A CASE STUDY IN FAMILY RECONSTRUCTION WITHIN A "BURNED COUNTY"

By

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, FASG*

In 1835 there first appeared on record in Monroe Co., Miss., the twenty-three year old Benjamin Dabney Anderson. Despite his youth and presumed lack of family connections in the area, Anderson already filled the office of justice of the peace in the western portion of the county. The following year, when the new county of Pontotoc was cut from the extremities of Monroe, Anderson not only continued as a justice but was given the contract for clearing the ground and laying off streets through the new village of Pontotoc. At the age of twenty-five he was elected the county's first representative to the state legislature. For three decades thereafter, he remained one of the region's best-known citizens. Yet generations of descendants have found his origins untraceable.

When the present researchers began their quest for Anderson's roots in 1980, "known" facts were meager and contradictory. Federal censuses indicated he was born in Virginia, 1810 to 1813. Tradition in one local branch of the family held that he was a native of Winchester; while the letters of older family members, written in the 1930s, related that Anderson was a native of Lynchburg and that he was the son of William "Buck" Anderson who married Elizabeth Couch either in Scotland or Ireland prior to settling with her in Buckingham County. It was also said that B. D. had brothers Thomas Overton and William Thornton, as well as "a cousin," Nathaniel Anderson, who was a pioneer of Memphis, Tenn.

Tradition among other descendants both supported and contradicted the above. A non-Pontotoc branch asserted B. D. was born in Lynchburg and was raised in Buckingham County. His father, allegedly, was William; but the mother of B. D. was "Mary Curtis, sister of Dr. Henry Curtis who married President Tyler's sister." This collateral branch further believed that both William Anderson and his wife Mary Curtis migrated to Pontotoc with B. D. and are buried in that county; it also alleged that the Andersons descend from the ever-popular Pocahontas. A biographical sketch of B. D.'s daughter, published in one of the "mug-book" histories of the 1890s, further reported that Anderson was related to the "Gilmers,[Minons]Minors, and Dabneys, so well known in the history of that state."

Documentation of B. D.'s origins and ancestry has been possible, despite the fact that
the county in which he allegedly was reared — and the county in which his parents and grandparents died — is a "burned county." Initially, the identification of his parentage and the reconstitution of his familial unit had to be established through a circuitous chain of evidence; but it was the sibling information gathered in this process which led the present researchers to the ultimate confirmation of the family relationships they had indirectly reconstructed. This paper will outline the process by which that chain of evidence has been forged, in hopes that it will not only be useful to Anderson descendants but also that it may offer some fresh encouragement or outlook to others who have been sytmied by "burned" records.

STEP ONE: PRELIMINARY RESEARCH IN PUBLISHED SECONDARY MATERIALS

A brief survey of Virginia publications revealed that there did exist a well-known Anderson family that was related to the Gilmers, Minors, and Dabneys. This family also had known members who bore the given name of Benjamin Dabney; however, none of those who bore this name could possibly be the Benjamin Dabney who migrated to Mississippi. This Anderson family of New Kent, Louisa, and Hanover counties appeared to have no unaccounted-for descendants in the area of Winchester although it did have an offspring Thomas Anderson (David, Robert II, Robert III) who settled in Buckingham in the late eighteenth century; his descendants appear never to have been traced — probably because of the dearth of records available in Buckingham. Published genealogies also indicated that this Thomas Anderson had a brother Nathaniel (whom later investigation proved to be the father of Nathaniel of Memphis) and that the name Overton (the alleged name of a brother of B. D. and a name which he gave to one of his sons) was common among Thomas Anderson's in-laws and cousins.

STEP TWO: CENSUS SURVEY

Family researchers already had consulted the 1850 census of Buckingham and located one entry which was believed to be the legendary William "Buck" Anderson:

- BALLOWE, Sallie, 10, female, white, b. Va.; William, 13, male, white, b. Va.

A broader survey of Buckingham County censuses revealed the existence of four William Andersons in the county, 1810 through 1840, one of whom appeared consistently in the same neighborhood as William of 1850. However, neither he nor his wife was enumerated thereafter. The spinster Harriett, shown in 1850, continued to appear in that same neighborhood 1860-1880. Simultaneously it was determined that no William Anderson of age and background appropriate to be the father of B. D. appeared in any of the 1830, 1840, or 1850 censuses of Monroe or Pontotoc cos., Miss., or Winchester, Va.

When the census search was extended to include the alleged brothers of B. D., Thomas Overton and William Thornton, there were found in 1850 no individuals with compatible names, ages or births in any Southern state, with the exception of the following two entries:

- Campbell Co., Va.
  - Lynchburg, p. 187 or 94, family 303-316
  - ANDERSON, Wm. T., 37, male, white, comm. merch., $23,000, b. Va.; Ann C. 36, female, white, b. Va.
  - Hunt, Cornelia L., 16, female, white, b. Va.; John A., 14, male, white, b. Va.; Henry C.,
12, male, white, b. Va.; Ann S., 10, female, white, b. Va.; Ella T., 8, female, white, b. Va.
ANDERSON, Wm. D., 1, male, white, b. Va.; [blank], 1, female, white, b. Va.
Jasper, Daniel L., 22, male, white, clerk, b. Va.; Adeline, 16, female, white, b. Va.;
[blank], ½, male, white, b. Va.
Botetourt Co., Va.
p. 226 or 113R, family 1008-1008
ANDERSON, Thomas O., 31, male, merchant, white, b. Va.; Maria A., 31, female,
Meanwhile a fresh look at the 1850 census of Pontotoc revealed another young
Anderson in the household of B. D. Although he was of appropriate age to be a younger
brother, the family’s notes made no reference to him:
Pontotoc co., Miss
p. 407 or 204, family 1989-1989
ANDERSON, Benjamin D., 40, white, male, trader, $15,000, b. Va.; Sarah, 30, white,
female, b. Ohio; William, 10, white, male, b. Miss.; Mary, 8, female, white, b. Miss.;
Caroline, 6, female, white, b. Miss.; Benjamin, 3, male, white, b. Miss.; Thomas, 6/12,
male, white, b. Miss.; James, 24, male, white, no occupation, b. Va.

