

PEGASUS

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Dallas Genealogical Society

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Objectives

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest organization of its kind in Texas. Its objectives are:

- To educate by creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in genealogy

- To assist and support the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas

- To collect, preserve, and index genealogical information relating to North Texas and its early history

DGS Meetings

Dallas Genealogical Society meetings, which are free and open to the public, are held monthly (except for June-August). Each begins with a social hour and a business meeting, followed by presentations on genealogical and historical topics. Meetings are held in the plaza level Auditorium and East/West Rooms of the Central Library, 1515 Young Street, in downtown Dallas. Guarded parking is available in the garage beneath the library (enter on Wood Street, one block north of Young Street). See the DGS website Calendar for specific information on topics, time, and location.

Special Interest Groups

DGS has many special interest groups (SIGs) that meet at various dates, times, and locations throughout the Central Library. See the SIGs tab on the DGS website, the DGS eBlast, or the DGS Newsletter for details.

Society Publications

Published since 1976, the *DGS Newsletter* is sent directly to members via print and digital media periodically throughout the year. Non-members can view the newsletter on the DGS website after member distribution. Each issue contains information about DGS major events such as the Spring and Fall Lectures and the Summer Institute, upcoming SIG activities, research trips and monthly general meeting topics. News about other regional and national society events of major interest is published when available.

Pegasus, the Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society, continues the traditions of its predecessors, *The Dallas Journal*, published from 1995 through 2012, and *The Dallas Quarterly*, published from 1955 through 1994. Dallas Journals published from 1990 to 1994 are available as PDF files on the DGS website. Digital copies of the Dallas Journals from 1995 through 2010 are accessible from links on the DGS website under Resources/Journals, and at the University of North Texas "Portal to Texas History" (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/DLSJL/browse/>).

Membership Benefits

DGS is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. Individuals, libraries, and societies may apply for membership. Membership is \$35 per year for an individual, \$40 for a household. Members receive discounted fees for the Spring and Fall Lectures and the Summer Institute, early electronic distribution of the *DGS Newsletter* and free copies of *Pegasus*, access to reduced-fee DNA testing by Family Tree DNA, and access to the DGS Surname Registry List. See DGS website at address above for details.

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From the Editors

Welcome to the premiere issue of *Pegasus, Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society*™.

The four articles in this first issue of *Pegasus* are the winners of the 2012 DGS Writing Contest. Because of a tie for the third place award, we are presenting four instead of three outstanding pieces of writing. A wide variety of entries were submitted. During the judging, the authors' names were removed to allow the articles to stand on their own merit. Each member of the DGS Publication Committee separately scored each entry and then the average score for each entry was calculated. The top six articles were sent to our final judge, the well-known genealogist, J. Mark Lowe, CGSM.

Among the winning writers, three are Texas natives and residents; two live in Dallas. Two are professional genealogists; one is a Certified GenealogistSM and one is an Accredited Genealogist®. Two of the winners are serious non-professional genealogists. Three of the articles concern the authors' ancestors who lived at least part of their lives in the north central Texas area. One of the articles, "Chronology of Land Lot 128...", describes a methodology which combines information from Georgia marriage records, tax records, and deeds to find an ancestor's maiden name. It is a good example of an entry in the methodology category that has no geographical restrictions.

Two articles, "Francis A. Claridge (1824-1887)" and "Bailing, Bigamy, Brother Love...", feature two men who were Mexican War veterans. One joined the Illinois Volunteers and the other the Arkansas Volunteers but both reached San Antonio in August 1846 for military exercises and both later settled in north central Texas. A female ancestor is the subject of "Sarah Luse Larimer 1836-1913," a woman who led a very adventurous life before spending her last twenty years in Fort Worth.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in *Pegasus* and will come back for more. Perhaps they will even inspire you to write something for *Pegasus*.

DGS Publications Committee



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Francis A. Claridge (1824-1887)

2012 DGS Writing Contest First Place Winner

by Karen Claridge Walker

Francis A. Claridge (aka: Frank) was born about 1824 in Davidson County, Tennessee,¹ the youngest of five sons born to John Claridge Jr.² and Sarah “Sally” Ashley.³ After his birth, the family moved to Shelby County, Illinois,⁴ where five daughters were added to the family. By 1840, the family had moved to Jersey County, Illinois.⁵

In 1846, at about 22 years of age, Francis joined the 2nd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers for service in the Mexican War.⁶ Adolph Engelmann, a member of that regiment, wrote letters about their experiences. His letters were translated and published by Otto B. Engelmann, who related the beginning of their service:

In mid-July the First and Second Illinois regiments were put on transports for New Orleans. Gen. John E. Wool of the U. S. Regular Army was in command. Late in the month they reached New Orleans, where they reshipped for Port Lavacca [*sic*] on the Gulf of Mexico. Thence they marched to San Antonio, which they reached in late August, 1846.⁷

Adolph’s letters expressed some of the dangers and difficulties the 2nd Regiment faced. The 145-mile march to San Antonio was arduous:

We had not gone far when we came to a swamp through which we marched up to our knees in water, and then it began to rain, and we [had] 18 miles of this before we came to dry land. On the way many of the men became exhausted and could no longer carry their packs. I took the first man’s, the Captain the next and so through general helpfulness, each doing his best, nightfall found our company 22 miles from our last camp...and in spite of being soaking wet from the rain and swamp we slept mighty sound.⁸

In San Antonio, they came upon some ruins:

We came through a part of the city and stopped briefly to give the men the opportunity to see the spot where Crocket fell. These ruins are called “Alamo” after the nearby poplar trees, so called by the Spaniards. The walls everywhere show bullet holes and the men dug out a good many.⁹

There were complaints of no pay, low rations, and general lack of supplies. Lice were a problem, and there was no soap for bathing. From San Antonio, the men began the 450-mile, 5-month march to Mexico, passing through Presidio, Monclova, Saltillo, and finally, Buena Vista, where a ferocious and decisive battle occurred:

On February 23, 1847, the Battle of Buena Vista was fought. This was the only engagement of the war in which the Second Illinois participated, but its conduct on the occasion was all that any commander could ask. In his report of the battle General [Zachary] Taylor commended it in these words: "The First and Second Illinois, and the Kentucky regiments served immediately under my eye, and I bear a willing testimony to their excellent conduct throughout the day.... The list of casualties will show how much these three regiments suffered in sustaining the heavy charge of the enemy in the afternoon."¹⁰

The wounded included Adolph Engelmann and Francis Claridge.¹¹ In May 1847, the regiments began the long journey home.

Because he had been wounded, Francis qualified for a pension payment of \$16 per year that he received from September 1847 to March 1861.¹² He also received military bounty land warrants that he used to purchase two lots in Bond County, Illinois, on 25 November 1848.¹³ This was where he met and married Sarah Jane Hunter, daughter of John Hunter and Margaret "Peggy" Powers.¹⁴ They were wed on 17 March 1850 by Wm. Watkins, J.P.¹⁵ The newlyweds lived with her parents and worked as farmers.¹⁶ Francis' and Sarah Jane's first son, Rupert Rosswell, was born 22 February 1851.¹⁷

Texas had got under Francis's skin during the war, and he convinced Sarah to leave Illinois and head south. Her family joined them in Texas.¹⁸ They settled about 15 miles south of Fort Worth at Rock Creek, in Johnson County, where son John Hunter was born 16 November 1854.¹⁹ Daughter Sarah E. was born about 1857.²⁰

Francis filed a land claim for 320 acres "on the waters of the Clear fork of Trinity river, about 8 miles N.⁹ E. from Buchanan" on 25 February 1857. The claim was patented 2 July 1859.²¹ Francis bought several town lots in Buchanan and sold them in 1860,²² a wise transaction because the town eventually was abandoned due to arid conditions.²³

Sadly, Sarah Jane died before 1860. Francis was left with the care of the farm and three young children. No record for Francis and his family has been found in the 1860 census, but they were still in Johnson County, where on 4 October 1860, Francis married Martha W. Beaver.²⁴

Martha was the widow of Wilson Beaver²⁵ and had three children. She and her son James were listed together on the 1860 census in Johnson County. Her daughters, Susan and Elizabeth, were living with relatives.²⁶

Francis must have decided to return to Illinois at the beginning of the Civil War, perhaps leaving the care of his land to his Hunter in-laws. Francis and Martha's first son, George, was born in Arkansas about 1862,²⁷ probably while passing through on the trip back to Illinois. On 1 June 1864, Francis mustered in with the 139th IL US INF, Company E, in Peoria, Illinois. His previous military experience from the Mexican War may have earned Francis the rank of Corporal.²⁸

Francis A. Claridge (1824-1887)

The 139th did not see much action during the original 100 days of service, but the company was asked to extend its service to pursue Confederate Major General Sterling Price in Missouri, whose troops were progressing toward St. Louis. The men of the 2nd Regiment agreed and received a letter of gratitude and commendation from President Lincoln. Major General Price was not captured but was forced to retreat into southern Missouri. After serving nearly five months, the regiment returned to Peoria and mustered out on 25 October 1864.²⁹

The 1865 Illinois State Census recorded Francis and family in Grafton, Jersey County. Martha was listed as “Peggy.” The children were listed by initials: Rupert, James (Beaver), John, Sarah, George, and Baby boy, age 1.³⁰ This poor unnamed baby died before the 1870 census was recorded in Otter Creek, Jersey County, Illinois.³¹

About 1866 or 1867, a photograph was taken of Francis in a post-Civil War dress uniform.³² Francis may have joined the new Grand Army of the Republic veterans’ organization that was founded in Springfield, Illinois. In 1868, Francis became a charter member of Otterville Lodge No. 563, A.F. & A.M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons). Unfortunately, the lodge hall burned in 1881, and most of its records were destroyed.³³

Between 1870 and 1880,³⁴ Francis, Martha, John, and George returned to Johnson County, Texas, and their land. Francis continued to farm there until 1882 when his family moved to San Antonio, Bexar County.³⁵ Francis probably left Johnson County because of some horrific events involving his son John’s family. John married Cynthia Ella Myers on 4 February 1877, in Cleburne.³⁶ Only seventeen days later, on the evening of 21 February 1877, her step-mother was fatally shot in the head while she sat at dinner with her family, the tragic result of not abiding by the terms of her late husband’s will. The shot had come through a window, and tracks led to a step-son-in-law named James Bowden. Bowden implicated Sam Myers Jr., Cynthia’s 18-year-old brother. Bowden was imprisoned for life. Sam protested his innocence and had an alibi, but guilty or not, Sam Jr. was hanged for the murder on 19 March 1880.³⁷ These tumultuous events changed the course and locality of Francis’s family history from north Texas to central Texas for generations.

On 14 March, 1884, Francis filed an affidavit of land occupancy for 160 acres in far-southeast Bexar County.³⁸ He resided in San Antonio for only a few years. Francis died on 26 Feb 1887. His obituary appeared the next day in *The San Antonio Daily Express*:

Another Veteran Gone

Mr. Francis A. Claridge, the aged and honored father of the proprietor of the Texas Stockman and Farmer, died yesterday morning, at the home of his son’s family, on Fifth street. Mr. Claridge was a veteran of the Mexican war, and had many old friends and companions in arms who will deeply regret to hear of his death. The funeral

services were conducted yesterday afternoon. The remains were followed to their last sad resting place by many mourning friends and relatives.³⁹

His final resting place was recorded confusingly as “#1 D sec,” which may mean that he was buried in City Cemetery #1, Section D.⁴⁰ Though no grave marker or stone has been located, he undoubtedly was buried in San Antonio.

After Francis died, Martha filed a claim for the land they had settled, and the land was transferred to the heirs of F.A. Claridge on 2 April 1896.⁴¹ She also filed an application for a pension based on his service in two wars.⁴² Martha survived until 18 February 1904 and was buried in Bethesda Cemetery, Johnson County, Texas.⁴³

Francis A. Claridge was a worthy soldier, hard-working farmer, honored father, and true pioneer. His numerous descendants are still found in Texas, one hundred sixty-six years after his first visit to the Alamo. One question remains about that visit: did Francis find a bullet?

FAMILY GROUPS

Francis A. Claridge (1824-1887)

m. (1) Sarah Jane Hunter (1829-before 1860)

Rupert Rosswell Claridge (1851-1938)⁴⁴ m. (1) Rosa Wallace⁴⁵ (1856-1953)⁴⁶
(2) Julia E. Woodward⁴⁷(1851-1925)⁴⁸

John Hunter Claridge (1854-1927)⁴⁹ m. (1) Cynthia Ella Myers⁵⁰ (1863-1892)⁵¹
(2) Lucina “Lula” Stow Riggs⁵² (1860-1935)⁵³

Sarah E. Claridge (abt 1857-before 1897)⁵⁴ m. John James Gilmore⁵⁵ (1845-after 1910)⁵⁶

m. (2) Martha W. Jackson Beaver (1824-1904)

George J. Claridge (1862-1896)⁵⁷

Baby Claridge (about 1864-before 1870)

Martha W. Jackson m. (1) Wilson Beaver (about 1821-before 1860)⁵⁸

Susan Beaver (1845-after 1910) m. Joseph Gilmore⁵⁹ (1844-after 1910)⁶⁰

Elizabeth Beaver (about 1849-after 1860)

James Beaver (about 1852-after 1882) m. Elizabeth Gilmore⁶¹ (1858-after 1882)⁶²

Author Biography

Karen Claridge Walker is a native of San Antonio, Texas, earned a Bachelor of Music Literature degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio, is a former Tulsa, Oklahoma, public school music teacher, worked two years in the Tulsa City/County Library Genealogy Center and is a serious amateur genealogist. She has lived in San Antonio, Austin, Tulsa, and Honolulu, and recently moved to Dallas with her husband of 40 years, Stephen D. Walker. He is general manager of the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park. They have a son and daughter living in Tulsa. The historical biography is about Karen's paternal great-great-grandfather.

ENDNOTES

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Bailing, Bigamy, Brother Love: The Family of Henry Parker and Nancy Black

2012 DGS Writing Contest Second Place Winner

by Debbie Parker Wayne, Certified GenealogistSM

Family research is difficult when some person may be trying to hide evidence of abandonment and bigamy. Throw in a courthouse fire to keep things interesting. Historians typically use race, class, and gender as categories of analysis, but often overlook kinship. Kinship is a structure of social relationships based on connections by blood, marriage, adoption, or social functions within a group. Using kinship theory with traditional historical and genealogical research methods, one can arrive at a deeper understanding of our ancestors.¹ These elements contribute to our understanding of the Henry Parker family.

