

William Odom (ca. 1786–87–aft. 1870)
& Wife
Jane Johns(t)on (ca. 1793–aft. 10 June 1856)

FAMILY SUMMARY

William Odom¹

Born: ca. 1786–87, South Carolina or Georgia²

Married: 13 May 1814, Marion Co., Miss., **Jane Johns(t)on** (b. ca. 1793; d. after 10 June 1856³)

Died: after 1870,⁴ Wolf Creek, Hancock Co. (now Pearl River Co.), Miss.⁵

Parents: **Isaac? Odom** and **Millie Breland**, later wife of **Mathew Cook**⁶

Siblings: **Shadrack Odom**, b. 20 December 1792, S.C.; married 22 December 1822, Pike Co., Miss., Margaret Ann Johnston, daughter of Nathaniel and Jane (Miller) Johnston; d. 31 March 1833, Pike Co.⁷

Richard Odom, b. ca. 1797,⁸ S.C., said to marry (1) Pike Co., Miss., [—?—] Merchant, daughter of John Merchant; and (2) Elizabeth, widow of James Purvis.⁹

¹ Some researchers identify him as William Eugene or Eli. However, no known document assigns him any middle name or initial. Each of his brothers also bore a single name, although some researchers give his brother Shadrack the middle name “English,” based on a misreading of entries in his Psalm book (see n. 7). In the place and time of their births, middle names were exceedingly rare. Those that occurred were almost always part of a double-name that honored a Revolutionary hero (George Washington ...), a founding father (Benjamin Franklin ...), or a religious leader (John Wesley ...).

² Birth period is extrapolated from the censuses and tax rolls detailed in this set of research notes.

³ Manerva (Odom) Breland to William and Jane Odom, 10 June 1856; typescript shared ca. 2008 by descendant Dawn Driskell (hddriskell@bellsouth.net); no provenance or current whereabouts are known for the original letter.

⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville P.O., p. 310 (stamped), dwelling 926, family 1098.

⁵ Robert Lee Breland, “On Sacred Soil,” *The Baptist Record*, undated clipping in unidentified file and collection, Mississippi Baptist Historical Archives, Mississippi College, Clinton; transcription provided by Dawn Driskell. Breland stated that his grandfather William Odom was buried in the family cemetery on Wolf Creek.

⁶ Some researchers assert that Shadrack’s father was the S.C. Revolutionary War soldier Shadrack Odom. That is manifestly an error. See the evidence laid out in Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Millie (Breland) Odom Cook’s First Husband: A Preliminary Analysis,” report dated 11 January 2005; posted 21 January 2012 by Marla Odom as “BEAUFORT–Millie Breland’s Husband–2005 (2011),” at *Odom DNA “C” Group–Duplin/Darlington/Beaufort/MiscTN*, a by-invitation group (www.MyFamily.com/group/133314806/files/133330617).

⁷ “Shadrack Odom Psalm Book,” more specifically: *The Psalms of David in Metre; Translated, and Diligently Compared with the Original Text and Former Translation; More Plain, Smooth, and Agreeable to the Text than any heretofore; Allowed by the Authority of the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, and appointed to be sung in Congregations and Families* (Edinburgh: Mars and Charles Kerr, 1791), data entered on random pages.

The earliest entry notes: “Jean Miller first Bible ... Jean Miller was born February 5th 1760.” Subsequent entries suggest that the Psalms passed from Nathaniel and Jane (aka Jean) Johnston to their daughter Margaret Ann Johnston (“born October 16 1800”) who married “Shadrach Odom” (“born December the 20th day 1792”) a marriage occurring in Pike County on “December the 22 day 1822.” A photocopy of the Psalm book pages was provided in December 2004 by descendant Dr. Charles Flanders (3401 Fawn Trace, Temple TX 75604) to E. S. Mills.

The Jean Miller inscription is in a different hand from all other entries; the others, including the names of Nathaniel and Jane Johnston, are in the same hand and ink, suggesting they were made at the same time—i.e., on or after the last entry dated 26 February 1844. It seems probable that the Johnston family into which Shadrach married was the one from which his brother William took a wife. The pages, which have been separated from the book and may not represent all of the entries, list only three children born to Nathaniel and Jane in 1800, 1802, and 1804; tax rolls and censuses suggest Nathaniel had other, older children, perhaps by an earlier wife.

⁸ 1821 Tax Roll, Pike County, Mississippi, Richard Odom entry. This poll roll, which should include all men aged 21 or over by 1 January 1821, marks Richard’s first appearance as a poll. The 1850 census entry for Richard overstates his age by about ten

Children of William Odom and wife Jane Johns(t)on:

1. **Cynthia Ann Odom**, b. 9 October 1814,¹⁰ Marion or Pike Co., Miss.; m., ca. 1838,¹¹ **Samuel Alexander? Cooksey** (7 October 1811–4 March 1902); d. 1 May 1890, Temple, Texas, aged 75 yrs, 6 mos. 22 days.¹²
2. **Shadrack Odom**, born early 1819, Pike Co., Miss.;¹³ m. (1), ca. 1837,¹⁴ **Unknown**, Neshoba or Newton Co., Miss.; (2) ca. 1840, **Elizabeth Cooksey**, Newton Co.;¹⁵ d. ca. 1861–65, Newton Co.¹⁶
3. **Cemantha Odom**, b. before 1st Monday in August 1820, Pike Co., Miss.;¹⁷ m. 31 August 1854, Hancock Co., Miss., **Caleb Carter**.¹⁸ Cemantha and Caleb settled near the parental home and remained there at least through her enumeration on the 1870 census.
4. **Eveline Odom**, b. 16 November 1821, Pike Co., Miss.; m. ca. 1838, Newton Co., Miss., **John Cooksey** (ca. 1806 or 1807–ca.1890); d. Saturday, 8 January 1910, Falls City, Texas.¹⁹

years; he is said there to be 61. The informant for that census obviously did not know the particulars of Richard's birth because his birth place is said to be "S.C. or N.C." See 1850 U.S. census, Simpson Co., Miss., p. 288 (stamped), dwell. 27, fam. 27.

⁹ Dawn Driskell (hddriskell@bellsouth.net), "Odom-Pervis/Purvis," email to Elizabeth Shown Mills et al., 17 September 2008 at 4:27pm; no source(s) cited for the marriages. In 1850, Purvis minors lived with Richard and Elizabeth.

¹⁰ Betty Martin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, *Bell County Cemeteries and Other Records, 1770–1956*, DAR GRC Reports, ser. 1, vol. 207 (Temple, Texas: 1957), p. 31 (Hillcrest Cemetery, Temple). Also images of Cynthia and Samuel's tombstones provided by Dr. Harold Graham to E. S. Mills, in "Zilpha Cooksey who married Matthew Cook," email, 6 Sept. 2008 at 8:16pm; images filed in ESM's digital folder Desktop>GenealogyFiles>Ancestral Photos>Odom.

¹¹ Marriage year extrapolated from children's census data. 1850 U.S. census, Newton Co., Miss., pop. sch., stamped p. 194, dwell./fam. 565. 1860 U.S. census, Newton Co., Miss., pop. sch., Union p.o., p. 102, dwell. 681, fam. 696 (Samuel "Cooksy").

¹² Betty Martin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, *Bell County Cemeteries and Other Records, 1770–1956*, DAR GRC Report, ser. 1, vol. 207 (Temple, Texas: 1957), p. 31 (Hillcrest Cemetery, Temple), markers for both Cynthia and Samuel. Also images of both tombstones provided by Dr. Harold Graham to E. S. Mills, in "Zilpha Cooksey who married Matthew Cook," email, 6 Sept. 2008 at 8:16pm; images filed in ESM's digital folder Desktop >GenealogyFiles>Ancestral Photos>Odom.

¹³ Shadrack's birthdate is extrapolated from the 1839 and 1840 tax rolls of Newton, as subsequently detailed, herein, under those years. Shadrack was not of poll age (21) on 1 January 1839; he made his first appearance on the 1840 roll.

¹⁴ Shadrack's marriage date is extrapolated from the documented birthdate of his first son, Samuel. For that birthdate, see "Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications, 1900–1974," database, *FamilySearch* (www.FamilySearch.org : 1 August 2013), "Oakes–Ormond," images 97–100, E. J. Odom, Widow (Samuel Odom, Pvt., Co. D, 3d Cav.), affidavits 16 July 1909 and 4 September 1916; also images 156–63, Samuel Odom (Pvt. Co. D., Wiley Johnson), affidavits of 5 August 1905 and 7 September 1908.

¹⁵ Marriage year extrapolated from age of eldest child of second marriage, as shown on 1850 U.S. census, Newton Co., Miss., pop. sch., p. 184 (verso), dwell./fam. 427, Shadrack "Odham"; and 1860 U.S. census, Newton Co., Miss., pop. sch., Decatur p.o., p. 142, dwell. 951, fam. 961, "Fredrick [Shadrack] Odom." Some descendants have posted online trees that call him "Shadrack Frederick Odom." Like his father, Shadrack had no middle name. The erroneous spelling of his name on the 1860 census results from the fact that enumerators had to file three sets of returns, making copies from originals that had been carried from door-to-door across hundreds of miles, amid downpours and across swollen streams that too-often soaked the originals and caused ink to bleed. Many copying errors resulted. The copy that was microfilmed and now digitized is the copy sent to the Bureau of the Census in D.C., not the original which was to be filed locally.