STEP THREE: COUNTY RESEARCH ON B. D. ANDERSON IN KNOWN PLACES
OF RESIDENCE

Prior county research in Pontotoc had been conducted by family genealogists who
reported finding no clues to the origins of Anderson. Attempts to trace his activities
during his earlier residence in Monroe County and after his removal to Memphis, circa
1865-1868, yielded no relevant information on his background. No proof could be found
that any Anderson relatives migrated westward with him; no proof could be found of
any connection to Memphis’s well-known citizen, Major Nathaniel Anderson.
The present writer then initiated her own research in the Pontotoc courthouse,
expanding upon previous research to include all Andersons in Pontotoc and all known
associates of B. D. — particularly one Aaron Root, the first sheriff of the county, whose
complex estate was administered by B. D. from 1838 to 1853. A preview of records
generated by Root indicated that his bond as sheriff was co-signed by one James D.
Couch, who may be assumed to have close ties with Root since he placed a mortgage
against all his own extensive lands in De Soto Co., Miss., to insure Root’s performance
in office. The name Couch, it is recalled, was the name attributed by one local
tradition to the mother of B. D., — yet there was no Couch family residing in the county
in any period whom local Anderson descendants might have known.
Location of the Root estate papers proved difficult. Scattered abstracts appeared in
various bound volumes, but the original packet of loose papers (consisting of at least
103 documents according to the probate index) was no longer in the drawer to which it
was assigned. Supplementary records were found in the files of the State Supreme
Court at Jackson, but they yielded no additional data on Anderson aside from the fact
that he personally requested the court to grant him letters of administration.
A consultation with the deputy chancery clerk of Pontotoc next yielded the advice
that she had done genealogical work on both Root and Anderson, that no relationship
existed between the two, that the court appointed Anderson to act merely as a
“disinterested party” since the estate was so complex, and that it would be a waste of
both time and funds for Anderson researchers to pursue Aaron Root. This logic seemed
tenuous to the present researchers, in light of the discovery that Anderson himself
requested the administratorship and the court granted it with no thought of, or
objection by, Root’s own adult brothers in the county who were associated with him in
business. Concurrent research on Root’s background in Madison Co., Ala., also had yielded the fact that Root’s wife was one Elizabeth Couch, 16 the same name attributed to the mother of Anderson by one tradition. In any event, the deputy clerk — like many busy county officials — was disinclined to assist further with the location of the “missing” Root estate.

A further check with local family members turned up eight pages that had been photocopied from the missing file in the past — but had not been shared because of an embarrassing but unfounded allegation made against one "James H. Anderson, who was identified as the brother of B. D." This first breakthrough, the positive identification of one brother of B. D., prompted another discovery of importance. Returning to the county records, the present writer yielded to impulse and checked an entry indexed as "James H. Andrews, adm. of James Perry, deceased." The compiler of the index had erred. The actual administrator of the Perry estate was James H. Anderson, and the original copy of his administrator’s bond carried his actual signature as well as that of B. D. who served as his surety. The last county document found on James was the February 1861 dismissal of him as the estate’s administrator because he had left the state.17

STEP FOUR: ANDERSON RESEARCH IN THE COUNTY RECORDS OF VIRGINIA

As previously stated, Buckingham County courthouse records suffered general destruction in 1869. The early tract books, which do remain, and the post-1869 records were found to contain no reference to B. D., to his proven brother James H., or to his alleged parents or brothers. Research was then extended to Botetourt and Campbell counties, where individuals bearing the names of the alleged brothers were enumerated in 1850, and to the various other counties surrounding the burned county of Buckingham. While B. D. was not found in any of these counties, the work was richly rewarding. Four additional siblings were identified for B. D. and James:

1. WILLIAM T. ANDERSON. The 1873 Business Directory, Lynchburg, Virginia, p. 12, listed two entries which suggested a connection between individuals bearing the name of B. D.’s proven brother and that of his alleged brother William Thornton:
   Anderson, W. T. — Locker, Anderson & Co., cement, 130 Main, h. Amherst
   Anderson, James H., clerk, h. 130 Main St.

   With continued research in the area court records on the firm of Locker, Anderson & Co., it was possible to prove that this James H. Anderson, clerk, was indeed the individual who left Mississippi ca. 1861:
   Chancery File #1256, Bedford County
   19 December 1871. James H. Anderson witnesses a transfer of note from B. B. Buckner to William T. Anderson. The signature of James H. is identical to that found in Pontotoc Co., Miss.
   Chancery File #1653, Bedford County
   Curdiff vs. Locker & Anderson. Contains testimony that the firm of Locker & Anderson (cement plant) was formed 1 Aug. 1873 by William T. Anderson, Charles H. Locker and James H. Anderson.

   The above documents also offered circumstantial evidence that this William T. Anderson, partner of James, might be the alleged brother of B. D. The presumption was
strengthened by a number of other documents found in regional resources, most notably:

Deed Book MM, p. 136, Lynchburg
26 May 1886. James H. Anderson acts as trustee of estate of Wm. T. Anderson, whose family and future heirs at law are the same Hunts named in the 1850 census entry for William T. Anderson of Lynchburg. [Amherst and Lynchburg records further reveal that this William T. Anderson married Ann C., widow Hunt, and that she was the mother of the Hunt children enumerated in William T.'s household in 1850.18] Lynchburg News, 31 March 1897
"Died Mon. night at the home of Mr. Henry C. Hunt, [stepson of William T. Anderson], Mr. Jas. H. Anderson, in the 76th yr of his age. Interment, Spring Hill Cem. Wed. morning, at 11 o’clock."
Will Book B-2, p. 190 Amherst County
Will of James H. Anderson, drafted 25 March 1897 in his room "at the home of Henry C. Hunt." Heirs were: William A. Ballowe, Mrs. Mary E. Roberts, John C. Anderson, and Mrs. Alice Patteson.

Final proof that William T. Anderson was indeed a brother of James (and, thereby, a brother of B. D.) was ultimately found in the legal dispute which resulted after the death of James, between his administrators and the heirs of Cornelia T. Hunt Holcombe. Mrs. Holcombe, a step-daughter of William T., predeceased James, leaving a will dated 13 June 1889 in which a small bequest was made to James. Mrs. Holcombe died the following year; her executors and Anderson disregarded the will and agreed that Anderson would receive title to "the cement property," $750 in cash, and 51 acres in return for relinquishing his claim to the remainder of her estate, which was then to be inherited by children of her brother Henry C. Hunt. The case of J. H. Anderson's Administrators v. Cassie Lee Smith & c erupted when the Hunt heirs accused the deceased James of suppressing the original will and fraudulently insinuating himself into a larger share of the estate. In response, Anderson's administrator asserted that much of the property held by Mrs. Holcombe came from her step-father, William T. Anderson, and that it actually belonged to James "as the heir of his brother W. T...."