Henry Parker was born in South Carolina probably in June 1823 or 1825; died 9 April 1902, in Hood County, Texas.² He married (1), Nancy Black, by 1850, probably in Milam County, Texas.³ He “married” (2), Elizabeth (O’Neal) Kline Quarles, 5 May 1877, in Hood County.⁴ Tales of other wives appear to be errors. No documentary evidence of a marriage between Henry and Virginia Eddings or any other woman has been located in any of the counties discussed in this narrative.⁵ Henry was still living with Elizabeth at his death.⁶

Henry may have been born by 1821 as he first appears on a tax roll in 1843.⁷ Arkansas law required all single men age twenty-one to fifty-five be assessed a poll tax.⁸ The 1850 census lists Henry’s age as twenty-three.⁹ But if he wasn’t born until 1827 he would not have owed taxes in 1843. In 1846, when he volunteered for military service, Henry gave his age as twenty-three.¹⁰ Various documents in Henry’s pension file indicate birth dates ranging from February 1823 to June 1824.

June 1823 fits with more of the documents where Henry was the informant. Henry may have wanted to seem older when he joined the army and he needed to use the same birth date later when he applied for his pension, naming 1823 as his birth year.¹¹ The 1860 census is an outlier, indicating a birth year as early as 1819 or 1820.¹² An argument for either June 1823 or June 1825 could be made. The 1900 census is the only document that lists a specific month and year of birth, June 1825.¹³ That is supported by the earliest records, the 1830 and 1840 censuses.¹⁴ June 1823 or 1825 is the most likely date of birth.

The Mexican War

In 1846 the United States and Mexico went to war. On 1 July 1846, Henry was mustered in to Company A of the Arkansas Volunteers. He appears on the muster rolls in July and August 1846.¹⁵ The company arrived in hot, dusty San Antonio, Texas,

in late August. There they drilled and waited for arms to arrive. Many men fell ill and many died during the wait. Late in October the regiment marched on, leaving behind their dead and ailing.¹⁶ Henry was discharged on 23 September 1846, on a surgeon's certificate of disability.¹⁷ Henry arrived in Milam County about 1849 or 1850.¹⁸

Henry's First Family

Nancy Black was born about 1835 in Alabama. Nancy and Henry lived with Alexander Black in 1850.¹⁹ An Alex Black family with children of consistent age and sex as those in Texas in 1850 is found in Benton County in 1840.²⁰ Many of Nancy's children carry the names of those presumed siblings: William, Wade, John, and Elizabeth; and the names of Nancy's father and step-mother: Alexander and Jane.

Several researchers indicate Nancy's mother was Rachel McCulloch or McCullough, but no source is given for this statement. These researchers indicate that Rachel McCulloch married Alexander Black in Alabama and the family lived in Benton County.²¹ No marriage record is found for Alexander or Rachel in Benton County.²² Prior to 1833, Benton County was under the jurisdiction of St. Clair County.²³ No marriage for Alexander and Rachel was found in St. Clair County.²⁴ But Nancy's age indicates she would be the child of Alexander's earlier wife as he married again in Texas to Jane Blackburn on 5 May 1847.²⁵

Researchers may have confused Nancy's mother due to similar Parker names in records. In 1872 the list of heirs of Rachel Whitesides McCulloch include H. O. Parker of Milam County and his unnamed wife.²⁶ Other records reveal the name of H. O. Parker's wife was Sarah Jane McCulloch.²⁷ This proves H. O. Parker and Henry Parker are two different men, one married to Sara Jane McCulloch and one to Nancy Black. No other records have been found to link Nancy Black and her mother.

No marriage record exists for Henry Parker and Nancy Black in Milam County. Few records survived a courthouse fire in 1874.²⁸ But records of the commissioners' court prove Henry and Nancy were married.²⁹

By 1860, Henry owned 200 acres of land on Brushy waterway, near San Gabriel.³⁰ Children Alex age nine, Waid age seven, George age six, Anderson age four, and Elizabeth age two, had joined the household.³¹ Henry's property included ten acres of improved land. Livestock consisted of one horse, five cows, two working oxen, twenty other cattle, and forty swine, all valued at \$310.³² These may have been Henry's most prosperous years, but the numbers still place him in the lower echelons of those in Milam enumerated on the agricultural schedules.

Henry may have experienced financial problems soon afterward. In February 1863, he sold his land.³³ Texas land is described on deeds and tax rolls by naming the original grantee. That name can help correlate information found on different records. The land Henry sold was part of the Giddings survey located on Brushy Creek. No

record of Henry's purchase of the land exists, but his ownership is supported by the tax records.³⁴

No record of Civil War service has been found for Henry.³⁵ He was home for at least part of that time as he had children born during those years: John Wesley born in 1862 and Laura or "Lena" born in 1863.³⁶ Henry was not assessed taxes in Milam County in 1861 to 1864 or 1866 to 1869. He was assessed Milam County taxes in 1865 but owned no land.³⁷

Henry likely squatted on vacant land after selling the Giddings property. In 1866, Texas passed an act allowing settlers to claim preemption lands.³⁸ Henry applied under this act for land he had settled by 15 October 1866 on the headwaters of Yegua Creek. The Texas General Land Office approved the patent in November 1871.³⁹ Henry sold the land only a few months later.⁴⁰

The Parker family has not been found in 1870 census records.⁴¹ This U.S. census is generally understood to be incomplete.⁴² Henry was assessed taxes again in 1870 to 1873; he owned no land, but had small numbers of horses, cattle, and miscellaneous property.⁴³ Even though Henry was not found on the 1870 census it seems obvious he was in Milam County as he was assessed taxes for most of the years between 1850 and 1876 except the turbulent 1860s.

Nancy's Lunacy

By age thirty-five, Nancy displayed signs of insanity. Henry's financial condition may have made it difficult to provide for his ailing wife without help. Texas law required each county to provide support for indigent, lame, and blind persons unable to support themselves.⁴⁴ In May 1874, the commissioners court placed Nancy on the indigent list and authorized payment of \$10.00 per month to her husband for 1 July 1873 to 1 June 1874.⁴⁵ This money was paid to Henry.⁴⁶ In January 1876, G. E. Boles was paid for conveying Nancy to the Texas State Lunatic Asylum.⁴⁷ That supports the admission date of 1 January 1876 as stated on Nancy's asylum records.⁴⁸

In 1880 Nancy was in the asylum as a public pay patient with chronic dementia. Nancy's first attack had occurred about 1870. She was secluded in her cell at night, but did not have to be otherwise restrained. She had been in the asylum for four and one-half years, confirming the January 1876 date.⁴⁹ Sadly, Nancy was still in the asylum twenty years later.⁵⁰ She died 29 April 1902.⁵¹ She is probably buried at the State Hospital Cemetery, but is not in the list of known burials.

The Family Scatters

Henry bailed. He disappears from Milam County records after 1876. He has not been found in 1880, and his children are scattered across Texas.

Two sons moved west then north to Indian Territory. In 1880 Alexander William Parker raised hogs in Tom Green County.⁵³ His future wife lived next door. Alexander apparently followed the Gott family to Taylor County where he married Angelica.⁵⁴ They migrated to Indian Territory.⁵⁵ John Wesley Parker herded stock in Menard County in 1880. In the same household was his future wife “Annie” Short.⁵⁶ They moved to the same area of Indian Territory as Alexander.⁵⁷ Annie returned to Milam County after John’s death and married his brother Wade.⁵⁸

Henry’s other children stayed in Milam and nearby counties. Wade Franklin Parker worked for Samuel Anthony in 1880.⁵⁹ This was likely on Henry Parker’s preemption grant. Two years later Samuel Anthony sold 120 acres of the land originally granted to Henry to Wade’s brother George.⁶⁰ Wade married (1), Margaret (Maples) Elliott.⁶¹ By 1900 Wade was widowed, raising his son Frank and his step-son, Robert Elliott.⁶² Wade married (2), his brother’s widow Annie.⁶³

George and several siblings are in Lee and Milam along the border between the two counties. George and Wade bought the remaining acres of their father’s grant and some surrounding property.⁶⁴ George married (1), Cynthia Alice Lewis.⁶⁵ He married (2), Mary Maples.⁶⁶ He married (3), Mary Gentry.⁶⁷ Anderson Parker lived in Milam County in 1880 and 1910.⁶⁸ In 1900 and 1920 he lived just across the county line in Lee County.⁶⁹ He married (1), Bettie Morrison.⁷⁰ He married (2), Tennessee Angeline Maples.⁷¹ He married (3), Bertha Sparks.⁷² Jade “J.D.” Parker has not been found in 1880. He married Savannah Georgia Litchfield in Williamson County.⁷³

In 1880 Elizabeth Jane “Bettie” Parker was in Burleson County keeping house for William Albright. She married neighbor A. J. Young later that year.⁷⁴ By 1900 the Youngs had moved north to Falls County.⁷⁵ Other probable daughters of Henry and Nancy were Laura Alice “Lena” Parker born in 1863 and Mary Elizabeth Martha Ann “Mattie” Parker born in 1868.⁷⁶

Descendants of George Washington Parker believe he took in his siblings after their mother was committed.⁷⁷ No records show George’s siblings in his household, but they have close ties. George was assessed taxes in Milam County from 1877 through 1905 except for 1878 and 1880. Wade was assessed taxes there from 1877 through 1905 except for 1885 and 1889. Anderson was assessed taxes there in 1877, 1879 through 1881, 1886 through 1888, and 1892. J. D. was assessed taxes there in 1884, 1887, and 1888. Most years these brothers appear one immediately after the other on the tax rolls.⁷⁸ Because only George and Wade were land owners during these years the other siblings may have lived with them but left few records.

The Myth of Henry in Menard County

Some descendants believe Henry moved to Menard County after he committed Nancy and bailed on the family. One story indicates Henry was killed there by Nancy’s brother who was upset that she had been committed. Another has Nancy’s father giving

Henry money and a horse to escape. A third has Henry murdered while walking home one evening with the cash receipts of his store in his pocket.⁷⁹

No evidence places Henry in Menard County. He does not appear on the tax rolls there for any year between 1841 and 1889.⁸⁰ The murder story is not mentioned in *The Free State of Menard: A History of the County* where other infamous murder stories are noted.⁸¹ A Menard connection conflicts with records in Hood County.

Henry's Second Family

After disappearing from Milam County, Henry entered into a bigamous marriage with Elizabeth (O'Neal) Kline Quarles on 5 May 1877, in Hood County.⁸² Elizabeth possibly had no idea that her marriage to Henry was not legal until her widow's pension was denied.⁸³ In practical terms, Henry had no viable wife after Nancy's commitment. Marriage was a legal contract with strict grounds for divorce. In Texas those grounds were impotence at the time of the marriage, adultery or abandonment, and cruel treatment.⁸⁴ Lunacy was not grounds. Many Americans handled their marital status in "practical, personal ways, outside of court-rooms ... husbands and wives forged—or found themselves forced into—alternative forms of family and household."⁸⁵ Married people living away from their spouses might remarry after representing themselves as widowed or single.⁸⁶ Henry and Elizabeth had one child. Frank Parker was born 4 July 1875 or 1879; died 1 April 1942, in Hood County.⁸⁷

Henry applied for and received a Mexican War pension.⁸⁸ In March 1894, Henry requested a pension increase stating he had lived in Parker County since December 1893. Two witnesses confirmed they had known Henry since 1 December 1893.⁸⁹ By 1900 the Parkers moved back to Hood County.⁹⁰ No residence is stated for years prior to 1893.

The chronology of the known facts of Henry in all these locations is consistent with representing the history of one man. The only contradictions are in unproven oral histories passed down in the family.

Death

Henry died 9 April 1902, in Hood County in severe pain from a fracture of the "neck of femur"—the ball joint that mates the thigh bone to the hip socket.⁹¹ No probate was found.⁹² Elizabeth spent the next months trying to prove she was Henry's legal wife, but never received a pension. She died by 3 October 1903.⁹³ All three principals in this bigamous triangle died within eighteen months.

Conclusion

The Henry Parker family story demonstrates elements of kinship theory. Nancy named her children after her father and siblings. Henry's children married siblings. Henry made his own rules on marriage no matter the law. Application of the kinship

theory framework has added significantly to the understanding of this family. The story uncovered illustrates a family torn apart by a mother's lunacy and a father's abandonment. But the ties of kinship were strong, bringing the family back together and forming strong bonds that carry them into the future.

Author Biography

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30. Milam County, Texas, Tax Rolls, 1846–1883; all years read for all Parker entries and variant spellings; TSLAC microfilm reel 1166-01, Austin. DeLorme, *Texas Atlas & Gazetteer* (Yarmouth, Maine: DeLorme, 1995), 70.

31. 1860 U.S. census, Milam County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 42A/B (stamped), dw./fam. 250, Henry Parker.

32. 1860 U.S. census, Milam County, Texas, agricultural sch., p. 7-8, line 22, Henry Parker; NARA microfilm publication T1134, roll 4.

33. Milam County, Texas, Deeds 19:402-404, Henry and Nancy Parker to Ceborn Stiles, 13 February 1863; County Clerk's Office, Cameron; citing Deeds 1:564. This 1863 deed was re-recorded in 1887, after the 1874 fire.