¹⁶ Esrom Odom (son of Robert Alexander; grandson of Shadrack and Elizabeth) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, 1972. Esrom, whose letter carries no return address, stated that his grandfather died during the Civil War. That is compatible with his absence from post-1865 records of Newton County.

¹⁷ Age extrapolated from 1850 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Habolochitto District, p. 74 (stamped), dwell. 429, fam. 440; 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville P. O., p. 310 (stamped), p. 101 (penned), dwell. 926, fam. 1098. She has not been found in 1880 or later.

¹⁸ Hancock Co., Miss., Marriage Book A (1852–1865): 75; Circuit Clerk's Office, Bay St. Louis. License and bond dated 21 August; Joseph Martin, bondsman. Marriage performed by "Joseph Martin M.B.P.H.C." [Member, Board of Police, Hancock Co.]

¹⁹ For approximate time of Eveline's marriage to John Cooksey, see household data on 1840 U.S. census, Newton Co., Miss., p. 141. For Eveline's birth and death dates, see *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com), memorial 9456374, Eveline Cooksey, Goodwell Cemetery, Texas County, Oklahoma; tombstone image reads "Grandmother: Eveline Cooksey, Nov. 16, 1821/Jan. 8, 1910, contributed by "Nareen et al." Also see "Grandmother Cooksey Died Suddenly," an undated clipping from unidentified

5. **Nancy Odom**, b. ca. 1824, Pike Co., Miss.;²⁰ m. 18 June 1854, Hancock Co., Miss., **Livingston Cameron**.²¹ No further information.
6. **Manerva Odom**, b. 18 September 1826, Hinds Co., Miss.;²² m. 2 May 1847, Hancock Co., Miss., her cousin **Oliver Franklin Breland**;²³ d. 19 September 1913, Neshoba Co., Miss.²⁴
7. **Eli Odom**, b. ca. 1828–29, Hinds Co., Miss.;²⁵ allegedly died during the Civil War.²⁶
8. **Samuel Odom**, b. ca. 1830, Madison Co., Miss.; m. between 2 June 1849 and 1 June 1850, **Christian Paris Jones**; d. 1910, Pearl River Co., Miss.²⁷
9. **James H. Odom**, b. 2 November 1839, Newton Co., Miss.;²⁸ m. 8 July 1856, Hancock Co., Miss., **Ally Jones? Lowe**;²⁹ d. ca. 1931, Pearl River Co., Miss.³⁰

newspaper, copy provided to E. S. Mills about 1990 by Dr. Susan Slaymaker, an Odom descendant. The obituary also provides an approximation of the death date of her late husband, John Cooksey.

²⁰ Birthplace based on place of father's taxation in 1824. Age based on 1850 U.S. census, Harrison Co., Miss., pop. sch., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 74, dwell. 429, fam. 440.

²¹ Hancock Co., Miss., Marriage Book A (1853–1865): 48; Circuit Clerk's Office, Bay St. Louis. License and bond dated 16 June 1854; Allen Burges, bondsman. Marriage performed by "Joseph Martin, Member, Board of County Police, Hancock County."

²² The date of birth is from Kelly Parks, "Descendants of Joseph Raborn/Rayburn," MS (kellyparks99@yahoo.com : 19 August 2008), pp. 20–21, which states no source for the information. The place of birth suggested above is based on Manerva's father appearance on the 1825 and 1827 tax rolls of Hinds County.

²³ "Elder O. F. Breland" (MS, n.d., Mississippi Baptist Historical Association, Clinton, Miss.), 2-page biography; transcription supplied by descendant Dawn Driskell. The biography states: "About the year 1845 he moved with others to Hancock, now Pearl River County. Here he was married to Miss Manerva Odom, daughter of William and Jane (Johnston) Odom, May 2, 1847; Eld. Thomas performing the ceremony. They remained here for one year or more where their first child, George W., was born, and then returned to Newton County near to Union, possibly in 1849. In a year or so this family crossed over into Neshoba County, living in the Sansing neighborhood, near where county Line Baptist Church now stands, for some years."

²⁴ *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com), memorial page 30315305, "Manerva Odom Breland," Mount Sinai Cemetery, Neshoba Co., Miss.; the tombstone image contributed by J. V. W. Parker shows only the years of birth and death. The memorial page does not identify the source for the exact dates of birth and death. The manuscript "Elder O. F. Breland," provides an exact death date for Manerva.

²⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Harrison Co., Miss., pop. sch., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 74, dwell. 429, fam. 440. The place of birth suggested above is based on Eli's father's appearance on the 1825–29 tax rolls of Hinds Co.

²⁶ The E. P. Odom with wife Martha, enumerated in Hancock Co., GA, in 1880 as a Georgia-born printer, is not the Eli born to William Odom and Jane Johnson. The printer Edmund Purcell Odom first appears on the 1850 census of Carroll Co., MS (p. 232, dwell. 449, fam. 549). He wed Martha Jane Ledbetter on 24 August 1853 (Tishomingo Co. Marr. Bonds, 1850–55: 369). For E.P. and Martha in 1880, see 1880 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., City of Bay St. Louis, ED 140?, p. 12-D, dwell. 101, fam. 101.

²⁷ Age and marital data extrapolated from 1850 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 73, dwell. 414, fam. 415. Age data confirmed by 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville P.O., stamped p. 301, dwell. 749, fam. 913. At *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com), memorial 19791766, citing Frye Cemetery, Pearl River Co., Miss., "Paula" provides an image of Samuel's Civil War veteran marker and adds: "Buried near Kenyon N. Odom. Co. B & D 17 Miss Ca." Donna Burge Adams, *My Burge and Hughes Family Record* (No Place: Privately Printed, no date), 29, identifies Paris (source not cited) as the daughter of Freeman Jones and wife Virginia Hendon and states that Samuel had a brother-in-law (presumably husband of a sister of Paris) named Alexander Spiers. The 1850 census does place Freeman Jones and family next door to the young Samuel and Christian; the 1870 census shows that Samuel and Christian named a son Freeman.

²⁸ James H.'s birth date is extrapolated from several records. Robert Lee Breland, "On Sacred Soil," *The Baptist Record*, an undated newspaper article transcribed by Dawn Driskell, discusses a 2 November celebration of James H. Odom's 82nd birthday. The author states that his own parents married near James H.'s house "seventy-four years ago," on 2 May 1847. Thus, the newspaper clipping might be dated at November 1921, and James H.'s birth might be calculated as 2 November 1829. However, the census records consistently make him 10 years younger—i.e., born 1839. See 1850 U.S. census, Harrison Co., Miss., pop. sch., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 74, dwell. 429, fam. 440; and 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville P. O., p. 310 (stamped), p. 101 (penned), dwell. 930, fam. 1102.

²⁹ Hancock Co., Miss., Marriage Book 1 (1853–1865): 108; Circuit Clerk's Office, Bay St. Louis. License and bond dated 7 July 1856, with Jeremiah Lodner [Ladner], bondsman. Marriage performed by Wm. H. Varnado. The middle name shown above for Ally, "Jones," does not appear in the marriage record. It is attributed to her by Kelly Parks, "Descendants of Joseph Raborn/Rayburn," MS (kellyparks99@yahoo.com : 19 August 2008), 20–21, source of name uncited.

RESEARCH NOTES

1ST MONDAY IN AUGUST, 1810
BEAUFORT DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

U.S. Census.

*Consecutive households*³¹

Cook, Matthew	1 male	26–45	[married Millie 1800–10?]
	1 female	26–45	[Millie Breland]
	2 males	16–26	[Richard & Shadrack Odom, Millie’s sons]
	1 male	0–10	[child of Millie & Matthew?]
Odom, William	1 female	45—	[Mary Odom]
	1 male	16–26	[William, son of Millie; surely grandson of Mary]
Cook, William	1 male	16–26	[brother or son of Matthew?]
	1 female	16–26	
	1 female	0–10	

COMMENT

This is the first record that has been found for William in the “burned out” region of his birth.

2 MARCH 1811

GEORGIA

Passport.

“Executive Department, Saturday 2d March 1811

On application, ORDERED That Passports be prepared for the following persons to travel through the Creek Nation of Indians, to wit, One for Messrs. William Thornhill, and **William Odum**, the former with his wife and five children, and his wife’s mother, and One for Messrs. Joseph, William, and Robert Thornhill, the former with his wife and six negroes all from Beaufort District South Carolina, Which were presented and signed.”³²

CA. MARCH 1811

MISSISSIPPI

Tradition among Hancock County Odom descendants.

“When [William’s father] died his widow married 2) Matthew Cook. In 1808 [*should be 1811*] she and her second husband came to southern Mississippi along with her son William, her brothers

³⁰ Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com), memorial 19791430, J. H. Odom, Civil War soldier marker with no dates, Frye Cemetery, Pearl River Co., Miss.; image provided by Paula. The adjacent stone reads “Aley Odom, wife of J. H. Odom, Born Jan. 6, 1831/ Died Apr. 5, 1910.”

