

# Jonathan Potts 1714 – 1785

His Ancestors and Descendants

Revised

Compiled by

Joseph J. Reichel

Privately published by Joseph J. Reichel  
Aurora, Colorado  
1980

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## First Revision– 2004

Adds material in chapter nine concerning Joel Potts;  
son of David Potts, Sr. and Martha Short.

Contributed by

**Cyrus Potts**

## Second Revision – 2011

Adds appendix L, with an intriguing story about one Billy Potts,  
and

Adds appendix M, about Isaiah Potts and Polly Blue.

Both contributed by

**William R. Carr**

Also By Joseph J. Reichel  
<http://home.comcast.net/~joereichel/>

*A Reichel Family*

Published in 1985

Includes these allied families:

Potts, Mosley, Maloney, Oslin, Smith, Nunley

*Hugh W. Spry and Minnie Lee Jones*  
Their Ancestors and Descendants

Published in 1987

Includes these allied families:

Jones, Brubaker, Funk, Gish, Harshbarger,  
Kaufman, Lee, Penn, Savage, Whitmore

*Time is like a river of passing events, with current so strong, as soon as something is brought into being it is swept away and replaced by another, and this too will be gone before long.*

--Marcus Aurelius  
Antonius Meditations IV 43

Dedicated to the memory of my Mother



**Lena Parsada Potts Reichel**

Born: 2 September 1887

Died: 25 June 1981

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## PREFACE

**A**fter publication of this book in 1980 my attention was called to some minor corrections and additions for consideration. So, in February 1982 I distributed four pages of ‘Errata and Addenda’ to address those suggestions. Another addition was made in April 1989 and was included in loose leaf copies of the book sent to requestors. All of these and more additions are included in the first and second revisions.

My book was published before there was easy access to the Internet, and since that time Internet use has made great strides in the field of genealogical research. In recent years there have been a number of researchers who have used the Internet to record their Potts research findings. Chief among those is the work of Cyrus Potts- <http://www.pottsinfo.com/>

This should be considered a limited history and genealogy of the ancestors and descendants of one **Jonathan Potts** of Virginia and Kentucky. There are undoubtedly other lines of descent which should really be included in a book of this nature, and perhaps another now or future researcher will be encouraged to enlarge the scope of this work and publish a more complete version.

### Source material

In 1976 I was fortunate to find a comprehensive book, published in 1901 by **Thomas Maxwell Potts** of Cannonsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is titled: *Historical Collections of the Potts Family in Great Britain and America*, and I will be referring to that excellent work rather frequently in my beginning chapters by just using the author’s initials—“TMP.” That book was the result of years of research during the latter part of the nineteenth century by both TMP and a previous researcher, **William John Potts**, who apparently had the time, interest and money to conduct a heroic amount of firsthand research in British archives as well as in early records in the United States. Miss Mildred O. Eubanks, (see Chapter Eight), an avid Potts family researcher, was kind enough to lend me her copy of this rare book for several months and I made a thorough study of it, drawing shamelessly from its pages in writing this book. The passage of time has revealed one or two “facts” in TMP’s book which need to be corrected in line with recent findings, and I have noted these in the appropriate places. Researchers of the Potts surname should, if at all possible, review TMP’s book for background and factual data in order to save a lot of work, as it includes several distinct lines. Pages from the book may be examined on the Internet at: [www.heritagepursuit.com](http://www.heritagepursuit.com). My effort pertains largely to the story of Jonathan Potts and his descendants and expands significantly upon what is offered in TMP’s fine work. Additional sources are listed in Appendix B, as well as in footnotes.

Researchers using the material in this book should, as do all good genealogists, double check for accuracy before accepting the data as the final word. My material was gained from a great many sources, some of it well documented, and some merely family tradition.

My adventure into family history has been very gratifying. To see before one's very eyes a record detailing an activity of a long-gone ancestor is a strangely moving experience; a concrete link with the past which never fails to still emotions. It is indeed fun to unravel mysteries, discover faint clues, resolve contradictions, unmask false tradition or prove valid ones, and experience the romance of the centuries through identifying with ancestors who lived in a bygone era.

### **Acknowledgements**

The project has given me the pleasure of corresponding with and meeting some truly interesting "cousins." Each has shown an interest in my work and has contributed personal and statistical data to make the story more complete. Foremost among those from whom I received generous assistance and encouragement was my mother, Lena Potts Reichel Baker, who inspired me to uncover her Potts roots and gave me the necessary first clues. Also very helpful were my aunts, Auban (Potts) Hinton, and Ruby (Potts) McCune.

In addition to the afore-mentioned Mildred Eubank, these newly discovered cousins participated generously in the project: Bernice (McCune) Unsell; Edna (McCollister) Wofford; and Reba (Potts) Harrison. Of course my numerous brothers and sisters were of great help in rounding out that portion of the story concerning the Reichel family.

Thanks is owed to Mr. Ernest L. Ross of Cleveland, Tennessee who helped me obtain data about Amos Potts of Bradley County, Tennessee, and who provided me with a copy of Chapter XXV of J. S. Hurlbut's *History of the Rebellion in Bradley County, East Tennessee*, which appears in Chapter Ten.

A very special thanks goes to cousin Cyrus Edward Potts—he who has built a rather large computer database of Potts facts and lore. Cy has provided me with invaluable help and encouragement in producing this revision by checking information against his database, catching a multitude of errors through efficient proofreading, and providing the new data appearing in Chapter Nine. I doubt that this revision could have been completed without his willing help.

William R. Carr has also offered a major contribution to this work by providing data about his Potts line; that of Isaiah Potts and Polly Blue. This material may be found in Appendix M. In addition, Bill has contributed the astonishing tale of murder at Potts Inn, in *The Legend of Billy Potts*, which may be found in Appendix L.

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## INTRODUCTION

The ancestry of **Jonathan Potts**, as related in this book, is based on the traditional view of his parentage as explained in *The Potts Family*, (Short Title) a reference mentioned in the preface. The reader should be aware however, that questions have been raised by competent researchers which tend to cast an element of doubt concerning the accuracy of that view.

Unfortunately neither TMP nor any researcher with whom I have been in contact has been able to prove conclusively that **Jonathan Potts**, born in 1714 and died in 1785, was in fact the son of **Jonas Potts** of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (Chapter Five). Indeed, TMP, in writing about Jonathan, states that Jonathan “is *believed* to have been the son of Jonas by his second wife.” Also, TMP has placed a question mark after Jonathan’s name in his listing of Jonas’ children. Further, it is curious that no one among Jonathan’s offspring and later descendants has been named Jonas, even though it was the practice of the time, especially among Quakers, to name the first son after his paternal grandfather. Other of Jonas’ children did, however, make frequent use of his name. A possible explanation has been advanced that we have yet to discover a record of Jonathan’s first son, but this appears rather unlikely.

Since Jonas was a member of the Society of Friends, an effort was made to find references to Jonathan’s family among records in Quaker archives, but without success. An examination of church and county records available for the period 1752 – 1799, when Jonathan and his family were in Augusta/Botetourt County, Virginia, fails to provide any clue as to the religious preference of the family. The original settlers in that part of Virginia, arriving about the same time as Jonathan, were predominately Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and Protestant Episcopal (Church of England). Quakers arrived in that region at a much later date and were rather a small element.

This is not to suggest that Jonathan and his family were not followers of the Quaker Faith. Without a community of “Friends” large enough to warrant establishing a Meeting, it can be presumed that they attended the Presbyterian or Episcopal services in the area. Or not. It is interesting that there is no record of any of Jonathan’s sons serving with the military during the Revolutionary War, even though their ages made them eligible, and this may be due to a possible Quaker background. Later descendants are found in congregations of Baptist and Presbyterian churches. In discussing the apparent mystery surrounding Jonathan’s religious leaning, Mildred Eubank writes—“at least he owned a Bible.”

A good case can be made for assuming that Jonathan was, at least originally, a member of the Society of Friends and therefore likely belonged to that line of Potts which descended from Thomas and John, the persecuted Quakers of Wales (Chapter Two). In 1887, TMP obtained a statement from Mr. Joel Potts of Sharpsburg, Illinois, then about seventy-five years old, and a grandson of Jonathan, to the effect that *a tradition of his family was that their ancestors came from Wales to Pennsylvania with William Penn and that they were Quakers*, having been driven from Wales to escape religious persecution. In 1878, TMP, in direct communication with Mr. Edwin H. Potts, aged sixty-nine and a descendant of Jonas’ first son, David, learned that David Potts had two half-brothers named Jonas and Jonathan. Apparently in his evaluation of all the data he had compiled on the various Jonathan Potts who lived in Pennsylvania and Virginia during the late 1600s and early 1700s, TMP determined that “our” Jonathan best fit the description of David’s half-brother.

Mildred Eubank, a former librarian, teacher and meticulous genealogist, admitted to being puzzled by the mystery of Jonathan's parentage and offered the following theory as a possible explanation: Jonas Potts had a brother, John, who remained in Wales and died there. John had at least five children, one of which was named John, and these "orphans" were brought to the Quaker Community in Pennsylvania around 1698 to be cared for by relatives. The child, John, was apprenticed to Jane and John Austin (his aunt and her husband) as a ship's carpenter, and in 1709 he married Rebecca\_\_\_, siring at least four children before his death in 1721. These four youngsters all died between 1710 and 1719, according to records of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. It is possible that Jonathan, as a fifth child, born in 1714, could have survived. This theory would account for the absence of Jonas' name among Jonathan's descendants and explain Jonathan's naming his first son John.

County records, and records of the Society of Friends in the late 1600s and early 1700s, abound with references to individuals named Potts. Many of these people founded families of considerable importance and distinction and some are further outlined in *The Potts Family*. That these early Potts immigrants were kin and closely related is virtually certain, but sorting them out into separate families is extremely difficult because of their propensity for using the same given names in naming their children. The references to John, David, Thomas, Nathan and Jonas, as well as Jonathan, are many and include virtually no other identification. The apparent reason for this is found in the pattern most families used in naming children and which the Quakers followed "religiously."—The first son was named after the husband's father and the second son after the wife's father. The first daughter took the name of the husband's mother and the second after the wife's mother. Other children were named for their parent's brothers and sisters.

It is fair to point out that both Thomas Maxwell Potts and William John Potts were unusually efficient genealogists who critically examined all sorts of primary and secondary data, becoming familiar with the families they studied. Accordingly, they were undoubtedly able to form a judgment for what was probably true or not true among the data they compiled and evaluated. Further, they were closer to the source, so to speak, working as they did in the latter part of the nineteenth century and in the actual localities where the early Potts families lived.

Answers to the questions suggested above will be difficult to come by and some may elude us forever, but their resolution presents an almost irresistible challenge to the family biographer and one day the picture is bound to become clearer.

This compiler is not entirely convinced that Jonathan was a son of Jonas, but it appears more than likely that he was somehow closely related to that family of Quakers arriving in Pennsylvania from Wales in 1683 (Chapter Four). Nevertheless, for the purpose of this book, Jonathan's ancestry will be recorded as outlined in TMP's book.

### **Numbering System**

An explanation of the numbering system used beginning with chapter five will help the reader follow the generations: The narrative on the primary ancestor in each chapter is considered as number 1, but no number is written. After that narrative is completed, the children of the ancestor are listed and given lowercase Roman numerals to show their chronological order of birth. If the child did not marry and have children, or if there was very little information on him or her, all known data is included with the name. If a child married and had children, or if there is quite a bit of information concerning him or her, then that child is assigned a "narrative number"—an Arabic number to the left of the lowercase Roman numeral. This keeps the list of children from being separated by large amounts of data about them and their descendants. In

certain instances, of course, an entire chapter has been devoted to the primary subjects of this book.

Some dates given in this account for birth, death and marriage are purely estimates and are so indicated. This was done to try to provide a better analysis of events.

### **Abbreviations**

The following standard genealogical abbreviations may be found throughout the book:

abt	about	est	estimate
b	born	bur	buried
c	circa/about/around	d	died
ch	child	div	divorced
chn	children	dy	died young
m(1) (2) etc;	first, second marriage	m, or =	married

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**PART ONE**

**Background and Probable Ancestry  
of  
Jonathan Potts 1714 - 1785**

*There are only two lasting bequests  
which parents can give to their children*

*One is Roots—*

*The other is Wings*

--Anonymous

## CHAPTER ONE

### Derivation of the Name

**B**efore the fourteenth century family names were not commonly used in Europe and they were not widely used until given names became so duplicative as to cause frequent confusion. Typically, individuals began to be referred to by their occupation or the locality in which they lived.

The origin of the Potts surname, anciently Pot or Pott, is rather obscure. *Patronymica Britannica*, London, 1860, has the following: “Pott, Potts...there were in Flanders in the XV century a noble family of Pott who bore a pot in their armorial coat.”

In early England surnames were often bestowed upon an individual to suit his home environs. Accordingly, John, who lived at or near a wooded area, became John “Atwood,” and Thomas, who lived by a deep circular hollow in the ground, became Thomas “Potte,” because that is what those hollows were called at the time—and we are still plagued with pot-holes in our streets! Parliamentary writs of AD 1278 contain a note that Robertus atte Potte, of County Surrey is summoned to do military service.

Another possible derivation of the name is from the manner in which the individual earned his living. For instance, a pottery maker called William, fashioned pots which were very unique, and soon his neighbors referred to him as William “Pot.”

It has also been claimed that the name is from the ancient Phillip, of Greek origin, meaning “lover of horses.” In early Britain a name was familiarized by adding “ot,” So Phillip became Phillip-ot, then Philpot and finally just Pot or Pott.

In Bishop Percy’s *Romance and Ballads* there is an interesting story of one Thomas A. Pott who was a servant of the Earl of Arundel. He falls in love with his master’s daughter and during a tournament with Lord Phenix, unhorses him, marries the Earl’s daughter and takes the name Arundel.

It appears rather certain, therefore, that our Potts ancestors originated in Britain as the names Pot, Potte, Pott and Potts are found in isolated instances in different parts of Great Britain at a very early period. It isn’t until the time of Queen Elizabeth I, however, that any family of special social significance settled in one spot long enough to establish a connected pedigree. Some of these families became so distinguished as to be granted “arms” and several designs appear in English records.

## CHAPTER TWO

### British Origins

#### Early Records

One of the earliest records of a Potts pedigree was compiled by Mr. G. D. Scull from data in the British Museum. His sources were: No. 1083, folio 19; No. 1486, folio 32b and 82b—Harleian Mss; Visitation of Derbyshire in the year 1611 by St. George, NORROY king at arms; No. 996, folio 58, Egerton Mss.

A branch of the Potts family was located in Cheshire and, early in the seventeenth century, some of that branch moved to Wales settling in Montgomeryshire in the Parish of Llangirrig. Montgomeryshire has since become the northern section of a new Powys County. The exhaustive research of Thomas Maxwell and William John Potts has established clearly that the Potts line enjoying the central focus in TMP's book did in fact emigrate from Llangirrig, Wales and maintained close family ties after their arrival in America.