34. Milam County, Texas, Tax Rolls, 1846–1883; all years read for all Parker entries.
35. James E. Williams, *Milam County, Texas in the Civil War* (Cameron, Texas: self-published, 1993); Henry Parker is not named on the rosters although several of his known neighbors are named in infantry and cavalry units. National Park Service, “Soldiers,” database, *Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System* (<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/> : accessed 23 August 2009) and *Index to Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from Texas, 1861–1865*, 15 rolls (Austin: TSLAC, n.d.), roll 11; all candidates found were eliminated.
36. Earl Jones, “Earl’s Genealogy Site.”
37. Milam County, Texas, Tax Rolls, 1846–1883.
38. H. P. N. Gammel, compiler, *The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897*, 10 vols. (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898), 5:1191, “An Act Donating One Hundred and Sixty Acres of Land to Actual Settlers Upon the Public Domain,” 12 November 1866; digital images, University of North Texas, *The Portal to Texas History* (<http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawsoftexas/> : accessed 14 September 2005).
39. Henry Parker, Milam Land District, 3rd Class file no. 1954 /preemption, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
40. Milam County, Texas, Deeds 122:88-89, State of Texas to Henry Parker, 2 November 1871, and 122:89-90, Henry Parker to Claiborne Garner, 4 January 1872; County Clerk’s Office, Cameron. Deed recorded 15 January 1914; otherwise it would also have been lost in the fire of 1874.
41. 1870 U.S. census, Milam County, Texas, pop. sch.; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1598. All of the census pages are very legible. A page by page scan did not find the Parker family.
42. William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), xviii. See also United Nations, Department of Economic Affairs, *Population Studies, No. 23, Manuals on Methods of Estimating Population, MANUAL II, Methods of Appraisal of Quality of Basic Data for Population Estimates*, digital image (http://www.un.org/esa/population/pubsarchive/migration_publications/UN_1955_Manual2.pdf : 5 May 2008), 11.
43. Milam County, Texas, Tax Rolls, 1846–1883.
44. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas*, 1:1206, “An Act Organizing Justices’ Courts, and Defining the Powers and Jurisdiction of the Same,” 20 December 1836.
45. Milam County, Texas, Commissioners Court Minutes A:7.
46. Milam County, Texas, Commissioners Court Minutes A:29.
47. Milam County, Texas, Commissioners Court Minutes A:73.
48. Parker researcher (name withheld), to Debbie Parker Wayne, e-mail, 26 May 2009, “Henry Parker - Nancy Black,” Wayne Research Files. This researcher received a typed list of information from another Parker researcher. That second researcher viewed Nancy’s records at the Austin State Hospital in the 1980s-1990s. The researcher was not allowed to photocopy, but made notes on the file contents.
49. 1880 U.S. census, Travis County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 124, State Lunatic Asylum, p. 2, line 45, Nancy Parker. 1880 U.S. census, Travis County, Texas, “Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes,” Insane Inhabitants, p. 41, l. 46, Nancy Parker; NARA microfilm publication T1134, roll 50.
50. 1900 U.S. census, Travis County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 141, p. 107B (stamped), State Lunatic Asylum, line 75, Nancy Parker; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1673.
51. Since Nancy appears on the 1900 census, but is no longer found on the 1910 census, she probably died between those dates, allowing for the probability she died on the 29 April 1902 date stated in her asylum records.
52. Merrill Davis, compiler, Austin State Hospital Cemetery Records: 1884-1996; compiled from records obtained from the Texas Mental Health and Mental Retardation Department, 2001, Call number A 929.5097643 Au, Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas.
53. 1880 U.S. census, Tom Green County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 119, p. 401C (stamped), dw. 294, fam. 295, William Parker; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1328.
54. Taylor County, Texas, Marriages 1:78, W. D. Parker and Annie G. Coats [*sic*]; County Clerk’s Office, Abilene. Connie Pickett, comp., *Taylor County, Texas, Marriage Records, 1878-1898* (St. Louis: Ingmire, 1985), this finding aid was checked to see if there were other possible marriages for a Gott woman marrying a Coats man. None were found. The names Coats and Gott or Gaut could be easily confused as they have similar sounds.
55. Don Hayes, England, to Debbie Parker Wayne, e-mail, 13–18 May 2009.
56. 1880 U.S. Census, Menard County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 115, p. 137B (stamped), dw. 189, fam.

Bailing, Bigamy, Brother Love

190, John Parker in G. W. Rolston household; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1319. Menard County, Texas, Marriages 1:22, John Parker to Feliciana Short, 1882; County Clerk's Office, Menard. Many researchers list this marriage date as 13 June 1882; that is the date the license was issued.

57. Earl Jones, "Earl's Genealogy Site." Confirmed by Don Hayes, England.

58. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 6:139, W. F. Parker and Mrs. M. A. Parker, 1903; County Clerk's Office, Cameron.

59. 1880 U.S. Census, Milam County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 103, p. 245A (stamped), dw./fam. 219, Wade Parker in Samuel Anthony household; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1319.

60. Milam County, Texas, Deeds 14:103–105, S. N. Anthony to M. A. Moore and G. W. Parker, 26 September 1882; County Clerk's Office, Cameron.

61. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 6:139.

62. 1900 U.S. Census, Milam County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 83, p. 130A (stamped), dw. 39, fam. 41, Wade F. Parker; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1659.

63. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 6:139.

64. Milam County, Texas, Deeds 14:103–105, S. N. Anthony to M. A. Moore and G. W. Parker, 16 September 1882, 17:2–3, E. C. Coffee to G. W. Parker, 8 September 1885, 25:201–202, Geo. W. and Mary Parker to James M. Lucky, 15 October 1889, 26:266–268, Geo. W. and M. A. R. Hanks to G. W. and W. F. Parker, 1 October 1889, and 35:80, G. W. Hanks to G. W. and W. F. Parker, 1 December 1892; County Clerk's Office, Cameron.

65. Lee County, Texas, Marriages D:189, Geo. W. Parker and S. A. Lewis, license issued 16 January 1881, records filed 17 January 1881, but no date of marriage is entered on the record; County Clerk's Office, Giddings.

66. Lee County, Texas, Marriages 3:209, G. W. Parker and Mary Maples, 1889; County Clerk's Office, Giddings.

67. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 8:78, G. W. Parker and Mary Gentry, 1899; County Clerk's Office, Cameron.

68. Milam County, Texas, Tax Rolls, 1846–1910. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 2:142, P. A. Parker and Bettie Morrison, 1878; County Clerk's Office, Cameron. 1910 U.S. Census, Milam County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 60, p. 7A and 7B, dw. 135, fam. 138, P. A. Parker; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1578.

69. 1900 U.S. Census, Lee County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 62, p. 124A (stamped), dw. 116, fam. 117, Perry A. Parker; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1654. 1920 U.S. Census, Lee County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 83, p. 259B/8B, dw. 200, fam. 208, Perry A. Parker; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1826.

70. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 2:142.

71. Lee County, Texas, Marriages D:1, P. A. Parker and Angeline T. Maples, 1891; County Clerk's Office, Giddings.

72. Milam County, Texas, Marriages 12:297, P. A. Parker and Bertha Sparks, 1910; County Clerk's Office, Cameron.

73. Williamson County, Texas, Marriages 5:332, J. D. Parker and Savannah Litchfield, 1883; County Clerk's Office, Georgetown.

74. Bureson County, Texas, Marriages 5:86, A. J. Young and Bettie Parker, 1880; County Clerk's Office, Caldwell.

75. 1900 U.S. census, Falls County, Texas, pop. sch., ED 27, p. 314B/315A (stamped), dw./fam. 354, A. J. Young; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1632.

76. Earl Jones, "Earl's Genealogy Site." Little documentary evidence has been found on these daughters. Parker researcher (name withheld, descendant of Henry Parker Jr.'s son John Wesley), Texas, to Debbie Parker Wayne, interview, 19 May 2012; this researcher was told that Mattie was named after all the women in attendance when she was born so there is family lore naming the girls. More research is needed on the history of these daughters.

77. Parker researcher (name withheld, descendant of Henry Parker Jr.'s son George), Texas, to Debbie Parker Wayne, e-mail, 7 Mar 2006, Wayne Research Files.

78. Milam County, Texas, Tax Rolls, 1846–1910.

79. Parker researcher (name withheld, descendant of Henry Parker Jr.'s son George), Texas,

to Debbie Parker Wayne, e-mail, 7 Mar 2006; citing Joe Carmichael (now deceased) who said that the information came from an 85 year old neighbor of Henry Parker in the 1930s.

80. Menard County, Texas, Tax Rolls 1841-1910; microfilm roll TSLAC reel 1; covers the years 1841-1910, missing years 1842-1866, 1869-1871, 1872, and 1875. Henry Parker was not found on the extant years.

81. N. H. Pierce, *The Free State of Menard: A History of the County* (1946, Menard, Texas: Western Advertising Co., rpt. 1966).

82. Hood County, Texas, Marriages A:167.

83. Elizabeth Parker, widow's pension application no. 16665 (Rejected), Mexican War, RG 15, NARA, Washington, D.C.

84. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas, 1822-1897*, 2:483, "An Act Concerning Divorce and Alimony," 6 January 1841.

85. Beverly Schwartzberg, "Lots of Them Did That: Desertion, Bigamy, and Marital Fluidity in Late-nineteenth-century America," *Journal of Social History* (Spring 2004); online archives, *FindArticles* (http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2005/is_3_37/ai_n6076485 : accessed 6 May 2008), 1. [Editor's note: Since 2012 this website has disappeared.]

86. *Ibid.*

87. Texas Department of Health, death certificate no. 17910 (1942), Frank Parker, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin. 1900 U.S. census, Hood County, Texas, pop. sch., precinct 1, ED 91, p. 30A (stamped), dw./fam. 548, Henry Parker; NARA microfilm publication M623, roll 1645.

88. "Declaration for Pension of Officer, Soldier or Sailor of Mexican War," 9 February 1887, Henry Parker Mexican War pension no. S.C. 5022, RG 15, NARA, Washington, D.C.

89. "General Affidavit" of Henry Parker, 27 March 1894, Henry Parker Mexican War pension no. S.C. 5022, RG 15, NARA, Washington, D.C.

90. Hood County, Texas, Chattel Mortgages 1:226, R. R. Daniel to Henry Parker, entry no. 1213, and 1:258, W. S. Walker to Henry Parker, entry no. 1429; Granbury Depot Archive, Granbury.

91. "Affidavit" of J. M. McCuan, M. D., undated, Henry Parker Mexican War pension no. S.C. 5022, RG 15, NARA, Washington, D.C.

92. Hood County, Texas, Index to Probate, Vol. 1, 1875-1936; TSLAC microfilm reel 1034520. Hood County, Texas, Index to Deeds, Vol. 1 & 2, 1856-1901; TSLAC microfilm reel 1034515. Milam County, Texas, Probate Minute Index, 1874-1934; TSLAC microfilm reel 981412.

93. Jacket summary, Elizabeth Parker, widow's pension application no. 16665 (Rejected), Mexican War, RG 15, NARA, Washington, D.C.

Sarah Luse Larimer 1836 –1913
Indian Captive, Photographer, and Business Woman

2012 DGS Writing Contest Third Place Winner

By Loretta L. Evans, AG®

“An aged woman, who had lived in Fort Worth for twenty-two years so quietly that few people knew her, despite the fact that she had acquired property valued at \$300,000 died Saturday noon at her apartments in the Larimer building, 1207 ½ Main Street.”¹ This was a lonely ending to the life of Sarah Luse Larimer, a colorful character in turn-of-the-century Fort Worth. She had survived being captured by Indians. She was a skilled photographer at a time when few women practiced that art. Her efforts had gained her compensation from the Federal Government, and she had invested that money in property which had greatly appreciated in value. At the end of her life, her estate was worth the equivalent of almost seven million dollars in today’s money.²

Etching of Sarah Luse Larimer



From her book *The Capture and Escape; or Life Among the Sioux*, (Philadelphia: Claxton, Remsen, & Haffelfinger, 1870.) Call number E87 .L32., courtesy Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections, University of Wyoming Libraries.

Sarah Luse had been born 24 March 1836 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, to Jonathan Luse and Sarah Elwood.³ On 15 April 1856 she had married William Jackson Larimer in Summer Hill, Jackson, Iowa.⁴ She died 23 August 1913 in Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas⁵, and she was buried in Oakland Cemetery, near Centerville, Appanoose, Iowa.⁶

Sarah grew up on a farm in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, the third of nine children.⁷ On 14 August 1851 – just before her fifteenth birthday, her father died.⁸ Her mother later took the children to Iowa and eventually to Iola, Allen, Kansas.

After their marriage, William and Sarah Larimer apparently lived in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, until sometime in 1859. From there they visited with family in Jackson County, Iowa, and then moved with her family to Iola, Allen, Kansas.⁹ “Sarah operated a photographic gallery in that town before 1864, and it was probably during that period that she also owned Mrs. Larimer’s Gem and Photograph Rooms on Bridge Street in nearby Humboldt, Kansas.”¹⁰

Sarah’s husband, William Larimer, joined the Union army on 1 January 1862, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Company F of the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry. Within a few weeks he caught pneumonia, followed by an attack of rheumatism, and was subsequently given a medical discharge on 28 February 1862.¹¹ William’s health problems continued. His physician felt that mountain air might help him;¹² therefore he and Sarah took their son, Frank Eugene Larimer, age seven, and prepared to move west. If later accounts are to be believed, they brought with them:

Horses; wagons; harness; tools; photographers good and implements, consisting of chloride of gold, nitrate of silver, photographer’s chemicals, cameras, plates, mats, cards, shields, and generally the articles and things necessary to conduct the business of a photographer; stock of jewelry for sale; family jewelry; bedding; wearing apparel; firearms, and money in coin and currency notes, all of the value of \$10,000.00.¹³

The value of their belongings may have been overstated, but apparently both William and Sarah Larimer had been trained as photographers. They hoped to make their living taking pictures of the new settlers in the West. They left Iola, Kansas, on 17 May 1864.¹⁴

The Larimer family started with a large group of emigrants and eventually joined a small wagon train headed by Mr. Josiah Kelly. The group included 4 wagons, 7 men, 2 women, and 2 children.¹⁵ Although they were in a small group, they had not heard of any Indian trouble, and did not feel the need to join a larger wagon train for protection. On 12 July 1864 as they crossed Little Box Elder Creek, 80 miles west of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, they were attacked by Sioux Indians.¹⁶ The men who were not killed outright, fled into the underbrush. Sarah Larimer, Fanny Kelly, and their two children watched as the Indians tore apart the wagons for anything they believed valuable.