³¹ 1810 U.S. census, Beaufort Dist., S.C., St. Peter’s Parish, p. 202, lines 13–15. For a detailed analysis of the Cook-Odom household data and the evidence for the identity of the family members, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Millie (Breland) Odom Cook’s First Husband: A Preliminary Analysis,” report, 11 January 2005.

³² Thornhill-Odom passport, “Georgia Executive Proceedings ... January 1811–September 1812,” p. 2; Georgia Dept. of Archives & History, Atlanta. William Thornhill’s mother-in-law was the Widow Breland, grandmother of William. No passport has been found for William’s mother Millie Breland and his stepfather, Mathew Cook.

Abraham, Absalom, and Hillary Breland, and others. The party was believed to total about 60 members. Two children of William gave the story of this trip to Robert Lee Breland who wrote it down in 1928.

“On the journey from S.C. to southwestern MS, the men and older boys walked while the women and children rode horseback. What household goods they brought had to be carried on horseback as well. Only a little food was brought along, and so the party had to hunt for game along the route. They obtained bread from the Indians.

“The trip took some 60 days. Sometimes the group took a day off to rest and wash their clothes. The party usually made about 20–30 miles progress per day. They tried to camp near a spring or creek each night, and the men would take turns standing guard.

“On reaching the Choctaw nation the group had to obtain a pass from the chief, so several young men were sent ahead to tell him the rest of the travelers were approaching. The chief ordered a feast to be prepared.

“When the rest of the party arrived, they were tired and hungry. They evidently ate too freely because they all became acutely ill. The chief, who was also a medicine man, gave them a tea made from dried beef which quickly cured most of them, but one or two babies died.

“They rested with the Indians for several days before continuing on. By this time the Indian chief had expressed an interest in having any of the travelers for a son-in-law. The chief had married a French woman, and had a number of half-French, half-Indian daughters. He offered a half-bushel of silver dollars to any of the young white men who would marry one of his daughters.

“None of the young men accepted the offer, though, and the group went on. With the pass the chief had given them, they were well-received by the Choctaws they encountered along the way.

“The party arrived in Pike County, found other white settlers there, and set out to build homes and furniture before winter came. It seems that after reaching Mississippi the Odom-Breland party followed this route:

Pike County—remaining there 10–15 years;

Copiah County—staying there a few years;

Hinds County—present there in 1828 and probably a few years longer;

Madison County—remaining there until ca 1838;

Newton County—a newly settled area; they moved near the Chunky River in the neighborhood of Mt. Zion Methodist Church; by this time many of the older ones had died and were buried at various sites along the route;

Hancock County (now Pearl River County)—moving there about 1845

“William Odom was among the group moving to Hancock County, but his mother had probably died before this.”³³

COMMENT:

This account has various problems that will be corrected in subsequent notes; it is quoted here, as is. The stated areas of settlement do not apply to all members of the family, including William.

³³ Donna Burge Adams, *My Burge and Hughes Family Record* (No Place: Privately Printed, no date), 34. The Breland manuscript cited by Burge has not been located to determine how many of the above details were reported exactly in this fashion by Breland and how much alteration was made by Burge.

1812–1823

MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Court minutes.³⁴

Odom: None

John(ston): George Juror June Term 1813
Nathaniel Juror June Term 1813

COMMENT:

No other Johnsons or Johnstons have been found in Marion County during the period that William Odom married Jane Johns(t)on in that county or during the years they lived in the offshoot county of Pike.

1813

MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Real & Personal Assessment Roll.³⁵

Consecutive entries

Odem, William	1 “pole”	[no land]	.66 2/3 ¢
Odem, Richard	1 “pole “	[no land]	.66 2/3 ¢
Johnston, Nathaniel	1 “pole”	[no land]	.66 2/3 ¢
[skip 1]			
Johnston, George	1 “pole”	[no land]	.66 2/3 ¢

COMMENT:

The published version of this tax roll presents the names in alphabetical order. The compiler does not tell us whether the original was alphabetized or whether he reorganized the names for “easy searching,” as was the custom of his era.

13 MAY 1814

MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Marriage of William Odom and Jane “Johnson.”³⁶

MARRIAGE LICENSE:

“To any Judge, Minister of the Gospel, or Justice of the Peace legally authorised to celebrate the wrights of Matrimony in said County: You are hereby authorised to Join together in the holy Estate of Matrimony **William Odum** to **Jane Johnson** both of the county aforesaid & for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.

“Given under my hand at Office the 13th day of May 1814. [signed] Francis B. Lenoir, Assistant R.O.C.” [Register, Orphan’s Court]

³⁴ E. Russ Williams, *Records of Marion County, Mississippi*, vol. 3, *1850 Federal Census; 1816 Territorial Census; The Old Road Books, Part One 1812–1818, Part Two 1818–1823* (N.p.: P.p., 1965), p. 9, citing Road Book 1, pp. 21–22.

³⁵ E. Russ Williams, *Records of Marion County, Mississippi*, vol. 4 (N.p.: P.p., n.d.), p. [?]. This volume also contains rolls for Lawrence County.

³⁶ Marion Co., Miss., Marriage Book 1: 45; Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Columbia.

MARRIAGE BOND:

“Know all men by these presents that we **William Odum** & Shadrack Odum, both of the Territory & County aforesaid are held and firmly bound to the governor of the Mississippi Territory and his Successors in office in the Penal Sum of two hundred dollars, which payment will and [2 *illegible words*] we bind ourselves, Our heirs Executors and Assigns, Jointly & Severally by these presents. Sealed with our Seals and Dated this 13th day of May 1814.

“The condition of the above obligation is that whereas the above Bound William Odum hath this Day prayed for and obtained a License to be Joined in marriage to Miss Jane Johnson, both of the County aforesaid. Now if there is no Lawful obstruction to the marriage, for which the License was granted, then the above obligation is to be void. Otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Test: William (X his mark) Odum {Seal}
Francis B. Lenoir, Assisstant R.O.C. Shadrack (X his mark) Odum {Seal}
(See Bond No. 45)”

AFFIDAVIT AS TO BRIDE’S AGE:

“Personally appeared Shadrack Odum before Francis B. Lenoir assistant Register of the Orphan’s Court and being duly Sworn Sayeth that the above named Jane Johnson is over eighteen years of age, [*illegible word or words*] before me, 13th day of May 1814.

Francis B. Lenoir Shadrack Odum [no reference to his mark]
Assistant R. O. C.”

COMMENT:

No “return” was filed by a minister or justice of the peace to attest that he had officiated at the marriage. The actual marriage date is thus unknown.

No known document identifies Jane Johnson’s parentage. William’s brother Shadrack would later marry one Margaret Ann Johnston, daughter of Nathaniel Johnston and his wife *Jane Miller*.³⁷ For brothers in one family to marry sisters in another was a common marital pattern of the era—as would happen in the next generation when three of William and Jane’s children married Cooksey siblings.

The only other Johns(t)on marriage found contemporaneously in this marriage register (p. 109) was that of John Johnson and Dicey Ryals, daughter of Charles Ryals, on 18 November 1815.

No other record has been found for William and Jane in Marion County. Pike was created from Marion a few months later and the Odom-Johns(t)on family cluster was cut away into the new county of Pike.

9 OCTOBER 1814
MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

³⁷ Shadrack Odom Psalm Book. One descendant, whose compilation cites no sources, asserts: “William’s wife Jane was born ca. 1793-4 in SC and may have been the daughter of Daniel Johnson (born 1770 SC, he lived in Marion Co., MS, 1850.” See Donna Burge Adams, *My Burge and Hughes Family Record* (No Place: Privately Printed, no date), 33. I have found no evidence to connect William or Jane Odom to this Daniel Johnson, who settled in Marion County long after William and Jane left that part of Mississippi.

Birth of first child, Cynthia Ann Odom, according to birthdate on her 1890 tombstone.³⁸

6 JANUARY–5 FEBRUARY 1815

MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

War of 1812 Service Record.³⁹

MUSTER ROLL:

“William Odam, Pvt., Capt. David Cleveland’s Company, 13 Reg’t Mississippi Territory Mil., War of 1812.

“Appears on COMPANY MUSTER ROLL for 6th Jany. 1815, when rendezvoused to 5th Feby. 1815.

Roll dated Court House, Marion County, Mississippi Territory, 31 May 1815.

“Date of appointment, enlistment or engagement: 6 Jany. 1815

“For what time engaged or enlisted: Three months, unless sooner discharged

“Present or absent: Present

“Remarks and alterations since last muster: Discharged 5th Feby. 1815”

COMPANY PAY ROLL:

William Odam, Pvt., Capt. David Cleveland’s Company, 13 Reg’t Mississippi Territory Mil., War of 1812.

“Appears on COMPANY PAY ROLL for 6th Jany. 1815 to 5 Feby. 1815

“Roll dated: Not Dated

“Commencement of service or of this settlement: 6 Jany. 1815

“Expiration of service or of this settlement: 5 Feby. 1815

“Term of service charged: 1 month

“Pay per month: 8 dollars

“Amount of pay: 8 dollars.”

COMMENT:

William’s brother Richard also served, as did various Brelands, Cooks, and Thornhills.

The Mississippi forces were called up to assist in Andrew Jackson’s defense against the British invasion of the Gulf. The British forces were defeated at the Battle of New Orleans, 8 January 1815. The news of that defeat apparently had not reached Marion County before William’s enlistment two days later. No actual service is known for his company.