2-3. THOMAS O. and HARRIET ANDERSON. The legatees named by B. D.'s proven brother James, in his will of 1897 (particularly Alice Patteson, John C. Anderson and Mary E. Roberts), also lead to the identification of two other siblings of James and B. D. It will be recalled that the 1850 census entry for Thomas O. Anderson of Botetourt identified his wife as Maria A. and enumerated the couple with two daughters: Martha, aged 5, and Mary E., aged 2. In 1860 this same couple is found in Lynchburg:
Campbell County, Lynchburg
p. 333 or 11, family 127-127
ANDERSON, Thos. O., 40, male, white, merchant, $500/$7,640, b. Va.; Maria A., 40, female, white, b. Va.; Martha, 15, female, white, b. Va.; Mary E., 10, female, white, b. Va.; Nannie, 8, female, white, b. Va.; Sallie, 6, female, white, b. Va.; Alice, 3, female, white, b. Va.

In the course of the Civil War, Thomas O. Anderson died and was buried in Lynchburg's Spring Hill Cemetery on 25 Aug. 1863. Charges were paid by Wm. T. Anderson, 29 who was assuredly the individual now identified as a brother of James H. and B. D. The fate of Thomas's wife, Maria A., is not known. In 1870 and 1880 we find several of the Thomas O. Anderson orphans residing in Buckingham County, in the home of Harriet Anderson — the same spinster who resided in 1850 with William and Mary "Polly" of Buckingham:
Buckingham County, Slate River Township
pp. 380-380R or 11-12, family 82-82
Buckingham County, Slate River District
p. 536D, family 211-219


In the interval between 1870 and 1880, two of the orphaned children of Thomas ceased to reside with their aunt Harriet: Mary E. “Bettie” and Alice. Evidence exists that Alice wed in the interim:
Buckingham County Marriage Register 1, p. 32
1 January 1880
Wm. L. Patteson, age 41 — Alice O. Anderson, age 23; Residences: Buckingham County; Parents of Groom: Jno. L. & Jane Patteson; Parents of Bride: Thomas & [blank] Anderson

It is believed, although this has not yet been proven, that Mary E. Anderson who appears as a daughter of Thomas in 1850 and 1860 and who appears as “Bettie” in the household of her aunt Harriet Anderson in 1870, married a Roberts in the decade 1870-1880 and that she was the Mary E. Roberts named as a legatee of James H. Anderson, together with her sister Alice Patteson and her brother John C. Anderson.

4. SARAH ANN ANDERSON BALLOWE. Another sibling of James H. and B. D. Anderson has been uncovered by the identification of James’ final legatee, William A. Ballowe. The identity of Ballowe also leads to written confirmation that William Anderson of Buckingham was indeed the father of the siblings herein reconstructed (i.e. Benjamin Dabney, James H., William T., Thomas O., Harriet and Sarah). It is recalled that in 1850 two Ballowe children appeared in the household of William and Polly of Buckingham: William, aged 13, and Sallie, aged 10. Upon reaching adulthood, young William A. Ballowe was for a time associated with the business activities of William T. and James H. Anderson. He appears in the records of Lynchburg Corporation Suit #1896, at which time he stated “I am a nephew of James H. Anderson.” Later in the court record, Ballowe was addressed by the court in the following words: “William T. Anderson, your uncle, married widow of John T. Hunt....” From these references it is apparent that young Ballowe’s mother was an Anderson, sister of James H. and William T.

Confirmation of the identity of Mrs. Ballowe is found in the following biographical sketch published during William’s lifetime:

WILLIAM ANDERSON BALLOWE — was born in Nelson county, Virginia, July 10, 1837, a son of Thomas Leonard and Sarah Ann (Anderson) Ballowe. In Amherst county, December 14, 1864, he married Emma Fannie Shelton. ... The father of Mr. Ballowe died in this county, and his mother is still living here. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Ballowe are: Willard Robert, born August 1, 1866; John Thomas, born January 28, 1868; Virginia Dabney, October 6, 1869; James Shelton, June 2, 1874; Ralph Lorenzo, October 10, 1876; Willie Edna, October 10, 1878. ... The [paternal] grandfather of William A. Ballowe was Colonel Tom. Ballowe [who] died in Buckingham County, Virginia, and the maternal grandfather of William A., whose name he bears, was of that county also.

The records of Diuguid Funeral Home, from which several of the Anderson siblings were buried, were again searched for the Ballowes — with positive results. On 8 April 1892, Dr. T. H. Ballowe [brother of William A.] arranged for coffin and burial of his
mother, Mrs. S. A. Ballowe. She was interred in Spring Hill Cemetery in the same lot (Sec. U, Lot 25) in which James H. Anderson was laid to rest. 

STEP FIVE: RESEARCH AT THE VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY, RICHMOND

Three collections of records maintained at the State Library have been particularly useful in filling genealogical gaps created by the destruction of Buckingham records: 1) registrations of deaths; 2) land assessment rolls; and 3) personal tax (tithable) rolls. None of these records, when viewed in isolation, was of use in proving relationships within B. D.’s generation. However, they have greatly complimented and supplemented the data gleaned from other sources.

The reconstructed family of B. D. Anderson contained a number of members who apparently died in Virginia and death dates were known or approximated for several of these. Of this number, records were found on only:


WILLIAM T. ANDERSON, white, male, aged 75, died 15 February 1890 in Amherst, farmer. Cause of death, names of parents, and name and relation of informant are left blank. Under “Consort of” there is entered only the word “married.” “Date of filing” is shown only as “Between 1890 & 1896.” The certificate contains significant errors and cannot be considered primary evidence. It was obviously recorded at a later date by a party who did not have complete detail. The given age differs from every other age given for William T. on federal censuses, and the date of death disagrees with records of Diuguid Funeral Home which interred him in the Presbyterian Cemetery of Lynchburg on 18 January 1891.

Land and tithable rolls were far more illuminating. William Anderson, the father of B. D., first appeared on the tithable rolls in 1807, suggesting that he was born in 1791. However, the age accorded to him on the 1850 census indicated a 1789 birth, in which case William should have been a tithable (i.e., age 16) in 1805. Moreover, the fact that two small children appear in his household in 1810 likewise suggested that a 1789, rather than 1791, birthdate was more plausible. It is possible that young William, an orphan at the time, may have resided with relatives in another county prior to 1807.

Land assessment rolls of Buckingham indicate that William received his inheritance in 1804 when the Buckingham estate of his father was divided: 431 acres on James River, 18 miles north of the Buckingham courthouse. The tract was apparently the site of a mill, a tanyard and a ferry. The 1821 roll indicates that in that year he conveyed 166¼ acres of his patrimony to John Couch, who can be identified from other rolls as a husband of William’s sister; and the following year he conveyed the remainder of his patrimony to one Peter White. At that time he purchased a small tract of considerable value but only 4½ acres, identified as Fallsburg Tanyard — a property previously taxed to Joseph Winn. This tanyard adjoined the Fallsburg Mills that were in that same year purchased by William’s relative, Edmund Anderson of Richmond. Since Edmund was an absentee owner, it might be speculated that William, who now owned the adjoining tanyard, operated the mills for Edmund — at least until 1827 when the mills were conveyed to another Anderson in-law, George Woodson.