Mrs. Kelly described Sarah Larimer's reaction:

Her agitation was extreme. Her grief seemed to have reached its climax when she saw the Indians destroying her property, which consisted principally of such articles as belong to the Daguerrean art. She had indulged in high hopes of fortune from the prosecution of this art among the mining towns of Idaho. As she saw her chemicals, picture cases, and other property pertaining to her calling, being destroyed, she uttered such a wild despairing cry as brought the chief of the band to us, who, with gleaming knife threatened to end all her further troubles in this world.¹⁷

After gathering their booty, the Indians took Sarah; her son, Frank; Fanny Kelly; and Mrs. Kelly's adopted daughter, Mary. The women and children were forced to travel with the Indians into the mountains. Fanny carefully dropped pieces of paper, making a simple trail. Then she told Mary to slip off the horse and follow the paper back to the Oregon Trail. Mary did make it back to the trail, but Indians discovered her before she could be rescued. Her mutilated body was later found pierced with three arrows. Fanny attempted an escape, but was caught and guarded more heavily.¹⁸

The second night after their capture, Sarah and her son slipped away under cover of darkness. Hiding from the Indians and traveling mostly by night, they finally reached the Oregon Trail where they were rescued and taken to Deer Creek Station.¹⁹ In the meantime, Mr. Kelly and his Negro servant, Andy, had made it to a larger wagon train back along the trail. "The next morning, proceeding cautiously along the trail, they found the Indians were gone, buried the mutilated corpses, and rescued Larimer who had hidden all night near the trail."²⁰ William had received an arrow wound in his thigh.²¹

William ended up at Deer Creek Station where he was reunited with his wife and son.²² When Mr. Larimer was well enough to travel, he took his family back to Fort Laramie.²³ Fanny Kelly remained with the Indians and was ransomed five months later at Fort Sully.²⁴

Through the winter, the Larimer family stayed at Fort Laramie. They were able to borrow money to order replacement camera equipment and supplies. It took two months for the equipment to arrive, because of continuing Indian troubles along the overland trail.²⁵ Apparently the Larimers operated a photography business in Fort Laramie during the winter of 1864-65. In a letter from the fort, dated June 30, 1866, Ridgeway Glover said, "There was a Mr. and Mrs. Larimie [*sic*] who used to take a mean style of ambrotypes here, but he died, and she was captured by Indians, and after suffering many hardships, escaped and returned to the States."²⁶ Mr. Glover didn't quite get the story right about William, but his letter shows that people still talked about the Larimer family over a year later.

Fanny Kelly described the Larimer equipment as "belonging to the Daguerrean art." A Daguerreotype is a photograph created on a shiny metal plate. Ridgeway Glover

said the Larimers took ambrotypes. An ambrotype is an early form of photograph created on a piece of glass. Whether the Larimers made Daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, or they used another process at this time is not clear from the records. The terms may have been used to denote any type of photograph.

In the spring of 1865, the Larimer family joined a wagon train protected by cavalry and traveled to Denver, Colorado Territory.²⁷ They opened a photograph studio in Denver, but did not stay long.²⁸ By May 1866 they had moved their studio to Julesburg. At this time the Federal Government required all photographers to purchase a tax stamp license. The value of the license was based on the amount of income the photographer estimated he would earn. William Larimer purchased a \$15 tax stamp license in 1865 in Denver and in May 1866 in Julesburg. He was one of thirteen photographers in Colorado Territory at that time, and the only one who purchased a license in Julesburg.²⁹

Sarah later described Julesburg as a rough town that had sprung up almost overnight when the railroad arrived. She felt that the local government was corrupt. “A grievous tax was levied, and, in many instances, collected by coercion, and a license was required on all business and labor, no exceptions being made in favor of even the few poor laboring women, some of whom, alas! were by this unreasonable taxation, driven to desperation.”³⁰

Apparently the Larimer family moved often in the late 1860s. The transcontinental railroad was moving west, and with it economic opportunity. By 1869 the Larimers were living at Sherman Station, Wyoming, a railroad town 8,243 feet above sea level, which consisted “of some fifteen or twenty buildings, station house, telegraph office, post office and a small engine house.”³¹ A directory listed Mrs. Larmier [*sic*] as a photographer, and W. J. Larmier [*sic*] as a contractor.

John Bratt, a railroad employee, described the family:

At Sherman Station I became well acquainted with Mrs. Larimer and her son, who kept a general store there, bought and sold ties and cord wood, while her husband had a star route mail contract from Point of Rocks north. She was a very bright, good, business woman. She also had a photograph gallery and one day upon my return from the timber she insisted upon taking my picture. Her ambition was to be the mayor of Sherman Station.³²

In the 1870 U.S. census William and Sarah Larimer were living in Anthony’s Sawmill, Sweetwater, Wyoming Territory. Sarah was keeping house, and William was a stage proprietor.³³ Frank Eugene Larimer was not listed with his parents, but a Eugene Larimer, age 13, was living at Point of Rocks, Sweetwater, Wyoming Territory, working as a teamster.³⁴ During this period “Mr. Larimer owned a saloon at Cheyenne, but did not keep it.”³⁵

In 1869 the Luce and Mills Boarding House was located in Laramie City.³⁶

Sarah's mother, Sarah Elwood Luse, had moved to Laramie City and was running a hotel and boarding house. She had re-married in 1856 and now used the surname Mills.³⁷ She was there in the 1870 census as well.³⁸ Sarah Larimer's uncle, Oliver Perry Luse, and her cousin, Wilson Culbertson Luse, visited Laramie City in 1869 or 1870. Oliver later wrote a letter to his sister, Sarah Luse McMillan, about what he had learned. [Original spelling and punctuation retained.]

When they first went to the west on there trip going he was shot at the time and left on the ground for dead. But was taken up By some travelers and Recovered. She was But a Short time a Prisoner. She watched her chance and fled in the night with her little Boy and got Back. There was another woman By the name of Fanny Kelly taken at the same time that was kept a long time But got a way at last. I met her out there too.

Sarah Laramer has a Book now in Print giving the whole of her narrative. It is a splendid Book. If you wite to her at Laramie Citty, She will Send you one I in tend to Send and get 2 or 3 chosen to Sell for her they Live there.³⁹

After being released from the Indians, Mrs. Kelly and her husband

. . . returned to Geneva [Kansas] then moved on west to Ellsworth where they operated a rooming house until Mr. Kelly fell a victim of the cholera, on July 28, 1867. Mrs. Kelly was also seriously ill, but recovered and eventually accepted an invitation of the Larimer family to share the home in Cheyenne where Mr. Larimer was a photographer.⁴⁰

Whether the Larimer family lived in Cheyenne, Sherman Station, or Laramie City is not clear from these records. However, after her husband's death, Mrs. Fanny Kelly lived with the Larimer family for a time in the late 1860s. John Bratt mentioned that he had met Fanny Kelly at Sherman Station. "Mrs. Kelly never recovered from the shock and ill treatment she received while with the Indians. She made a fair living washing the clothes of our tie and wood choppers."⁴¹ Oliver Perry Luse indicated in his letter that he had met Fanny Kelly in Laramie City.

It appears that during this time Fanny and Sarah worked together on the manuscript of a book about their experiences as Indian captives. *The Capture and Escape; or Life Among the Sioux* by Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer was published with an 1870 copyright.⁴² In the book Sarah's experiences during her two-day captivity took up only a small section. The rest of the volume contained accounts of other Indian depredations which Sarah had collected.

In Oct 1870 Mrs. Kelly sued Sarah and William Larimer in district court in Allen County, Kansas. She claimed that:

In December, 1865, she and Mrs. Larimer agreed to prepare a joint memoir of their experiences in captivity and publish the same with the names of both appearing as the authors. She stated that in May, 1869, when the narrative was nearly completed, Mrs. Larimer secretly took the manuscript to Philadelphia and there had it published in her

own name, as her own work, thereby depriving Mrs. Kelly of the credit and reputation of such authorship and of her share of the profits.⁴³

Mrs. Kelly was awarded damages, but the Larimers appealed repeatedly. In 1875 a judge ordered the sale of an 80 acre parcel of land owned by William Larimer and the proceeds be given to Fanny Kelley [*sic*]. The land had been appraised at \$200.⁴⁴ It appears that William Larimer did not hold clear title to the land. In the end Fanny Kelly may have only received \$50 from its sale.⁴⁵ Finally the case was settled out of court on 29 August 1876.⁴⁶

SHERIFF'S SALE.

STATE OF KANSAS, }
COUNTY OF ALLEN. } SS.

In the 7th Judicial District Court within and
for Woodson county, Kansas.

Fanny Kelley, Plaintiff, }
vs. }
William J. Larimer, Defendant. }

BY virtue of an order of sale to me directed and
issued out of the 7th Judicial District Court
in and for Woodson county, Kansas, in the above
entitled cause, I will on
Tuesday, April 27th, A. D., 1875,
at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the front door
of the court house of Allen county, in the city of
Iola, Kansas, offer for sale at public auction to
the highest and best bidder for cash in hand the
following described lands and tenements, to-wit:
The east half of the north-west quarter of sec-
tion one (1) in township twenty-five (25) of range
eighteen (18) in Allen county, Kansas, appraised
at two hundred dollars.

Said lands and tenements have been levied upon
as the property of the above named defendant
William J. Larimer and will be sold to satisfy
said order of sale.

Sheriff's Office, Iola, March 23rd, 1875.
J. L. WOODIN,
13-5 Sheriff, Allen county, Kansas.

The Iola Register (Iola, Kansas) 27 March 1875, digital image Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Digital Newspaper Program (<http://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126> : 14 Sep 2012), citing original p. 3, col. 4. Identical advertisements also appeared on 3 April 1875 (p. 4, col. 7), 10 April 1875 (p. 3, col. 5), 17 April 1875 (p. 2 col. 5), and 24 April 1875 (p. 4, col. 7).

At the end of Sarah's book, she said that Fanny Kelly "remained with those Indians four months, suffering all the privations and hardships of a white slave with a roving band of hostile savages."⁴⁷ She then explained that Mrs. Kelly's story will be told in an additional book titled *Mrs. Kelley's Experiences among the Indians*.⁴⁸ Because of the court case, it appears that this volume may have been printed but never bound. The copies were apparently destroyed.⁴⁹ Fanny wrote her own book, describing the ordeal. *Narrative of my Captivity among the Sioux Indians, By Fanny Kelly. With a Brief Account of*

General Sully's Indian Expedition in 1864, Bearing upon Events Occurring in my Captivity was published in 1871.⁵⁰

Mrs. Kelly applied to the Federal Government for redress. Congress awarded her ten thousand dollars for loss of property and five thousand for the valuable information she gave the military on the location and movements of the Indians. The bills were dated 1870 and 1872.⁵¹ Mr. and Mrs. Larimer had submitted a claim to Congress in October 1867. They claimed they had \$10,000 worth of supplies, cash, and jewelry with them in their wagon when the Indians attacked. Only the jacket remains in the file today, plus a receipt for the documents given to their lawyers on 3 Mar 1870 and a letter asking about the documents dated 15 Apr 1874. Apparently their lawyers had taken the papers they had submitted, hoping to collect more testimony. One lawyer had died, and the original files were lost.⁵²

By this time, the Larimer family had moved back to Kansas. Perhaps as a result of all their legal concerns, William Larimer became a lawyer.⁵³ He passed the bar and became Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Allen County, Kansas.⁵⁴ Sarah had also received significant legal experience. Years later, when she applied for a Civil War widow's pension, she served as her own lawyer.⁵⁵ Their son, Frank, studied law as well.⁵⁶

Their marriage was not going well. Sarah and William separated but did not file for divorce. Probably in the fall of 1877, William left Allen County, Kansas, and moved to Lead, Lawrence, Dakota Territory. He was admitted to the bar "upon certificate from the district court of Allen county, Ks" in Lawrence County, Dakota Territory on 10 Oct 1877.⁵⁷ Sarah continued her photography business. In September of 1878 *The Iola Register (Iola, Kansas)* reported on a local fair, saying "Mrs. Larimer's photographs were nice."⁵⁸

In the 1880 census, William J. Larimer was listed as an attorney at law living in Lead City, Lawrence, Dakota Territory.⁵⁹ Sarah and her son, Frank, were living in Humboldt, Allen, Kansas. Sarah was working as a photograph artist. Frank was 22 years old and working as an attorney. Sarah claimed to be 36 years old, although she was really 44.⁶⁰

William became a judge in Lead. The job was not without its risks. In January of 1881, he was assaulted in court:

The new justice at Lead has opened court and has had business. A woman who came before his honor and did not, as she supposed, get a square deal, inquired if court was in session and what it would cost for a simple case of assault. Being informed that court was in session and that the assault would cost five dollars, she plunked down the required sum and proceeded with the help of an inkstand, to wreak vengeance on his honor. The judge was taken by surprise, and before the woman could be stopped in the war-like attack he received quite a severe cut on the head. This is a pretty lively initiation for Lead's new justice.⁶¹

The injuries, although painful, were not life-threatening. The next day's newspaper had this notice. "Judge Larimer, the victim of the belligerent amazon, is getting along as well as could be expected under the circumstances."⁶²

In 1883 William applied for an invalid pension as a result of his two month Civil War service. He collected affidavits from a number of people testifying that he was healthy before the war and sick when he returned. Some of the documents described his hands curling, as if he had rheumatoid arthritis. He also suffered from severe lung problems. Eventually he was granted a monthly pension.⁶³ Although William had health problems, he was able to continue his law practice and his real estate investments. Congress had established the criteria for a pension as to whether a man could perform manual labor. For men who farmed or otherwise made their living with physical labor, this was a reasonable standard. Some men, who were educated like William Larimer, could likely continue their professions, although they could no longer perform manual labor.

William was not poor. In September of 1885 he drove his new two-horse buggy through Deadwood and made quite a stir. "The first and only tandem ever driven in the Hills passed through the city to Lead, yesterday. Judge Larimer held the ribbons and cracked the whip."⁶⁴ On another page it said, "Judge Larimer returned to Lead, yesterday from his ranch, driving a 'double header' in 'get thar' style."⁶⁵

Sarah pursued a petition to Congress. As one archivist put it, "Sarah Larimer kept the House busy."⁶⁶ She not only asked Congress to replace the \$10,000 worth of supplies that she claimed were destroyed by the Indians. She also wanted \$5,000 for the valuable information she gave the military when she returned.