19 JANUARY 1815

“CAMP PEARL RIVER,” MISSISSIPPI

³⁸ Betty Martin Chapter, *Daughters of the American Revolution, Bell County Cemeteries and Other Records, 1770–1956*, DAR GRC Reports, ser. 1, vol. 207 (Temple, Texas: 1957), p. 31 (Hillcrest Cemetery, Temple); also see photographs of Cynthia stone’s in ESM digital folder Desktop>GenealogyFiles>AncestralPhotos>Odom.

³⁹ William Odam *Compiled Service Record* (Pvt., Capt. David Cleveland’s Co., 13th Regt., Nixon’s Mississippi Militia, War of 1812); *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the Territory of Mississippi*, micropublication M678 (Washington: National Archives, 1967), roll 6, alpha order; imaged at *Fold3* ([http : www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)).

Petition to Congress.⁴⁰

By inhabitants of Marion and Lawrence Counties ... William Odom.

COMMENT:

My photocopy has been lost. I have only this note. Donna Burge Adams adds the following:

“William was a signee to a petition dated 19 Jan 1815, Camp Pearl River, by inhabitants of Marion and Lawrence Counties who were requesting extensions on their land [payments]. They pointed out that the war with England and the war with the Creek Indians had forced the men to leave their homes. Many men had died in battles while others had died from exposure or illness while in service.”⁴¹

TO DO:

Obtain a full copy of the petition. Study it for additional clues and Johns(t)on information.

1816

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Territorial Census.⁴²

Consecutive households:

Cawley, Seth

Night, John

Ellis, Owen

Wilcher, Duke W.

Ship, John

Cook, Mathew	2 white males	21+	1 white female	21+	0 fpc or slaves
	2 white males	-21	2 white females	-21	

Toney, Benjamin

Odum, Richard	1 white male	21+			0 fpc or slaves
----------------------	--------------	-----	--	--	-----------------

Thornhill, William	1 white male	21+	2 white females	21+	0 fpc or slaves
	2 white males	-21	1 white female	-21	

Odum, William	1 white male	21+	1 white female	21+	0 free people of color
			1 white female	-21	0 slaves

Elliott, William

Jones, Thomas

⁴⁰ Clarence Edwin Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, vol. 6, 1809–1817 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937), 494–98.

⁴¹ Donna Burge Adams, *My Burge and Hughes Family Record* (No Place: Privately Printed, no date), 33.

⁴² This unalphabetized presentation of the 1816 census—showing William’s neighborhood in geographical and family perspective—appears to be made from the original. It was transcribed and published in 1978, without an identification of its whereabouts, by the history professor E. Russ Williams, Jr., in his *Miscellaneous Legal and Family Records Pertaining to the Areas of Pike and Walthall Counties, Mississippi*, which Williams added to a 1909 Pike County history—publishing the pair together as *Resource Records of Pike/Walthall Counties, Mississippi, 1798–1876: Pioneer Families and Confederate Soldiers; Reconstruction and Redemption*, by Luke Ward Conerly ... (Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1978), 9.

Thornhill, Robert 1 white male 21+ 1 white female 21+ 0 fpc or slaves
Prichard, William
Collin, Hannah
Sartin, John
May, Joseph
Barnes, William
Harvey, Michael

1817

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁴³

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Odom: None

Johns(t)on: The “J” page of this tax roll was omitted from the photocopied roll supplied to me.

CA. 1819

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of second child, Shadrack Odom.⁴⁴

1818

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁴⁵

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive entries

Odom, Shadrack			1 white poll	.83
O’Quin, John,	?__ acres	Magee Creek		
Odom, William	0 acres		1 white poll	.83
Odean, Simon	0 acres		1 white poll	.83
Orr, William	0 acres		1 white poll	.83

COMMENT:

The arrangement of names, which places the Odom brothers immediately on both sides of another O-surnamed man on Magee Creek, implies that Magee Creek was the Odom neighborhood, as well. The semi-alphabetization of the tax roll separates their names greatly from their Breland, Cook, and Thornhill kinsmen, but a local history tells us the following:

⁴³ Pike Co., Miss., 1817 Tax Roll, microfilm roll 4325, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁴⁴ Birth year is extrapolated from the 1839 and 1840 tax rolls of Newton. Shadrack was not of poll age (21) by 1 January 1839; he made his first appearance on the 1840 roll compiled as of 1 January 1840. Shadrack’s birthplace is extrapolated from the fact that his father William appears on the Pike County tax rolls from 1818 through 1824.

⁴⁵ Pike Co., Miss., 1818 Tax Roll, microfilm roll 4325, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

“Tylerstown has always been considered a part of Magees Creek, though the village as now located is on Dry Creek, which empties into Magees Creek a short distance below. *Its first settlement dates back to the emigration of the Magees and Thornhills.* William Thornhill and his wife, Liddy Breland, came from South Carolina and settled here. They had a son, Elisha, who was born in South Carolina in 1799. His wife was Mary Carr. Their children were William B., Hillary B., Elizabeth, Isham, John M., Brian, Mary Ann, James W., Millie Ann, and Susan Ann.”⁴⁶

1819
PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
 Land & Poll Tax Roll.

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]⁴⁷

Consecutive entries:

Owdom, Shadrack	-----	-----	-----	1 poll	\$1
Owdom, Rich^d	-----	-----	-----	1 poll	\$1
Osteen, Simon					
Owens, Jacob					
Oquien, Jno.	160 acres	3d class	Magee’s Creek		
Owdom, Wm.	-----	-----	-----	1 poll	\$1
Orr, Wm.					

COMMENT:

Again, the arrangement of names on the roll implies that William was not living with his brothers Shadrack and Richard. Shadrack had not yet married. No record has been found to indicate whether Richard was or was not married at this time. Given that this is Richard’s first taxation as a poll, we might deduce that he was born about 1797 and had turned 21 in 1818.

Johns(t)on:

Johnston, Nathaniel [Sr.]	160a	2d class	.96¢	Bogue Chitto	1 poll	1.96 total
[skip 1 “J” name]						
Johnston, Geo.	160a	2d class	1.28	Bogue Chitto	1 poll	2.28 total
Johnston, John					1 poll	1.00 total

1820 [BEFORE 1ST MONDAY IN AUGUST]
PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
 Birth of third child, Cemantha Odom.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ E. Russ Williams, Jr., *Resource Records of Pike/Walthall Counties, Mississippi, 1798–1910 ...* by Luke Ward Conerly (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1978), 81.

⁴⁷ Pike Co., Miss., 1819 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss..

⁴⁸ Birth period extrapolated from censuses of 1820, 1850, and 1870. The 1820 census was to include everyone alive on the 1st Monday of August 1820. The 1850–1880 census enumerators were to give ages as of 1 June of each year. See 1820 U.S. census, Pike Co., Miss., unnumbered pp. 5–9. 1850 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Habolochitto Dist., p. 74 (stamped), dwell. 429, fam. 440; and 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville P. O., p. 310 (stamped), p. 101 (penned), dwell. 926, fam. 1098.

1820 [1ST MONDAY IN AUGUST]

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁴⁹

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive listings:

Odom , Shadrack	-----	-----	-----	1 poll	.75
Odom , Rich ^d	-----	-----	-----	1 poll	.75
Owens, Jacob					
Odom , Wm.	0 acres	-----	-----	1 poll	.75
Orr, Wm.					

COMMENT:

Again, the arrangement of names on the roll implies that William might not be living with his brothers Shadrack and Richard.

Johns(t)on:

Johnston, Geo.	1 poll	.75
Johnston, John	1 poll	.75
Johnston, Nathaniel [no listing]		

1820

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

U.S. Census⁵⁰

[Entries in original neighborhood order]

Consecutive listings:

Andrew Boyd [his great-granddaughter would marry William Odom's grandson in Newton Co.]
[skip 3]
John Warren [his daughter married Andrew Boyd's son]
[skip 25]
Jas. May [his May kinsmen were Odom neighbors in 1816, also]
Jno. Merchant [his daughter is said to have married Richard Odom]⁵¹
Richard Odom 1 white male 18-26
[skip 27]
David Breland
James M. Breland
Aquilla Donaho
Tho. Harvy

⁴⁹ Pike Co., Miss., 1820 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁵⁰ 1820 U.S. census, Pike Co., Miss., unnumbered pp. 5-9.

⁵¹ Dawn Driskell (hddriskell@bellsouth.net), "Odom-Pervis/Purvis," email to Elizabeth Shown Mills et al., 17 September 2008 at 4:27pm; no source(s) cited for the marriages. In 1850, the Purvis minors are living with Richard and Elizabeth.