These land assessment rolls, like the personal tax rolls and the slave data recorded on federal censuses, indicate that William suffered financial reverses in the late 1820s
and early 1830s. In 1834 his 4½ acre tanyard was "conveyed to T. M. Bondurant by Miller" according to a notation on the roll of that year; but Miller is not identified nor is the capacity in which he acted. However, the rolls of this period also reflect numerous sheriff's sales of property to clear debts, and it is possible that the Anderson conveyance fell into this category.

Between 1834 and 1850 there is no further appearance of William's name on the land assessment rolls of Buckingham; however, the extant tract books indicate that in 1832 a parcel of 170 acres "on some of the small branches of Rock Island Creek" was surveyed in the name of "John Couch and William Anderson." (This tract appears to be part of a larger one surveyed in 1805 for the executors of the estate of William's father and Couch's father-in-law.)

The concurrent tithable rolls indicate that William paid tax for only one white poll from 1806 through 1827. In 1828, however, he is charged with three tithables suggesting that two sons came of age (16) in that year. Census data on his now-identified offspring indicates that these two were B. D. and William T. In 1833 the tithable status of William's household changed again. Son William, now aged 21, is charged separately with his own poll, and son B. D. apparently migrated that year to Mississippi. From 1833 to 1836, William remains the only male 16 or over in his household. From 1837 to 1841 he is charged with another male, obviously Thomas O. who was removed from William's household on reaching 21, in 1842, and thereafter was charged for his own poll. The tithable rolls do not account for son James H. Since this is the son who resided in the B. D. Anderson household in Mississippi in 1850, it is possible that he may have left home at an early age and followed his older brother westward.

More insight into the economic life of this family is offered by the federal censuses and the personal tax rolls. In 1818 William was the owner of five horses and eight slaves over the age of 12. By 1820 he was taxed for only one horse and the census enumerated only seven slaves of all ages. By 1829 the tax rolls levied against him for only three slaves and one horse; and the 1830 census enumerated no slave property for him at all.

The decade and a half that followed was a period of great financial instability worldwide. The nation's economy skyrocketed artificially in the early 1830s, then collapsed in the spring of 1837. From that summer until almost another decade had passed, the American public suffered a financial depression as serious as the better-known depression of the 1920s and 1930s. William's fortunes followed that of the general populace. The 1840 census credits him with 20 slaves. Six members of his 29-member household engaged in agriculture, while 20 members were engaged in navigation. By 1850, however, he had slid to the status of an aged farmer, with only $910 in taxable property. The agricultural schedule of that year's census (p. 468) further reveals that Anderson owned 182 acres — only 20 of which was in cultivation. In addition to this farm, valued at $910, he owned implements worth $75 and livestock valued at $548. His major crop was tobacco, which was to be expected from the small number of improved acres on his farm; wheat, oats, flax, Indian corn, and Irish potatoes were also produced in small quantities. Although the 1850s proved to be a boom decade for Southern slaveowners, William's productive years were over.

The 1850 land assessment roll of Buckingham carries one final reference which is presumed to refer to this William Anderson. He appears to be the same William shown as a trustee of Pine Grove Meeting House, which was located 15 miles northeast of the courthouse on "Old Woman's Branch." Efforts to locate records of this meeting house thus far have been unsuccessful. The family's religious affiliation remains uncertain.

No public record has been found which identifies the birth family of Polly C.
Anderson, although the preponderance of evidence has suggested that her maiden name was Couch rather than Curtis, and that she was in all probability the daughter of an early Buckingham settler, Captain James Couch. From tax rolls, land surveys and federal censuses, it is evident that Captain Couch was a neighbor of the Anderson family and that several of his children married siblings of William Anderson. Certain specific property tax entries between 1814 and 1818 indicate that William conveyed two acres of his estate, identified as the "Anderson Mill Tract" to his young wife Polly (although no explanation was given, such conveyances from husband to wife were common when a wife's dower, dowry or inheritance needed defining or protecting); she subsequently transferred the property to James Couch, who recovered it to his son John Couch at or about the time that he suffered a stroke. The administration of his property was taken over by John, who was taxed on the "Anderson Mill Tract" in 1818; and considerable litigation ensued between the heirs of James, who remained for the most part unnamed in the court records. Moreover, William Anderson's name appears frequently in the settlement of the estate of Daniel Couch of Bedford County, whose daughter Elizabeth subsequently married Aaron Root and migrated to Pontotoc, Miss., shortly before the appearance there of B. D. Anderson.

STEP SIX: LOCATION OF — AND CONTACT WITH — COLLATERAL DESCENDANTS IN VIRGINIA

Tentative identification of the siblings of B. D. indicated that most lived out their lives in their birth state; and census and probate data indicated that several left descendants. A search for their progeny was initiated, and proved exceedingly fruitful. Two great-granddaughters of Sarah Ann Anderson Ballowe were located in the city of Lynchburg: Hazel Hicks (Mrs. O. D.) Campbell and her sister Aileen Hicks (Mrs. Lloyd) Miller. While neither lady is an active genealogist, they have preserved a valuable trove of family materials, including the Bible of "William Anderson and Polly Ann Couch, his wife." The family unit of William and Polly, reconstructed from this family Bible and from prior research in public records, may be summarized as:

WILLIAM ANDERSON, born 28 Nov. 1788; married Mary "Polly" Ann Couch, "at the house of Mr. James Couch's on Sunday the 22nd Feb'y, 1807." Polly's birth occurred, presumably in Buckingham County, on 28 Aug. 1788. As tax rolls suggested, William died in 1852, 27 July, and his wife's demise followed on 8 Jan. 1860. They were the parents of eleven children:

1. SARAH ANN ANDERSON, born 15 Dec. 1807; married ca. 1836 to Thomas Leonard Ballowe, with whom she has been found on the 1850 census of Cumberland County, the 1860 census of Buckingham, and the 1880 census of Amherst. She died 6 April 1892 and was buried two days later in Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg.

2. BENJAMIN DABNEY ANDERSON, born 13 Aug. 1809; migrated to Mississippi ca. 1833, where he resided until the 1865-1868 period. Married 11 March 1839 in Limestone Co., Ala., where Anderson relatives resided, to Sarah Lindley (born ca. 1820, Ohio, daughter of the Presbyterian minister Jacob Lindley, who founded Ohio University, and his wife Hannah Dickey). Mrs. Anderson died at Pontotoc ca. 1855 and is buried in the city cemetery, as is her mother. B. D. Anderson died at his home in Whitehaven, a suburb of Memphis, Tenn., on 17 Aug 1877, and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery, Memphis, by Holst Brothers Funeral Directors.