In the first session of the 49th Congress in 1886 her bill was House Bill HR 6051. It was also known as HR 9124. It did not pass.⁶⁷ In the 50th Congress' first session HR bill 777 passed the House.⁶⁸ When the bill was sent to the Senate (S. 2563), it agreed to pay Sarah \$5,000 for her valuable information, but refused to pay compensation for the items destroyed by the Indians. Its reasoning was that the property really belonged to her husband. Since she and her husband were no longer living together, she should not be given the funds for his losses.⁶⁹ It became law without the President's signature 16 Oct 1888.⁷⁰ The compensation was to be paid with money that had been appropriated for the Sioux Nation.⁷¹

This gave Sarah some of the money she wanted, but she was not satisfied. She and William agreed to cooperate in order to get the \$10,000 that they claimed had been destroyed by Indians. They stated that because of inflation the value of their property had grown to \$10,560. They filed suit in the U. S. Court of Claims on 6 May 1891, Indian Depredation case no. 1275.⁷²

Although \$10,000 was a lot of money at that time, it was not an unusually large claim. On 1 June 1892 the *Omaha (Nebraska) World Herald* published an article

stating that General L. W. Colby, assistant United States attorney general, was taking depositions for pending Indian depredation claims. The first mentioned was the case of William and Sarah Larimer of Lincoln, Nebraska. The other claims he was investigating were:

- A. C. Layton who claimed a loss of \$20,000 “caused by the stealing of freight-ing outfits, killing of mules, horses, etc.”⁷³
- Henry I Clarke for “\$9,000 for losses from similar causes.”⁷⁴
- Mrs. Amanda M. Fletcher Cook of Davenport, Iowa, who had “a large num-ber of bank of England notes and gold, the whole amounting to about 20,000 pounds. The Indians confiscated the gold, but the bank notes were of no value to them and they scattered them broadcast over the prairie. Mrs. Cook’s claim is for \$106,000.”⁷⁵

By 1892 William Larimer was living in Butte County, South Dakota. His legal practice had expanded. He described the offices he had held in a deposition signed 3 November 1892.

I was Prosecuting, or States Attorney, as we call it in South Dakota, in Butte County, as elected and served one term; was reelected and served about one year. When I resigned that office, I accepted the Office of County Judge of that county, through the appointment of the governor, and served that term of about one year. That was when County Courts were first Organized, and South Dakota became a state.⁷⁶

William had moved to Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma Territory, near the end of his life. His financial situation is not completely known. On 7 Oct 1893 a notice appeared in the Deadwood, Lawrence, South Dakota, *Black Hills Daily Times*. William’s name was listed as one of sixty-seven people whose property was scheduled to be sold if the back taxes were not paid.⁷⁷ This was not the first time, because similar advertisements had appeared on 8 Sep 1883 and on 5 Sep 1885.⁷⁸ Before the Indian depredation case could be settled, William died of consumption on 23 December 1895 at the Oil Cure Sanatorium in Little Rock, Arkansas.⁷⁹

Sarah submitted William’s will to the Court of Claims, showing that she was named executrix of his estate.⁸⁰ She hoped to prove that any benefits from the lawsuit should come to her. Her only son had died in 1891 without descendants,⁸¹ so except for William’s brothers and sisters, she was his only heir. His siblings were provided for in the will with small cash inheritances. In the end, the court ruled that the value of their property was inflated, because many of the items were not new. Sarah was granted half of what she had asked, \$5,280, minus the lawyer’s fee.⁸²

The story of Sarah Larimer’s capture by Indians and the large sums granted to her by Congress and the Court of Appeals captured the public’s fancy. Articles describing her experiences, appeared from 1899 to 1901 in newspapers throughout

the nation. Locations such as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Columbus, Georgia; San Jose, California;⁸³ Fairplay, Colorado;⁸⁴ Omaha, Nebraska;⁸⁵ and Boise, Idaho,⁸⁶ each published accounts. Headlines such as: “Soldiers Saved by a Woman, Sarah L. Larimer, While Captive with Her Baby, Learned the Plans of the Reds,” and “Kidnapped by the Indians, Thrilling Story of a Woman’s Capture and Escape, Mrs. Larimer the Heroine” were designed to sell newspapers. Not all details were accurate. (Frank was not a baby at the time.) However, the story was compelling.

William had property throughout the West. His will mentioned real estate in South Dakota:

... including three hundred and twenty acres of land known as my hay ranch. And including my interest in a mining claim known as the Red Jacket Mine, in the Black Hills, and also including all the town lots I am possessed of in the town of Lead in South Dakota with the improvements thereon also including all the town lots in the town of Minnesela in the State of South Dakota with all the improvements thereon. ... [and] all my property real and personal in the town of Enid, in the Territory of Oklahoma.⁸⁷

After his death, Sarah applied for a widow’s pension for William’s Civil War service. She claimed that the reason they lived separately was because William needed mountain air for his asthma. After submitting extensive documentation, she was granted a pension of \$15 a month.⁸⁸

Sarah did not remain in Kansas. When the Treasury Department paid her \$5,000 for valuable information, Sarah was living in Tacoma, Washington Territory.⁸⁹ In 1889 when her mother died, she was living in Albuquerque, New Mexico.⁹⁰ When she wrote her will 23 Sep 1891, she was living in Lincoln, Lancaster, Nebraska.⁹¹ Sarah may have lived for a time in Cisco, Eastland, Texas. Her brothers Richard and Jonathan lived there at the time. In July and October 1891 two land transactions were recorded in Eastland County, Texas, where Sarah Larimer was listed as a resident of that county.⁹² Another Eastland County deed from 1930 stated “Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer moved away from Cisco more than 30 years ago.”⁹³

In 1891 when William and Sarah brought their case before the U. S. Court of Claims, they said they both lived in Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota. William lived there, but there is no evidence that Sarah was a resident.⁹⁴ In 1896 when Sarah applied for a widow’s pension after William’s death, her place of residence was listed as Little Rock, Arkansas.⁹⁵

While her Indian depredation case was active, Sarah made a number of trips to Washington, D.C.⁹⁶ She may have lived there for a time.⁹⁷ Sarah Larimer may have learned enough about dealing with the Federal Government that she worked in behalf of others. A newspaper interview with her niece, Claudia Albright, after Sarah’s death stated:

Some years later she went to Washington and was licensed as a regular pension lawyer. She was the only woman who ever gained that distinction. It was through her the relatives of all those killed in the Indian massacre were paid their claims by the government. It was then she collected her own \$5,000.⁹⁸

Many other items in this newspaper article are overstated, and no evidence has been found that Sarah Larimer worked as a lawyer, except in her own behalf when she applied for a widow's pension.

Sarah had moved to Ft. Worth, Tarrant, Texas, by 1901. She was working as a photographer at 1209 Main Street and living above.⁹⁹ In the 1910 census two of her nephews lived with her. They were William and Alwyn Luse, sons of her brother, Richard Gilmer Luse.¹⁰⁰ Sarah joined a literary society and contributed to *The Bohemian*, its literary journal.¹⁰¹

The name "S. L. Larimer" appeared regularly in Fort Worth newspapers. Most articles involved advertisements for rental property. However, many also told of land transactions or legal battles over real estate.¹⁰² It appears that she was a shrewd business woman who was not afraid of law suits. In the 1910 Property Tax Rolls for Tarrant County, Texas, Mrs. S. L. Larimer was assessed for seven pieces of property, valued at \$86,750. Her tax was \$469.26.¹⁰³ By contrast, Sarah's brother, Richard Gilmer Luse, owned 7 ½ acres, a horse, and a cow, worth a total of \$4,080. His total taxes for 1910 came to \$23.78.¹⁰⁴

Sarah died at her home of heart failure on 23 Aug 1913 in Ft. Worth, Tarrant, Texas.¹⁰⁵ She was buried next to her husband and son in Oakland Cemetery, Vermillion Twp., Appanoose, Iowa.¹⁰⁶ Because Sarah Larimer died without any direct descendants, her will stated that her estate was to be divided between her brothers and sisters. Some of her siblings had died, so their descendants all were given a share. Her probate packet in Tarrant County, Texas, is 257 pages long.¹⁰⁷ A newspaper article, published a few months after Sarah Larimer's death showed a photograph of four generations of family members who might inherit from her estate. The oldest was Sarah's brother, J. E. Luse, 70 years old, and the youngest was her great-grandnephew, Harry M. Price, age 4 months.¹⁰⁸

The estate was finally settled near the end of 1915. The assets were divided into 75 shares. Sarah's brothers, Jonathan E. Luse, James W. Luse, and Richard G. Luse, each received 10 shares. Her half-sister, Nettie Mills Albright received 5 shares. Each of her deceased siblings would have received 10 shares each. Their surviving children divided their parent's portions. Viola Webster Price and Arthur J. Webster, children of Gertrude Maria Luse Webster got 5 shares each. Jonathan Gus Gilbert, son of Hannah Marilla Luse Gilbert and Lorenza D. Green, her grandson, received 5 shares each. The children of David O. Luse got 2 shares each. They were: Osa Luse Pancoast, Ney B. Luse, Harry B. Luse, Ruth Luse Higby, and David O. Luse Jr. Claudia Albright, only daughter of Francis Emma Luse Albright, received her mother's 10 shares.¹⁰⁹

Through her determination Sarah Luse Larimer escaped from her Indian captors. That drive and her skill at photography allowed her to provide for herself and her son when she and her husband separated. She was not afraid to take on the Federal Government when she felt her cause was justified. A shrewd sense of business helped her to amass a fortune in a day when most women worked at home and owned no real property.

Author Biography

Loretta Evans, AGSM, is a freelance writer and lecturer with over 30 years of genealogical experience. Accredited in Midwestern United States research, she is a graduate of the National Institute on Genealogical Research in Washington, DC, and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Her writings have appeared in a number of magazines, including *Crossroads*, *Ancestry*, *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, *Heritage Quest*, *The Genealogical Journal*, and *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families*. Loretta has served as a Commissioner and as Public Relations Committee Chairman for the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists.

ENDNOTES

1. "Woman Worth \$300,000 Dies in Lonely Apartment Here," *Fort Worth (Texas) Star – Telegram* 24 Aug 1913; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/>: 25 Aug 2012), citing p. 11, col. 3-4.
2. \$300,000 in 1913 would be valued at \$6,942,545.45 in 2012 dollars. US Department of Labor *CPI Inflation Calculator*, Digital Calculator (<http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>: 23 Aug 2012.)
3. Martha McCourt, et. al., *The American Descendants of Henry Luce of Martha's Vineyard* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Soc., 1995), 475, 913. Note: Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbourn, *Pioneer Photographers from the Mississippi to the Continental Divide: a Biographical Dictionary 1839-1865*, (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2005), 384, incorrectly lists Sarah Luse Larimer's parents as Morgan Jones Luse and Sarah Wright Luse. This information was based on the Ancestral File where two women named Sarah Luse had been incorrectly combined. In FamilySearch Family Trees, Sarah Luse Larimer has PID # LH7G-57Y.
4. "Jackson County, Iowa, Marriage Records 1847-1865," p. 130, Larimer, Luse, 1856; FHL microfilm 1,492,127, item 1. Also "Iowa, Marriages, 1809-1992," index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XJPW-85T>: 25 Aug 2012), William J. Larimer and Sarah L. Luce, 15 Apr 1856. Also Affidavit by James William Luse, brother of Sarah Luse Larimer, 12 Sep 1896, Sarah L. Larimer, widow's pension application no. 629.304, certificate no. 438.997; service of William J. Larimer (Lt., Co. K, 8th Kansas Infantry, Civil War); Case Files of Approved Pension Applications ..., 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C. He attended the wedding and said it took place at his uncle's home near Summer Hill, Jackson, Iowa.
5. "Woman Worth \$300,000 Dies in Lonely Apartment Here," p. 11, col. 3-4.
6. Oakland Cemetery (Vermillion Township, Appanoose County, Iowa, off East State Street near Centerville); Large stone containing inscriptions for Wm. J. Larimer, Sarah Luse Larimer, and Frank E. Larimer; section 6, row 14; photograph taken 2005 by Gary Craver, Centerville, Iowa.
7. The entire family appeared together in the 1850 census, except for Thomas who died young and Frances Emma who was born after her father's death. 1850 U.S. census, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, p. 403 (stamped), dwelling 2169, family 2210, Jonathan Luce family; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 25 Aug 2012); citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 796. Also Stephenson Cemetery (Salem Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania,) Thomas Luse headstone, personally read by author, July 1995. Also Loretta Barker DeSantis and Sally Glaser Dufford, comp., *Mercer County Cemetery Inscriptions* (Sharon, Pennsylvania: Mercer County Genealogical Society, 1981), vol. 10, p. 153. Also McCourt, et. al., *The American Descendants of Henry Luce*, 475, 913-14.

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8. Mercer County, Pennsylvania, Jonathan Luce Est. no. 1698 O.S. (1851), petition by William J. and Sarah Luse Larimer, 21 Aug 1857; Register of Wills, Mercer County Courthouse, Mercer, Pennsylvania. This petition states that Jonathan Luce died on or about 14 Aug 1851. Also Stephenson Cemetery (Salem Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania), Jonathan Luce headstone, personally read by author, July 1995. Also DeSantis and Dufford, Mercer County Cemetery Inscriptions, vol. 10, p. 153.

9. Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape; or Life Among the Sioux* (Philadelphia:Claxton, Remsen, & Haffelfinger, 1870), 15-16.

10. Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbourn, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West, a Biographical Dictionary 1840-1865* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2000), 358. The author had in his collection a *carte de visite* with "Mrs. Larimer's Gem and Photograph Rooms, Bridge St., Humboldt, Kas." printed on reverse.

11. William Jackson Larimer (2nd Lieu., Co. K, 8th Kansas Infantry, Civil War), pension application no. 474.132, certificate no.292.724, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications ..., 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

12. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*, 16.

13. Original petition, filed by J. M. Vale, Attorney for Claimants, 6 May 1891; William Larimer and Sarah Larimer, (Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota), claim #1275, Records of U. S. Court of Claims, Record Group 123, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

14. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*, 16.

15. Maurine Carley, "Oregon Trail Trek No. Three," *Annals of Wyoming* 28 (October 1956): 169.

16. Robert L. Munkress "Wives, Mothers, Daughters: Women's Life on the Road West," *Annals of Wyoming*. 42 (October 1970): 214.

17. Fanny Kelly, *Narrative of my Captivity among the Sioux Indians, By Fanny Kelly. With a Brief Account of General Sully's Indian Expedition in 1864, Bearing upon Events Occurring in my Captivity* (Philadelphia: Quaker City Publishing House, 1871), 38.

18. W. W. Morrison, "Story of Little Mary Kelly," *Annals of Wyoming*. 43 (October 1971): 272-75.

19. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*. 52.

20. Alan W. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*. (winter 1954): 249.

21. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*. 52.

22. Carley, "Oregon Trail Trek No. Three," 171. Also T. A. Larson, ed. "Across the Plains in 1864 with George Forman," *Annals of Wyoming*. 40 (April 1968): 19-20.

23. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 250.

24. Kelly, *Narrative of my Captivity...* 210.

25. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*.127-128.

26. Ridgeway Glover, "Photography Among the Indians" *The Philadelphia Photographer*, August 1866, 239. Although Mr. Glover's letter was lacking in accuracy, it does indicate that Sarah and William Larimer had taken photographs at Fort Laramie.

27. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*, 249-51.

28. *Ibid.*, 251.

29. Ross J. Kelbaugh, *Directory of Civil War Photographers*, vol.3: *Western States and Territories*, 2d ed. (Baltimore:Historic Graphics 1992), 3:13.

30. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*, 26. In Chapter 2 of her book, Sarah describes visiting Julesburg on her way to Wyoming, but the description fits Julesburg in 1867, not 1864.

31. C. Exera Brown, *Brown's Gazetteer of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway and Branches and of the Union Pacific Rail Road, a Guide and Business Directory Complete in one Volume ...* (Chicago: Bassett Brothers' Steam Printing House, 1869), 313.

32. John Bratt, *Trails of Yesterday*, (1921; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1980), 156.

33. 1870 U.S. census, Sweetwater County, Wyoming, population schedule, Atlantic City Post Office, p. 455 (stamped), family 4, William J. and Sarah Larimer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 25 Aug 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1748. Note: the digital image does not show the dwelling numbers on this page.

34. 1870 U.S. census, Sweetwater County, Wyoming, population schedule, Point of Rocks UPRR Post Office, p. 487 (stamped), family 5, Eugene Larimer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 25

Aug 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1748. No dwelling number appears on the digital image.

35. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 255.

36. Brown, *Brown's Gazetteer of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway*, 315. Note that Laramie City was not Fort Laramie. Fort Laramie was on the old Oregon Trail, and Laramie City was on the new transcontinental railroad.

37. "Jackson County, Iowa, Marriage Records 1847-1865," p. 119 Mills, Luse, 1856; FHL microfilm 1,492,127, item 1. Also "Iowa, Marriages, 1809-1992," index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XJPW-8MS>: 25 Aug 2012), James H. Mills and Sarah Snee, [sic] 11 Nov 1856. The bride's name has been incorrectly extracted. "Snee" should read "Luse." Apparently James Mills did not come to Wyoming. In the Iola City Cemetery is a James Harvey Mills who died 13 Oct 1861, age 32 years 6 days. If the headstone has been misread and he was really 52 years old when he died, he could easily have been the spouse of Sarah Elwood. Lucile Winter and Frances Hill, comp, *Cemeteries of Allen County Kansas: except Highland & Mt. Hope* (Iola, Kansas: East Central Kansas Genealogical Society, n.d.), 147.

38. 1870 U.S. census, Albany County, Wyoming, population schedule, Laramie City Post Office, p. 20 (penned), dwelling 140, family 134, Sarah Mills family; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 25 Aug 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1748.

39. O. P. Luse (Missouri) to "Dear Sister & Brother" [Sarah Luce McMillan & John Puro McMillan Jr. of Cleveland, Ohio], letter, 9 September 1870; privately held by David J. Kerr, Woodland Park, Colorado, 2000. Photocopy in possession of author.

40. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 253.

41. Bratt, *Trails of Yesterday*, 156.

42. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*.

43. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 254.

44. *The Iola Register* (Iola, Kansas) 27 March 1875, digital image Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Digital Newspaper Program (<http://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126> : 14 Sep 2012), citing original p. 3, col. 4. Identical advertisements also appeared on 3 April 1875 (p. 4, col. 7), 10 April 1875 (p. 3, col. 5), 17 April 1875 (p. 2, col. 5), and 24 April 1875 (p. 4, col. 7).

45. Allen County, Kansas, Deed Book M: 36; Deed Book O : 338; Deed Book O : 339, Wm. J Larimer and Sarah L. Larimer to L. W. Keplinger dated 16 Aug 1876; and Deed Book Y : 185, Fanny Kelly (a widow) of District of Columbia to L. W. Keplinger for the sum of \$50, dated 18 Apr 1878; Register of Deeds Office, Iola, Kansas.

46. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 254.

47. Larimer, *The Capture and Escape*, 252.

48. *Ibid.*

49. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 254-55.

50. Kelly, *Narrative of my Captivity...*

51. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 253. Also *U. S. Congress, U.S. Serial Set*. 41st Cong., 3rd sess. (1871), vol. no. 1443, "In the Senate of the United States. February 7, 1871. -- Ordered to be printed. Mr. Buckingham made the following report," (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1871); digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 5 Sep 2012), citing original Senate Report 348 to accompany bill S. 1315. Also *U. S. Congress, U. S. Serial Set*, 42nd Cong., 2nd sess. (1872), vol. no. 1483, "In the Senate of the United States. March 22, 1872. -- Ordered to be printed. Mr. Buckingham made the following report" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1872); digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 5 Sep 2012), citing original Senate Report 79 to accompany bill S. 13. Also *U. S. Congress, U. S. Serial Set*, vol. no. 1651, "An account of the receipts and expenditures of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1875) digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 5 Sep 2012), citing original H.Exec. Doc. 179, p. 245. This states that Fanny Kelly was given \$10,000. Her bills were: Forty First Congress, Session 2, HR 666, approved 12 Apr 1870, and Forty Second Congress, Session 2, S 13, approved 5 Jun 1872.

52. *U. S. Congress, U. S. Serial Set*, vol. no. 1945, "List of private claims brought before the Senate of the United States from the commencement of the Fourteenth Congress to the close of the Forty-sixth Congress. Prepared, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to the orders of the Senate of April 9, 1840; February 27, 1841; February 8, 1849; March 3, 1855; and March 16, 1866; the act of July 20, 1868,

making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the year ending June 30, 1869; and the resolution of the Senate of June 16, 1880. December 21, 1880. Ordered to be printed. In two volumes. Volume 1" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880); digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 5 Sep 2012), citing original S.Misc.Doc. 14 vol. 1, p. 1036. This says that William J. Larimer made a petition to 41st Congress, 2nd Session, for compensation for property taken by Indians, but the petition was withdrawn.

53. Farley, "An Indian Captivity and Its Legal Aftermath," 256.

54. Written testimony of William Larimer, 3 Nov 1892; William Larimer and Sarah Larimer (Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota), claim #1275, Records of U. S. Court of Claims, RG 123, NA-Washington.

55. Declaration for Pension of a Widow, 3 Feb 1896, Sarah L. Larimer, widow's pension application no. 629.304, certificate no. 438.997, RG 15, NA-Washington. "Claimant becomes her own attorney to prosecute her claims."

56. 1880 U. S. census, Allen County, Kansas, population schedule, Humboldt, ED 7, p. 77 D (stamped), p. 24 (penned), dwelling 215, family 241, Frank E. Larimer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 25 Aug 2012); citing National Archives micro publication T9, roll 372. Frank said he was an Attorney at Law.

57. "District Court," *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, Dakota Territory)* 11 Oct 1877, p. 1, col. 2.

58. "Fair Notes," *The Iola Register (Iola, Kansas)* 21 Sep 1878, digital image *Chronicling America* (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>: 14 Sep 2012) citing original p. 3, col 4.

59. 1880 U. S. Census, Lawrence County, Dakota Territory, population schedule, Lead City, ED 117, page 199 A (stamped), dwelling 217, family 218; William J. Larimer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 25 Aug 2012); citing National Archives micro publication T9, roll 113.

60. 1880 U. S. census, Allen Co., Kansas, pop. Sch., Humboldt, ED 7, p. 77 D (stamped), dwell. 215, fam. 241, Sarah L. and Frank E. Larimer.

61. "Up Gulch Items," *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, Dakota Territory)*, 5 Jan 1881, p. 4, col. 5.

62. Ibid.

63. William Jackson Larimer Civil War pension application no. 474.132, certificate no 292.724, RG 15, NA-Washington.

64. *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, Dakota Territory)*, 5 Jan 1881, p. 3, col. 2.

65. "Up Gulch Items," *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, Dakota Territory)*, 1 Sep 1885, p. 4, col. 2.

66. Archivist Kristen Wilhem, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives, Washington, D.C., to author, letter 25 Sep 2003.

67. U. S. Congress, *U. S. Serial Set*, 49th cong., 1st sess. (1886), vol. no. 2440, "Sarah L. Larimer. April 6, 1886 – Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1886); digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> :16 Apr 2007), citing original House Report 1546 to accompany bill H.R. 6051. Also U. S. Congress, *U. S. Serial Set*, 49th cong., 1st sess. (1886), vol. no. 2443, "Sarah L. Larimer. June 2, 1886 – Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1886); digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 16 Apr 2007), citing original House Report 2700 to accompany bill H.R. 9124.

68. U. S. Congress, *U. S. Serial Set*, 50th cong., 1st sess. (1888), vol. no. 2601, "Sarah L. Larimer. March 13, 1888 – Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1888); House Report 1131 to accompany bill H.R. 777.

69. U. S. Congress, *U. S. Serial Set*, 50th cong., 1st sess. (1888), vol. no. 2524, "In the Senate of the United States, June 14, 1888 – Ordered to be printed" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1888); Senate Report 1591 to accompany bill S. 2563.

70. James Kerr, *Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims in the House of Representatives from 47th to 51st Congress ...* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1896), pp. 412-413. Also *The Statutes at Large of the United States of America, from December, 1887 to March, 1889, ...* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889) vol. XXV, p.1211, CHAP. 1161.

71. *The Statutes at Large of the United States of America, from December, 1887 to March, 1889, ...* vol. XXV, p.1211, CHAP. 1161. "The said sum to be paid out of any funds due to said Indians if there be any available for such purpose and if there be none, then out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated."

72. William Larimer and Sarah Larimer (Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota), claim #1275, Records of U. S. Court of Claims, RG 123, NA-Washington.

73. "General Colby's Mission, Stories of Territorial Adventure Brought out in Indian Raid Claims," *Omaha World Herald*, 1 Jun 1892, digital image *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 2 Sep 2012), citing original p. 8.
74. "General Colby's Mission, Stories of Territorial Adventure Brought out in Indian Raid Claims," p. 8.
75. *Ibid.*
76. Written testimony of William Larimer, 3 Nov 1892; William Larimer and Sarah Larimer (Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota), claim #1275, Records of U. S. Court of Claims, RG 123, NA-Washington.
77. *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, South Dakota)*, 7 Oct 1893, p. 9 cols. 6-7.
78. *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, Dakota Territory)*, Sep 08 1883, p. 4, col. 2 and *Black Hills Daily Times (Deadwood, Dakota Territory)*, Sept 5, 1885, p. 2, col. 1.
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80. Last Will and Testament of William J. Larimer, 18 Dec 1895; William Larimer and Sarah Larimer (Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota), claim #1275, Records of U. S. Court of Claims, RG 123, NA-Washington.
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83. "Kidnapped by the Indians, Thrilling Story of a Woman's Capture and Escape, Mrs. Larimer the Heroine," *The Columbus (Georgia) Enquirer* – Sun, 3 June 1899, digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 21 December 2007), citing original p. 7. Note: this article quotes the *Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Times* and a similar article was published in *The Evening News (San Jose, California)* on 12 July 1899, digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/> : 21 December 2007), citing original p. 7.
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92. Eastland County, Texas, Land Records, Book V, pp. 25-26 and Book 32, pp. 35-36; Eastland County Clerk's Office, Cisco, Texas.
93. Eastland County, Texas, Land Records, Book 315, p. 464; Eastland County Clerk's Office, Cisco, Texas.

Sarah Luse Larimer 1836-1913

94. William Larimer and Sarah Larimer (Minnesela, Butte, South Dakota), claim #1275, Records of U. S. Court of Claims, RG 123, NA-Washington.

95. Declaration for Pension of a Widow, 3 Feb 1896, Sarah L. Larimer, widow's pension application no. 629.304, certificate no. 438.997, RG 15, NA-Washington.

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99. *Directory of the City of Fort Worth, 1901-1902*, (Dallas: Morrison and Fourmy Directory Co., 1901-1902), 193. She appeared in Ft. Worth directories from 1901-1902 through the 1912-1913 editions. She never purchased an ad, but she was often listed under photographers as well as in the main directory.

100. 1910 U. S. Census, Tarrant County, Texas, population schedule, 3rd Ward Ft. Worth, p. 130 A (stamped), ED 103, sheet 11 (penned), dwelling 207, family 231, William & Alwynn Luse & Sarah Larimer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 10 Sep 2012); National Archives micropublication T624, roll 1590.

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103. "Assessment of Property in Tarrant County Owned by Residents and Rendered for Taxation by the Owners or Agents Thereof for the Year 1910," p. 226; *Tarrant County Tax Rolls 1850-1910*, reel 10, 1909-1910, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston, Texas.

104. *Ibid.*, 238.

105. Letter from R. G. Luse to Mr. Gary O. Taylor, Washington, D.C., 5 Nov 1913, reporting Sarah L. Larimer's death 23 Aug 1913 and returning the pension check; Sarah L. Larimer, widow's pension application no. 629.304, certificate no. 438.997, RG 15, NA-Washington.

106. *Appanoose County, Iowa, Cemeteries*, 69; Oakland Cemetery, Section 6, Row 14.

107. Tarrant Co., Texas, probate case file, no. 19130004187.

108. "Four Generations of Luse Family Living; Oldest 70, Youngest 4 Months," *Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram*, 16 November 1913, digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/>: 21 December 2007), citing original p. 13.

109. Tarrant Co., Texas, probate case file, no. 19130004187.

**Chronology of Land Lot 128, District 20,
Baldwin (Morgan) County, Georgia
And How It Led to Polly Ware's Maiden Name**

2012 DGS Writing Contest Third Place Winner

by Barbara A. Ware, Ph.D.

Finding a female ancestor's maiden name can be problematic in the South during the early 1800s, especially when there is no will or probate record matching the woman with her father. Turning to deed, tax, and marriage records may assist the genealogist in finding her name or in being led astray.

On 29 Jul 1837 William Jackson deeded 150 acres of Lot 94, District 20, Stewart County, Georgia to Polly Ware, consort of John Ware, "for and in consideration of the paternal love and affection, which he hath and beareth unto the said Polly Ware."¹ In 1848, he granted additional acreage from Lot 94 to John Ware, "for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which [he] have and bear to the said John Ware," but which John Ware is to control only "after the death of said William Jackson and his wife Nancy Jackson."² Based on these Stewart County, Georgia deeds, family researchers have believed that Polly Ware was born Mary (Polly) Jackson.³ But, was she?