William Odom (ca. 1786-87–aft. 1870)
Wife: Jane Johns(t)on

Tho. Jones
 [skip 18]
 Moses Collins [militia commander under whom William and Richard Odom served]
 [skip 11]
Wm. Odom 1 white male 26–45 1 white female 16–26
 1 white male 0–10 [Shadrack] 2 white females 0–10 [Cynthia & Cemantha]

Laban Kent
 Wm. Leggett
 Claiborne Rushin
 Wm. Elliotte
Matth Cook 1 white male 26–45 1 white fem. 45+ [Millie (Breland) Odom]
 1 white male 18–26 1 white fem. 10–16
 1 white male 10–16
 1 white male 0–10

Willis Brumfield
 Wm. Thornhill
 Wm. Cook
 Jos. Thornhill
 [skip 5]
 J. Abr. Breland
 [skip 36]
 Hilry Breland
 Wm. Thornhill
 Robert Thornhill
 [skip 75]
 Jno. Johnston 1 white male 26–45 1 white female 16–26 0 slave
 1 white male 0–10 1 white female 0–10 1 in agriculture

[skip 9]
 Geo. Johnston 1 white male 45+ 1 white female 45+ 0 slaves
 1 white male 16–26 1 white female 16–26 2 in agriculture
 1 white male 0–10 1 white female 10–16
 1 white female 0–10

Nathl. Johnston 1 white male 45+ 1 white female 26–45 0 slaves
 1 white male 16–26 1 white female 16–26 3 in agriculture
 1 white male 16–18 2 white female 0–10
 1 white male 10–16
 4 white males 0–10

Nathl. B. Johnston 1 white male 18–26 1 white female 10–16

[skip 4]
 James Boyd [his offspring would later marry William and Jane’s offspring in Newton Co., Miss.]

1820

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

State Census.⁵²

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive listings:

Shadr. Odom	1 white male		1 taxable inhabitant
Richard Odom	1 white male	1 white female	1 taxable inhabitant
Jacob Owens			
Wm. Odom	2 white males	3 white females	1 taxable inhabitant

1821

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁵³

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive listings:

Odom, Shad.		1 poll .75
Odom, Wm.		1 poll .75
Odom, Rich ^d		1 poll .75
Johns(t)on		
Johnston, Geo.		1 poll .75
Johnston, John	[no data]	
Nathaniel Johnston Sr.	[no listing]	

16 NOVEMBER 1821

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of fourth child Eveline (aka Evelyn) Cooksey.⁵⁴

1822

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁵⁵

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]⁵⁶

⁵² 1820 [State] Census, Pike Co., Miss., unnumbered p. 9; digitized image, "Mississippi, State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792–1866," database and images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com), image 5.

⁵³ Pike Co., Miss., 1821 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123; Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁵⁴ "Grandmother Cooksey Died Suddenly," undated clipping from unidentified newspaper, copy provided to E. S. Mills about 1990 by Dr. Susan Slaymaker, a descendant of Manerva (Odom) Breland. The obituary states: "Grandma Cooksey was born in Pike County, Miss., Nov. 16th 1821 and at an early age moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Odom, to Newton county, same state, where she met and married John Cooksey."

⁵⁵ Pike Co., Miss., 1822 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123; Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

Consecutive listings:

Odom, Shad.					1 poll	.75
Odom, Wm.					1 poll	.75
Odom, Rich^d					1 poll	.75
Johns(t)on:						
Johnston, Geo.	152a	2d class	Bogue Chitto		0 poll	.75
Johnston, John					1 poll	.75

1824

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁵⁷

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive listings:

Odom, Rich ^d					1 poll	.75
Odom, Wm.					1 poll	.75
Odom, Shadrack		[did not find]				

Johns(t)on:

Johnston, Robert M[jiller] ⁵⁸					1 poll	.75
Johnston, Geo.	160a	2d class	Bogue Chitto		1 poll	.96
Johnston, Wm.					1 poll	.75
Johnston, John	160a	2d/3d class	Bogue Chitto		1 poll	.95

CA. 1824

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of fifth child, Nancy Odom.⁵⁹

1825

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll⁶⁰

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive entries:

⁵⁶ Pike Co., Miss., 1822 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123; Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁵⁷ Pike Co., Miss., 1824 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123; Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁵⁸ Robert Miller Johnston was born 16 November 1800 to Nathaniel Johnston and wife Jane Miller. See Shadrack Odom Psalm Book.

⁵⁹ Birth period based on 1850 U.S. census, Harrison Co., Miss., pop. sch., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 74, dwell. 429, fam. 440.

⁶⁰ Pike Co., Miss., 1826 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123; Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

William Odom (ca. 1786-87–aft. 1870)
Wife: Jane Johns(t)on

Odom, Rich				1 poll	.75
Odom, Shadr				1 poll	.75
Odom, William		[not found]			

Johns(t)on:

Johnston, Tho.				1 poll	.75
Johnston, Geo.	160a	2d class	Bogue Chitto	1 poll	.96
Johnston, Robt.				1 poll	.75
Johnston, Nath ^l B.				1 poll	.75
Johnston, Wm.		[not found]			
Johnston, Jno.	160a	2d/3d class	Bogue Chitto	1 poll	.95

1825

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁶¹

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of *forename*]

William Odom 0 land, 0 town lot, 0 merchandise sales, 0 pleasure carriages
0 slaves, 0 free people of color
1 poll ... taxed 75¢

18 SEPTEMBER 1826

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of sixth child, Manerva Odom.⁶²

1827

PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land & Poll Tax Roll.⁶³

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Consecutive entries:

Odom, Rich				1 poll	.50
Odom, Shadr	160a	3d class	value \$320 Bogue Chitto	1 poll	1.30
Odom, William		[no listing]			

⁶¹ Hinds Co., Miss., 1825 Land and Personal Tax Roll, p. 20, last line, "William Odum"; "Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for "Hinds, 1825–Combined" (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1825/Combined/11).

⁶² The date of birth is from Kelly Parks, "Descendants of Joseph Raborn/Rayburn," MS (kellyparks99@yahoo.com : 19 August 2008), pp. 20–21, which identifies no source for the information. Manerva's tombstone provides only a year of birth. See *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com), memorial page 30315305, "Manerva Odom Breland," Mount Sinai Cemetery, Neshoba Co., Miss.; image contributed by J. V. W. Parker.

⁶³ Pike Co., Miss., 1827 Tax Roll, series 1202, microfilm roll 5123; Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

COMMENT:

On 22 December 1822, William's brother Shadrack Odom had married Margaret Ann Johnston, daughter of Nathaniel Johnston and wife Jane Miller. Shadrack has now acquired land in his wife's neighborhood.

Johns(t)on:

Johnston, Jno. "same for Joseph Ryals"	160a	2d/3d class	Bogue Chitto	1 poll .95 total: \$2.50
Johnston, Geo.	160a	2d class	Bogue Chitto	1 poll .96
Johnston, Nath ^l B.	80a	2d/3d class	Bogue Chitto	1 poll .95

COMMENT:

This John "Johnston" married a daughter of Charles Ryals in 1815, at which time his marriage bond, license, and return all called him John "Johnson." His is the only Johns(t)on marriage record in Marion County contemporaneously with that of William Odom and Jane "Johnson."

It appears that officials of Marion and Pike did not make a point of distinguishing between Johnson and Johnston.

1827

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁶⁴

[Unalphabetized]

p. 18, *Consecutive listings:*

Anderson, Jesse

Davidson, Wm.

Odum, Wm.

0 land

0 slaves

0 merchandise

1 white male

1 horse \$80

38 cattle \$132 [in excess of the first 20 which were not taxed]*⁶⁵

Total value \$212

Chapman, John

Fairchild, John A.

Bonds, James

Predgeon, Joel

Kent, Johnathan

⁶⁴ Hinds Co., Miss., 1827 Land and Personal Tax Roll, p. 20, last line, "William Odum"; "Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for "Hinds, 1827–Combined" (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1827/Combined/10).

⁶⁵ A. Hutchinson, *Code of Mississippi, Being an Analytical Compilation of the Public and General Statutes of the Territory and State ... from 1798 to 1848* (Jackson: Price and Fall, State Printers, 1848), 182.

Breland, Edward	0 land		
	0 slaves		
	0 merchandise		
	1 white male		
	0 horse		
	8 cattle	\$40	[in excess of the first 20, which were not taxed]
	Total value	\$40	

COMMENT

Numerous online trees identify this Edward Breland and wife Alice Franklin as the parents of Oliver Franklin Breland who married William and Jane's daughter Manerva. Edward is supposedly the son of Absalom Breland whose mother is also said to be Alice Franklin. I have not yet made any effort to verify or correct any of these assertions.

1828

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll⁶⁶

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Breland, Edward	1 poll	50¢
Odum, Wm.	1 poll	50¢

1829

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll⁶⁷

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Breland, Edward	1 poll	50¢
Odum, Wm.	1 poll	50¢

COMMENT:

Part of Hinds County in this year was split away into the new county of Madison. The fact that William Odom was taxed in 1829 in Hinds implies that he was not in the part that was split away. However, as seen below, the 1830 tax rolls of Hinds and Madison place him in the new

⁶⁶ Hinds Co., Miss., 1828 Land and Personal Tax Roll, semi-alphabetized; "Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for "Hinds, 1828–Combined" (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1828/Combined/5) for Breland, and (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1828/Combined/15) for Odum.

⁶⁷ Hinds Co., Miss., 1829 Land and Personal Tax Roll; "Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for "Hinds, 1825–Combined" (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1829/Combined/5), for Breland and (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1829/Combined/20) for Odum.

county. Whether he actually moved or whether he lived in the part of Hinds that was split away is indeterminable from the known records.