A description of the former home of the Potts ancestors is seen in Lewis' Topographic Dictionary of Wales, 1864:

Llangurig or Llangirrig, a parish in the union of Newton and Llanidloes, upper division of the hundred of Llanidloes, county of Montgomery, North Wales....This parish is situated on the northern bank of the river Wye at no great distance from its source..... The northern, southern and western parts are mountainous and dreary, but the eastern portion is well wooded and ornamented with romantic scenery.

#### Quaker Heritage

There is evidence that at least some, maybe all, of the Potts family in Wales were members of the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers. The Society was founded by George Fox about 1650 in England. It was one of those sects which were organized during that period in protest against state domination of the church and against any doctrine or ceremony that inclined toward Roman Catholicism. George Fox (1624-1691) records in his journal: "Justice Bennet of Derby was the first to call us Quakers, because I bid them tremble at the word or the Lord. This was the year 1650."

These early followers were not always the quiet and peaceful folk one might assume. They interrupted church services and held meetings against the criminal code in England at the time. They refused to pay tithes and would not take an oath because they believed that oaths are forbidden by the Scriptures—beside, if a person is always truthful he need not promise to do so on any specific occasion. They refused to take off their hats to anyone as a gesture of respect

and used the informal “thee” instead of “you,” which was considered more respectful, to protest against what they considered meaningless formalities and extravagances of the times.

Both the Church of England and the Puritans persecuted the Quakers for their beliefs. Many were fined or imprisoned for minor infractions, but they were undaunted. In 1656 George Fox estimated that there were often more than one thousand in prison.

In Besse’s *Sufferings of the People Called Quakers*, Vol. I, p 757, is the following example: “Anno 1677. On the 18th day of the month called July, two Priests, viz., Hugh Wilson, Priest of Trefeglys, and Isaac Lloyd, Priest of Llanidles, gave information of a Meeting at the House of John Jarman, at Llanidles in Montgomeryshire; upon which, the Mayor with constables came thither and committed seven of the Assembly to prison, and fines others, who had their Cattle seized for their fines, viz....

John Potts, one Cow and six yearling Beasts worth £12 10 0, and others...”

It has been recorded that, at times, “the court” became so enraged at the sheer determination of the Quakers that they were ordered chained in the presence of the court, linking them two by two, and binding their hands behind them. In this manner they were taken to the jail house where they were detained overnight still chained and bound. On one occasion some Quakers were sentenced as traitors for their refusal to take the oath. The men were to be drawn and quartered and the women burned—however the sentence was never carried out.

### **The Family in Wales**

The first member of the Potts family in Wales was probably Thomas Pott whose will, made in 1654, is on file in the Consistory Court at Bangor, but is in a very decayed condition. Following is a copy of that will with blank spaces indicating unreadable portions. The length of the blank space does not correspond exactly with the missing part of the original.

### **The Will of Thomas Pott**

In the Name [of God Amen] on the Eleventh day of August in [the year of our Lord] and saviour Jesus Christ [one] thousand sixe hundred and fifty foure, [I] Thomas Pott of the parish of Llangericke in the County of Montgomery yeoman being sicke and weeke in bodye but of good and pfect mynde and memorye prayesed God I doe make this my last Will and Testament in maner and forme following hereby revokeing disanullinge and making voyde and frustrate all former Wills and testaments by me heretofore maide whatsoever and declaring this present writtenige and instrument to be my last Will and testament and none other that is to say,

First I Comend my soule unto the hands of Allmightie God my maker and redeemer and my bodye to the earth to be buried in the parish Church of Llangiricke aforesaid in forme of Cristian Buriall,

Allso I doe hereby give and bequeath to the John Pott my grandchild Sonne of John Pott late of Nantgnernog Eighte Sheepe being in the custodie of the said John Pott late of Nantgnernog aforesaid



Allso I doe hereby give and bequeath to Anne my nrall daughter Wife of the said John Pott of Nantgnernog and to Eight of hyr children being unmarried all the rest and residue of my sheepe which are in Custodye of the said John Pott late of Nantgnernog aforesaid to be equally divided between them

Allso I doe hereby give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my nrall daughter wife of William Pound and to hyr ffoure children three pounds which are in the hands of the [said] William Pound and which he oweth u\_\_ne\_\_\_\_ which said three pounds shall be divided as followeth that is to say t\_\_\_\_ shillings to \_\_\_\_hys\_\_\_\_ ffoure children that is to say ten [shillings] apiece

Allso I [give and bequeath] to Evan Pott my nrall sonne ffive [shillings] and to \_\_\_\_ daughter one yearleinge sheepe

Allso I doe hereby give and bequeath to \_\_\_\_ my nrall sonne tw\_\_\_\_ ne \_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_ grandchild \_\_\_\_ e years ould about the first \_\_\_\_ next \_\_\_\_ give and bequeath to Margaret Pott my gan \_\_\_\_ sonne John Pott one brasse panne and one boxe of litl \_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_

I nominate constitute and apointe my well beloved son \_\_\_\_ sole and onely Executor of this my last Will and testament to paye \_\_\_\_ arges and to defray my ffunerall expences and to execute doe and pform all acts a \_\_\_\_ gs for and towards the ffulfillinge and accomplishment of this my last Will and testament and in consideration thereof I doe hereby give and bequeath to John Pott my nrall sonne and my sd Executor all my good chattels implements of husbandry Household Stuffe and psonall Estate whatsoever not before herein given and bequeathed

In wittnes whereof I the said Thomas Pott have to this my last Will and testament put my hand and seale even the day and yeare ffirst above written in the psence of the psons undernames as wittnesses

X

The marke of Thomas Pott L.S.

X the marke of John Pott  
X the marke of Hugh Pova  
Tho Hardinge Clerk

Proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Bangor in the month of September 1661

The Inventory of Thomas Pott's Personal Effects

A true pfect & right inventory of all ye goods cattles and chattells Thomas Pott of ye pash of Llangericke Taken valued & apprised the \_\_\_\_\_ day of May in ye years of \_\_\_\_\_ 1658 by James Kinsey a \_\_\_\_\_ in sort following

imps	three Kynne pr	4
“	2 bullockes pr	2
“	15 Sheepe pr	1
“	his wearing appell	<u>0</u>
	toto	£ 8
The mark	☉ of John Pott	
The mark	☉☉ of James Kinsey	

From Thomas' will it can be seen that his family was comprised as follows, although there may have been others:

**Thomas Pott.** Since he had married children when his will was made in 1654, his birth date can be estimated as about 1615 – 1620. Although his will was not proved until September 1661 he probably died in 1658 because the inventory of his effects was made in that year. There is no indication of his wife's name; apparently she died prior to 1654.

1. **Anne Pott**, born (est 1640) m John Pott (a relative?). This is the line from which the Potts of early Pennsylvania descended. John died about 1672/73 leaving Anne and seven children. His will, dated 12 February 1672 and proven 21 May 1673 is on file in Consistory Court, Bangor, North Wales. A copy of that will and a listing of his personal effects is given below. \*

2. **Elizabeth Pott**, born (est 1642) m before 1668 to William Pound (or Bound). They lived in Dithenith in Llandinam Parish. His will, on file in the Consistory Court, Bangor, is dated 24 April 1678 and proven 6 March 1679. They had seven children.

3. **Evan Pott**, born (est 1644), named in his father's will. Apparently he was married and had one child not named.

4. **John Pott**, also mentioned in his father's will at which time he appeared to be married with two children, one called Margaret.

#### \*The Will of John Pott

In the Name of God Amen the Twelfth day of Ffebruary 1672 according to the computation of the Church of England, I John Pott of the parish of Llangirrick in the County of Montgomery yeoman being of perfect Memory & Remembrance praised be God do make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

Ffirst I bequeath my soule into the hands of Almighty God my maker hoping that through the meritorious death and passion Jesus Christ my only Saviour and Redeemer to receive free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and as for my body to be buried in Cristian burial at the discretion of my Executrix thereafter nominated

Item I give unto my son Thomas Pott the summe of sixpence  
 Item I give unto my son George the summe of sixpence  
 Item I give unto my daughter Margaret sixpence  
 Item I give unto my daughter Ales sixpence  
 Item I give unto my daughter Elizabeth sixpence  
 Item I give unto my daughter Anne sixpence  
 Item I give unto my daughter Sarah one Cow one two year  
 old heifer two yeareling calves one Mare one Fillie  
 and Eightene sheepe with all manner of graine that is  
 in my barne and in the ground and all the rest of my  
 goods whatsoever upon the condition that she shall  
 pay all my debts and legacies and make her sole  
 Executrix of this my last Will and Testament revoking  
 all other Will and Testaments

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale  
 the day & year first above written

the Marke of John Pott L.S.

X

The mark of John Pott X  
 The mark of R.E. Rees X  
 The mark of Thomas Pott X  
 The mark of Edward Jarman X  
 Morgan Evans Clerk

Proved in the Consistory Court of the  
 Bishop of Bangor 21st of May 1673

#### The Inventory of John Pott's Personal Effects

A true & perfect Inventory of all ye good catels & Chattels household stuffe  
 implements of husbandry & Corne of ye decedent John Pott prised by  
 Charles Hamer & David Jenkin husbandmen, prisers, upon ye eighteenth  
 of ffebruary Anno etm 1672.

Ffirst	£	s	d
Item one cow prised	1	10	
Item one two yeare old heifer pr		15	
Item one yeare old bolock pr		10	
Item one yeare old heifer pr		10	
Item one old Mare prised		6	
Item Eighteen sheepes of all sorts pr	2		
Item one pig prised		1	6
Item Two hens			6
Item one Looome with all ye implement thereunto belonging pr		15	
Item Two bedstids with their appurtenances		15	
Item one Iron pott one brand awl			
Item one Boxton one little Iron pan one pare of tungs one paire of Iron Links with all the rest of his wooden vessels all together			7

Item Oates pr	5
Item Oatmeal Cheese and one fleetch of backen	5
Item Wearing apparel pr	10
Summ Tott	£ 8 13 0

## Wtsses

John Lloyd	Signum
Edward Hadfield	David Jenkin
ye marke of George Pott X	Signum
Morgan Evans	Charles CH Hamer

**Children of Anne Pott and John Pott**

- i Thomas Pott, b (est 1650); d abt 1680.
- ii John Pott; this grandson of Thomas was mentioned in his grandfather's will but not in his father's, indicating that he had probably died before his father made his will.
- iii George Pott
- iv Margaret Pott
- v Ales [Alice] Pott
- vi Elizabeth Pott
- vii Sarah Pott
- viii Anne Pott

Of Anne and John Pott's eight children, the first son, **Thomas, who married Elizabeth**\_\_\_\_\_, is of further interest to the reader of this book. These parents are believed to have had the following children, as ascertained through the study of available facts and circumstances by William John Potts.

- i John Potts (first to add the "s" to the name). He was persecuted for his faith and cited in foregoing references. His five children were left as orphans and sent to the Quaker settlement in America to be cared for by relatives. (See Chapter Four).
- ii Thomas Potts, a Miller by trade; d 1749; m Judith Smith and they had one child.
- iii David Potts, b. about 1670, Montgomeryshire, Wales; m **Alice Croasdale** in 1694; d. 1730; lived in Bristol Twp, Pennsylvania. TMP devotes the major part of his book to this line.
- iv **Jonas Potts** (See Chapter Five)
- v Margaret Potts, had four children
- vi Jane Potts, had four children
- vii Elizabeth Potts, died 1690

## CHAPTER THREE

### Colonial America

**I**n the mid 1600s, to escape increasing persecution, many members of the Society of Friends fled to the colonies in America only to again be subjected to humiliating indignities and where strict laws were passed to limit their activity. Some of the first to arrive were deported or flogged and driven from town to town. Four were actually hanged.

William Penn became a member of the Quakers in 1666 and later was awarded the Charter of Pennsylvania in settlement of a £16,000 debt. He started to settle his new land as a “holy experiment” on religious principles and invited Europe’s religiously persecuted and exiled to come to Pennsylvania, a haven of religious freedom and liberty. They came in droves. From England, Scotland, Wales the Quakers came, and from Germany and Switzerland came the Mennonites and Dunkards. Most of them established farms in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania.

A summary of some of the practices of the Quakers during the colonial period may be of interest, as they reveal much about the daily life of our ancestors:

- A couple desiring to marry had to declare their intentions before a regular weekly Meeting of their local society, then appointed overseers would conduct an investigation of the character of each. If nothing derogatory was found, the wedding was approved.
- A check was kept by the local society with respect to the wedding date and the birth of the first child. A premature baby was examined by three women from three Meetings, often resulting in society records being annotated with an “F/B” meaning “relations before marriage and an illegitimate child, or “F/M” meaning the same, but that marriage had followed. Both situations must be condemned by the involved parties if they wished to remain with the society.
- Persons who died were frequently returned to a former residence for burial. Some societies condemned headstones as a sign of vanity and often removed those already in place. Often burial places were left unmarked so that Indians would not know how many had died.
- Meetings of the societies were held in the daytime and attendance was checked carefully. First-day meetings were required attendance and midweek meetings were optional; but the member was judged on his spirituality by his attendance pattern.
- A “certificate of clearance” was required to marry or to move into another local society. It would not be given if there were outstanding debts.

- Prior to 1753—and unofficially for some time afterward—they followed an unusual practice of numbering the months of the year. It was forbidden to refer to the usual names given for months such as January, February, etc., because those names were of pagan derivation. The numbering system began with March and so they would use, for instance, “1 mo. 25, 1703,” meaning March 25, 1703.
- Their belief in non-violence, of course, precluded their serving in any military capacity and may explain why so few of the Potts Quakers served in the Revolutionary War.
- Public acknowledgement was required for all sorts of misdeeds. This usually meant condemning their own actions by confession at a local Meeting.
- Meeting minutes were made of all known misdeeds, confessed or not! Henshaw’s *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. 6, Virginia, makes twenty-eight separate references to persons names Potts. For instance:

#### POTTS

David Jr enlists in the army 27-7-1776; disowned 28-9-1776.

Nathan, reported 30-1-1768 guilty of fornication; disowned 28-5-1768.

(Had been previously disowned 24-11-1764 for fighting. His acknowledgement was accepted 11-4-1765 and he was reinstated.)

Sarah, married out of unity 23-3-1782; disowned 22-6-1782

John bears arms; disowned 23-1-1790 after long care.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### The Potts Families of Early Pennsylvania

From the year 1683 to 1700 and later, there were, in Pennsylvania, several persons bearing the Potts surname who appeared in various records of that period and who were so closely associated as to suggest a close relationship.

Professor Daniel I. Rupp, in *A Collection of Names of Immigrants Into Pennsylvania*, records in his Appendix One, the names of first settlers at Germantown and vicinity from 1683 to 1710. Among those named are William and Jonas Potts, and Thomas Potts Jr.

TMP's book includes in Chapter V, the following listing of early Potts residents of Pennsylvania and in Chapter XIX he presents a plausible explanation of the relationships:

1683 Elizabeth Pott came to Pennsylvania in 1683 along with daughter Jane and other of her children.

1686 Thomas Potts signs the marriage certificate of John and Jane (Potts) Austin.

1686 **Jonas Potts** signs the marriage certificate of John and Jane (Potts) Austin.