3. WILLIAM THORNTON ANDERSON, born 30 Sept. 1812; married ca. 1848 to Ann Cornelia, widow of John T. Hunt. A Lynchburg merchant, he retired to his farm in Amherst prior to his death 15 Jan. 1891. He outlived his wife by only 9 days.

5. ELIZABETH HOWARD ANDERSON, born 26 July 1815; married 1838 or before to William Ballowe; died 31 March 1839 leaving a daughter Elizabeth Anderson Ballowe, who likewise died the following 22 May.

6. HARRIET SMITH ANDERSON, born 11 May 1817; never married; died 22 Feb. 1883.

7. THOMAS OVERTON ANDERSON, born 11 Aug. 1819; married 7 July 1847 to Maria Agness Hudnall at the home of Mr. Lawson Hudnall. He is found on the 1850 census of Botetourt and resided in Lynchburg where he died about 25 Aug. 1863.

8. JOHN SMITH ANDERSON, born 8 Nov. 1820; died 16 March 1821.

9. JAMES HENRY ANDERSON, born 28 March 1822; never married; died 29 March 1897 at Lynchburg.

10. ANN MARIA ANDERSON, born 8 March 1824; died 3 Sept 1824.

11. MILDRED AGNES ANDERSON, born 22 Sept. 1829; died 1 April 1830.

We have reprinted this splendid article by Mrs. Mills as she walked us through a problem that has confronted thousands. Her approach here may not work in every case where there is a “burned county” but it may in many instances.

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FOOTNOTES

* 107 Woodridge, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35406. The research upon which this paper is based has been a joint effort by the author and two colleagues: Shirley L. Wilcox, CG, 1500 S. 23rd St., Arlington, Va. 22202, and Ann L. McAlister, CGRS, 3609 Tanglewood Lane, Lynchburg, Va. 24503.

1 American State Papers: Documents Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States (38 v.; Washington, Gales & Seaton, 1861), Public Lands, v. 8, pp. 779-81.


4 Pontotoc Co., Miss., 1850 census, p. 407 or 204, family 1899-1899, 1860 census, p. 493 or 9, family 54-54; Shelby Co., Tenn., 1870 census, District 13, p. 368 or 49, family 401-440.

5 Annie Miller Ray (Mrs. W. B., Sr.) Haney, 115 Oxford St., Pontotoc, Miss. 38863, great-granddaughter of B. D. Anderson.

6 Carol Turner Miller Word to William Lindley “Lady” (Mrs. C. O.) Middleton, undated letter in possession of Mrs. Anne S. Anderson, P.O. Box 1647, Gulfport, Miss. 39501. Mrs. Middleton was daughter of B. D. Anderson, Jr.

7 Charles B. Lampkin, 433 Prince Ave., Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401, to Anne S. Anderson, 21 May 1960. Mr. Lampkin’s grandmother was daughter of B. D. Anderson, Sr.

8 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi (Chicago, 1891), pp. 696-98.

9 Among numerous publications on this family are: “Andersons of Virginia and Related Families,” in Mrs. John Bennett Boddie, ed., Historical Southern Families, v. 15 (Baltimore, 1971), pp. 201-20; and Sarah Travers Lewis (Scott) Anderson, Lewises, Meriwethers and Their Kin (Richmond, 1938), pp. 279-310.

For sale ads have been conspicuous by their absence in GENEALOGY. Policy and space has precluded this feature. However, custom can be altered once. Irene Macy Strieby Shreve was one of the founding members of our Family History Section — then known as the Genealogy Committee. Through the years Mrs. Shreve has contributed in many ways to our growth and success as an important part of the Indiana Historical Society.

Mrs. Shreve, now in retirement and quite ill, lives in the Westminster Village 2741 North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906. Phone (317) 463-9707. She has some reference material she would like to sell. Brenton's Hoosier Ancestor column that appeared in the Indianapolis Star 1963 through 1973. These ten years are bound in ten volumes. These cover queries No. 1 through No. 11,372. Price of this set is $75.00. Kentucky Ancestors 1967 through 1980 (13 volumes in fine condition) make offer. List of other genealogical publications for SAE.
In reviewing the many “projects” of the Works Project Administration of Indiana (WPA) the most valuable for family historians was the attempt to index the various county histories for the ninety-two Indiana counties.

The project was sponsored by the Indiana State Library with the co-operation of the Indiana Historical Bureau. In 1937 the State Library had just moved from dismal quarters in the capitol to the handsome new State Library and Historical Building. A staff of some twelve people was organized under the direction of Julius George Thorman who had just graduated from Butler. Naomi Whitesel was director of Marion County projects.

Thorman recalls that his salary was about one hundred dollars a month. This amount seems generous for a young man not previously employed. His staff was to search out every name found in the various histories for each county and copy the name with citation of the book along with the page on a slip of paper. These were then alphabetized and subsequently typists made an original and three carbons. A set was offered to the largest library in each county for the cost of the paper and typing (usually about $18.00), but few could afford it.

The first volume completed was Adams County with four histories indexed totalling nearly 40,000 entries on more than 300 pages. It is now estimated that the project — when completed — included more than 4,000,000 names for the whole state. These indexes listed names of firms as well as names of individuals. The caption title read: INDEX OF NAMES OF PERSONS AND OF FIRMS.

Thorman soon left the project to work for the newly established Welfare Department. He was followed by Grant Robbins who at the demise of WPA went to work at the Indianapolis Times.

With the exception of Marion County the State Library project completed typed indexes through Jennings County. Slips were completed through Madison County.

Marion County marched to a different drum during this season. L. L. Dickerson, then the librarian of the Indianapolis Public Library, arranged a project directly with the State Administrator, John K. Jennings. The result of this was that IPL published by mimeograph three indexes, viz., “A consolidated Index to Thirty-Two Histories of Indianapolis and Indiana;” AN INDEX TO INDIANA AND INDIANANS, by Jacob Piatt Dunn; and AN INDEX TO GREATER INDIANAPOLIS, by Jacob Piatt Dunn.

The untyped slips for counties of Johnson through Madison were housed by the Indiana Room of the Indiana State Library and were virtually unknown to researchers. In 1966 the Johnson County Historical Society transcribed the slips which indexed eight sources for Johnson County history and published a limited edition of a book of 327 pages. Fred J. Reynolds, librarian of the Fort Wayne Library, became interested in the material and in 1967 had the indexes for Knox, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Lawrence, and Madison counties transcribed. He had already acquired xerox copies of the previous indexes.

