morgan County. In this case, it is known that the marriage record available from the county for this date should contain the names of the parents of the groom and bride. Indeed, the following information is found:

9. The Illinois marriage documents from Morgan County for Rebecca Booker and Calvin Seegar shows, among other things, that the maiden name of Rebecca's mother was Sarah Kelly. It further shows that the actual marriage date was 03 Oct 1881, and not 03 Sep 1881. Lastly, the maiden name of Rebecca (actually Gladis Rebecca) is spelled both Booher and Booker throughout the various documents associated with the marriage; the underage consent document, actually signed by Rebecca's mother, correctly shows the name "Booher."

It is apparent that this Rebecca Booher is the same as the one shown in Items #3 & #4. Rebecca and her husband are also found in the 1900 U.S. census:

10. The 1900 U.S. census shows Calvin (A: 47, B: IL), Gladis (A: 36, B: PA), and their four children living in Jacksonville, Morgan Co., IL (Pg. 9B, Lines 85 to 90).

The IRAD pre-1916 death index for Illinois shows that "Gaddis Seegar" died on 25 Jun 1903 at Jacksonville. The record available from IRAD shows that she died at 329 N. Clay Ave. in Jacksonville, the likely same location where her mother died. **Gladis Rebecca (Booher) Seegar is the major link that proves that the George and Sarah Booher from Shenango Twp., Lawrence Co., PA, are the same two that are buried in Richwoods Cemetery in Greene Co., IL.**

At this point, little to nothing is known about the two older children of George and Sarah, or their families. Sarah's obituary (Item #8) indicates that her son George was living in Dayton, OH at the time of her death in 1898. There is a 13 Mar 1900 marriage record in Marion, IN for a George Booker, age 34 and born in PA. It indicates that he was the son of George Booker and "Kelly." (Source: www.ancestry.com)

There are a number of remaining issues here, such as finding the death location for George and figuring out whether he adopted the middle initial "W" (which probably stands for "Washington") or it stood for his given middle name. (None of his siblings appear to have had middle names, and there is no indication from the early records that George had one either.)

Perhaps the largest remaining issue is finding the parents of Sarah. It is known now that Sarah's maiden name was Kelly. Unfortunately, she does not seem to be in the New Castle, PA, area at the time of the 1850 census, unless she was married at the time to another man.

Issue #10

This issue has changed from the original purpose which was to attempt to show that Nancy Roberts, daughter of Henry & Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts, was the wife of Samuel Hockenberry. It now also discusses the more likely probability that Nancy was the wife of Benjamin Beers of Cromwell Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA.

What is Documented

In 1876 in Dallas Co., IA, S. L. Rhodes, a son of Joseph Rhodes & Elizabeth Roberts, transcribed information from a family bible that included birth (and some death) dates for Elizabeth's parents (Henry Roberts & Elizabeth Booher) and her siblings. This transcription shows a birth date for Elizabeth's sister Nancy of 11 Oct 1800 and further indicates that she was no longer alive when the transcription was made in 1876.

Samuel Hockenberry Family Information

1) Federal Census Records: In 1850, Samuel (52), Nancy (48) and their children: Elizabeth J. (23 or 25), George (22), William (18), Henry (16), Nancy J. (13), Margaret E. (11), Cromwell (8), and Amanda J. (6) are in Wells Twp., Fulton Co., PA (P. 187, Entry #33).

In 1860, Nancy (59) is found in Limestone Twp., Clarion Co., PA (P. 16, Entry #104) along with Henry (27), Margaret (21) and Amanda (17).

In 1870, Nancy (69) is in the household of her son George (43) in Perry Twp., Armstrong Co., PA (P. 10, Entry #72) along with William (38), Amanda (25), Elizabeth (45), and four grandchildren.

In 1880, George (50) and William (47) are in Derry Twp., Westmoreland Co., PA along with nieces and nephews.

Samuel and Nancy and their family were in Huntingdon County in the 1830 and 1840 censuses.