1690 Elizabeth Potts (probably Jane's sister) dies.

1692 David Potts signs the administrator's bond of Elizabeth (Potts) Bennett (his mother).

1698 Thomas Potts Jr., is a witness to the will of John Powell, made at sea, during the crossing to America.

1698 Several orphan children of John Potts of Wales were sent to Pennsylvania to be in the care of Thomas Potts, their uncle.

1700 Joan, or Jone Potts signs the marriage certificate of Lewis and Mary Powell.

1705 Eleanor Potts married Thomas Roberts.

1709 Margaret Potts married Evan Morgan.

1712 Margaret Potts married Richard Cox.

Most of the above are treated in some detail in TMP's book. Material relating to **Elizabeth Potts**, wife of **Thomas Potts**, deceased, of Wales, is of further interest and is provided below, as is material concerning the orphan children of John Potts, her eldest son.

#### Elizabeth (Potts) Bennett

A deed, recorded at Philadelphia in Deed Book E, Vol. 6, p42, reveals that Elizabeth and her daughter Jane came to Pennsylvania in 1683 and that Elizabeth appears to be a widow at that time. It is believed that most, or perhaps all, of her other children came with her. According to the deed, Elizabeth and Jane, in 1684, were granted 100 acres of Head right, "they having come in as Servants in the year 1683." Among the early settlers were a very large number who were

listed as servants. The liberal terms offered by authorities to those who came in that capacity, encouraged family members and friends to join a sponsor as servants because they received fifty acres of headland when their time expired, the same as others. This did not necessarily imply that they were in fact a menial but was often used as a device to obtain land. The property which Elizabeth and Jane obtained was located next to Letitia Penn's manor in Chester County. They sold their property to James Davis for £36 by deed dated 9 mo. 19, 1706 (Deed Book E3, vol. 6 p42)

In 1685 Elizabeth married Edmund Bennett of Bucks County having declared their intentions before the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting on 8 mo. 5, 1685. On 10 mo. 7, 1685 they presented their intentions the required second time and were allowed to proceed with the marriage on 10 mo. [Dec] 22, 1685 at the house of John Otter, near Burlington (Bristol).

Edmund Bennett died in September 1692 leaving a will dated 5 September 1692 and proven 21 September 1692 (Will Book A, p210, Philadelphia). Elizabeth was named executrix and her bondsman was her son David Potts. She died 1 mo. 8, 1707 and is buried in Philadelphia.

### **Jane Potts**

Jane Potts married John Austin of Bucks County on 8 mo. 11, 1686 at the home of her mother and stepfather. Among those signing the marriage certificate (recorded by the Middletown Monthly Meeting) were her brothers Thomas and Jonas and her sister Elizabeth Potts. John Austin died about 1707/08. Jane made her will 26 December 1773 (Will Book E, Philadelphia) and passed away 14 September 1774. Her children are mentioned in her will: Samuel, Ann Robins, Elizabeth Chanel and Mary.

### **The Orphan Children**

John Pott, eldest son of Thomas and Elizabeth Pott, passed away in Wales sometime before 1698. His children were left as orphans and were sent to Pennsylvania in 1698, probably aboard the *William Galley* to be placed under the care of the Society of Friends. Their uncle Thomas joined with one John Kinsey in presenting the case to the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Quaker records reveal that at least three children were disposed of in this fashion. A son, John, was apprenticed to his aunt and uncle, Jane and John Austin, as a ship's carpenter. A daughter, Mary, was placed in the care of Isaac Shoemaker with whom she resided until her marriage to Matthias Tyson of Philadelphia. The third child is referred to but not named.

On 1 mo. 25, 1708 the Monthly Meeting records that John Potts was unhappy in his employment with John Austin and he sought another job. Also that he had served out his apprenticeship but his mistress would not discharge him. It was found that he was still under apprentice to John Austin and must stay with him until he became of age. He probably attained his majority soon thereafter because he married Rebecca\_\_\_\_\_about 1709/10.\*

\*NOTE: A system of "double dates" often found in old references, seems designed to confuse the family researcher—but there is an explanation: They occur in the old records only in January, February and March, and never in any other month and never after 1752. The system came about because of a change in the calendar in 1582. Before then the Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar, was used throughout the Christian world. As measurement of the solar year became more accurate it was found that the Julian system exceeded the solar year by eleven days, or twenty-four hours each 131 years, and three days every 400 years. The excess amounted to about ten days between AD 325 and AD 1582. Therefore the date of the vernal equinox had been thrown back by that date, from 21 March to 11 March and played havoc with the calculation for Easter.



In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII ordered that ten days be dropped from the calendar. To prevent the error from recurring he directed that in every four hundred years leap year's extra day should be omitted three times. To do this in an orderly manner it was to be omitted in centennial years of which the first two digits could not be divided by four without a remainder. So it was omitted in AD 1700, 1800 and 1900 but not AD 2000. Also the decree changed the beginning of the New Year from 25 March to 1 January.

All Christian countries but England adopted the new Gregorian calendar at once. England didn't come around until 170 years later, in 1752, when the difference between the calendar and the sun was slightly more than eleven days. Even though, in English speaking lands, the Julian calendar was still official until 1752, many people began using the Gregorian system. Hence in early records of the colonies may be found double dates, such as 7 February 1669/70, indicating that, while it was officially still 1669, some people considered it to be 1670.

John died intestate about 1721 and his widow is believed to have married William Darbey 11 mo.13, 1724 settling in New Jersey. There is an entry in the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting recording the burial of four of their children: Rebecca, bur 2 mo.9 1710/11; Rachel, bur 4 mo. 14, 1712; a son, bur 11 mo. 25, 1715, and Rebecka, bur 1 mo. 26, 1719. There may have been other children and one theory is that Jonathan Potts, the subject of this book, may have been a child of this couple (see the Introduction).

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Jonas Potts of Wales and Pennsylvania

**J**onas Potts, the assumed father of Jonathan, was probably born in Llangirrig, Montgomery County, Wales around 1660 and emigrated to Pennsylvania with his widowed mother, Elizabeth, and several of his brothers and sisters in 1683. An abstract of Wills of Loudoun County, Virginia,<sup>1</sup> reveals that Jonas named John Vestal as his Executor who paid several of Jonas' debtors. The will was recorded at a Court held for Loudoun County the 27th day of April 1773.

Tradition has it that the family was Quaker and that they fled Wales because of religious persecution. Jonas is said to have married twice—both wives named Mary—and had children by each wife. There is some indication that he moved from the Philadelphia area to Loudon County, Virginia, in later years, to be near his son, David. The following account of his activities and reconstruction of his family is taken from TMP's *The Potts Family* Chapter VIII, pp 220-231:

Jonas is first noticed in Pennsylvania as a witness to the marriage of his sister, Jane, to John Austin on 9 mo. 11, 1686. He would have had to be at least twenty-one years old at that time. Various deeds of record<sup>2</sup> show that he lived at Germantown in Philadelphia County and vicinity and later settled on land located in Gilbert's Manor in Montgomery County near the present town of Royersford.

In December 1701 he was appointed Sheriff of Philadelphia County and also held the office of Ranger until his term expired in 1702. At one time he held the office of Court Sheriff for the village of Germantown. TMP says: "He seems to have been a man of determination and perhaps an impetuous temperament as upon one occasion in making an arrest, it is said that he handled a man so roughly as to have almost killed him."

One record reads: "8 June 1704, a recognizance wherein Jonas Potts, David Potts and Jacob Shoemaker were bound in the sum of three hundred pounds for the personal appearing of the same Jonas Potts at the court, for having dangerously hurt one William Robinson, was read; and forasmuch as the said Jonas Potts did appear and nothing was objected against him, in this manner the said Robinson being past all danger of his wound, he, the said Jonas Potts was cleared by proclamation."

Although Jonas was a member of the Society of Friends he does not appear to have been very regular in attendance at Meetings. He is mentioned in the minutes of Abington Monthly Meeting and later appears to have transferred to Gwynedd and Radnor and Fairfax meetings.

Apparently Jonas was having some financial problems, around 1703, caused in part perhaps by his wife's chronic illness. Radnor Monthly Meeting minutes of 2 mo. 8, 1703 contain this entry:

<sup>1</sup> Will Abstracts of Loudoun County, Va; Will Book B. 9 March 1772 – 9 Dec 1782.

<sup>2</sup> Deed Book 80, p574, Norristown, PA; 12 Jun 1693, 133 ½ acres from Jacob Tellner. Sold same 8 Dec 1701 to James Williams.

“Gwynedd friends have laid before this meeting that Jonas Potts & his wife being poore, and having divers small children, want assistance to buy a Cow, they formerly Resorting or belonging to another monthly meeting, friends of this meeting desire that they bring a certificate from that monthly meeting to the next monthly meeting, and their Proposall is left to the further Consideration of the meeting.”

Then, at the Monthly Meeting, held 3 mo. 13, 1703, the following is noted:

“Friends Conclude to collect £5 to Jonas Potts to lend him to buy a Cow, that is to say £2 from Merion Meeting, £1 10s from Radnor Meeting, and £1 10s from Haverford and Newtowne Meetings, and he is desired to bring a Certificate from the monthly meeting where they formerly Resorted, and the Collectors appointed in the several meetings are desired to Collect them to be brought to the next meeting.”

The Abington Monthly Meeting granted, on 3 mo. 31 1703, a certificate to Jonas Potts’ wife—“being removed to North Wales,” where her parents lived. The minutes of Radnor Monthly Meeting of 5 mo. 8, 1703 state that “Mary Potts Certificate from friends of Dublin Monthly Meeting was read in this meeting and ordered to be Recorded.” The minutes of the same meeting for 6 mo. 12, 1703 have this: “Jonas Potts Certificate not brought to this meeting, and his wife being weakly and sickly, wanting present assistance and £5 being mostly Collected, as the meeting formerly appointed, are lent to the women’s meeting to be given to her assistance, they not having stock to assist them at present.” The first part of the foregoing minute is crossed off but contains the name of Mary Potts as wife of Jonas. [It may be that Jonas’ first wife died around this time.] The minutes of Abington Monthly Meeting of 1 mo. 31, 1703 record this:

“Whereas Jonas Potts’ wife having been a long while sick, whereby his family Stand in great need of Assistance, Friends do appoint Dennis Cunnard and Arnold Klinker to assist y<sup>m</sup> with Some money out of their Subscription.”

On 2 October 1705 Jonas Potts of Germantown purchased from Arnold Koster two tracts of land totaling fifty acres, for £27.<sup>3</sup> One of these tracts was described as containing 20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres in the inhabited part of Germantown, and the other as containing 29 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres of side land.

On 28 December 1708 he sold the 20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acre lot for £60, authenticating with his mark—“S<sup>d</sup>.”<sup>4</sup> On 13 Dec 1709 he sold the other acreage for £37.<sup>5</sup>

In June of 1713 Jonas moved to Philadelphia, as duly recorded in the Abington Monthly Meeting, and five years later, on 7 mo. 24, 1718, the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting records the death of “Deborah Potts, daughter of Jonas and Mary.”

#### **Children of Jonas and Mary (\_\_\_\_) Potts (first wife)**

- 2 i. David Potts, born c 1700.
- 3 ii. Rachel Potts.
- 4 iii. Elizabeth Potts.
- iv.(?) Hannah Potts

<sup>3</sup> Deed Book B-2, p39, Philadelphia

<sup>4</sup> Deed Book E-4, Vol. 7, p194, Philadelphia

<sup>5</sup> Deed Book I, Vol. 11, p315, Philadelphia

**Children of Jonas and Mary (\_\_\_\_) Potts (second wife)**

- v. Deborah Potts, died 7 mo. 24, 1718.
- vi. **Jonathan Potts, born 1714 (See Chapter Seven)**
- 5 vii Jonas Potts

**2** **David Potts** was born, as nearly as can be estimated, about 1700, the son of Jonas and his first wife. He was probably born in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, as supported by tradition and statements of aged members of the family when contacted by TMP in the mid-1800s. TMP devotes Chapter XX, pp287-311 of his book to David Potts of Loudoun County, Virginia and his descendants. He is believed to have moved to that region around 1735, settling in the area where Cabletown now stands.

He was married twice, first to Elizabeth Lane, daughter of Edward Lane of Perkioman, now Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. . Elizabeth was born about 1699 and died about 1734 in Cabletown, Jefferson Co. Virginia. His second wife was Ann R. Roberts(?) familiarly known as Nancy. She was born about 1715 and died after 1771. David Potts died about 1 May 1768 and is believed to have been buried in the family graveyard on his property in Loudoun County, Virginia. According to TMP, "...the family attained to considerable wealth and high social position in northern Virginia, but was greatly impoverished by the ravages of the Civil War."

**Abstract of the Will of David Potts of Loudoun County, VA.<sup>6</sup>**

In his will, dated 25th day of 4th Month A. Domini 1768, David made the following bequests:

1. To sons Ezekiel and Nathan Potts—273 acres, the plantation where I now live.
2. To my Wife Ann Potts my half of the Mill until she marries or dies, then to Ezekiel and Nathan. Also a Negro lad, horse, cows and various furniture and household items.
3. To son Jonas Potts—one half of the Mill and 150 acres where he now lives
4. To son Samuel Potts—195 acres where he now lives, and my Negro lad after my wife marries or dies, then he shall pay £15 to my Grand Daughter Christian Pearson and £10 to be distributed among all my daughters.
5. To son Jonas Potts—I give the plantation which I formerly gave to my son Jonathan, situated at the Gap of the Short Hill containing 155 acres, since purchased of Jonathan by Jonas.
6. To son David Potts—310 acres where he now lives.
7. To my daughter Mary Bagus—the Sorrel Mare, one cow, saddle and various household items.
8. To my daughter Rachel Potts—a horse and saddle, two cows and various household items.
9. To my daughter Susanah Potts—the same items given to Rachel.
10. To my son Jonathan Potts—40 acres in Fredericks County near Warm Springs known by the name Biles Cabbin, and 50 acres adjoining
11. Appoints his sons Samuel and David Potts his Executors.

Proved at a court held for Loudoun County May 9, 1768.