According to the 1850 Stewart County, Georgia, census, Mary (Polly) Ware was born about 1797 in Georgia; and her husband, John, was born around 1792 in North Carolina.⁴ Enumerated near them on the 1850 Stewart County, Georgia census are William and Nancy Jackson in whose household are Isaac Parker, his wife and children.⁵ Just above them, with a family of his own, is William Ware, John and Mary Ware's oldest son, who was born in 1814.⁶

A search in Georgia and North Carolina for a marriage record between John Ware and Mary Jackson did not yield results. However, three Georgia marriage records provided a new search direction.

- William Jackson married Nancy Springer, 29 July 1807, in Baldwin County, Georgia⁷
- James Parker married Patsey Springer, 23 Jul 1812, in Morgan County, Georgia⁸
- John Ware married Polly Springer, 19 Aug 1813, in Morgan County, Georgia⁹

The marriage of John Ware to Polly Springer is the only marriage found in Georgia between 1810 and 1820 that matched a John Ware with a Mary or Polly.¹⁰ These marriages alone do not confirm that Mary (Polly) Ware of Stewart County, Georgia, was actually

Polly Springer of Morgan County, Georgia, instead of Polly Jackson as assumed based on the 1837 Stewart County deed.

So research was focused on the Springer surname. If Polly Ware, born around 1797, is Polly Springer, it is unlikely that William Jackson who married Nancy Springer is her biological father. Unfortunately the 1800 and 1810 census records for Georgia are not extant, making it impossible to find this family group prior to Polly's marriage.

Without the census record, searches of tax and deed records are critical to finding families during this time period. The state of Georgia distributed former Native American lands by lottery in 1805, 1807, 1820, 1821, 1827, and 1832. The records from these early Georgia land lotteries, along with associated tax and deed records, help to fill in gaps left by the missing census records. The available 1805 lottery list provides both the individuals who applied for the lottery as well as those who were "fortunate drawers" with the lot number and location. The published lists of the 1807 and later lotteries only provide the names of the winners with the lots they drew.^{11, 12}

Searching for Springer records revealed an 1807 land lottery record for Nancy Springer, "of 1st District of Baldwin county," who was a fortunate drawer and received Lot 128, District 20, Morgan County (formerly Baldwin county).¹³ Lots in this lottery contained 202.5 acres and cost the grantee \$12.15. To qualify for the lottery, Nancy would have to have been a citizen of the United States and a resident of Georgia for three years before 26 June 1806 when the lottery bill was enacted. She would have been eligible for a draw if she were:

- a widow, or
- an unmarried, white female, 21 years or older, or
- an orphan under 21 years, whose father was deceased.¹⁴

If Nancy Springer were a widow, her husband probably died before the period of June to September, 1806, which are dates when residence for those participating in the 1807 lottery was established.¹⁵ Her children, as orphans, would have been eligible to register for one draw in the land lottery also. However since the list of potential drawers for the 1807 lottery was not kept, it is not known if they were in the pool of those vying for land lots. The drawing for the lottery began on August 10, 1807.¹⁶ Nancy's name was drawn after she married William Jackson. The land grant was made out in her name on 25 Nov 1807 (Figure 1).

The 1807 Land Lottery distributed land in Baldwin and Wilkinson counties. Baldwin was divided into Districts 6 through 20. Baldwin districts 1 through 5 were part of the 1805 lottery. In December 1807, Morgan County was created from Baldwin and contained all of the 5th and 20th districts and parts of the 4th, 15th, and 19th districts

(Figure 2). District 20 consisted of 356 lots of which 70 were fractional lots. Only the lots that contained 202.5 acres were part of the lottery. Fractional lots were sold at auction later.

STATE OF GEORGIA.

By his Excellency *Jared Irwin* Governor
and commander in chief of the army and navy
of this state, and of the militia thereof.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE, That in pursuance of an act
of the General Assembly of this state, passed on the twenty-sixth day of June,
eighteen hundred and six, for making distribution of the land in the counties of
WILKINSON and BALDWIN, I HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these
presents in the name and behalf of this state, DO GIVE AND GRANT unto

*Nancy Springer of the 1st district
Baldwin County her*

heirs and assigns forever, all that
tract or lot of land containing two hundred two and an half acres, situate, lying,
and being in the *Twentieth* district, BALDWIN
county, in the said state, which said tract or lot of land is known and distinguished
in the plan of said district by the Number *one hundred &
twenty eight* having such shape, form and marks as appear by a
plat of the same hereunto annexed; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said
tract or lot of land, together with all and singular the rights, members and
appurtenances thereof, whatsoever unto the said *Nancy*

Springer his

heirs and assigns, to *his* and
their own proper use, benefit and behoof, for ever, in fee simple.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the said state, this
Twenty fifth day of *November*
in the year eighteen hundred and *eighty* and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF AMERICA the *thirty third*.

Signed by his Excellency the Governor, the } *Jared Irwin*
25th day of *Nov^r* 1808.

Registered the *25th* day of *Nov^r* 1808. } *J. B. Bozeman S. E. D.*

Figure 1. Land Lot 128 Grant Document¹⁷

Chronology of Land Lot 128

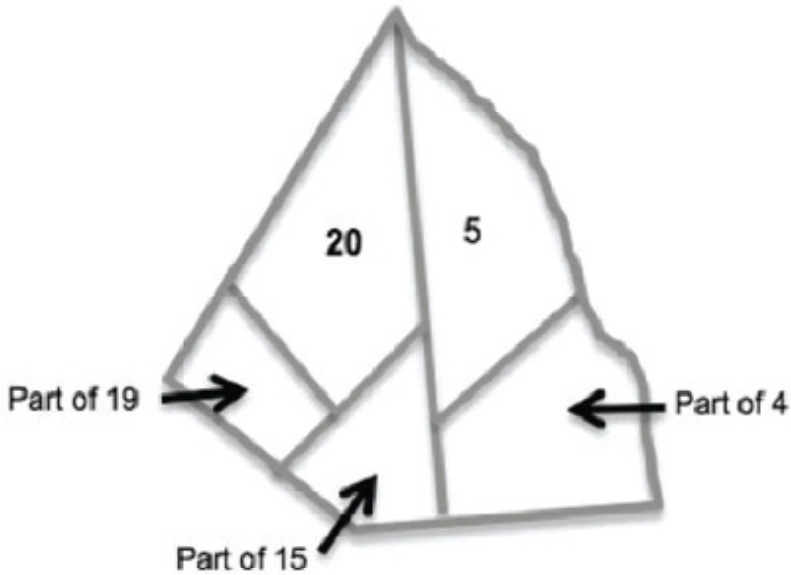


Figure 2. Morgan County with Land Lot Districts.
Drawing based on Hall's Original County Map of Georgia
from the Map Collection of the Dallas Public Library.

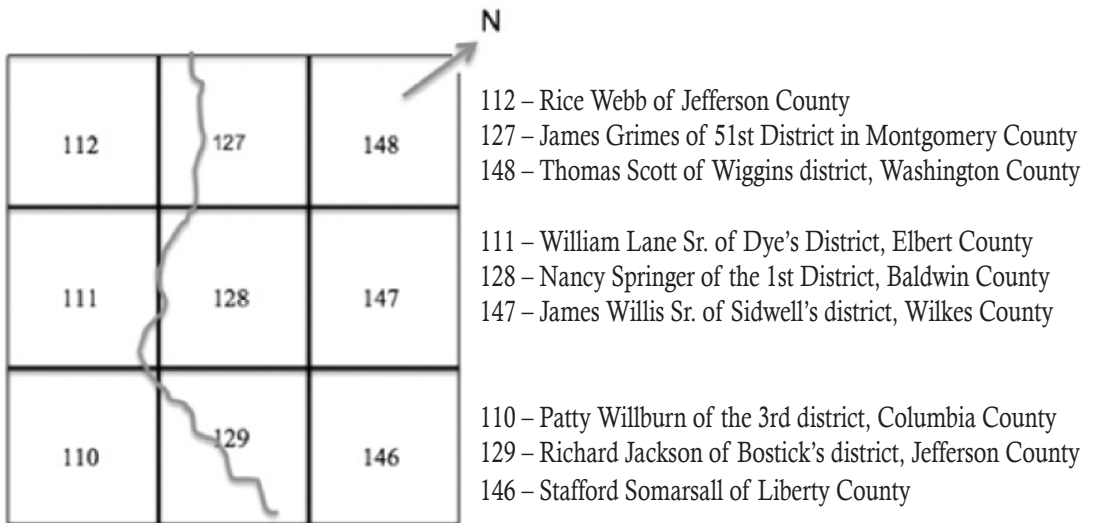


Figure 3. Land Lot 128 with Surrounding Lots and Fortunate Drawers ¹⁸

On 22 Dec 1818, William Jackson sold 65 acres of Lot 128 each to John Ware and James Parker. James Parker sold his 65 acres to John Ware in 1822. For 24 years William Jackson, John Ware, and James Parker sold Lot 128 among themselves until they disposed of the land after moving to Stewart County, Georgia (Table 1).

Table 1. Land Lot 128 Morgan County, Georgia Chronology

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Description
25 Nov 1808	State of Georgia	Nancy Springer	Lot 128, 202.5 acres Dist. 20, Morgan County, formerly Baldwin, Georgia.
22 Dec 1817	Wm. Jackson	John Ware	Lot 128, 65 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$100 Wit: James Parker ¹⁹
22 Dec 1817	Wm. Jackson	James Parker	Lot 128, 65 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$100. Wit: John Ware ²⁰ [Note: James Parker is recorded as signing the deed.]
20 Mar 1818	Wm. Jackson	James Parker	Lot 128, 65 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$100. ²¹ [Note: This may be a correction of the 1817 deed.]
16 Nov 1822	James Parker	John Ware	Lot 128, 65 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$650 Wit: Isaac A. Parker, Moss Ware ²²
9 Oct 1827	James Parker	Wm. Jackson	Lot 128, 30 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$100 ²³
24 Aug 1829	John Ware	Wm. Jackson	Lot 128, 100 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$342 ²⁴
23 May 1832	Wm. Jackson	Polly Ware [Wm. M. Ware trustee]	Lot 128, 100 acres (East ½), Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$5 ²⁵
31 Aug 1833	Wm. M. Ware [for Polly Ware]	James Woodroof	Lot 128, 100 acres (East ½), Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$300 ²⁶
19 May 1834	Wm. Jackson, of Stewart Co	Wm. H. Wiley	Lot 128, 102.5 acres, Dist. 20, Morgan County, Georgia, \$300 ²⁷

Morgan County, Georgia Tax Lists

Tax lists can assist in placing individuals in a location and verifying who owned a parcel of land at a particular time. In general, taxes are paid for the previous year. So a tax entry for 1822 would be based on the land owned in 1821. Table 2 details the tax records for Land Lot 128 in Morgan County, Georgia, confirming the sales of the lot between the three men.

Other Georgia Land Records

The Ware family continued to benefit from various land lotteries. John Ware, of Morgan County, received Lot 155 in Section 15, Dooly County, in the 1821 lottery.²⁸ He paid tax on this land in Morgan County in 1823 and 1826.^{29, 30}

On 3 Jan 1825 Thomas Labron issued a warrant to Laurence Kitchins, surveyor in Warren County, to lay off 200 acres for John Ware in Warren County based on the head rights of David Harrison.³¹ John Ware was actually granted 160 acres on 19 Feb 1829.³² John Ware, a resident of Warren County, was a fortunate drawer in the 1827 Land Lottery, winning Lot 93, District 23, Stewart County (formerly Lee). While a resident of Warren County,³³ John Ware sold this Stewart County land to Bryan Bedingfield and Asaph R. Hill (Table 2).³⁴ It is this Stewart County deed, where he is described as “John Ware, of Warren county,” that led earlier researchers to conjecture that John Ware, of Stewart County, Georgia was originally from Warren County (Table 2).

Previous fortunate drawers were not eligible for a draw in the 1827 lottery, with the exception of men who served for three months in war against the British or Indians.³⁵ There is some evidence that John Ware of Morgan County served as a private in the 3rd Georgia Regiment (Few’s) during the War of 1812.³⁶ He continued in the Morgan County Militia during 1817, 1819, and 1826.³⁷

The first deed that ties Mary (Polly) Ware to the surname Springer is an 1832 Morgan County sale and deed of trust from William Jackson to Polly Ware and William M. Ware.