2) Numerous genealogies on the internet show the wife of Samuel Hockenberry to be Nancy Roberts. They also show that Samuel was born about 1795 in Fannett Twp., Franklin Co., PA to Peter & Alice Hockenberry, and that he died on 01 May 1852 in Orbisonia, Cromwell Twp., PA. I do not currently know the original source of any of this information.

3) There is a tombstone in the McKendree Church Cemetery in Huntingdon Co. showing Samuel Hockenberry died 30 Apr 1852 at about 55 years of age.

4) A typewritten list of information found at the Clarion Co., PA Historical Society Library shows that Samuel Hockenberry and Anna Roberts were the parents of Mrs. Margaret E. Arner who died in 1926.

Benjamin Beers Family Information

1) Federal Census Records: In 1850, Benjamin (56), Nancy (50) and their children: Henry (25), Joseph (20), John (16), Rebecca (14), Lydia (10), Hannah (7), Lemuel (3), are in Cromwell Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA (P. 555, #Entry #151).

In 1860, still in Cromwell Twp. (P. 115, Entry #806), are Benjamin (65), Nancy (60), Joseph (27), John (24), Rebecca (22), Lydia (20), Hannah (17), and Lemuel (12).

In 1870, Nancy (69) and son Joseph (38) are together in Cromwell Twp. (P. 12, Entry #79). Several other family members are also in Cromwell Twp. as well.

Benjamin and Nancy and their family were also in Cromwell Twp. in the 1830 and 1840 censuses.

- 2) Benjamin and Nancy are buried in Jordan Cemetery in Cromwell Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA. The tombstone for Nancy shows that she died on 17 Jun 1871 at the age of 70 years, 8 months, and 7 days.
- 3) Biographical sketches for Joseph Beers (page 337) and Lemuel Beers (page 64) in the 1897 Juniata Valley Biographical Encyclopedia³ gives their mother's name as Nancy Roberts. Unfortunately, neither give details on the ancestors of their parents.
- 4) Lemuel Beers died on 31 May 1925 in Huntingdon. His obituary in the 01 Jun 1925 issue of *The Daily News* in Huntingdon gives his mother's name as Nancy Roberts.

Discussion

We have one Nancy Roberts who was married to Samuel Hockenberry and another Nancy Roberts who was married to Benjamin Beers. Both women, based on census records, were born around 1800. Benjamin's wife died in 1871, and as suggested by the census records, Samuel's wife also died in the 1870s. Both of these death dates would fit with a death before 1876 as indicated by the family bible transcription.

The Roberts family had ties to both Huntingdon and Bedford/Fulton counties, which are where both Samuel's and Benjamin's families resided in 1850 and earlier.

There is one major point that argues for the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts being the wife of Benjamin Beers. The age at death shown on the tombstone of Nancy Beers indicates a birth date of 10 Oct 1800 which is only one day different from the birth date given for Nancy Roberts in the family bible transcription. It is unfortunate that the dates don't match exactly. Nonetheless, until additional evidence can be found on this issue, it appears likely that "our" Nancy Roberts was married to Benjamin Beers.

Nancy Hockenberry, widow of Samuel, probably died in either Armstrong Co. or Westmoreland Co. between 1870 and 1880. Her daughter Amanda apparently died in the same time frame. An investigation of the records in Armstrong Co. and Westmoreland Co. might provide more insight into this Nancy's background. Perhaps a tombstone (if a readable one can still be found) will help resolve the issue.

Conclusion

In the following issue (**Issue #11**), reference is made to a final accounting on the guardianship of Henry Roberts (deceased), minor son of Jacob B. Roberts (deceased), and grandson of Henry Roberts, Sr. (Fulton Co., PA, Administrators, executors, and guardians accounts Vol. 1, Page 129). This document, in addition to showing a legacy payment to the surviving children of Henry's uncle, Henry Roberts, Jr., also shows a legacy payment to Nancy Beers. These charges to the account of Henry were apparently related to the death of his father Jacob in 1849, although an explanation for their occurrence has not yet been found. Nonetheless, the appearance of the name of Nancy Beers in this document in the same context as that of other relatives, along with the previously outlined evidence, provides sufficient proof that Nancy Roberts, daughter of Henry Roberts and Elizabeth Booher, was the wife of Benjamin Beers.