**Children of David and Elizabeth (Lane) Potts**

- 6 i. Jonas Potts, b 1726

<sup>6</sup> Will Abstracts of Loudoun County, Virginia, Will Book A- 8 Nov 1757 – 9 Dec 1771, pp194-197.

ii. Jonathan Potts, b 1721, m(1) Sarah\_\_\_\_ 1754; m(2) Elizabeth\_\_\_\_; he d 1805. Owned 44 acres of land in Frederick County, Maryland called “Biles Cabbin” or Bayless Cabin.<sup>7</sup> He and Elizabeth are believed to have had the following children:<sup>8</sup>

- (1) Aaron Potts, of Allegany, Md; m Christena\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Jonathan Potts, Bedford County, Pa.
    - b. George Potts, Bedford County, Pa. Ch, Annie Potts, m Alonzo Bennett
  - (2) Jonathan Potts Jr. of Washington County, Md
  - (3) Jacob Potts (or “Joshua?”)
  - (4) Charles Potts
  - (5) Robert Potts
  - (6) John Potts
  - (7) David Potts, of Harrison County, VA [WV]
  - (8) Margarett Potts, m John Norris
  - (9) Christiana Potts, b abt 1760 m William Norris abt 1780 d after 1839, MD.
- iii. Mary Potts, b 1732; m \_\_\_\_Backhouse, or Bagus, or Boggus.
- iv. Christiana Potts, b 1734; m Samuel Pearson, 31 Dec 1757, Milling, VA

### Children of David and Ann R. (Roberts?) Potts

v. Ann Potts Jr., m John Vestal 25 Dec 1748. Per Fairfax Monthly Meeting reports—“Ann Jr., dau of Ann, received as member with her mother 31 Oct 1748.”

vi. Samuel Potts, b 1736; m(1) Martha Stroud 1757, 2 chn; m(2) Elizabeth Thomas c1785, Loudoun Co. VA., 5 chn; d 1891 Loudoun Co., VA.

vii. David Potts, b 1738, m(1) Mary Thomas, 4 chn; m(2) Temperence Heath, 2 chn; d Oct 27 1809 Hampshire Co. VA.

.viii. Elizabeth Potts, b 5 Mar 1740 in Virginia; d 12 Jan 1815 in Licking, Ohio; m John Conard 16 Dec 1762 at Fairfax, VA. John was born 20 Feb 1737, in Worchester County, Pennsylvania, son of Sarah Conard of Loudoun Co. He died c1803 leaving Elizabeth a widow.

- (1) Elizabeth Conard, b 6 June 1785; m Joseph Edwards 12 Jan 1814;
  - b Aug 1764; d 4 Oct 1858 in Loudoun Co, VA.

ix. Ezekiel Potts, b 8 Jan 1743; m Elizabeth Mead. 30 Dec 1769, Loudoun Co.; 2 chn; d 16 Jan 1809, Loudoun Co. He was a private in 5th Virginia Regiment in 1776.

x.. Nathan Potts, b abt 1744, m(1) Ruth Susan Clews abt 1770; 6 chn; m(2) Eunice Waller, 3 Apr. 1804 Loudon Col; 2 chn; d 1809 Loudoun Co.

xi. Jane Potts, b 1746 VA; m(1) Jonathan Conard 18 Apr. 1764 Loudoun Co; d 1788.

xii. Rachel Potts, b abt 1750 VA; m(1) Adam Swink abt 1773; m(2)\_\_\_Osborn, 1 or more chn; d abt 1782 Clarke Co., Ohio.

xi. Susanna Potts, m Henry Neer c1774.

**3 Rachel Potts** was born 1702 in Loudoun Co., VA and married Joseph Burson 8 mo. 15, 1719 at the home of her father, Jonas, according to the Gwynedd Monthly Meeting minutes of that date. The ceremony was a double one in which her sister Elizabeth was also married. Joseph was probably the son of George and Hannah (Goods) Burson and was born 12 mo. 15, 1689. She and Joseph are reported to have had at least ten children. Although it has not been established beyond doubt it would appear that the following could have been their children:

<sup>7</sup> Maryland land records H486 1763.

<sup>8</sup> Information about this family received from Harry Smith, Wilmington, Delaware, 1981

- i. Joseph Burson, Jr.
- ii. George Burson
- iii. James Burson

**4 Elizabeth Potts** married William Heald on 8 mo. 15, 1719 in a double ceremony with her sister Rachel. In the Gwynedd minutes William is described as the son of Samuel and Mary (Bancroft) Heald of Kennett in the county of Chester. He was born 2 mo. 20, 1694 at Eckles in Cheshire, England. Elizabeth is referred to as “Spinster daughter of Jonas Potts of Perqueoman Creek.” It is said that, after the festivities, the newly married couples left for their respective new homes on horseback, each bride mounted behind her husband.

Among the witnesses who signed the marriage certificates of Rachel and Elizabeth were: Jonas Potts, father; Mary Potts, mother, or stepmother; David Potts, brother; Hannah, supposed to be a sister; Thomas Potts (2); Rees Potts; Jonathan Potts; Mary Potts; John Potts; Margaret (Potts) Cox.

**5 Jonas Potts** is believed to have been the youngest son of Jonas Sr. by his second wife. He lived for a time in Loudoun Co., Virginia and then moved to western Pennsylvania, dying at Georgetown, Beaver Co. He was a blacksmith. Some sources have Jonas being buried on Phillips Island near Georgetown, but the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers identifies the island as “Phillis Island” and places it on the south side of the Ohio River near Midland, Pennsylvania, about a mile up-river from Georgetown. Access is possible by boat and it was owned by Dravo Corporation. In 1980 the Director of the Historical Research Office in Beaver, Pennsylvania remembered that a Thomas Potts and his wife were buried on Phyllis Island and “are still there to the best of my knowledge.”

Jonas is believed to have married twice—both wives named Mary. The surname of his first wife is not known, but his second wife was said to be Mary Heckathorn, who was born about 1726 and died about 1740. TMP devotes a chapter to Jonas Potts, Jr. in pages 312-337. Three of his sons, Jonathan, David and John, served in the Revolution and a summary of their service is included as appendix A.

#### **Children of Jonas and Mary (\_\_\_\_) Potts**

i. Jonathan Potts, born July 1755, in Pennsylvania, married Elizabeth English about 1788. They resided several years in Washington County, Pennsylvania where he was a farmer and blacksmith, and then they moved to Jefferson County, Ohio. He died 4 July 1831 and Elizabeth died 14 January 1814.

ii. David Potts, born November 1756 in Pennsylvania, married Milly Adams. They resided on Paint Creek near Chillicothe, Ohio, and then moved to Marion County where he died 30 April 1839.

iii. John Potts married Susannah Hibbens 14 March 1782 in Berkeley County, Virginia. They lived in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Jefferson County, Ohio and finally Columbiana County where he died 20 October 1820. Susan died in 1853, aged 93.

iv. Jonas Potts was born before 1758 in Loudoun County, Virginia. He married Hannah Sams about 1778/9, and died in Hanover Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1833.

v. Nathan Potts was born 10 July 1764 in Loudoun County, Virginia. He married Mary Chamblin, daughter of Aaron and Monica Chamblin on 25 March 1792. They moved, in

1799, to Washington County, Pennsylvania to join brother Jonas, and then moved, around 1825 to Fox Township, Carroll County, Ohio where he died 14 March 1846.

vi. Joshua Potts, born 4 February 1769 in Loudoun County, Virginia, married Milly Suver on 3 August 1797 in Frederick County, Virginia. They moved to Richland, (now Ashland) County, Ohio, near Hayesville around 1814. In 1837 they moved to Lawrence County, Illinois where died at about 80 years of age.

vii. Noah Potts was born about 1772 in Loudoun County, Virginia. He moved to Beaver County, Pennsylvania near Georgetown. About 1899 he married Barbara Heckathorn, born 1780 to George Heckathorn. He died 4 February 1856, and Barbara died in August 1855.

viii. Thomas Potts married Mary Martin.

ix. A daughter married Richard Hart.

**6 Jonas Potts, Jr.**, son of David and Elizabeth Lane Potts; b 1726; d 15 Aug. 1768, Loudoun Co.; m Mary Stroud abt April 1752 in Fairfax Co., VA. (He died about September 10th, shortly after his father, David Potts, died). Fairfax Monthly Meeting Note: "On 28 Mar 1752, Jonas Potts was granted a certificate to Hopewell MM, VA to marry Mary Stroud."<sup>9</sup>

#### **Abstract of the Will of Jonas Pott, Jr.**

Will is dated 31 July 1768. Proved 12 Sep 1768 at a court in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Jonas made the following bequests:

1. Appoints as Executors, brothers-in-law John Vestal and Samuel Person, both of the county of Frederick.
2. To wife Mary Potts my Plantation where I now live, containing 150 acres and a lot adjoining, and after her death to son John. Also a horse, saddle, bed and other household items.
3. To son David two small lots containing 120 ½ acres each.
4. To son Samuel 150 acres I bought from my brother Jonathan. Also £20 to be paid when he reaches 21 years.
5. To son Jonas 260 acres.
6. To son Edward the one half part of a Water Grist Mill in partnership with my father David Potts late deceased.
- 7 In case [either] of my sons should die before they arrive to the full age of 21 years then that one's share to be divided between the surviving brothers and sisters.
- 8 To my two daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth, fifty pounds each to be paid to them by my executors when they are 18 years of age.

#### **Children of Jonas and Mary (Stroud) Potts**

- i. David Potts, b 1756; d after 1768.
- ii. Hannah Potts, b abt 1757, VA; m(1) William Vestal 1773; m(2)\_\_\_Hall; disowned for marrying her first cousin; d 15 Nov 1828.
- iii. Samuel Potts, b 1759, VA; d after 1768.
- iv. Jonas Potts, b abt 1761; m in Hopewell, Frederick Co., VA., 7 Apr 1794 to Phebe Brown, dau of David & Sarah Brown. Jonas d 1 Feb 1829, VA.
- v. Edward Potts, b abt 1763, VA, m Mary Backhouse 12 Dec 1792, Fairfax, Loudoun Co. d 1846.

<sup>9</sup> All references to Fairfax Monthly Meetings are taken from *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*—William Wade Hinshaw Author and Publisher, Edwards Brothers, Inc 1950

vi. Elizabeth Potts. She is probably the Elizabeth mentioned in Fairfax Monthly Meeting Report as follows: "Elizabeth, daughter of Jonas and Mary, deceased, 'being left to her grandmother to bring up and she being now grown to the years of age and having no learning,' the meeting appoints a committee to place her where she may be schooled." It was reported on 25 Mar 1780 that Elizabeth had been placed with her Aunt Jane Connard & husband Jonathan Connard, Elizabeth's grandmother refusing to have her placed among Friends, also Elizabeth not being willing to be removed from Jonathan Connard's home. On 22 January 1785 Elizabeth was reported married out of unity to Osburn and disowned 26 Feb 1785. She is said to have had five children.

vii. John Potts, b abt 1765; d after 1768.



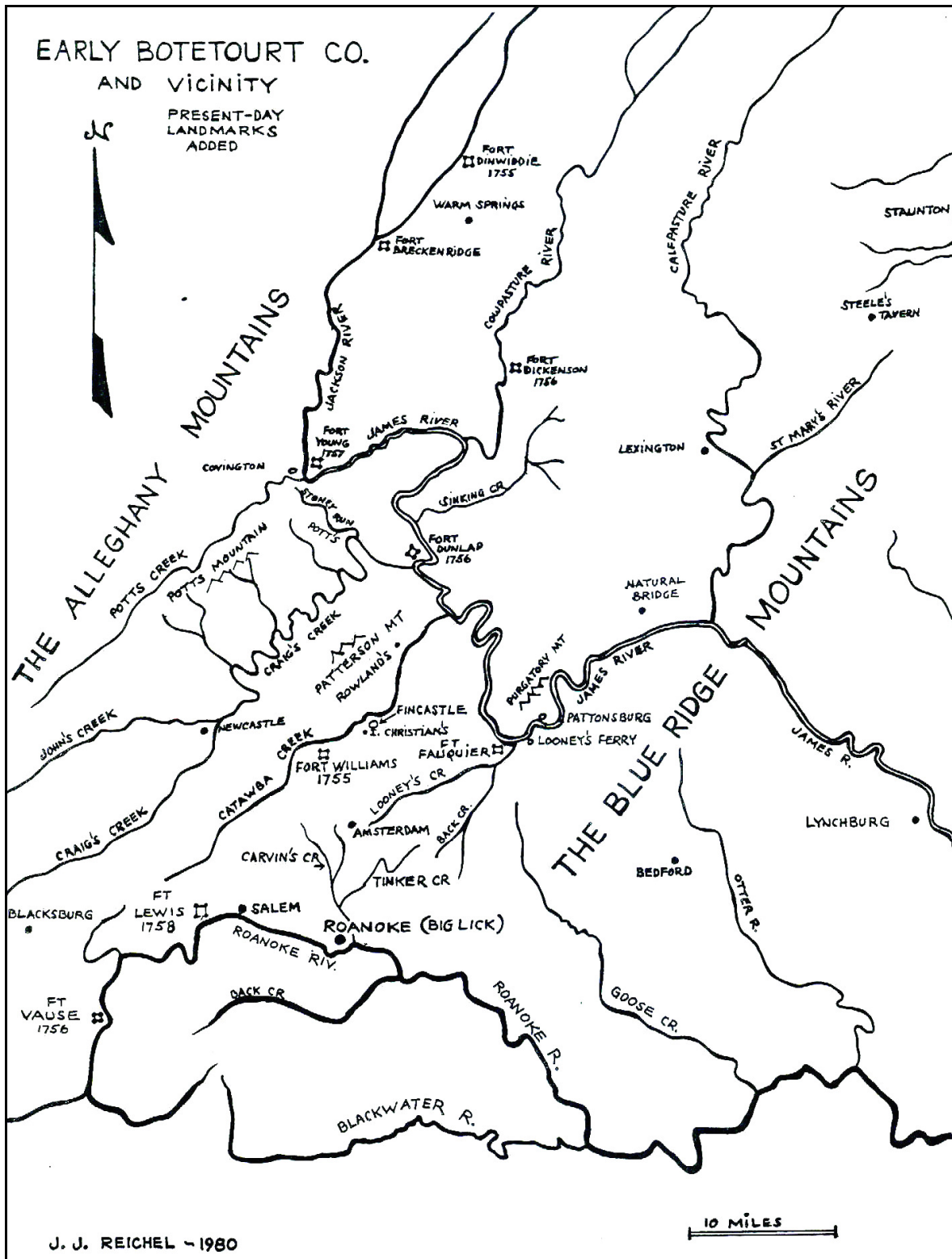
**PART TWO**

**Jonathan Potts and His Descendants**

*He who cares not from whence he came*

*Cares not whither he goes*

---Ben Johnson



## CHAPTER SIX

### The Potts Family of Botetourt County, Virginia

According to TMP, Jonathan Potts is believed to have followed his half-brother, David, from the Philadelphia area into Fairfax County, Virginia, sometime after 1735. No record, however, has come to light showing Jonathan in that region. In fact, the first identifiable record of Jonathan is an Augusta County, Virginia deed showing his purchase on 22 November 1753 of 124 acres along Craig's Creek in what later became Botetourt County.

It seems likely that Jonathan and Naomi and their then six children departed Philadelphia County around 1752 and joined the migration of largely Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from that same locality who had started a push westward into the "Great Valley" of Virginia.

The Great Valley is actually a series of five valleys, of which the Shenandoah is predominate, and lies between the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and several interrupted ranges of mountains, principally the Shenandoah and Allegheny, that parallel it on the west. It extends from the Potomac River on the Northeast to Virginia's border with Tennessee on the southwest, some three hundred miles. Width of the valleys average about twenty-five miles, with the narrower portions being at the southwest end.