Here the matter rested until 1978 when the Shelbyville-Shelby County Public Library engaged Ruth Dorrel to compile an index for Shelby County. She searched twenty-five sources which filled 450 pages. The following year, 1979, the Family History Section of the Indiana Historical Society concluded the time was right to complete this task. Mrs. Dorrel was engaged to supervise the project. She found some half dozen part-time searchers and the work was underway. The goal was to compile AN INDEX OF NAMES AND OF FIRMS for the remaining forty-two Indiana
counties. The project was carried forward with the co-operation of the Fort Wayne Library.

Some of the indexes are mind boggling. Montgomery County, for example, had twenty-seven sources searched which resulted in two volumes of over 300 pages each. The Wayne County Index comprised three volumes of over 300 pages each.

The last volume of the series, Vanderburgh County, which was completed by the Willard Library in Evansville, is now bound. Family historians will remain forever in the debt of Julius Thorman, Grant Robbins, Ruth Dorrel and their many helpers who have copied, sorted, and typed millions of names. This surely will be the last of such “hand made” compilations. It is a work that is the natural format for a computerized index. What has taken almost fifty years could be done by computer in a few months.

**QUERIES**

JANE E. DARLINGTON - Editor

Queries are reserved for members of The Indiana Historical Society and should be kept within a 50-word limit. Members are limited to 2 queries per year.

Need parents/siblings of Rosanna LEWIS b.ca. 1830 MI; lived LaPorte Co., IN with Jonathan OSBORNs; m. 1856 Henry B. GARDNER; possible father, Martin LEWIS, b.VA. — D. Goodnough, 825 Campbell Cir., N.E., Massillon, OH 44646.

Was Jane MAYS (over 45 in 1820 census of Fayette Co., IN) widow of John MAZE whod. 1805 Harrison Co., KY? she was next to John’s son, David, (pg. 47); need parents of Hannah ELLIOTT m. Thomas MAZE 1797 Feb. 13 Harrison Co., KY later of Shelby Co., IN. — Ben H. Coffman, Box 67, Center Point, IN 47840.

Seek descendants of Haddock GREWELL, son of Asa, listed in Fayette Co., IN 1850 Mortality Schedule; and Samuel CREVISTON m. Wayne Co., IN 1822 Harriett WILLETS. — M. Tracy Carpenter, 315 E. Sale St., Tuscola, IL 61953.

Need info-desc. Benj. PENDERGRASS 1762-1849 of Wilkes Co., N.C., Rush & Randolph cos., IN; d. Green Twp., Randolph Co., IN 1849 Dec.; m.l d/o Hezekiah MASSEY (1826 Wake Co., N.C. will); was Aley PENDERGRASS (b. 1798 Wilkes D.aft. 1860 Greene Co., MO) wf. of James CASS, d/o Benj.? — G. O. Kamp, 7741 Lola Ct., Indpls, IN 46219.

Seeking parents, siblings, nativity of Sarah & Elizabeth GRIMES b. VA; sisters? Sarah m. Robert McKITTRICK 1825 Nov. 10, Ripley Co., IN; m.2) Isaac PETERS 1837 May 4; Eliz. m. John McKITTRICK (bro.) 1821 Aug. — Mrs. Marian McKittrick, P.O. Box 188, Westport, IN 47283.

Searching for desc. of Elias ELI and Betsy HOLTZHOUSE; son, Wm. Lewis b. 1828 IN m. Mary Ann FEAR 1847 Nov. 11 Hendricks Co.; ch.: John, James, Bob; m. 2) Jane WILSON 1873 July 1 Clinton Co.; ch.: Ida May, John Norman, Murrillie. — Roberta Ele Yates, 36634 SE Tracy Rd., Estacada, OR 97023.
Need proof Andrew is fa. of Rebecca M. PAULEY b.1813 VA; m. ca. 1832 Abraham VAN GILDER, Hancock Co., In; related families: BARRETT, CURRY, CHITTENDON, ESTELL, HIGGONS, McCORKHILL, MONTGOMERY, STEPHENSON; want Hancock Co. History 1820-1840. — Terry W. Van Gilder, 2435 McGowan Blvd., Marion, IA 52302.


Want to correspond with desc. of Absalon (Marion) POORE ca. 1846 N.C.; m. Sarah STALKER; in Boone Co., In ca. 1878; son, Chas., m. Theresa SCHENE, d/o Bernard A., b. 1849 Covington, KY, and wf., Theresa HILLENBRAND b. ca. 1853 Spades, IN. — Mrs. James Lingenfelter, 1418 Oakwood Trails, Indpls., IN 46260.

Need parents, siblings and ch. of Polly SEACHRIST m. Levi MYERS 1846 July 11; when did she die and where buried? — Mrs. Glaye Sink, R. 1, Box 224, Paragon, IN 46166.

Seek parents, origins of Isaac BUSH (b. 1797 Sept. 24 N.J.?) wf., Margaret May ADAIR (1809 Dec. 25 In); m. 1824 Dec. 22, Franklin Co., IN; possibly Margaret was first white child born in Connersville, IN; m. at her grandfather's home, Brookville, IN (James ADAIR Rev. Vet from S.C.). — Margaret R. Harding, R. R. 5, Box 6, Bardstown, KY 40004.

Need dates of marriage, death, burial place of Rebecca WINTERS b. ca. 1790 Montgomery Co., Va; m. Obediah PRIEST (where?); she is head of household 1840, 1850 census Dearborn Co., IN. — Harold F. Winters, 1017 Kinloch Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903.

Need parents, birthplaces & siblings of Sarah Matilda WILSON b. 1845 Apr. 3 near Kendallville, Noble Co.; m. 1) 1864 Emory WESTON; m 2) Col. John D. WEATHERFORD; d. 1933 May 29. — Emory Weston Franks, 1032 Amethyst Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455.

Searching for parents of Elijah WHITTEN b.ca 1774 Va; d. IN aft. 1850; m. Elizabeth LOWE 1796 May 21 in Lincoln Co., KY; need her parents (mo. was Margaret). — Frances H. Allen, 7 River Valley Rd., Little Rock, Ar 72207.


Want parents, children of James PRICE d. Franklin Co., In ca. 1834; known ch.: John m. 2) Leanna CHAPMAN, Wm., Mariah SHAW, Sarah SINGHORSE all b. DE; to IN early 1800s; in Vigo Co. by 1836. — Mrs. Byron L. Brown, 29 W. Lawrin Blvd., Terre Haute, IN 47803.