CA. 1829

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of seventh child, Eli P. Odom.⁶⁸

1830

HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁶⁹

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Breland, Edward [not found]

Odum, Wm. [not found]

1830

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll⁷⁰

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Breland, Edward [Not found]

Odum, Wm. 1 poll 55¢

1830 [1 JUNE]

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

U.S. Census.⁷¹

Wm. Odum	1 male	40–50	1 female	30–40
			1 female	15–20 [Cynthia Ann]
	1 male	15–20 [Shadrack]	1 female	10–15 [Cemantha]
	1 male	0–5 [Eli]	2 females	5–10 [Evaline & Nancy]
			1 female	0–5 [Manerva]
			9 people total	0 slaves or fpc

⁶⁸ Birth period extrapolated from census data. See 1850 U.S. census, Harrison Co., Miss., pop. sch., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 74, dwell. 429, fam. 440; and 1880 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., City of Bay St. Louis, ED 140?, p. 12-D, dwell. 101, fam. 101, E. P. Odom, which agrees with this age data.

⁶⁹ Hinds Co., Miss., 1830 Land and Personal Tax Roll; “Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for “Hinds, 1830–Combined” (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Hinds/1830/Combined/27).

⁷⁰ Madison Co., Miss., 1830 Land and Personal Tax Roll, p. 7; “Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for “Hinds, 1830–Combined” (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Madison/1830/Combined/9).

⁷¹ 1830 U.S. census, Madison Co., Miss., p. 103, line 2.

NEIGHBORS:

Carson, John
Moore, Thos.
Raferty, Robert
Carson, Joseph
Walker, James
Joslin, Samuel
Carson, McClendon?
Thomas, Henry
[Cont'd in next column]

Wm. Odom

Robinson, Thomas
Thomas, Michael
Russel, Irvin
Moore, Gibson
Becks?, Henry
Lock, John
Belvin, Samuel

COMMENT:

Samuel Joslin would move from here to Leake County, Mississippi, where he would sell his land to William Odom's former Pike Co. neighbor and future in-law, John Boyd.

1830

MADISON? COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of eighth child, Samuel Odom.⁷²

1 SEPTEMBER 1830

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Bondsman.

Leroy P. Griggs & Nancy Varnell. 11 September 1830. **Wm. Odom, Bondsman.**⁷³

COMMENT:

As a rule, men of this era signed bonds only for people who were extremely close to them. If a bondsman failed to meet the terms of the bond, the surety was liable for the full cost of the bond, plus fines or court costs. Even their homes could be seized to pay the debt. It was not an obligation most men took on lightly. No connection is known for William to either the bride or groom. The 1830 Madison County Tax Roll contains no entries for either Griggs or Varnell.

This volume also contains entry for an Edmond, Emmanuel, and John Odom in the 1837–39 period. John married Sarah Ann Grafton (F:107). No connection has been found to our branch of the Odoms.

TO DO

Griggs and the Varnells should be studied for possible kinship to either William or his wife Jane Johns(t)on. Griggs has not been found on the 1830 census.

⁷² Birth period extrapolated from 1850 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 73, dwell. 414, fam. 415; and 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville p.o., stamped p. 301, dwell. 749, fam. 913.

⁷³ R. C. and Marie Luter Upton, *Marriage Records, Madison County, Mississippi, Book 'E', 1830–1836 and Book 'F', 1835–1847* (N.p.: P.p., 1958), p. 1, citing Book E, original page 10.

1831–32

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Rolls.⁷⁴

[These two years are missing from the collection]

1833

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Land and Personal Tax Roll⁷⁵

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

Breland, Edward	[Not found]	
Odum, Wm.	1 poll	37 ½¢

1833

MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tract Book Entry.

Township 10, Range 3E

William Odom N ½ of E ½ of SW ¼ Section 9 39.99 acres Pat. 11 July 1833⁷⁶

COMMENT

The typical pattern for yeoman families was to settle a tract of unoccupied land and make a small clearing for home, garden, and the start of a cash crop. After one to three years of testing the productivity of the soil, they applied for the land at the federal land office that served their district. William appears to have followed this pattern. By the time the patent was issued in 1833, however, he had decided not to stay.

TO DO:

Search Madison County deed records for William's disposal of this land.

1834

NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax Roll.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ "Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Madison).

⁷⁵ Hinds Co., Miss., 1833 Land and Personal Tax Roll"; "Series 1202: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," images, *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for "Hinds, 1834–Combined" (http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digital_archives/taxrolls/Madison/1833/Combined/16).

⁷⁶ Madison Co., Miss., "Original U.S. Land Entries," unpaginated, arranged by township and range; Circuit Clerk's Office, Canton.

⁷⁷ Neshoba Co., Miss., 1834 Tax Roll, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

G. R. and J. S. Fall, *Revised Statutes of Mississippi* (Jackson: G. R. and J. S. Fall, 1836), Chap. XII, pp. 230–55, sets forth the prevailing tax laws. The usual dates on which lists were to be turned in by individuals and certified by the assessor are left blank,

Wm. Odum 1 white poll \$.375 tax

COMMENT:

William's future sons-in-law, Samuel and John Cooksey, also appear on this 1834 roll.

26 FEBRUARY 1836

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi's legislature created Newton on this date from the southern half of Neshoba County. A county seat named Decatur was created, reportedly on land donated by a Cooksey-Odom neighbor, Isham Hollingsworth. Building began on the town in late 1836. The courthouse itself would have been created late in 1836 and record-keeping would not have begun until early 1837.⁷⁸

1 JULY 1839

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1838 Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁷⁹

Wm. Odum 0 white polls, 0 slaves, \$200 money loaned at interest, tax: 50¢

COMMENT:

The maximum age for the payment of poll tax was 50. William apparently turned 50 before 1 January 1838 and was dropped from the roll. No Odom son is taxed because none is yet 21.

2 NOVEMBER 1839

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Birth of son James H. Odom.⁸⁰

leaving unanswered the question of what time of the year the tax data applies. A supplemental volume, G. R. and J. S. Fall, *Notes to the Revised Statutes of Mississippi* (Jackson: G. R. and J. S. Fall, 1836), contains nothing more on the tax law.

The 1823 compilation of statutes, which was the basis of the 1836 revision, stipulated that the assessor was to acquire between 1 March and 1 June of each year, a list of taxable property from each individual who held taxable property on **1 January of that year**. See *The Revised Code of the Laws of Mississippi, in Which Are Comprised All Such Acts of the General Assembly, of a Public Nature, as Were in Force at the End of the Year 1823* (Jackson: F. Baker, 1824), 287–88. From this, we may deduce that William was in Neshoba by 1 January 1834.

⁷⁸ Alfred John Brown, *History of Newton County, Mississippi, from 1836 to 1894* (Jackson, Miss.: Clarion-Ledger, 1894), 1, 37–38, 45–46.

⁷⁹ Newton Co., Miss., 1838 Tax Rolls (Combination Personal and Land, semi-alphabetized), certified 1 July 1839; roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss. The list carries no title, header, or date. The state archives has labeled it 1838.

⁸⁰ The birth date is extrapolated from several sources. The undated clipping of Robert Lee Breland's newspaper account, "On Sacred Soil," reports the celebration of James H.'s 82nd birthday on 2 November. The author states that his own parents married near James H.'s house "seventy-four years ago," on 2 May 1847. Thus, the newspaper clipping might be dated at November 1921, and James H.'s birth might be calculated as 2 November 1829. However, the census records consistently make him 10 years younger—i.e., born 1839. See, for example, 1850 U.S. census, Harrison Co., Miss., pop. sch., Habolochitto Dist., stamped p. 74, dwell. 429, fam. 440; and 1870 U.S. census, Hancock Co., Miss., Gainesville P.O., p. 310 (stamped), p. 101 (penned), dwell. 930, fam. 1102.

CA. 1 JANUARY 1840

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1839 Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁸¹

Odom: None shown.

1 JANUARY – 6 MARCH 1840

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1840 Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁸²

William Odom [not found; the photocopied roll may be missing a page of N-O names]
Shadrick Odum [appears at top of next page:]
1 white male poll, 0 slaves, 0 land, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: 37.5¢

1 JUNE 1840

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1840 U.S. Census.

p. 18, lines 10–11

William Odum	1 male	60–60	1 female	40–50
	2 males	10–15 [Eli, Samuel]	1 female	20–30 [Cemantha]
	1 male	0–5 [James]	1 female	10–15 [Manerva]
			3 people employed in agriculture	

COMMENT:

The daughter Nancy, who was said to have been born ca. 1824 and who married in 1854, seems to be missing from this household.

1840 NEIGHBORS:

Joseph *Johnston*

John *Parks*

John *Cooksey*

J. A. *Johnson*

John *Woodward*⁸³

W. W. *Johnson*

N. B. *Smith*

Wm. *Boyd* [son of James *Boyd*, RW, of Pa. and Tenn.;
no kinship to the John *Boyd* family]

John *Boyd* [of Geo., son of immigrant Andrew; father of
James who married Elmira *Parks*]

Franklin *Boyd* [son of John]

⁸¹ Newton Co., Miss., 1839 Combination Tax Roll that begins with a header, "A List of the Taxable Property in Newton County for the Year A.D. 1839" (semi-alphabetized); microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss. Curiously, this roll—which carries no certification date—is only about half the size of the 1838 roll. No county had been cut from Newton in the meanwhile. Either the county was sub-divided into two tax divisions and one list is lost or else the county lost an extraordinarily large number of inhabitants during 1838. A comparison of the names on the 1839 list with those of 1838 shows that most names are duplicated, suggesting that the "1838" list, which carries no header, was not a missing part of the 1839 list.