The valley was the line of least resistance for the journey of the early settlers into southwest Virginia as the steep slopes of the Blue Ridge held back the advance of civilization from the more populated eastern Virginia. One early explorer of the valley (1669) noted that there was abundant animal life there consisting of red deer, bear, wildcats, beaver, otter, gray fox and wolves. Wolves were still a problem one hundred years later, bringing a bounty to anyone who killed one. It is recorded that John Potts collected such a bounty (Appendix B 29). There were also buffalo, elk and other creatures common to mountain and forest.

Although settlement in the northern end of the valley began early in the 1700s, pioneers didn't start arriving in significant numbers into the southern portion until around 1730. The driving motive of the immigrant to make this difficult move into wild and unsettled territory was the desire for inexpensive land and the hope of bettering himself. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians were the largest group to occupy the area beginning around 1730. Later a substantial number of German immigrants arrived, often taking over the farms, homes and churches of earlier pioneers who had moved on to even greener pastures in the Carolinas and Kentucky. By 1742 there were probably only fifty families south of the James River west of the Blue Ridge, and around twenty-five families along the north side of the James.<sup>10</sup>

There is an indication that Jonathan first attempted to establish a home for his family in extremely rugged country along "Potts Creek" at the base of "Potts Mountain" on the western edge of the valley and gave his name to those geographical features before giving up the battle and moving eastward into a more populated and hospitable site on Craig's Creek. An ever-present danger from marauding Indians may have influenced his decision to relocate. During the

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<sup>10</sup> *Kegley's Virginia Frontier*, F. B. Kegley

1750s and 1760s the valley was the scene of numerous and increasingly ferocious Indian raids from which the farmers had to defend themselves either alone or with the aid of their neighbors. To help in this defense, authorities built a chain of forts along the Allegheny Range at key points along major waterways. Fort Dunlap was built in 1756 at the juncture of Craig's Creek and the James River, and undoubtedly the Potts family availed themselves of that shelter when necessary. These forts were simple structures of double-log, two story design, surrounded by a high stake fence with block houses at the corners. They served both as a garrison for troops and as a refuge to which people in the vicinity could come when threatened by Indians. How real and present was the danger is illustrated by the following story extracted from *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, by A. S. Withers, 1895 edition:

**I**n the summer of 1761, about sixty Shawnee warriors penetrated the settlements on the James River...in the night; and ...killed Thomas Perry, Joseph Dennis and his child and made prisoner his wife, Hannah Dennis. They then proceeded to the house of Robert Renix, where they captured Mrs. Renix and her five children—William, Robert, Thomas, Joshua and Betsy—Mr. Renix not being at home. They then went to the house of Thomas Smith where Renix was, and shot and scalped him and Smith, and took with them, Mrs. Smith and Sally Jew, a white servant girl.

William and Audley Maxwell and George Matthews were then going to Smith's house and hearing the report of guns, supposed that there was a shooting match. But when they rode to the front of the house and saw the dead bodies of Smith and Renix...they discovered their mistake, and contemplating for a moment the awful spectacle wheeled to ride back. At this instant several guns were fired at them and the door of the house was suddenly opened and the Indians rushed out and raising the war cry several of them fired...

The Indians then divided and twenty of them taking the prisoners, the plunder and some horses which they had stolen, set off by the way of Jackson's River, for the Ohio; the remainder started towards Cedar Creek with the ostensible view of committing further depredations. But Matthews and the Maxwell's had sounded the alarm, and the whole settlement was soon collected at Paul's stockade fort, at the Big Spring near to Springfield. Here the women and children were left to be defended by Audley Maxwell and five other men; while the others, forming a party of twenty-two, with George Matthews at their head, set out in quest of the enemy.

The Indians were soon overtaken, and after a severe engagement, were forced to give ground. Matthews and his party followed in pursuit, as far as Purgatory Creek; but the night being very dark in consequence of a continued rain, the fugitives effected an escape; and overtaking their comrades with the prisoners and plunder, on the next evening, at the forks of the James and Cowpasture Rivers, proceeded to Ohio without further molestation.

While Matthews and his men, on the morning succeeding the engagement, returned to the field of battle, they found nine Indians dead...Benjamin Smith, Thomas Maury and the father of Sally Jew, were the only persons of Matthews' party who were killed...these together with those who had been murdered on the preceding day were buried....

The frontier settlers were both independent and hardy. They built their homes of logs from the surrounding forests and, when they were not fending off Indians, they relied on their own family resources to supply food from forest or field. They produced their own clothing from animal furs and hides. The soil and climate was ideal for farming and those interested in that occupation cleared acreages to grow hemp, wheat and corn. They also raised livestock, not only for their own use, but to market in cities as distant as Philadelphia.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### Jonathan Potts 1714 – 1785

**JONATHAN POTTS**, also known as “John,” was born in 1714, probably in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania; however his ancestry is not entirely clear, as discussed in the Introduction to this book. He married **Naomi** about 1738, as nearly as can be estimated. It has been reported that her maiden name may have been Hall. She was affectionately called “Omey,” or “Emey,” as can be seen in the family Bible entries outlined below. Jonathan died in Lincoln County, Kentucky around May or June 1785. Naomi was born 18 June 1718, probably in Pennsylvania, and her parentage has yet to be determined. She was still living as late as June 1790, aged seventy-two.

Among the descendants of Jonathan whom TMP interviewed was Mr. **George W. Potts**, a merchant of Bowling Green, Kentucky. George possessed an old Bible which had originally belonged to Jonathan and Naomi, but which was in very poor condition, with the hand writing partially or entirely faded out. TMP writes—“It would seem that sometime children may have made a plaything of the book and practiced in a first essay at penmanship across the records.” In any event, TMP was able to borrow the Book for an extended period of time in order to thoroughly study the entries. If the Book is still available, it would be interesting to see what modern technology could do in bringing out the faded writing. The essential data contained in the Bible, as deciphered by TMP and recorded in his book, is as follows:

#### Fly-leaf:

John Potts his Book God Giv him grace  
to look there on 1768  
Emey Potts Hur Book  
John Potts his Hand and pen

Jonathan Potts

#### Next Page:

Potts  
Nathan Potts  
Amos Potts Born December in one 1743  
Sarah Potts Born January 19 Day in one 1745  
Potts Born in february 28

Potts Born in april 23 Day 1767 <sup>11</sup>  
 Potts Born July  
 Ezekiel Potts Borne September third at ten Oclock at night 1758

Other random entries:

Jonathan Potts Born Day of the month in the year of our Lord 1714  
 Omey Potts Wife of John Potts Born June 19 day 1718  
 Emey Potts and Nathan Hur Son  
 1714  
 1718  
 Mrs Emey Potts is 72 years old June 1790

It is worthy of note that the names—Jonathan, Nathan, David and Ezekiel are the same names commonly found in the families of David and Jonas Potts of Loudoun County, Virginia, who were sons of Jonas Potts of Wales (Chapter Five). Perhaps Amos' name came from Naomi's line. Tradition has it that two of Jonathan's sons were drowned in a river by "the parting of a raft." It is known that David's son David Jr., did drown in either the Ohio or the Mississippi around 1830 (Chapter Eight, narrative number 4), but this would not appear to be the instance referred to in the tradition. Botetourt County records reveal that there were two Potts deaths during 1777. In August of 1777 Amos was appointed Administrator for the estate of Matthew Potts, and in October Nathan's estate was inventoried (Appendix B – 34 – 35). It is considered likely that these were the two brothers who drowned, probably in the James River. Apparently both deaths were so sudden as to preclude writing of wills by either man.

In a footnote on page 341, TMP states: "Mr. Joel Potts says his Aunt Sarah married Robert Rowland, had children and moved to Missouri. He also says that another aunt whose name he had forgotten, married a man named Burks and that Burkesville, Kentucky took its name from him." This statement has caused some confusion among persons using TMP's book as a source document, and needs clarifying. Although there may well have been "another aunt," it was Sarah who married both Mr. Rowland and Mr. Burks and this will be treated in more detail in Sarah's narrative to follow.

On 29 October 1783 Jonathan made his will and this is how it appears in Will Book A, p98, Lincoln County, Kentucky:

Will of John Potts

October 29, 1783

Know all men by these presents that I, John Potts by the will of God, Amen, inhabitant of Kentucky and County of Lincoln, weak in Body, but in perfect sound memory considering the uncertainty of life do think fit to will and ordain such worldly estate and effects as God in his providence hath given me in manner following (Viz) First, I commend my Soul to Almighty God who gave it and my body to the care of my Executor

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<sup>11</sup> This date is plainly written and is presumed to record the year of death.

to be decently buried. Second, I do will and bequeath to my lawful married wife Naomi Potts all the wearing apparel with one half the peuter belonging to the household and dispose as her properties. I will and bequeath to my lawful begotten son David Potts all my estate title and properties in land. I will and order the use and benefit devising from my live stock to the necessary support of my wife Naomi during her natural life together with bed bedding and such other furniture as I possess not heretofore disposed of by me and commend the oversight of them to my Executors to prevent fraud while her hand, at her decease I will and order the same totally to my son David Potts aforementioned with the estate to him and his lawful heirs forever. I will and bequeath to my lawful begotten daughter Sarah Burks twenty shillings to be paid on demand. I leave to my grandson John Potts, lawful son of Amos Potts, one dollar to be paid in like manner. I constitute and appoint my son David Potts and my trusty friend Thomas Harbeson my executors. Sealed with my seal and signed with my hand this 29th day of October 1783.

Witness:

James McColluck  
Margaret Harbeson  
William Shaw

*John Potts*

Probated June 21, 1785

John and “Omey” Potts were probably in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania from the time of their marriage until 1751 or 1752. During that time it is believed that they had their first six children. Whether they migrated south into Loudoun County, Virginia to be near Jonathan’s half-brother David and his full brother Jonas, or whether they went directly southwestward along the Allegheny Range into Augusta County, Virginia is still open to conjecture. In any event the family arrived after what had to be a hazardous journey by wagon into the upper James River valley around 1752. The children’s ages would have ranged from John Jr., (presumed to be the eldest) who would have been around twelve, to David, an infant of only a few months.

After attempting to clear some land at the base of what became known as Potts Mountain, along Potts Creek, on the eastern edge of the valley, Jonathan apparently abandoned the project and settled on 124 acres along Craig’s Creek in a more populated area (Appendix B – 1, 2). He and his family were active in community affairs during the long years they were in that area, as can be seen by the frequency with which various members of the family served on jury and surveying assignments (Appendix B).

Finally it appears that in the spring of 1779 Jonathan disposed of his property and followed his son David and daughter Sarah across the mountains into Kentucky (Appendix B – 29, 42).

Until statehood, on 1 June 1792, the Kentucky region was still a part of Virginia, which then extended from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. It was called Kentucky County between 1776 and 1780 at which time it was divided into three counties: Lincoln, Jefferson, and Fayette.

During the colonial period England had placed a restriction on westward expansion, but of course this was lifted at the end of the Revolutionary War. Early exploration by Daniel Boone into the Kentucky wilderness resulted in the wide circulation of intriguing tales describing “lush lands beyond the mountains.” This vision encouraged thousands of ambitious young farmers (many of whom were recently discharged veterans receiving free bounty land for their wartime services) into making the difficult trip in search of a better life. The main route to this Promised Land was by the “Wilderness Road” which was merely a rough trail originating in Virginia. The

Cumberland Gap, at the juncture of the present boundaries of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, was one of the few passes through the mountains. From around 1778 there began a steady stream of pioneers traveling the Wilderness Road, over the Cumberland Gap and into Kentucky and beyond to Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Iowa, as well as along other trails such as the Great Buffalo Trace, Shawnee-Cherokee Trail, Boone Trace, etc. Good farm land was abundant, but the settlers were frequently bothered with attacks by Indians, and there was much “clearing” of the land to be done.

The following is an attempt to reconstruct the composition of the children of Jonathan and Naomi Potts, as determined from a study of the Bible entries and material such as that outlined in Appendix B.

### Children of Jonathan and Naomi (\_\_\_\_) Potts

- 2 i. John Potts, Jr.—Presumed to be first son
- 3 ii. Nathan Potts
- 4 iii. Amos Potts, born December 1743
- 5 iv. Sarah Potts, born 19 January 1745
- v. George Potts? – born c1748
- vi. **David Potts, born 1751 (Chapter Eight)**
- vii. Matthew Potts, born c1754; died Aug 1777
- viii. Ezekiel Potts, born 3 September 1758; believed to have married Elinor Harbison in 1780, in the Quaker faith. He died before 1784 in Lincoln County, Kentucky and Elinor married William Tolley in 1783.

**2 John Potts, Jr.** was probably born in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania around 1739-40 and was therefore about twelve when he accompanied his parents into Augusta County, Virginia around 1752. He married **Rebecca Snodgrass**, daughter of Joseph Snodgrass, in Augusta County around 1761. The Snodgrass family was an early settler in the area and neighbors of the Potts. John, Jr. died in Botetourt County, Virginia sometime during 1781 and Rebecca lived only a few months longer, passing away between 15 May and 13 September 1782. There is no indication as to the cause of death for either person. John’s demise was probably sudden and left no time to draft a will; otherwise he would very likely have done so (Appendix B – 46, 47).

John, Jr. had apparently just become of age when on 7 April 1763, along with his brother Amos, he purchased 204 acres along Craig’s Creek from David Looney for £25 (Appendix C). He settled the upper portion of that land and cleared it for farming. During the following eighteen years he was involved in the community by performing surveying assignments and jury duty and was appointed Constable for Craig’s Creek Precinct on 13 February 1770, serving until 1776. For some unexplained reason he and Rebecca sold their portion of the 204 acres on 10 September 1779 to David Frame. The deed is recorded in Deed Book 3, p1, Botetourt County and is abstracted in the following:

THIS INDENTURE made the tenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine between John Potts and Rebecca, his wife, of the county of Botetourt and colony of Virginia of the one part, and David Frame of the same county of he other part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred pounds current money of Virginia to the said John Potts & Rebecca his wife in hand paid by the said David Frame at or before the sealing & delivery of one half of the land John and Amos Potts bought of David Looney on conditional bounds between Amos



and John, by a large hollow between the two plantations and the upper end of John Potts one hundred and two acres more or less lying and being in the county of Botetourt on the waters of Craig's Creek a branch of the James River....

Signed Sealed and Delivered in  
presence of

John Withers

Joseph McMurty Jun

Wm McClenachan

*John Potts juner*

*Rebekah Potts*

Proved in December Court 1779

It is possible that John and Rebecca had planned to follow Jonathan and David to Kentucky, but were then unable to go. The records of Botetourt County often do not differentiate between John, Sr., and John, Jr., so it may be that some of the activities attributed to "John Potts" in Appendix B should be assigned to John, Jr. The inventory of his estate, shown in Appendix E, reveals that he was a moderately successful farmer and tends to disclose something as to the type of life led by him and his family. Apparently they had received some education since they owned books and could sign their names. It is curious that there are no weapons listed in the inventory.