Need parents, siblings of Thornton OOLEY b. ca. 1812 KY? m. Elizabeth WHARTON 1830 May 13, Monroe Co., IN (in 1830 census Bloomington); son, Stephen H., b. 1833 IN, d. 1902 Vigo Co., m. 1) Margaret ZANE (of OH; d. 1893 Vigo Co.); m. 2) Nancy J. ROLL 1898. — Mary Lou Ooley Shogren, 246 Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Need info on John CLEMMENS (listed CLEMENTS 1850 census) m. Cathy LANTZ 1823 PA, d. 1834 IN via OH. — Ruth C. Fink, 421 Cornwall, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.
Seeking parents of Ninian T. STEELE, M.D., b. 1814 KY; m.) Harriet N. CHRISTIAN 1836 where in IN? dau., Mary Jane, b. 1836 IN; son, John Wesley, b. 1838 IN; all in 1840 census of Crawford Co., IL; Harriet d. 1844 bd. Hutsonville, IL where Ninian d. 1860. — Ruth O. Steele, 240 Cooley Mill Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

Searching for parents of Mary Jane PURCELL b. 1854, m. 1874 Greene Co., IN Wm. H. TIMMERMAN; dau., Ida May. — Alice Crist Purcell, 3929 Southview Ave., Dayton, OH 45432.

Want correspondence with LARRISON descendants esp. Jacob LARRISON b. N.J. 1798; lived Decatur Co., IN; d. Shelby Co., IN 1888. — Sarah Larrison, 12552 E. 800 N, Hope, IN 47246.

Need parents and birth/death places of Matthias DAWSON b. VA/OH; captured by Indians, released after Battle of Ft. Wayne; settled Fayette and LaPorte Cos., IN. — Richard L. Salzer, R. R. #3, Box 791, Knox, IN 46534.

Seeking data on Peter Nicolaus BAUM b. 1818 Dudweiler, Sarrbrucken, Germany; m. Karolina PITZ 1844; to Evansville 1852/3 with bro., Samuel, b. 1827; ch.: Charlotte b. 1844, Emilia Maria b. 1846, Ludwig Christian b. 1849, Johann Joseph b. 1852, Elissabeth, and Martha. — Mrs. Fred Butler, 6240 Riverside Ave., Riverside, CA 92506.

Searching for children of Wm. & Nancy TERRILL; dau., Elizabeth, b. 1792 m. Josiah CONNELY b. 1783 N.C.; to Lawrence Co., IN ca. 1816; will exchange CONNELY info. — Mrs. Don Howard, 503 E. Main, Casey, IL 62420.

Want parents, siblings of Esther J. STAMP b. 1847 N.Y.; m. Wm. F. BRATTON 1866 Loda, IL d. 1907 Crawfordsville, IN; ch.: Seth b. 1869, IL; Lulu b. 1866 IL; Howard b. 1878 IN; Harry b. 1883 IN; Guy b. 1888 IN. — James Bratton, 844 Spruce St., Hammond, IN 46324.

Need info on John W. MAYFIELD m. 1842 May 1 Jefferson Co., IN Clarinda Ella MONROE; known ch.: Casara, Wm. and Eliza. — Leonard Mayfield, P.O. Box 3303, A.P.O. New York 09038.

Searching for parents, birth place, and death date and place of Andrew J. COUCHMAN b. 1853 IN; m. Martha O. OVERSTREET 1876 Dec. 8 Crawford Co., IL. — Mrs. Mary L. Bowman, 1301 Taft St., Lemon Grove, CA 92045.

Seeking data on DeWITT and Harriet Jane CHAMNESS, 1/2 Miami Indian; m. PAGE; in Randolph Co. and Huntington Co. (1870) IN. — Mrs. Diane Kirkland, 7500 Haynes Rd. So., Beulah, CO 81023.

Want info on Thomas SQUIRES, wife, Ann or Sena (m.VA), and ch. who are on 1850 Johnson Co., IN census. — Marian W. Challender, 222 S. 13th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715.

Need data on Harvey G. RICHARDSON b. ca. 1831, Hendricks Co., IN m. Polly Ann INGRAM 1853 Feb. 25 Hendricks Co., IN; Polly b. 1837 IN; Harvey’s mo. was Amy? — Cindy Cattin, 163 W. Third, Peru, IN 46970.

Who were parents of Albert H. ARNOLD (m. Catherine WOLFE 1850?) and A. Palmer ARNOLD? in Shaker Prairie, IN in 1850. — Mrs. W. R. Larson, 644 Maple Ave., Apt. A, Columbus, WI 53925.
Allen County, Indiana, 1830 - 1840, Federal Census by Alfred B. Rondot, Jr. (1983, 582 pp., 8½ x 11, paperbound). $31.50 [Indiana residents add $1.50 tax], order from Allen County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12003, Fort Wayne, IN 46862.

Mr. Rondot has devised forms onto which he has copied the census data for each entry of the two censuses. If the family only appears in one census, the other entry form remains blank. The data is arranged in alphabetical order and makes for speedy reference. For example, Ohmig Bird family appears only in 1840, whereas, Samuel Bird is in both years.

This is an invaluable source for that person with central interest in Allen County.

Directory Marriage Record Information in Genealogy Dept. Indiana State Library compiled by Vera Mae (Ginder) Moudy (1981, 50 pp., 8½ x 11, paperbound).

A listing of the various compiled Indiana marriage records (printed, typed, microfilmed, or whatever) found in the Genealogy Division. For example, holdings for Randolph County include microform copies of original marriage books, 1819-1895, and marriage returns, 1882-1900; a typescript of marriages, 1819-1852, in two parts, alphabetical by grooms and brides; and marriage records, 1819-Sept. 1827, format and origin unclear. In other counties material is more complete.


A catalog of the information held in the Genealogy Division relating to land records in the ninety-two counties. Brown County, for example, has the original land entry records compiled by Imogene Brown, listing description, acres, date, name, and indexed.

Directory Wills and Estates Information in Genealogy Dept. Indiana State Library compiled by Vera Mae (Ginder) Moudy (1981, 18 pp., 8½ x 11, paperbound).

The holdings of the Genealogy Division of Indiana estate records is extensive. There are microfilm copies of original records in many cases as well as copies and transcripts. For example, Floyd County is represented with film copies of wills 1819-1900 as well as eight entries of printed or typescript material.

This compilation by Mrs. Moudy will go far to make your research trips to the Indiana State Library more meaningful. The book is available for $17 (Indiana residents add 5% tax) from Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, P.O. Box 39128, 9605 Vandergriff Road, Indianapolis, IN 46239.

1860 Census Knox County, Indiana compiled by the Northwest Territory Genealogical Society (1982, 333 pp., indexed, 8½ x 11, paperbound). $19 (Indiana residents add 5% tax) from the Society, Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN 47591.