For love & affection, to my daughter Polly Ware, formerly Polly Springer, & for confidence I repose in William M. Ware of afsd. co. & for \$5. To William M. Ware as trustee of Polly Ware, for support, use, benefit, & maintenance of my daughter & heirs of her body, tract on Hard Labor Creek waters, E. 1/2 of Lot 128, 20th Dist., Morgan Co., 100 acres, adj. land of William Lane & the widow Jackson. It is land where John Ware now lives.³⁸

Within a year, her trustee, William M. Ware, sold the property to James Woodroof. The deed describes him as “William M. Ware, trustee of Polly Ware, formerly Polly Springer, by virtue of a deed of gift from William Jackson to William Ware.”³⁹ Polly Springer would have been about 10 years old when William Jackson married Nancy Springer. He obviously thought of her as his daughter, whether she was Nancy’s daughter by a Springer husband or, as some have suggested, Nancy’s cousin, daughter of Jonathan Springer.⁴⁰

Table 2. Tax Digest of Land Lot 128 – Morgan County, Georgia ^{41,42}

Year	Name	Militia District	Dist	County	Lot	1st Qty	2nd Qty	3rd Qty	Water Course	Who Joins	To Whom Granted	Polls
1808	Jackson, William	Capt Hills	20	Morgan	128	101.25	101.25	..	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1
1809	Jackson, William	Capt Middletons	20	Baldwin	128	..	101.25	101.25	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1
1810	Jackson, William	Capt Wm Walkers	20	Baldwin	128	101.25	101.25	..	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1
1812	Jackson, William	Capt Jones	20	Morgan	128	101.25	101.25	..	Hard Labour	Wm. Lane	Nancy Springer	1
1817	Jackson, William	Capt Townsends	20	Morgan	128	..	202.5	..	Hard Labour	Wm. Lane	N. Springer	1
1817	Ware, John	Capt Townsends	20	Morgan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1817	Parker, James	Capt Townsends	20	Morgan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1818	Jackson, William	Capt Townsends	20	Morgan	128	..	72.5	..	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1
1818	Parker, James	Capt Townsends	20	Morgan	128	..	65	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1818	Ware, John	Capt Townsends	20	Morgan	128	..	65	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1820	Jackson, William	Capt Lenards	20	Morgan	128	..	72.5	..	Hard Labour	Lane	N. Springer	1
1820	Parker, James ^a	Capt Lenards	20	Morgan	128	..	115	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1820	Ware, John	Capt Lenards	20	Morgan	128	..	65	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1822	Jackson, William	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	72.5	..	Hard Labour	Ware	Springer	1
1822	Parker, James	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	65	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	N. Springer	1
1822	Ware, John ^b	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	65	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	N. Springer	1
1823	Jackson, William	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	72	..	Hard Labour	Lane	N. Springer	1
1823	Ware, John ^b	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	130	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1824	Jackson, William	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	71	..	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1
1824	Ware, John	Capt Henderson	20	Morgan	128	..	130	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1826	Jackson, William	Capt Sparkess	20	Morgan	128	..	72.5	..	Hard Labour	Lane	N. Springer	1
1826	Ware, John ^b	Capt Sparkess	20	Morgan	128	..	130	..	Hard Labour	Jackson	Springer	1
1829	Jackson, William	Capt Martins	20	Morgan	128	..	102.5	..	Hard Labour	Ware	Springer	1
1829	Ware, John	Capt Martins	20	Morgan	128	..	100	..	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1
1830	Jackson, William	Capt Martins	20	Morgan	128	..	202.5	..	Hard Labour	Lane	N. Springer	1
1832	Jackson, William	Capt Lanes	20	Morgan	128	..	202.5	..	Hard Labour	Lane	Springer	1

^a James Parker's acreage included 65 acres of Lot 128 and 50 acres of Lot 147, which he had purchased from E. Miller.

^b John Ware also paid tax on 202.5 acres Lot 155, Dooley County, which he won in the 1820 Land Lottery.

In the 1827 lottery, Jeremiah Sparks, of Morgan County, received Lot 94, in District 20, originally Lee County (now Stewart County) and Lot 198, District 3, Lee County (now Stewart County). The day after William Jackson sold the last of Lot 128, Morgan County (Table 1), he purchased Lot 94, District 20, Stewart County, Georgia, from Jeremiah Sparks of Morgan County (Table 3). As stated earlier, William Jackson gave Lot 94 to Mary (Polly) Ware in 1837, initially leading family researchers to mistakenly believe that Jackson was her maiden name.

Table 3. Stewart County Land

Date Granted	Grantor	Grantee	Description
29 Aug 1831	1827 Lottery	John Ware, Warren County	Lot 34, Dist. 23, Stewart County (formerly Lee) ⁴³
6 Sep 1831	John Ware, of Warren County	Bryan Bedingfield and Asaph R. Hill	Lot 34, Dist. 23 Stewart County (formerly Lee) ⁴⁴
13 Nov 1833	1827 Lottery	Jeremiah Sparks, of Morgan Co.	Lot 94, Dist. 20, Stewart County (formerly Lee) ⁴⁵
20 May 1834	Jeremiah Sparks	Wm. Jackson	Lot 94, Dist. 20 Stewart County (formerly Lee) ⁴⁶
29 Jul 1837	Wm. Jackson	Polly Ware	Lot 94, Dist. 20, Stewart County, 150 acres ⁴⁷
30 Dec 1847	Gordon Hadden	Wm. Jackson	Lot 93, Dist. 20, Stewart County, 13.5 acres ⁴⁸
20 Jan 1848	Wm. Jackson	John Ware	Lot 94, Dist. 20, Stewart County, 50 acres plus Lot 93, Dist. 20, NW corner, 13 acres ⁴⁹
13 Jun 1848	Gordon Hadden	John Ware	Lot 93, Dist. 20, Stewart County, ¼ SW corner ⁵⁰

Who Is Polly’s Father?

The evidence of Land Lot 128, subsequent deeds, marriage records, and tax records points to the fact that Polly Ware of Stewart County is Polly Springer Ware, not Polly Jackson Ware. One still can’t help wondering who is the father of Mary (Polly) Springer Ware and Martha (Patsey) Springer Parker.

Tax lists and lottery lists can assist in placing individuals in a location. Assuming that Polly’s father, i.e. Nancy’s first husband, died prior to the 1807 lottery, tax records and lottery lists for men named Springer were explored.

Of those Springer men eligible to “draw” in the 1805 land lottery, Benjamin, Joel, and Thomas received two draws indicating that they were married men with a wife and/or children under 21 years old.⁵¹ Nancy Springer does not appear on the 1805 list of eligible drawers, suggesting that she was not a widow.

Unmarried women were not eligible for this lottery.⁵² Job Springer, Baldwin County, and Thomas Springer, Warren County, were fortunate drawers in the 1807 Land Lottery eliminating them as candidates for Nancy's first husband.⁵³ The county in which they were listed for the lottery is their residence between May 1803 and March 1804 for the 1805 lottery and between June 1806 and September 1806 for the 1807 lottery.

Table 4. Springer Males on Georgia Tax and Lottery Lists

Name	County	Tax Lists	Lottery ^{54,55,56}
Benjamin Springer	Elkin	1801 ⁵⁷	
Benjamin Springer	Franklin	1805 ⁵⁸	1805
Charles Springer	Richmond	1800 ⁵⁹	
Job Springer	Warren	1794 ⁶⁰	
Job Springer	Jackson	1801 ⁶¹	
Job Springer	Baldwin	1807 ⁶²	1805, 1807
Jobe Springer	Clark	1802 ⁶³	
Joel Springer	Clark		1805
John Springer	Baldwin	1807 ⁶⁴	
Thomas Springer	Warren	1801, 1805 ^{65,66}	1805, 1807

As noted on Table 4 above, John Springer appears on the 1807 tax list for Baldwin County with only one poll listed and no land. Nancy Springer is not listed. It is possible that his name was still on the tax list or that the tax list was created before his death. Joel Springer, with two draws in the 1805 lottery is also a possible candidate. Further work is needed to determine which individual is the father of Mary (Polly) Springer Ware and Martha (Patsey) Springer Parker. Perhaps there are other records that would help narrow down the pool.

Conclusion

Although the search for one's ancestors is never really brought to an end, at least in this case evidence supports the conclusion that Mary (Polly) Ware was Mary (Polly) Springer Ware. The marriage record of John Ware to Polly Springer alone would not have confirmed that Polly Ware of Stewart County was Polly Springer Ware. Just as the 1837 Stewart County deed from William Jackson to Polly Ware did not confirm that she was Polly Jackson Ware. The combination of marriage records, tax records, and deeds confirms that she is Polly Springer Ware.

Author Biography

Barbara A. Ware is a fourth generation Texan and oldest child of Dardyn S. Ware and Kathryn Hight. She was born in McKinney, Collin County, Texas. After spending the first two years of her life in College Station, Texas, she has lived in Dallas. She had three siblings of whom only a sister, Karen Ware Tillman, survives. She has two nephews, four nieces, and one great-niece and great-nephew. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Dallas, Texas; North Texas State University, Denton, Texas; The University of Wisconsin, Madison; and Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas. She worked for the Dallas Independent School District for 40 years, first as a teacher and then for 33 years as a central office curriculum administrator. She has been an active genealogist for 20 years, a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society board several times, and has worked on a number of transcription projects to make Dallas county records available. Her family research activities have taken her to most of the Southern states, England, and Italy.

ENDNOTES

1. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book F: 590-91; FHL microfilm 424,307
2. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book Q: 583; FHL microfilm 424,312. No estate records were found for William Jackson.
3. Thomas F. Richardson, *Descendants of John Ware, 1792-1852, and Mary "Polly" Jackson Ware of Georgia, 1792-1856?* (Taylors, South Carolina: Thomas F. Richardson, 1971), 11, 12.
4. 1850 U. S. census, Stewart County, Georgia, population schedule, 20th District, p. 140A (stamped), dwelling 374, family 1389, Jno Ware; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 82.
5. 1850 U. S. census, Stewart County, Georgia, population schedule, 20th District, p. 140A (stamped), dwelling 1383, family 1396, William Jackson, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 82.
6. 1850 U. S. census, Stewart County, Georgia, population schedule, 20th District, p. 278 (written), dwelling 1376, family 1388, William Ware, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 82. William M. Ware was born 7 Jul 1814, died 3 Dec 1855 and is buried in County Line Cemetery, Stewart County, Georgia.
7. Frances T. Ingmire, compiler, *Georgia Marriage Records 1808-1851* (St. Louis: Frances T. Ingmire 1985), 14, 27. [N.B. The book contains marriage records before 1808.]
8. Morgan County, Georgia Marriage Book A: 93, Parker-Springer, 1812; FHL microfilm 158,905
9. Morgan County, Georgia Marriage Book A: 96, Ware-Springer, 1813; FHL microfilm 158,905
10. Variant spellings were also searched, including Warr, Wan, Weir, Wear.
11. Robert Scott Davis, Jr., *Research in Georgia* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 183-193.
12. Farris W. Cadle, *Georgia Land Surveying History and Law* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, ca1991).
13. The Rev Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Vidalia, Georgia. Georgia Genealogical Reprints, 1968), 168.
14. Davis, *Research in Georgia*, 186.
15. Paul K. Graham. *1807 Georgia Land Lottery Fortunate Drawers and Grantees* (Decatur, Ga: The Genealogy Company, 2011), 3.
16. Davis, *Research in Georgia*, 187.
17. Surveyor General Grants, Georgia, *1807 Land Lottery, Baldwin County, Dists 15-16, 18-20*, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Microfilm Roll 2-2338, Nancy Springer, District 20, 186 (Microfilm also available in Genealogy Section of Dallas Central Library).
18. Digitized images of the actual 1807 land lot plats for the 1807 lottery are available on Georgia Archives website *Georgia Virtual Vault*, under the District Plats of Survey link. Search by county and district for Baldwin, District 20
19. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Book F: 222; FHL microfilm 158,822.

20. Ibid.
21. Morgan County, Georgia, Deeds Book G: 188; FHL microfilm 158,830.
22. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Book H: 84-85; FHL microfilm 158,830.
23. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Book HH: 252; FHL microfilm 158,830. A deed transferring 30 acres of Lot 128 back to James Parker prior to 1827 has not been located.
24. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Book I: 3; FHL microfilm 158,832.
25. Ibid., 291-292
26. Ibid., 389
27. Ibid., 539
28. The Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., compiler, *The Fourth or 1821 Land Lottery of Georgia*, (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1986), 236.
29. Morgan County, Georgia Tax Digest, 1808-1810, 1812, 1917-1818, 1820, unpaginated entries arranged chronologically, all years read for entries relating to John Ware, James Parker, and William Jackson; FHL microfilm 177,691.
30. Morgan County, Georgia Tax Digest, 1823-1824, 1826, 1829-1832, unpaginated entries arranged chronologically, all years read for entries relating to John Ware, James Parker, and William Jackson; FHL microfilm 177,692.
31. "Georgia Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>; accessed 25 Aug 2012), John Ware, warrant, 3 Jan 1825, Georgia Court of Justice, Georgia headright and bounty documents, Georgia State Archives, Morrow, Georgia.
32. Georgia Surveyor General Grants Vol. Q: 115; Georgia Department of Archives and History microfilm roll 2-2319.
33. 1830 U.S. census, Warren County, Georgia, p. 222 (written), line 8, John Ware; NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 21.
34. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book B: 57; FHL microfilm 424,306.
35. Davis, *Research in Georgia*, 189-190
36. *Index to the Compiled Military Service Records for the Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812*, microfilm publication M602, 234 rolls (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1966), roll 219, index card for John Ware, Pvt, 3rd Georgia (Few's) Regiment.
37. Gordon Burns Smith. *History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861, Volume 2: Counties and Commanders, Part One* (Milledgeville, Georgia: Boyd Publishing, 2000), 211.
38. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Book I: 291-292; FHL microfilm 158,832.
39. Ibid., 389
40. Jim White, (e-address for private use) to Barbara A. Ware, e-mail, 28 Sept 2008, "William Jackson – Nancy Springer," Springer File, privately held by Ware (e-address and street address for private use), Dallas, Texas, 2008.
41. Morgan County, Georgia Tax Digest, 1808-1810, 1812, 1917-1818, 1820, all years read for entries relating to John Ware, James Parker, and William Jackson; FHL microfilm 177,691.
42. Morgan County, Georgia Tax Digest, 1823-1824, 1826, 1829-1832, all years read for entries relating to John Ware, James Parker, and William Jackson; FHL microfilm 177,692.
43. Martha Lou Houston, compiler, *Reprint of Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia 1827* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1976), 74.
44. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book B: 57; FHL microfilm 424,307.
45. Houston, compiler, *Reprint of Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia 1827*, 147
46. Stewart County, Georgia, Deeds and Mortgages, D: 234-35; FHL microfilm 424,308.
47. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book F: 590; FHL microfilm 424,309.
48. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book Q: 583; FHL microfilm 424,312.
49. Ibid.
50. Stewart County, Georgia, Deed Book Q: 576; FHL microfilm 424,312.
51. Virginia S. and Ralph V. Wood, compilers, *The 1805 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Greenwood Press, 1964), ix-x. Paul K. Graham, compiler, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery Person Entitled to Draws*, 519; Lucas, *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia*, 185.
52. Davis, *Research in Georgia*, 185.
53. Lucas, *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia*, 182.

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54. Paul K. Graham, compiler, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery Persons Entitled to Draws* (Decatur, Georgia: Genealogy Company, 2005), 519. Lucas, *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia*, ii.
55. Virginia S. and Ralph V. Wood, compilers, *The 1805 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Greenwood Press, 1964), 325.
56. Lucas, *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia*, 185.
57. *An Index to Georgia Tax Digests, 1800-1802 Vol. 2* (Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1986), 75.
58. *An Index to Georgia Tax Digests, 1804-1806. Vol. 3* (Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1986), 81.
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62. *Ibid.*
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65. *An Index to Georgia Tax Digests, 1800-1802, Vol. 2*, 75.
66. Ruth Blair, compiler, *Some Early Tax Digests of Georgia*, 211.

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On the Cover

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