⁸² Newton Co., Miss., 1840 Combination Tax Roll, certified 6 March 1840; roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁸³ John Woodward is mentioned in the 10 June 1856 letter of Manerva (Odom) Breland to her father parents William and Jane Odom: "I could tell you of a great many that have died in this county. I will mention some that you know ... Hannah Easters[,] daughter of John Woodward."

William Odom (ca. 1786-87–aft. 1870)
Wife: Jane Johns(t)on

Benjamin Bagget
Edmon *Johnson*
Anderson Pinson
Wm. Odum
Shadrock Odum
Isaac Hollinsworth
Elias Chandler
Michael Thomas
Daniel *Johnston*
James *Johnston*
[cont. in next col.]

Benjamin *McCullock* [brother-in-law of John Boyd]
John A. Thompson
Haden *Watts* [proposed nephew of Zilpha Cooksey]
Michael *Miller* [in-law of J. W. Cooksey]
Benjamin Rollins
J. D. Phelps
Jas. Walton
E. S. Phelps
Thomas Jones
Enoch Philps
Wm. Evins

COMMENT:

Italicized names are all known to be kin, inlaws, or close associates. Isaac Hollinsworth, who lived next door to William and his son Shadrack, was formerly a near neighbor in Pike County.

None of these Johnsons are known to be from the Pike County Johns(t)ons. The evidence in this burned county is inconclusive.

27 FEBRUARY 1841
NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
Land acquisition.

William received patents to two tracts of federal land:⁸⁴

- SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 20, Township 8N, Range 12E, Choctaw Meridian, 40 acres
- E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 19, Township 8N, Range 12E, Choctaw Meridian, 79.93 acres

COMMENT:

Typically, one or more years would have passed since William had “entered” this land at the Columbus land office, paying in cash the mandated \$1.25 per acre for government land. The patents state that he was, at the time he purchased the land, a resident of Neshoba County.

William’s land lay roughly 5 miles NW of the Newton County land (sect. 11, T7N R12E) entered by *Nathaniel Bailey Johnston*, who appears in the *Shadrack Odom Psalm Book* as a brother of *Shadrack’s* wife *Margaret Ann (Johnston) Odom*; both were children of Nathaniel Johnston and Jane Miller.

⁸⁴ Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” database, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glo.records.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 2 September 2002), William Odom, Accession /Serial nos. MS1140_.091 and MS0750_.134.

1 JANUARY – 3 DECEMBER 1841

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1841 Land and Personal Tax Roll.⁸⁵

Shadrack Odom 1 white male poll, 0 land, 0 clock, 0 cattle (in excess of the first 20, untaxed),
0 slaves, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.50

Wm. Odom 80 acres valued at \$600, 0 clock, 25 cattle (in excess of 20),
0 poll, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$1.75

1 JANUARY –1 JULY 1842

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1842 Personal Tax Roll.⁸⁶

Shadric Odom 1 white male poll, 0 land, 0 clock, 0 cattle (in excess of the basic allowance),
0 slaves, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.50

Wm. Odom 0 land, 0 clock, 15 cattle (in excess of basic allotment),
0 poll, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.15

1843

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1843 Personal Tax Roll.⁸⁷

Shadrack Odom 1 white male poll, 0 clock, 0 cattle (in excess of 20),
0 slaves, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.50

Wm. Odom 0 clock, 15 cattle (in excess of 20),
0 poll, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.15

⁸⁵ Newton Co., Miss., 1841 Combination Tax Roll, certified 3 December 1841; microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss. The assessment data on the rolls would have been based on each person's situation on 1 January, although the roll was not certified until after the taxes were collected.

⁸⁶ Newton Co., Miss., 1842 Personal Tax Roll, certified 1 July 1842; microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁸⁷ Newton Co., Miss., 1843 Personal Tax Roll [no certification date]; microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

1843–1925

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Mt. Moriah Presbyterian Church. No pre-Civil War entries for Odom.⁸⁸

1 JULY 1844

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1844 Personal Tax Roll.⁸⁹

Shadric Odum MISSING

Wm. Odum 0 clock, 15 cattle (in excess of 20),
0 poll, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.15

15 OCTOBER 1845

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1845 Personal Tax Roll.⁹⁰

Consecutive entries:

Wm. Odum 0 clock, 15 cattle (in excess of 20)
0 poll, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.15

D. M. Overstreet [*Overstreet separates the two Odums; he has same data as Shadrack*]

Shadrack Odum 1 white male poll, 0 clock, 0 cattle (in excess of the basic allotment),
0 slaves, 0 money loaned at interest, 0 slaves
tax: \$.50

EARLY 1846

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1846 Land Tax Roll.⁹¹

[Unalphabetized; cites exact legal description of land]

Odom, William E½ of NE¼ S19 T8 R12 79.92 acres @ \$3.75 = \$299.73¾ value
W½ of NW¼ S20 T8 R12 79.93 acres @ \$3.75 = \$299.73¾ value

COMMENT:

Since 1842, William has acquired another 40 acres by purchase: the NW¼ NW¼ S20. This land had been patented in 1841 to James Barber.

⁸⁸ Mt. Moriah Presbyterian Church (Newton Co., Miss.), Record Book 1843–1925; 15 ft. microfilm, film no. [?], Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Comment by ESM: At the time I searched these records, my first year of research, I searched only for Odom and Boyd; I knew of no other associated names.

⁸⁹ Newton Co., Miss., 1844 Personal Tax Roll, certified 1 July 1844; microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁹⁰ Newton Co., Miss., 1845 Personal Tax Roll, certified 15 October 1845; microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

⁹¹ Newton Co., Miss., 1846 Land Tax Roll [no certification date]; microfilm roll 5088, Record Group 29, Auditor of Public Accounts; Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

This is William Odom's last appearance in the county. Before 1850 he relocated his family on the Gulf Coast, county of Hancock (modern Pearl River Co.), amid Breland relatives. No known record survives in this "burned county" for the disposition of his Newton County land. He does not appear to have sold it to Shadrack. By the date of the 1850 census, Shadrack did own land, but the 1857 land tax roll places him in ownership of a different (though nearby) tract: W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ S29 T8 R12.

1848

NEWTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Membership List, Pinckney Baptist Church (founded 1847)⁹²

[47 names, including ...]

John Cooksey [brother-in-law of Shadrack]
Henry Gill [in-law of Cookseys]
Owen Pinson
Thomas Sessums [brother-in-law of Shadrack]
Harrison Johnson
Shadrack Odom
Henry J. Johnson
William C. Sessums [in-law of Cookseys]
Jesse Miller [in-law of James Cooksey]
Rheuben Price [brother-in-law of Shadrack]
David Gill [brother-in-law of Shadrack]

Martha Miller? [in-law of James Cooksey]
Elizabeth Johnson
Lucinda Pinson
Lavina Johnson
Zilpha Cooksey [mother-in-law of Shadrack]
Zilpha Sessums [sister-in-law of Shadrack]
Catherine Gill [sister-in-law of Shadrack]
Delaney Barefoot
Sarah Miller [wife of Jesse, mother of Kader]
Fanny Gill [wife of Henry Gill]
Elizabeth Odom [wife of Shadrack]

COMMENT:

No members of William and Jane's family appear, except for the daughters who married Cooksey.

13 SEPTEMBER 1850

HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1850 U.S. Census.

p. 184 (verso), dwelling 429/family 440

William Odom	63	male	white	farmer	\$500	b. S.C.
Jane	57	female	white			b. S.C.
Cemantha	30	female	white			b. Miss
Nancy	26	male	white			b. Miss.
Eli	21	male	white			b. Miss.
James	11	male	white			b. Miss.

⁹² Records of Pinckney Baptist Church, Chunky (Newton Co.), Miss.; abstracts provided 1987 by Dr. Susan Slaymaker (11463 Mother Lode Circle, Gold River, CA 95670) to Elizabeth Shown Mills; 8 typed pages, without identification of the present whereabouts of the records. Dr. Slaymaker identifies her connection to the Odoms as follows: Susan (Clark) Slaymaker, daughter of Rev. Woodrow Wilson Clark Sr., son of John Arthur Hendrix Clark and Ina Elnora Breland, daughter of Rev. Francis Marion Breland, son of Rev. Oliver Franklin Breland and his cousin Manerva Odom, daughter of William Odom (whose mother was Millie Breland) and wife Jane Johnson.

Neighbors

[Names of children are shown when they parallel Odom-Cooksey names]

423/433	Simon Ladner (30, b. Miss.), Adaline (25, b. Miss.), children 4–14
424/434	Louisa Ladner (18, b. Miss.), child Samuel (3, b. Miss.)
425/435	John Favre (45, b. Miss.), Dorcas (35, MS), children 2–20
426/436	Louisa Ladner (50, b. "France")
426/427	Polite Ladner (21, b. Hancock Co., Miss.), Joseph (22, b. Hancock Co., Miss.)
427/428	Jackson Rester (32, b. Ga.), Viney (26, b. Miss.), children 4–15
428/439	Jeremia Ladner (26, b. Miss.), Sarah (17, b. Miss.), Jasper (4 mos., b. Miss.)
429/440	William Odom
430/441	Washington Billbow (32, b. Miss.), Precilla (31, b. Miss.), ch. 2–15 [including James, 17, father of the future senator, governor, and demagogue, Theodore Bilbo]

COMMENT:

The Farvres and Ladners were interrelated families who had been there for a hundred years. These Farve neighbors descended from a French interpreter and his Choctaw wife.