John, Jr., and Rebecca's orphaned children were assigned by Botetourt County Court as wards of Rebecca's brothers Joseph and Isaac Snodgrass, each taking two. The Botetourt County Children's Court, assigned John's orphans to guardians as follows:

"Joseph an orphan age under 14 on 12-11-1783, gdn Joseph Snodgrass—*Sarah* an orphan age under 14, on 12-11-1783, gdn Joseph Snodgrass—*Sarah* an orphan age under 14 on 12-11-1783, gdn Isaac Snodgrass—*Hannah* an orphan age under 14 on 12-11-1783, gdn Isaac Snodgrass. (A parenthetical note in the record appears to correct the first *Sarah* mentioned to the name of John."

### **Children of John, Jr., and Rebecca (Snodgrass) Potts**

- i. Joseph Potts, born c1763 (est), ward of Joseph Snodgrass.
- ii. Hannah Potts, born c 1765 (est); ward of Isaac Snodgrass; m 3 July 1786 to Jonathan Thomas (Appendix D 2.).
- iii. Sarah Potts, born c 1777 (est); ward of Joseph Snodgrass; m 17 January 1798 to Henry Hanes (Appendix D4).
- iv. John Potts, ward of Joseph Snodgrass.

**3 Nathan Potts** was probably born around 1741/42 in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, migrating to Augusta County, Virginia with his parents around 1752. He married Hannah Shaddon, ward of James Snodgrass, on 4 October 1772 in Botetourt County, Virginia (D1).

There is a record (Appendix B 24) that he sold some household items and farm stock to his father less than a year after his marriage, and was sued by Edward Carvin three months later of a £4 debt (Appendix B 26). By October 1777 Nathan had died leaving only the estate reflected in the following:

1777

October 29th An Inventory of the Estate of Nathan Potts Decd. appraised by  
John Jackson, William McFee and Joseph Looney.

Acct of Potts

Estate	£	s	d
By one Box Iron and Heaters		10	
By one Sett of Plough Irons	2		
By two Wedges		5	
By one Bay Horse	14	10	
By one Ditto	15		
By two Bolts		5	
By two Coats and one Hat	2		
By cash	4	16	
By Cash Accompts	10	4	3
By one Bay Mare	10		
By cash		9	4
	£ 61	[?]	

[No weapons ?]

Exam February Botetourt 1779. This Inventory was returned and ordered  
to be recorded Test: David May CBC

As mentioned earlier it appears highly likely that Nathan and a brother, Matthew, were the two sons of Jonathan who drowned when a raft parted on the river.

Nathan and Hannah had at least three children—daughters Susanna, Naomi and Rebecca. Perhaps Rebecca was just a small child when her father died, as on 14 August 1783, the Botetourt County Court appointed James Calvert as her guardian, indicating, perhaps, that Hannah had remarried (Appendix B 49).

In Deed Book 5, page 194, Botetourt County, there appears this entry:

“This Indenture made upon the 20th day of May in the year of our Lord 1794 between William Beard and Susanna, his wife, of Botetourt County of the one part and Jesse Perdew of Montgomery County of the other part witness that whereas Nathan Potts deceased, died intestate and possessed of certain land and having claims to other lands in the County of Botetourt aforesaid and elsewhere which descended to his two daughters, Susanna who intermarried with the said William Beard and Mayomey [Naomi] who intermarried with the said Jesse Perdew, as co-heiresses of the estate of said Nathan Potts; and the said Jesse Perdew having paid to the said William Beard and his wife Susanna a valuable consideration to wit, the sum of (20) twenty pounds in good trade....

Attested: John Beard  
Thomas Beard  
Martin Beard (His Mark)

William Beard  
Her  
Susanna X Beard  
Mark

#### Children of Nathan and Hannah (\_\_\_\_) Potts

- i. Susanna Potts, born about 1773; married William Beard before 1794 in Botetourt County, Virginia (Appendix D 3).
- 6 ii. Naomi Potts, born about 1775
- iii. Rebecca Potts, born about 1776, Botetourt County, Virginia, became ward of James Calvert (Appendix B 49).

4 **Amos Potts** was born in December 1743, probably in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, and accompanied his parents on the trip to Virginia in 1752. There is a record in Augusta County, Virginia, dated 21 August 1765 which shows that Amos obtained a marriage license, but the date of the wedding and name of the bride is not given (Appendix B 71). That his bride's name was **Hannah** is brought out in his will, written fifteen years later. Amos passed away in August 1780, within two months of making his will. That instrument mentions his wife, two sons—John and Nathan, and several “other children” who remain unidentified, but who were probably girls. He names as co-administrators, his wife, Hannah, and “John Baller,” which can lead to speculation that Baller may have been Hannah's father or brother. John Baller is mentioned several times in the recorded history of the area, having served with the militia as a Sergeant during the Indian Wars in 1756 and 1757, and as a Captain during the Revolutionary War.

Will of Amos Potts, 1780<sup>12</sup>

JUNE 26th 1780 In the name of God amen, Amos Potts of the County of Botetourt and province of Virginia being sick and low condition of Body and find myself wearing to my latter end, I do regulate and Bequeath my Estate in the following manner. Viz—First of all I commend my Soul to God who gave it and my body, to be buried in a decent and orderly manner. Secondly I bequeath to my loving wife, Hannah the Benefit of my Lands during her life together with a mare and Saddle, Bed and Bed Cloths and to my two sons John and Nathan the land to be equally & proportionately divided between them when come of age the rest of my children to enjoy the remainder amongst them agreeable to law. Thirdly I do constitute & appoint my wife Hannah and John Baller Administrators. No more but to have the above justly and truly executed as my last Will and desire.

*Amos Potts*

Witness

David Potts  
Daniel Ewing  
William McClenachan

Augusta Botetourt Court, one thousand seven hundred and eighty. This instrument of writing was presented in Court as and for ( ) last Will and Testament of Amos Potts decd. by Hannah Potts & John Baller the Executors named therein and proved by the oaths of ...the witnesses and ordered to be recorded...Certificate is granted for obtaining a Probate thereof whereupon they entered into and acknowledged Bond in Twenty thousand Pounds according to Law with James Robertson their Security.

*David May CBC*

Amos joined his brother John, Jr. in purchasing 204 acres along Craig's Creek on 7 April 1763, and settled on the “lower” portion where he raised his family (Appendix C). He contributed to the community by performing surveys and serving on the jury, as did his father and brother (Appendix B 15, 16, 17, 30, 33).

Between August 1780 and October 1797 Hannah remarried and became the wife of Alexander Martain, moving to Lee County in the southwest tip of Virginia. On 11 October 1797 they executed a document releasing all claim to the land which Amos left to Hannah until their sons, John and Nathan, became of age:

<sup>12</sup> From Will Book A, pages 18-19, Botetourt County, Virginia

LEE COUNTY VIRGINIA CIRCUIT COURT, Deed Book 1, pp 85, 86. This is to certify: that one Alexander Martain and his wife Hannah does freely give up and quit all claim of all lands in the name of Amos Potts Decd unto his sons, John and Nathaniel, with all rents profits, Houses, buildings, orchards, woods, way waters and all other profits belonging or appertaining to the said Lands to the above named John and Nathan Potts, their heirs or assigns forever and in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seal this 11th day of October 1797.

*Alexander Martain*

*Hannah Martain*

At a Court held for Lee County the 10th day of April 1798: This Deed of Gift from Alex<sup>r</sup> Martain and Hannah his wife to John and Nathan Potts was produced in Court and proven by the oaths of Williamson Trent and William Owens and ordered to be recorded.

Test *Samuel Ewing*

Two years later the boys sold this inheritance to Amy Reynolds of Botetourt County for £117 – 5s (Appendix F). This appendix reveals that John's wife is named Polly. John and Nathan then joined the many pioneers traveling over the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and the tax lists of 1799 for Cumberland County, Kentucky show that they were residing in that county. Within the next decade, however, they seem to have left Kentucky as they do not appear in the 1810 or later census for that state. From this point on, information concerning these two brothers becomes very scarce. John and Polly had at least one son, Amos, and there were probably other children whose names have not yet come to light. Since their son, Amos, entered military service from Warren County, Tennessee in 1814, it may be assumed that the family lived in that area for a time. Although they do not appear in census records or land deeds, The Warren County Tax list for 1812 lists Alexander Martin, a John and a Nathan Potts, as well as several members of the Nunley family, including Arch Nunley. John's son, Amos, married Rachael Nunley and it is believed that her father was Arch Nunley.

i. \_\_\_\_? (Possibly one of these could be the Susannah Potts who married William Beard in 1793 (Appendix D3 ).

ii. \_\_\_\_?

iii. John Potts, born 8 January 1770, Botetourt County, Virginia; married Polly\_\_\_\_prior to Mar 1794. . Bible records reveal only that John died 8 April 1864, but do not indicate the location of death (Appendix G). **Chapter Ten is devoted to their only child, Amos Potts** of Bradley County, Tennessee, the ancestor of the compiler of this book.

iv. Nathan Potts, born about 1772-74 in Botetourt County; married Elizabeth Green about 1812 in Cumberland County, Kentucky. There is indication that they had several children, unnamed. In February 1799, Nathan owned 200 acres in Wayne County, Kentucky. (Wayne was formed from Green County in 1801, and Green was formed from Cumberland in 1793.) The indenture shows that Nathan's wife is named Elizabeth and she joined him in conveying their property to Reuben Warren on 8 February 1828, at which time they lived in Warren County, Tennessee. There is a marriage record in Cumberland County, Kentucky indicating that Nathan Potts married Elizabeth Green. The 1830 Census of Warren County, Tennessee shows Nathan and Elizabeth living there, both over 50 years of age. That census also shows a male child between 5 and 10 and three female children—two between 10 and 15 and one between 15 and 20. They do not appear in the 1840 census of Tennessee.

**5 Sarah Potts**, daughter of Jonathan and Naomi Potts, was born 19 January 1745, probably in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania and died 28 January 1829 in Boone County, Missouri. She married (1) William Rowland in Botetourt County, Virginia around February 1763—he passed away on 1 November 1776 in Botetourt County (Appendix B 32 & 33). Sarah married (2) Samuel Burks on 1 March 1778 in Botetourt County and it appears that he passed away about 1808 or 1809 in Cumberland County, Kentucky. There is indication that Sarah married a third time to “Jeams” Simpson in 1809 in Barren County, Kentucky. (Appendix B 36)

The following account of Sarah and her family is taken from notes made by Mr. Clyde Campbell, deceased, formerly of San Antonio, Texas, a descendant of William and Sarah Rowland:

Sarah’s first husband was the son of Robert and Martha Rowland, early settlers in Botetourt County, arriving there around 1743. Robert’s will is dated 16 January 1777 and mentions sons James, Thomas and George, as well as the children of his son William, who had passed away 1 November 1776. That will, probated in February 1782, provided that the one-fourth part of his estate to be equally divided between William’s children, be conditioned upon William’s oldest son, Robert, being excepted unless he made an equal division of his father’s land to his brothers.

William and Sarah’s children were all minors at the time of his death and presumably went with their mother when she married Samuel Burks in 1778. That marriage bond, filed in Botetourt County, has a note attached reading: “Sir, please to issue lysons to the bear Samuel Burks and in so doing you will oblig your friend John Potts, I having no objections against his maring my daughter giving under my hand this 23 of Febury 1778.

Sarah Roland Widow

To Mr. David May, Clerk of the Cort”

On 14 December 1780 the Botetourt Court ordered that the children of William Rowland, deceased, except Elizabeth, be bound out according to law. Elizabeth was apparently excepted because she was shortly to be married to Isham Burks, as evidenced by the marriage bond dated 26 January 1781. On 14 March 1782 the court ordered that John and George Rowland be bound to William and George Graham until they reached twenty-one; that Robert be bound to John and Robert Armstrong; Amey to James Rowland and Sarah to Thomas Rowland, until twenty-one.

The Potts, Burks and Rowlands must have all moved into Cumberland County, Kentucky and vicinity around 1778-1782. Samuel and Isham Burks were probably brothers or otherwise closely related. Both owned land where Burkesville, Kentucky is now located, and a history of Cumberland County relates that a contest of votes for the honor of having the town named for him was between Isham Burks and John Thurman, with Burks getting the most votes. Samuel Burks was also prominent in the area and became the first county judge.

A deed in Mercer County, Kentucky, dated 1 March 1791, shows Samuel and Sarah selling 400 acres on the west side of Chaplain’s Fork on Kainey Creek to Thomas Wilson, and six days later they sold 68 acres to Anthony Prewitt. On 3 December 1808 Samuel Burks of Cumberland County deeded to Robert Burton of Mercer County, 76 acres in Mercer County on Doctor’s Fork. No mention is made in this deed of “wife Sarah” which can lead to the notion that they may have divorced prior to that time. Anyway, Sarah may have married in Barron County, Kentucky in 1809 as there is a marriage recorded there during that year between “Jeams Simpson and Sally Burks.” To support the belief that “Sally” was indeed “Sarah,” there is a notation in an old Bible belonging to Isham Burks, which reads: “Sarah Simpson, mother of John Rowland and Elizabeth Burks, departed from the life on the 28th of January 1829 about

fifteen minutes after twelve o'clock, aged between 80 and Ninety years." The Bible also records that—"Isham Burks, son of John and Sarah, was born 1759, Elizabeth Rowland, now Elizabeth Burks, was born 14 January 1764." It is of interest that Sarah's son, John Rowland, had a daughter named "Sallie."

### Children of William and Sarah (Potts) Rowland

i. Elizabeth Rowland, born 14 January 1764 in Botetourt County, Virginia; married 26 January 1781 to Isham Burks, Botetourt County, born 1759. It has been noted that Isham Burks "left Kentucky with his 35 children and grandchildren headed for 'Jackson's Purchase' [Alabama], but got only as far as Tennessee before running out of money, and had to spend enough time in that state to raise a cash crop before pressing on." They apparently had several children, however, only two are known at this writing.

(1) Robert Burks

(2) Sarah Burks, m George Sexton 1798, Cumberland Co. Ky. He was born 6-6-1775, NJ?; d March 1852. On 5 December 1825 George and Sarah "returned from Alabama where they had gone in a 'two-horse Stage' and brought her parents, Isham and Elizabeth, and other family members back to Boone Co. Mo."

ii. Robert Rowland

iii. John Rowland, m Nancy Barnit in Kentucky; d 1843 Boone Co., Mo; His will, 24 February 1843 named his wife and heirs:

(1) William Rowland

(2) David B. Rowland

(3) Robert Rowland

(4) Samuel Rowland

(5) John Rowland

(6) George Rowland

(7) Thomas Rowland

(8) Bersheba Rowland Alexander

(9) Sallie Rowland Wilhoite

(10) Betsy Rowland McQuitty

iv. George Rowland

v. Amey Rowland

vi. Sarah Rowland

**6 Naomi Potts**<sup>13</sup>, child of Nathan and Hannah Potts, was born about 1775; died 25 Jul 1833 in Charlestown, Clark County, Indiana; married Jesse Perdue on 26 February 1794 in Montgomery County, Virginia. Jesse was born c1765 in Virginia. Naomi died 25 July 1833 at Charlestown and Jesse died 29 September 1818. Both are buried at Old Salem Church Cemetery at Charlestown.