Researchers yearn for indexes to the 1860 and 1870 Indiana federal censuses. Here is a real contribution! Copied from the microfilm ad literatim is the house number, family number, name of person, age, sex, occupation, value of real property, value of personal property, place of birth, and other information. The work is carefully done and fully indexed. This represents endless hours of volunteer work.
Davidsburg Church Baptisms, 1785-1845, New Market, Virginia
transcription and translation by John Stewart and Klaus Wust [Shenandoah Genealogical Source Book No. 6] (1983, 44 pp., illus., indexed, 6 x 8, paperbound), $7.55 from Shenandoah History, P.O. Box 98, Edinburg, VA 22824.

The roots of Lutheranism in New Market are old and deep. The first church comprised both Lutheran and German Reformed. A business ledger was transformed into a baptismal register, and it is from this humble, timeworn book that Professor John Stewart extracted the information pertaining to the congregation’s children. This is a gem of a book for those who have their origins here.

It may be of further interest that Klaus Wust edits The Report: A Journal of German-American History, No. 38 is a 109 page issue of unique genealogical sources. It contains the first checklists ever published of all extant German church records in Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia of congregations which originated with colonial immigration. The lists give details on these churches and state where the originals, xerox copies, microfilms, and published versions of these records are available. Another article is a computer list of all German-speaking settlers of early Georgia, 1733-41. The issue also contains part one of the 1854 passenger arrival lists in Baltimore, in most cases with the place of origin in Germany. A useful tool for many researchers in Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and further west. Part two will be published in 1984. The Report is $13 from Shenandoah History, P.O. Box 98, Edinburg, VA 22824.


A valuable tool for locating immigrant ancestors. The title fails to note an index to various court order books which should refer the searcher to the period prior to 1855.


GENEALOGY and The Hoosier Genealogist are among nearly 150 periodicals included in this index. This is a comprehensive surname, locality, topical, and book review index. The compilers scan the contents of each article not relying on the title which can sometimes be almost wholly unrelated. The current edition has about 7,700 index citations. Queries, society news or items of passing interest are not indexed. Without such an index as this, how would one learn of “Miscellaneous Early Settlements of Jennings County, Indiana,” appearing in volume 8, no. 3 of the Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly?

PEOPLE OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA

Family Stories, written by family members about people and their lives in our County; plus Business Histories; and a Memorial Section honoring individuals, and also military personnel who died while serving our country in WWI through the Vietnam conflict.

Over 300 pages, 8½ x 11, illustrated, hardbound, with an index of 6,000 names, in addition to the family surnames.

Published by the Pulaski County Genealogical Society, Box 43, Rt. 5, Winamac, IN 46996. Prepublication until September 15 for $25 plus $3 if mailed.
There are areas of Quaker interest that lack many details. One of these is the Wrightsboro meeting, McDuffie County, Georgia. A few extant records are published in Hinshaw, but its history remains in shadows. In the April issue of The Hutchins Quarterly (Volume 8, No. 2) is found an extensive article, "Forty Years in the Wilderness; The Move to Georgia."

It is an interesting article with much information new to me. The account would have been enriched if the sources for this information were cited throughout the paper. The Hutchins Quarterly is published by Rita Townsend, 1606 N. 3rd St., Garden City, KS 67846. Subscription is $6 per year.

Those engaged in Quaker research learn early on that their cemeteries or, as Friends were wont to call them, the burying grounds are not a prime resource. Over the years Friends were frequently concerned over the matter of gravestones. Their views ranged from no grave marking at all to small inconspicuous stones.

One of the oldest Friends burying ground in eastern Ohio (Stillwater) has been used continuously since 1803, and there are today less than one hundred headstones to be found there.

I was not measurably bestirred when there recently came to hand Piedmont North Carolina Cemeteries, Volume 1, Cane Creek Friends Meeting Cemetery Records. This compilation is the useful result of the efforts of Mr. & Mrs. L. S. Hornaday, Jr., Route 5, Burlington, NC 27215. The price is $6 for 100 pages, indexed and paperbound. A modest cost in these dreadful times!

The Cane Creek meeting was established in Orange County (now Alamance), North Carolina in 1751. Few stones were found dating prior to 1850. I was in the burying ground thirty-five years ago, learning first-hand that there were few stones prior to 1850. The Hornadays have published their material row by row as copied, and supplanted this with records from the Cane Creek Monthly Meeting. The whole is fully indexed.

Ball Cousins; Descendants of John and Sarah Ball and of William and Elizabeth Richards of Colonial Philadelphia Co., Penna by Margaret B. Kinsey (1981, 366 pp., charts, illus., indexed, 6 x 9, hardbound) $20 from author, Box 459, Lamesa, TX 79331.

This is one of the most curious books in this field that has recently come to my attention. A remarkable estate was distributed between 1827 and 1858. It established the descent of 955 people from two couples: John and Sarah Ball, and William and Elizabeth Richards. Many of these were Quakers or with close connections.

Kinsey has traced four generations of the American ancestry of Joseph Ball and his seventy first cousins. The work features many families who established the Province of Pennsylvania and gives transcriptions and abstracts of early documents. It is fully annotated and illustrated with copies of old maps, wills, inventories, and Quaker records. Proof of the family relationships of the 955 beneficiaries is given in detail. Some of these families are — Brown, Campbell, Dewees, Fisher, Green, Harris, Holloway, Johnson, Kemper, Mountjoy, Porter, Rhoads, Scott, Stewart, Wilcox, Williams, Yocum, and many more.

The author is quite modest when she states, "Ball Cousins is designed to organize data from estate records in order to make it useful for genealogy researchers."
HOME OVER GRAVEYARD HAUNTING TO RESIDENTS

This news item, dated August 26, 1982, with the source unidentified, was mailed to me by a reader.

Newport, Ark. (UPI) — After five years of strange occurrences at their home, a Jackson County couple filed suit for more than $1 million contending developers knowingly built the house on a graveyard.

"I've had a lot of lawyers in town pooh-pooh the lawsuit, thinking it's about ghosts and goblins," said the couple's attorney, Larry Hartsfield, who filed the action Tuesday.

"It's not about the ghosts and goblins," Hartsfield said. "The 'Poltergeist' aspect is peripheral, a sidelight. It's not an element in the lawsuit."

Charles and Sharon Johnson said they first realized their home was built on a graveyard when Charles discovered the first grave in May.

About a week later, the couple moved from their home of 5½ years and four more graves were found. The graves dated back to the late 1800s.

The Johnsons said the strange occurrences—doors opening, fire alarms being set off, children crying, and other people being seen in the house — continued from the day they moved in to the day they moved out.

"I wanted to move out even before Charles found the graveyard," Mrs. Johnson said. "I always felt like somebody was watching me."

Hartsfield said the lawsuit against the homebuilder and subdivision developer contends the developer, W.E. McDonial of Tuckerman, intentionally removed the tombstones to "fraudulently disguise the true character of the land." The lawsuit said the homebuilder, A.D. Hall of Newark, knew or should have known the lot was a graveyard.