Issue #11

Attempt to show that Henry Roberts of Sangamon Co., IL was the son of Henry & Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts.

What is Documented

- 1) The 1847 will of Henry Roberts, Sr. (Bedford Co., PA Will Book Vol. 3, Pages 397 & 398) mentions the surviving heirs of his deceased son, Henry, Jr.
- 2) Henry Roberts, Sr. had a son Jacob who died in 1849. After Jacob's death, a guardian was assigned to his lone son. When this surviving minor son subsequently died in 1856, a final accounting by the guardian (Fulton Co., PA Administrators, executors, and guardians accounts Vol. 1, Page 129) showed a legacy payment made on 25 Sep 1854 to Samuel West, the guardian for the surviving children of Henry Roberts, Jr.
- 3) In Sangamon Co., IL, a guardian bond (Guardian case file #211) was secured by Grover Ayres and Samuel West on 25 Mar 1854 for Mr. West to serve as guardian for the surviving minor children of Henry Roberts.
- 4) The 9 Aug 1846 death date of Henry Roberts is recorded in the Sangamon Co., IL probate records (Probate case file #695).
- 5) An 1865 letter exists that was written by Daniel Roberts, Jr. (son of Daniel & Abigail [Rhodes] Roberts; grandson of Henry Roberts, Sr.) and sent from Mount Union, PA to his cousin Amanda Roberts (daughter of Henry & Barbara [Bosler] Roberts) in Sangamon Co., IL.

Discussion & Conclusion

We know from the will of Henry Roberts, Sr. that he had a son named Henry who died in or before 1847 and left children. We also know that Henry Roberts of Sangamon Co., IL died in 1846.

From the 1856 guardian's report for the grandson of Henry Roberts, Sr., it is known that the name of the guardian for the children of Henry Roberts, Jr. was Samuel West. This matches exactly the guardianship bond record in Sangamon Co., IL that shows Samuel West as guardian for the children of Henry Roberts.

Finally, there is additional confirmation in the form of a letter written from a known grandson of Henry Roberts, Sr. to his cousin, Amanda Roberts, a daughter of Henry Roberts of Sangamon Co., IL, and who is also shown on the guardianship bond record previously mentioned.

It is concluded that Henry Roberts of Sangamon Co., IL and Henry Roberts, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Booher) Roberts were the same person.

Issue #12

Determine what can be learned about the husband of Catharine (Booher) Beatty (daughter of Casper and Phoebe).

What is Documented

- 1) The 1897 Juniata Valley Biographical Encyclopedia³ (Vol. 1, P. 370 & 371) identifies the parents of David S. Snyder as Simon and Elizabeth (Beatty) Snyder and states that all three were born in Huntingdon County, PA. It also identifies his maternal grandfather as John Beatty.
- 2) The 1820 census shows a female less than 10 years of age and a female between the ages of 26 and 44 living with Casper Booher and his wife Phoebe in Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA.
- 3) Mercer Co., PA land records identify Elizabeth (Beatty) Snyder as the daughter of Catharine Beatty, daughter of Casper and Phoebe Booher.
- 4) The 1831 will of Casper Booher (Huntingdon Co., PA Will Book Vol. 3, Pages 342-344 [Family History Library Microfilm #0854232]) identifies "Elizabeth Bady" as his granddaughter.
- 5) Letters of Administration for the estate of Catharine Beatty were issued to her brother Jacob Booher on 23 Oct 1826; her father Casper Booher renounced his right to administer the estate. (Huntingdon Co., PA Will book volume 3, page 290)
- 6) Samuel Beatty shows up in the Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA tax lists starting in the mid-1790s. His last appearance occurs on the 1821 tax list where his name is crossed out and it is noted that he had died.
- 7) John Beatty shows up in the Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA tax lists as a single free white male in 1812 and 1813, and married from 1814 thru 1819. He did not appear in the tax lists after 1819.
- 8) Catharine Booher shows up in the Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA tax lists in 1823, 1824, 1825, and 1826. Interestingly, she shows up on the lists as Catharine Booher, not Catharine Beatty.
- 9) The 1823 tax list for Wayne Twp., Mifflin Co. shows John Beatty's heirs as being one of the taxables. (I don't know if the earlier lists exist; if they do, I don't have access to them at this time)
- 10) The Mifflin Co. Orphan's Court Index (FHL microfilm #1026100) shows several wills for individuals named John Beatty: Will Vol. 2, Pg. 329; Vol. 3, Pg. 116; and Vol. 4, Pg. 13.