<sup>13</sup> Contributed by Mrs. Barbara C. Barnes, Louisville, Kentucky - November 1980. Also Deed Book 5, page 194 Botetourt County, Virginia.

**Children of Jesse and Naomi (Potts) Perdue**

i. Nathan P. Perdue, b abt 1795/96 in Kentucky; m Sally Whitson, who was b 31 March 1813 in Henry County, Kentucky. Nathan died 27 July 1833 in Clark County, Indiana, and is buried in Old Shiloh, Hibernia, Clark County, Indiana.

ii. Henry Perdue, b abt 1787 in Kentucky; m(1) Margaret McNulty 21 April 1823 in Clark County; m(2) Mary Ann Sprowl(e) 23 January 1839, Clark County. He died 5 October 1862 in Lafayette County, Missouri.

iii. Elizabeth Perdue, b abt 1798/99 in Clark County, Indiana; m Robert H. Wilson 22 February 1823 in Clark County, Indiana.

iv. William Perdue, b 16 December 1800 in Clark County, Indiana; m(1) Elizabeth Anderson 5 May 1819 in Clark County; m(2) Lydia Zaring Rodman 3 November 1831 in Washington County, Indiana; m(3) Elizabeth H. Crenshaw 8 August 1842 in Jackson County, Indiana; m(4) Elizabeth Fouts Row on 3 January 1851 in Clark County, Indiana. William died 26 March 1873 in Monroe County, Indiana.

v. Jesse Perdue, b 7 October 1809 in Clark County, Indiana; m(1) Elizabeth McD. Ford 3 March 1831 in Clark County; m(2) Mary Ann Roe 27 October 1845 in Clark County. Jesse died 16 December 1876 in Clark County.

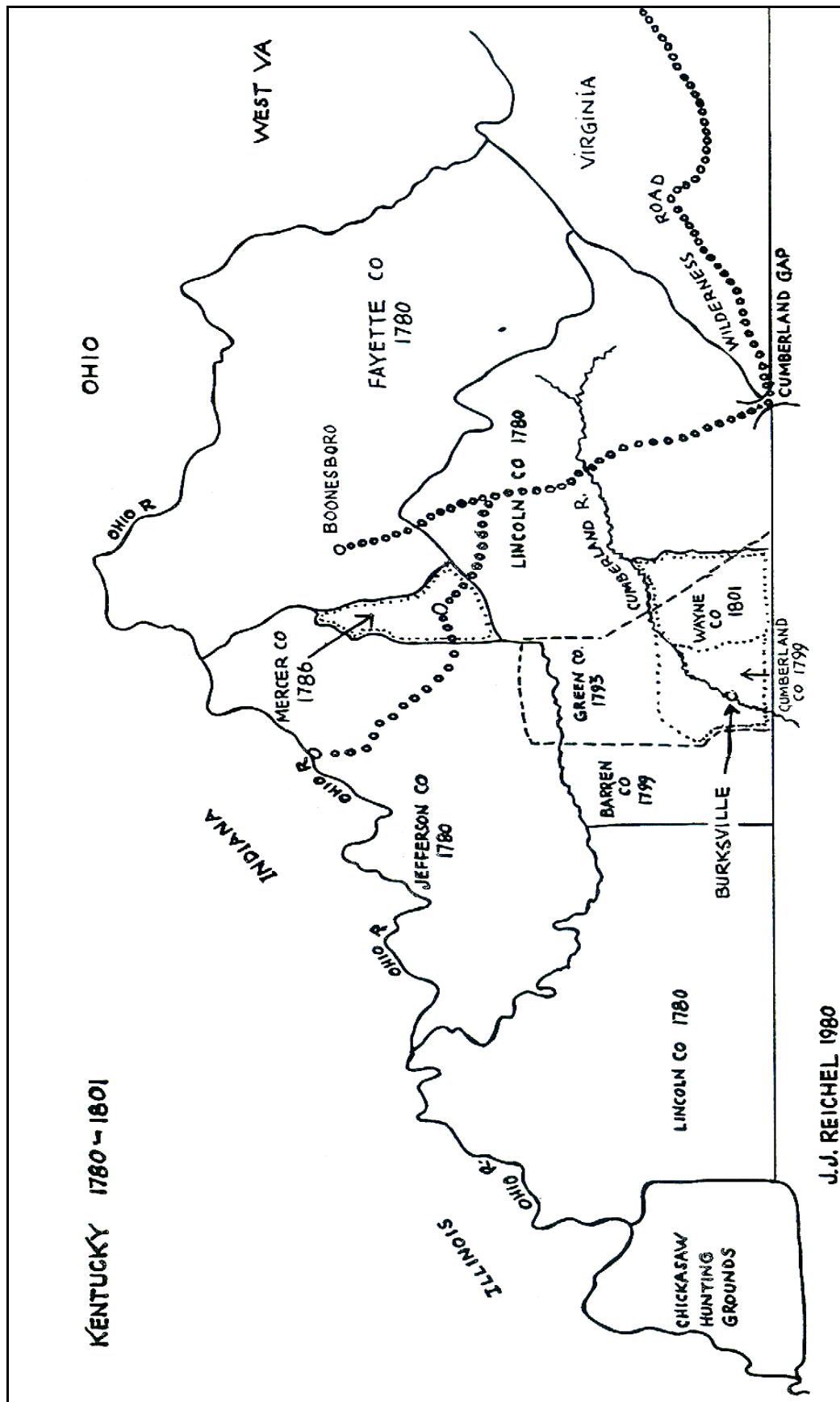
vi. Hannah Perdue, b abt 1810/14 in Clark County, Indiana; probably married George Martin. She died abt 1833 in Clark County.

vii. James Allen Perdue, b 18 January 1815 in Clark County, Indiana; married Elizabeth Ann Herald 1 May 1845 in Henry County, Kentucky. He died 16 October 1850 in Henry County.

viii. Joseph Shadin Perdue, b 29 August 1817 in Clark County, Indiana; m Martha McCormick 5 May 1843 in Clark County. He died 22 January 1900 in Paola, Miami County, Kansas.

ix. Charles Wesley Perdue, b abt 1818 in Clark County, Indiana; m (1) Sarah Ann Loving on 25 July 1839 in Jefferson County, Kentucky; m(2) Jane Martin 13 November 1850 in Lee County, Iowa.

x. ? Family tradition has it that there was another son, but no trace has been found.





## CHAPTER EIGHT

### David Potts of Mercer County, Kentucky

**D**AVID POTTS was born to Jonathan and Naomi Potts about 1751, probably in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He was only an infant when he made the trip into Augusta County, Virginia with his parents, around 1752. Sometime before 1768 he married Elizabeth Looney, who was born in 1753, daughter of Absolum Looney and granddaughter of Robert Looney. It has been reported that Absolum, of Tazewell County, Virginia, was killed by Indians while drinking from a spring. Elizabeth's surname seems to have been changed to "Luna" in later years and was spelled that way at the time of her marriage to David. The name has also been spelled "Luney," at times. The Looney family was quite prominent in the James River settlement in the 1700s. After his marriage David learned to read and, it is said, spent much of his time reading the Bible. After Elizabeth passed away David re-married on 2 November 1808, in Washington County, Kentucky, to Martha "Patsy" (Tines) Short, a widow with two children. She was born 30 April 1767, and died 4 April 1848 in Morgan County, Illinois.

Around 1778 David apparently became excited about the prospects being offered in Kentucky and moved his family over the "Wilderness Road" and into Lincoln County, Kentucky where he established a farm in what later became Mercer County. He passed away in Mercer County in 1824, leaving the following will:

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I David Potts of Mercer [county, KY] Being very Feble in body but Sound in mind & memory knowing the uncertainty of life when death shall appear Therefore Commend his soul to that Almighty God from whom he Received it with full hope & Assurance of its appearance at the latter day under the Sound of the Trumpet which will call them that sleep in the dead to Judgement Fully hoping to be placed on the right hand of my Heavenly Father, Revoking all others doth make Ordain and Appoint this my last will and Testiment in manner following to wit 1st I desire my body may be decently buried in a plain snug manner with out Pomp or parade. 2 I desire that after my body is entered in the above manner that my Executors as hereafter named that all my Justs debts and funeral expenses shall be Honoured by compleat payment and actual discharge Item 3 I give and bequeath unto my Beloved wife Margaret [Martha?]<sup>14</sup> all my Estate now in my Possession during her the said Margaret's Natural life or Widdowhood the use of which to be for the said Margaret's Support upon through life. The aforesaid Margaret Potts is not to waste or destroy anything of the above estate in her life time. Item 4th Should my wife Margaret Potts marry again then in that case my Executor hereafter named shall put her the said Margaret to her Thirds and Sell the Residue and an equal Distribution make amongst all my legal heirs equally. The said

---

<sup>14</sup> This will was obviously written by another person who probably confused the wife's name.

Margaret holding in her hands the one third Part allotted her untill her death at which time that one third Part to her allotted shall be sold and {dealt} with by my Executor aforesaid in like manner. Item 5th I do hereby Nominate and appoint my wife Margaret Potts Executrix and James P. Mitchell Executor to this my last will and testament as witness what I here unto set my hand and affixed my seal this 13th day of January 1824

Test		his	
Samuel Ewing	David	X	Potts
Jesse Long		mark	
Willie Shaw			
M W Bstter (?)			

### Children of David and Elizabeth (Looney) Potts

- 2 i. Jeremiah Potts b 1768.
- ii. Naomi/Amy Potts, b abt 1771; Mercer Co., KY; m John Hall 29 December 1796. John and Amy signed a deed of David Potts in Mercer County, as heirs.
- iii. Margaret Potts, b abt 1774, Fort Harbeson, Mercer Co, KY; m David Henry 15 January 1799 in Mercer Co., KY.
- 3 iv. Jonathan Potts b 9 January 1775.
- v. John Potts b 16 November 1782, d 17 May 1847 Warren Co; m Nancy Wilson in March 1803; no known children.
- vi. Rebecca Potts, b abt 1783, Mercer Co., KY; m Jesse Chapman 19 December 1808 in Warren Co., KY.
- vii. Mary Potts, b abt 1784, m Thomas Crain 12 April 1812, Mercer Co., KY.
- 4 viii. David Potts, Jr. b 1784; d 1830, Warren Co., KY
- ix. Isaiah Looney Potts, b abt 1786, Mercer Co; m Mary/Polly Blue 17 October 1811 in Union Co., KY and resided in Illinois.
- x. Catherine Potts, b abt 1788, Mercer Co., KY

### Child of David and Martha (Tines) Short Potts

- xi. Joel Potts, b 26 October 1811. (See Chapter Nine)

2. **Jeremiah Potts** was born in 1768 in Virginia. He farmed near Morganfield in Union Co. Kentucky., and died 31 March 1856 in Union Co. It is said that he was a great hunter and purportedly lived to be one hundred. He married Nancy Beadles 11 April 1800 in Lincoln Co. Kentucky.

### Children of Jeremiah and Nancy (Beadles) Potts

- i. John Potts, b c1801, probably in Union Co. KY; m Elizabeth Mary Hay 28 August 1825 in Union Co. KY. She was born in Ohio.

(1) Cyrus Potts, b c1825, Union Co., m Nancy (Unknown) c1848 Cass Co., MO, at least two children. They lived in Sugar Creek Township.

- (a) Sarah C. Potts, b c1849 Cass Co., MO.
- (b) John J. Potts, b c1858 Cass Co., MO.

(2) Charles H. Potts, b. c1826, Union Co., m (1) Elizabeth H. Rider 10 May 1848 in Cass Co., MO; m (2) Mary Ann Elizabeth Hiser in Cass Co., MO, at least three children; m (3) Mrs. N. C. Williams c1875 Bates Co., MO, at least three children. Children with Mary Ann Elizabeth Hiser: (Deer Creek Township)

- (a) M. M. Potts (female), b c1865 Bates Co., MO.
- (b) C. H. Potts (male), b c1867 Bates Co., MO.
- (c) S. R. Potts (male), b c1870 Bates Co., MO.

Children with Mrs. N. C. Williams:

- (a) Juda E. Potts, b c1876 Bates Co., MO.
- (b) S. E. Potts (female), b c1878 Bates Co., MO.
- (c) Unnamed daughter Potts, b 1880 Bates Co., MO.

(3) Jonathan A. Potts, b 29 Jan 1837, Union Co; d 1912 in Los Angeles, CA; m Olive Emma Vaughn in 1870 in Lexington, MO. She was born 1852 in St. Louis, MO. and died 1931 in Los Angeles. Jonathan was a carpenter. They had at least four children.

- (a) Emma Potts, b c1872 Cass Co., MO.
- (b) Lilly Potts, b c1874 Cass Co., MO.
- (c) William Potts, b c1876 Cass Co., MO.

(d) Jefferson Potts, b 1888, Los Angeles, CA; d 1977 in Louisiana; m Aurora De La Torre 1931 in Los Angeles. She died 1982 in Louisiana. Their daughter, Olivia Beatrice Potts, b 1932 in Louisiana; m Moses Baca 1952 in Louisiana.<sup>15</sup>

ii. David W. Potts, b c1800-1803, Union Co. KY.; m Margaret Chambers Christian 16 Nov 1822, Union Co., at least eight children. In 1850 the family was living in Montgomery Co., Illinois.

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Elizabeth Potts, b c1827 KY | (2) Martha Potts, b c1828 KY  |
| (3) Julia Potts, b c1830 KY     | (4) William Potts, b c1834 KY |
| (5) Matilda Potts, b c1839 KY   | (6) James Potts, b c1841 KY   |
| (7) Ida Potts, b c1844 KY       | (8) Nancy Potts, b c1845 KY   |

iii. Jonathan E. Potts, b 1805, Union Co; d 14 Nov 1854, Union Co; m Irene "Arna" Robinett 3 Nov 1831 in Gallatin Co. Illinois. She was daughter of Joseph Robinett and died abt 1860 in Union Co.

(1) Maria Ann Potts, b c1834, Union Co., m Willis F. Carr 26 November 1853.

(2) Malvina (Melvina) Potts, b 1835, Union Co; m John M. Woodring 10

September 1853, Union Co.

(3) Jennie Isabel Potts, b 1838, m Givens?

(4) Rebecca Jane Potts, b c1838, m Carrier?

(5) George S. Potts, b abt1839, Union Co.

(6) John Tyler Potts, b 1840; d 1856

(7) Eliza E. Potts, b 1845, Union Co; m Carr?

(8) Rebecca Jane Potts, b 1849, Union Co; m Carrier?

(9) R. A. Potts, b c1849, Union Co.

(10) Sarah Victoria Potts, b 1852, Union Co; m Dennis Hamilton O'Nan.

iv. Reece Lewis Potts b 1806. Union Co., KY, m Elizabeth Williamson Gist 17 January 1831, Union Co. She was b 3 March 1808.

(1) I. H. Potts, b 26 October 1832 Union Co.

<sup>15</sup> Contributed by Olivia Potts Baca, San Gabriel, CA.