2 OCTOBER 1854

HANCOCK CO., MISSISSIPPI

Land Patent.⁹³

[No. 422]

"The United States of America

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved September 28th, 1850, entitled 'An Act granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States, Warrant No. 30427 for 40 acres issued in favor of

William Odam, Private in Captain Cleavland's Company, Mississippi militia, War of 1812

has been returned to the General Land Office with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the

South East quarter of the North West quarter of Section twenty four in Township four south of Range fourteen West in the district of Lands subject to sale at Augusta, Mississippi, containing Forty acres and three hundredths of an acre

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Lands returned to General Land Office by the Surveyor General

which has been assigned to John B. Toulme

Now Know Ye, That there is therefore granted by the United States unto the said

John B. Toulme and to his heirs

The tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said Tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said

John B. Toulme and to his

⁹³ Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," database, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 22 September 2012), digital image, William Odam & John B. Toulme, Accession MW-0818-422, Warrant No. 30427, SE¼ NW¼ S24, T4S R14W, now Pearl River Co.; citing Military Bounty Land Warrants, vol. 818, p. 422.

heirs and assigns forever. In Testimony Whereof, I, Franklin Pierce, President of the United States of America, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the
Second day of October
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and *fifty four* and of the Independence
of the United States the *seventy-ninth*.

By the President, Franklin Pierce
by H. E. Baldwin, Asst. Sec'y.
J. N. Granger, Recorder of the General Land Office.

COMMENT:

As a militiaman called up for service in the War of 1812, William was eligible for bounty land under the Acts of 1850 and 1853. He applied in both cases, received a warrant that guaranteed him acreage of his choosing from unoccupied public land, and then transferred the warrant to someone else before the patent was issued. Above, he sold the land to a speculator. The second tract, below, he would give or sell to a son-in-law.

TO DO

Order both bounty-land applications from the National Archives.

10 JUNE 1856

NEWTON COUNTY > HANCOCK COUNTY

Letter of Manerva (Odom) Breland⁹⁴

“Dear Father & Mother,

It is with pleasure I avail myself of this privilege to write you a few lines informing you that we are in moderate health through the mercy of an ever gracious providence, for which I feel very thankful to the great ‘giver of every good and perfect gift,’ & I hope this will find you all well.

“We have great reason, and feel under numerous obligations to thank God for many fold [manifold] favors and blessings bestowed upon us unworthy creatures, for in the midst of deserved wrath he has remembered us in mercy, while many of our fellow mortals have been called from time to Eternity, we are still the spared monuments of his amazing love and goodness. There has been abundance of sickness here this spring, and a great many deaths. Some die in two or three days after taken, others live a week, some longer. Some were perfectly well and in one hour were out of their senses. It was the severest disease that ever I was acquainted with. The doctors had various names for it. Some call it malignant or spotted scarlet fever. Others call it pneumonia. I suppose it somewhat resembled the cold plague, I could tell you of a great many that have died in this county. **I will mention some that you know.** Old Mrs. Robertson wife of Lodrick Robertson, Old Mrs. Parker sister to Burrel Raburn, Abram Jones and his daughter Margaret Ann wife of John B. Johnson, Hannah Easters daughter of John Woodward, Sarah Ann Jones daughter of Lodrick Robertson, Benjamin Robertson, Noah Parks son of old John Parks, Thomas Sessums’ daughter

⁹⁴ Manerva (Odom) Breland to William and Jane Odom, 10 June 1856; typescript shared ca. 2008 by Dawn Driskell.

William Odom (ca. 1786-87–aft. 1870)
Wife: Jane Johns(t)on

Elizabeth, little James Boyd son of James Boyd. I could tell of several others but you would not know them. We have another daughter born April 29th 1856. Call her name Nancy Elizabeth.

“The[re] has been large freshets in Chunky this spring, one the first day of March, the largest I have ever known since I have been on Chunky, the other the first day of May, not so large. People has about finished cutting their wheat. There is a good deal of wheat made here this year though the rest has injured some.

“The connection are all well so far as I know at this time. John & Evaline has been sick this spring with chills and fever. Some of Samuel Cooksey’s children have been sick this spring with pneumonia. Shad’s Rhoda has been sick with the same complaint, but they have all recovered. We had the severest winter we ever had in this county. It is supposed that is the cause of so much sickness. I suppose there has been more sickness in this county since the middle of February last than there has been here in five years before.

“I must come to a close. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. Write when you receive this [and] let us know how you are doing. When this you see, remember me. Also pray for us.

{p. 2}

Sunday Evening,

Been to singing today,
O. F. Breland
Manerva Breland

{Written on envelope:}

Mr. Wm. Odom
Pass Christian, Miss.
June 10, 1856.

1860 CENSUS
HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

COMMENT:

The family has not been found—neither William nor the other branches of the family that lived in his community. Apparently, a portion of the 1860 Hancock County census has been lost.

15 AUGUST 1860
NESHOPA CO., MISSISSIPPI
Land Patent⁹⁵
[Warrant 86460]

“The United States of America
To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, entitled ‘An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the

⁹⁵ Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” database and images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 22 September 2012), patent image, document no. 86460, William Odom & Oliver F. Breland, E ½ SE ¼ S26, T9N R12E and Lot 6 of fractional S25, T9N R12E, now Neshoba Co.; citing Military Bounty Land Warrants, vol. 461, p. 225.

Military Service of the United States, there has been deposited in the General Land Office, Warrant No. 86,460 for 120 acres issued in favor of

William Odam, Private in Captain Cleveland's Company, Mississippi Militia, War of 1812

with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the

East half of the South east quarter of section twenty six and the South West quarter of aforesaid half or lot numbered Six of fractional section twenty five in Township Nine North of Range Twelve East in the District of Lands subject to sale at Columbus, Mississippi, Containing one hundred and nineteen acres and seventy-three hundredths of an acre

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Lands returned to General Land Office by the Surveyor General

the said warrant having been assigned by the said William Odam to Oliver F. Breeland in whose avor said tract has now been located.

Now Know Ye, That there is therefore granted by the United States unto the said

Oliver F. Breeland, as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs

the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said Tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said

Oliver F. Breeland as assignee as aforesaid and to his

heirs and assigns forever. In Testimony Whereof, I, James Buchanan, President of the United States of America, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the *fifteenth* day of *August* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty four and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty fifth.

By the President, James Buchanan

by J. A. B. Leonard, Sec'y.

J. N. Granger, Recorder of the General Land Office.

17 AUGUST 1870

HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

1870 U.S. Census.

Gainesville P.O.

p. 310 (stamped), p. 101 (penned), dwelling 926/family 1098,

William Odom	84	male	white	farmer	\$500	b. Ga.
Sarah	28	female	white			b. Miss.
Ben.	8	male	white			b. Miss
Jas.	6	male	white			b. Miss.

Neighbors

[Names of children are shown when they parallel Odom-Cooksey names]

920/1092 Stewart, E. P. (30, b. Miss.), Nancy (30, Miss.) ch. Mary, George, Sarah (2-9)

921/1093 Smith, Sherod (31, Miss.), Mehaly (31, Miss.) ch. Clorinda, Lener, Bettie (1-6)

922/1094 Rester, William (27, Miss.), Ann (25, Miss.), ch. Nancy, Wm., Mary, James (8 mos-5)

923/1095 Smith, Andrew (29, Miss.)

924/1096 Pealer?, Richard (black, 38, Va.), Philis (bl, 40, Miss.)

925/1097 May, Andrew (43, Miss.), Sabrie (49, Miss.), ch. Amy, William, Lethe, Charles (7-17)

- 926/1098 **Odom, William**
927/1099 Rester, Frederick (52, Miss.), ch. Elizabeth, Louise, Fred., Emerline, Hezekiah (12-19)
----/1100 Lewis, Elizabeth (50, N.C.)
928/1100 **Cook, Mathew** (58, Miss.), ch. Frances, Caddy, Mathew, Milley, Nelly (4-23)
929/1101 Carter, Caleb (50, Miss.), **Cemanthia** (50, Miss.), ch. Cynthia, Jane, Christine, Alley (3-16)
930/1102 **Odom, James** (31, Miss.), Aley (37, Miss.), ch. Rachael, Laro, Davis, Virginia, Delphene,
Nathan (2-16)
931/1103 Bilbo, Jo. (33, Miss.), Beady (33, Miss.), ch. A.J., George, Joseph, Monroe, Mary (2-9)
932/1104 Howard, Nancy (35, Miss.) ch. Elijah, Mary, Houston James, Artimesia (5-15)
933/1105 Bilbo, Prissy (45, Miss.), ch. Louisa, Jephtha (13, 20)
934/1106 Jerrell, Mrs.(70, Miss.), etc.

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