Discussion

Based on the biography of David S. Snyder, the name of Catharine (Booher) Beatty's husband was John Beatty. His initial appearance in Shirley Twp. as a single free white male on the 1812 tax list would place his birth in about 1790. The statement that Elizabeth (Beatty) Snyder was born in Huntingdon Co., PA would support that the John Beatty in the tax lists was indeed her father. It is apparent that John's father was the Samuel Beatty who showed up in Shirley Twp. in the mid-1790s. Since this was after John's birth, nothing can be concluded about the location of John's birth.

The movement of John Beatty to the "seated" portion of the tax list for 1814 indicates his marriage probably occurred in 1813.

John disappears from the tax lists after 1819. This may coincide with his death or his relocation. The two females living with Casper and Phoebe Booher in the 1820 census are almost certainly Catharine and her daughter Elizabeth; the ages are correct, and the other two daughters and their families are accounted for elsewhere. These two facts lead to the most obvious conclusion that John died in either 1819 or 1820, and probably in Shirley Twp. where he was residing. The other possibility is that he relocated without Catharine and his daughter, which was sometimes done on a temporary basis while a new residence was being made suitable for the rest of the family. The fact that Catharine started appearing on the tax lists in her own right by 1823 makes the second possibility less likely. However, there were several John Beattys residing in adjacent Mifflin Co. for whom estate records exist. One is known to not be "our" John Beatty, but the others should be checked out.

Issue #13

Determine approximate birth and death dates for Simon Snyder, husband of Elizabeth (Beatty) Snyder.

What is Documented

- 1) The 1897 Juniata Valley Biographical Encyclopedia³ (Vol. 1, P. 370 & 371) identifies the parents of David S. Snyder as Simon and Elizabeth (Beatty) Snyder and states that all three were born in Huntingdon County, PA. Although the parents of Simon are not identified, his siblings are: Henry, Conrad, John, Martha, and Peter.
- 2) According to early census records for the Peter & Susannah Snyder family in Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA, their youngest son was born between 1805 and 1810
- 3) Simon Snyder first appears on the 1832 Shirley Twp. tax list as a single free white male.
- 4) Simon Snyder shows up in the 1845 Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co., PA tax list owning 137 acres of land, 3 cows and 3 horses. In the 1846 tax list (which would have likely been compiled in late 1845), Simon's name is crossed out and replaced with Elizabeth's name. In the 1847 tax list, Elizabeth Snyder, "widdow" shows up owning the 137 acres of land along with 1 horse and 2 cows.

Discussion

Although Simon's parents are not directly identified, the listing of the siblings shows the parents to be Peter and Susannah (Shaver) Snyder. Simon's 1832 appearance on the tax list places his birth about 1809 or 1810, which is towards the latter part of the 1805 to 1810 range indicated by the census records.

Simon's crossed out name on the 1846 tax list indicates a death occurring in probably the latter part of 1845 or early part of 1846.

References

Pertinent census records are cited giving the state, county, and locality along with (for 1850 through 1870) the page no. and entry no. or (for 1880 through 1930) the enumeration district no., page no., and line no.

Many of the sources that do not have a citation number may be seen at <http://www.genealogy.jostko.com/Special/Booher/index.htm>. If you want to know more about a source that is not present at the website, use the email address available there to contact me.

Citations:

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4. Available online: <http://bergergirls.com/showmedia.php?mediaID=5118>.
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