- (2) Martha Jane Potts, b 3 March 1833 Union Co.
- (3) Nancy Ellen Potts, b 11 March 1835 Union Co.
- (4) Aaron Thomas Potts, b 2 April 1838 Union Co.
- (5) Sarah Elizabeth Potts, b 24 May 1841 Union Co.
- (6) Nathaniel Brooks Gist Potts, b 25 January 1844 Union Co.
- (7) Reece Lewis, Jr., b14 March 1847 Union Co., d 20 February 1920, m

Margaret E. Dyle c1870.

- (a) Alice Potts
- (b) Charles E. Potts
- (c) Franklin Potts
- (d) Henry L. Potts, b 1 September 1873
- (e) Herman Potts
- (f) Martha E. Potts, b May 1882
- (g) Olive Potts
- (h) Thomas H. Potts, b July 1884
- (i) Jacob Rhea Potts, b March 1887, m Ardell Olley

v. Joseph L. Potts, b 30 May 1808, Union or Warren Co, KY; d 18 Mar 1894 in Union Co. In 1834 he married Phoebe Robinett, dau of Joseph Robinett, in Kentucky.

(1) Amos Potts, b 1834, Union Co., KY, d 8 Apr 1854, Union Co; KY.

(2) Henrietta Potts, b 8 Apr 1838, Boone, Union Co., KY, d 17 Oct 1921, Bordley, Union Co., KY; m. Ewing S. Kuykendall 15 November 1858 Union Co., 2 children.

(3) Matilda Rebecca Potts, b 5 August 1840, Union Co., KY, d 12 Oct. 1925 in Bakersfield, CA; m Marcus L. Martin 17 Jan. 1858, Gallatin Co, IL.

(4) Louisiana Potts, b c1842, Union Co., KY.

(5) Harriett Ann Potts, b 1844 Union Co., KY, d. 1881; m Jesse M. Lipford 26 November 1862, eight children.

(6) Isabelle Ann Potts, b 1846, Union Co., KY, m Nelson S. Jones 28 Sep. 1870 in Union Co.

(7) Joseph Tatman Potts, b February 1850, Union Co., KY, m (1) Mary E. Smith 27 September 1870, one or more children; m (2) Lottie Mae Powell 1892-1895 in TX.

(8) John C. Potts, b c1852, Union Co., KY.

(9) Nathan R. Potts, b 20 December 1853, Union Co., KY, d before 1870.

(10) Van Potts, b April 1858, Union Co., KY, d 1912; m Emma Van Wallingham c1876 in Union Co., nine children.

(a) Vera Henrietta Potts, b 1877, m Holmes Proctor.

(b) Phoebe Lawrence Potts, b 1882.

(c) Enola Adren Potts, b 3 December 1884, m James Clyde Meadows 25 November 1906 in Nashville, TN; 2 children.

(d) Adrian E. Potts, b 1886. (e) Joseph Allen Potts, b 1890.

(f) Eudena Miranda Potts, b 1893, m William McKinley Proctor c1912 in Grayson Co., TX; one or more children.

(g) Mason Dyer Potts, b 1896. (h) Carlton Watson Potts, b 1899.

(i) Isabella Alyne Potts, b after 1900

(j) Robinett Alonzo Potts, b after 1900.

vi. Amos Potts was born 1812 in Union County Kentucky and died in 1888. He married Nancy James 16 March 1836 in Union Co. She was born c1812 in KY.

(1) William Potts, b 1838, KY . (2) Lucy Potts, b 1840, KY.

(3) Tilman Potts, b 1842, KY (4) Kisach Potts, b 1845, KY

(5) Robert Potts, b 1845, KY (6) Mary Potts, b 1852, KY



1942 when it was sold after being in the family one hundred and thirty years. In 1949 it was moved by a new buyer into Bowling Green, Kentucky and rebuilt at 54 Highland Drive.

### Children of Jonathan and Bathsheba (Ballard) Potts

i. John Calvin Potts, b 11 Apr 1800; d 19 Jul 1834; m Nancy Gladdish 15 January 1853 in Warren Co., KY.

ii. Elizabeth Potts, b 22 Apr 1802; m Creed Still.

iii. Reuben Potts, b 17 Apr 1803; d 7 Mar 1847; bur in Repose Park, Bowling Green; m Catherine A. Ashbrook 22 Oct. 1840 in Warren Co; He was a cabinet maker.

(1) George W. Potts; b 22 Jul 1845; m Louisa Keller Minor (of Uniontown, PA) 15 February 1871 in Sumner Co., TN. He was a merchant in Bowling Green and owner of "old Jonathan's" dilapidated Bible.

(a) William Keller Potts, b 1876

(b) George Edward Potts, b 1884

(c) Ernest Potts, b 1885

5 iv. Isaiah Looney Potts, b 8 Jan 1808

v. Ninian E Potts, b 1 Aug 1810; m (1) Emily Jane Robinson 1 February 1836, dau of John L. Robinson of Warren Co., KY; m (2) Nancy Stewart in Warren Co., KY.

(1) A Son Potts

Ninian m (2) Nancy Stewart (or Stuard) on 4 Dec. 1844 in Warren Co.

(2) Henry Potts, d 1863

(3) James V. Potts

(4) Nancy Ann Potts; m John S. Lamb.

vi. Alexander Potts, b 11 Aug 1812; d 1817.

vii. Rebecca Potts, b 12 Jan 1814, d 1892; m Edward Slaughter Smith 12 Dec 1835 in Warren Co., KY.

(1) William S. Smith

(2) Eliza Jane Smith

(3) Reuben A. Smith

(4) Jonathan Smith

(5) Nannie Smith

(6) Columbus Smith

(7) Calvin C. Smith

(8) Richard C. Smith

(9) Mary S. Smith

(10) Fannie E. Smith

viii. Thomas J. Potts, b 10 Aug 1817; m Mahala Chapman 25 Jan 1838, Warren Co.

**4. David Potts, Jr.** was born 1784 and died around 1830-1832 presumably in Warren County, Kentucky. He married Mary Thompson 21 January 1808 in Mercer County, Kentucky. Mary was born in Warren County, Kentucky, daughter of George and Elizabeth Thompson. Mercer county deeds clearly show his relationship to David, Sr. David Jr. was drowned in either the Ohio or the Mississippi River around 1830. "He had five hundred dollars and was going to Illinois or Missouri to find a new home." His widow Mary married again before 1850 to Jesse Rippey in Tennessee, a relative of her daughter Mary's husband. (Data based on research and narrative by Mildred Eubank. See Preface and number 6 below).

### Children of David, Jr. and Mary (Thompson) Potts

i. Rebecca Potts, b c1810, Mercer Co. KY; m James Hyden, Pulaski Co., KY.

ii. Nancy Potts, b c1812, Mercer Co.; m David Myers 25 September 1838 Sumner Co., TN.

iii. David A. Potts, b c1814, Mercer Co.; m Mary Rizer 28 October 1841 in Logan Co., KY. She was b 13 October 1818 and d 9 July 1858 KY. He was agent for his sisters and brother for settlement of old David's estate in Mercer Co. He lived in Logan Co., KY and was killed there in a hunting accident.

iv. Matilda Potts, b c1816, Mercer Co.; m Bevan Absher

v. Mary Potts, b c1818, Mercer Co.; m James M. Rippey of Tennessee.

(1) James Rippey

(2) Malachi Rippey

(3) William Rippey

6 vi. Jesse Chapman Potts, b 1 February 1823

**5. Isaiah Looney Potts** was born 8 January 1808 in Warren Co., KY and died 16 February 1886. He married (1) Sarah B. Burris 29 July 1833 in Butler Co., KY, daughter of John Burris. Sarah was born 9 November 1809 and died 9 March 1859. Isaiah later married (2) Savannah (Markham) Rigsby. He was a farmer in Union Co. Kentucky where he moved in 1842. The family lived in Caseyville, Union County, Kentucky in 1880. (See **Appendix L for more info'**)

#### Children of Isaiah Looney and Sarah (Burris) Potts

i. Stanford Potts, b 19 July 1834; d 1896; m Martha M. Brown 1854 in Warren Co.

(1) Joseph Potts, b 24 March 1856, Union County, Kentucky; m Rachel Gumter

(2) Thomas M. Potts, b c1859, Union County.

(3) Stanford Morgan Potts b c1863, Union County.

(4) John J. Potts, c1872, Union County; m Lucia Whitledge.

a. John Henry Potts of Clay, KY who m Bessie Jewell Lynn.

(5) Catharine Potts, b 24 September 1874, Union County.

(6) Mattie Potts, b c1878, Union County.

ii. Buford Potts, b 15 Apr 1836; m Mary Brown c1855 Union Co.

(1) John Thomas Potts, b October 1856; d 1902; m Sarah E. Williams

(a) Alfred Odie Potts, b August 1881 Union Co.

(b) Vergie V. Potts, b August 1883 Union Co.

(c) James M. Potts, b March 1886 Union Co.

(d) Mary Eunice Potts, b February 1898 Union Co.

(2) Mary Potts, b c1860 Union Co.

(3) Nancy Potts, b c1862 Union Co.

(4) Virginia Potts, b c1867 Union Co.

(5) Josiah Potts, b c1868 Union Co.

(6) Belle/Billie Potts, b c1870 Union Co.

(7) Isaiah Looney Potts, b December 1872 Union Co., m Lucy Whitledge 2 January 1895 Knott Co., KY

(a) Verlie May Potts, b 31 May 1897 Sturgis, Union Co., m John Lewis Sheridan, one child.

(8) William Potts, b 31 May 1874 Union Co.

(9) Miles S. Potts, b November 1877 Union Co., m Etta L. \_\_\_\_ c1898.

(a) Versie B. Potts, b April 1899 Union Co.

iii. Bedford Potts, b 29 Jun 1838; d 1 February 1895 Union Co., m Sarah Carrier c1876.

(1) Charles Edward Potts, b 22 September 1876 Union Co., d 12 October 1956 Greenway, Clay Co., AR; m Mary Ellen Land 11 May 1903 Harrisburg, Saline Co., IL, seven children.

(2) Luney Potts, b c1877 Union Co., may have died young.

(3) Milton U. Potts, b 12 May 1878 Union Co., d 15 October 1895 Union Co.

(4) Laura Potts, b 19 March 1883 Union Co., d 19 July 1973 Saline Co., IL, m John S./B. Proctor, four children.

iv. Ann Elizabeth Potts, b 1839 Union Co.

v. Mary Jane Potts, b 1841 Union Co.

vi. Columbus Potts, b February 1844 Union Co., m Edna \_\_\_\_\_. He was a carpenter.

vii. James R. Potts, b Dec 31 1846 Union Co.

viii Sarah Potts, b c1848 Union Co.

ix. John T. Potts, b 1850 Union Co.

x. William Woodring Potts, b May 28 1854 Union Co., Sallie Waggener c1878 in Union County. She had two children, Annie and William T Waggener from a previous marriage.

(1) James Frederick Potts, b 1879, Union County.

(2) Charles Potts, b after 1879

**6. Jesse Chapman Potts** was born in Warren County, Kentucky on 1 February 1823 and married (1) Jennette Ann Brown in Campbell County, Kentucky 16 October 1855. They had a daughter, Florence, 17 February 1857 who died at birth along with her mother. Jesse married (2) Olevia Josephine Gaines 6 January 1859 at New Roe, Allen County, Kentucky. "Leevy," as she was called, was the daughter of Benjamin Jackson and Rachel Elizabeth (Bowen) Gaines. Her mother, Rachel, was the daughter of Horatio Clark and Anna Muse (Gaines) Bowen. "Jack" and Rachel were first cousins. Jesse passed away on 19 June 1907 and is buried at New Roe cemetery in Allen Co.

Jesse's descendant, Mildred Eubank, remembers that he was named after his Aunt Rebecca's husband and that he always wore a long beard. As a very young man he was apprenticed to a tailor but tired of that and later "rode to Texas on a Claybank mule." Claybank is a sort of tan or yellow color. There he taught school for a year or two, then rode the same mule back to Kentucky, becoming so fond of the animal that he steadfastly refused to sell it despite many offers to buy.

According to Mildred Eubank, "Grandpa Jesse was a merchant and postmaster. At the beginning of the Civil War he took his wife and their small daughter, Jessie, to Coweta County, Georgia to stay with his wife's relatives. Olevia was pregnant with my mother, who later named herself Cora Josephine. Grandpa came back to Kentucky and did not see my mother until after the war. When he first saw her he said, 'she looks like a little Dutchman,' and thereafter she was always called 'Dutch' by her people. All of mother's brothers were stalwart men with heavy hair that turned gray early."

#### **Children of Jesse and Olevia (Gaines) Potts**

i. Jessie Potts, b 19 Apr. 1861 at New Roe, Allen Co., KY; d 1941 at Springfield, Robertson Co., TN; m Albert Johnson O'Neal 1885 in Sumner Co. TN.

(1) Carrie O'Neal, m Vollie Gower



- (2) Clyde O'Neal
- (3) Iva Norah O'Neal, m Paul Watson
- (4) Ollie O'Neal, m Hayes Roney
- (5) Jane O'Neal, m William Holman
- (6) Cora O'Neal, m Robert Boyle
- 7 ii. Cora Josephine Potts, b 20 Mar. 1863.
- iii. Claude Ceaser Potts, b 30 Mar. 1865; d 1917; m Susan Genevieve Sadler 9 March 1893 in New Roe, Allen Co., KY.
  - (1) Jesse Potts, b 1894; d 1916
  - (2) Bessie Potts, b 1896; d 1917
  - (3) Pauline Potts, b 22 Aug 1898; d 1922; m Ralph Hamilton Lewis, Jan 1915
  - (4) Addie Lee Potts, b 1900; d 1917
  - (5) Fred James Potts, m Edna Jack
  - (6) Clifford Faxon Potts, b 1906; d 1960; m Mabel Dunnington.
  - (7) Claude Carmen Potts, m Elinor Brooks; served on Los Angles CA police force for thirty-five years.
- iv. Charles (Charlie) Potts, b 1867; m Cora Walker
  - (1) Mabel Potts, b c1890 m Paul Jones
- v. David Potts, b 1869; m Mattie Witham, no known children.
- vi. Forrest Potts, b 1871; m Rosilla Walker 12 September 1872 in Sumner Co., TN, three children.
  - (1) Desford Chapman Potts b c1895 m Etta Boyd
- vii. Edgar Potts, b 16 December 1873, died young.
- viii. Lawrence Potts, b 1874; d 1966; m Lena Hale; no known children.
- ix. Mary O. Potts, b October 1877; d 1900.
- x. Luke Potts, b April 1880; d 1962; m (1) Nancy Ann Black who d at childbirth with her child; m (2) Stella Venable.
  - (1) Agnes Potts, m J. B. Lamberth
    - (a) Diane Lamberth, m Burt Miracle
    - (b) Michael Lamberth

7 **Cora Josephine Potts**, "Dutch," was born 20 March 1863 at Newman, Coweta County, Georgia and married Richard D. "Dick" Eubank on 2 November 1887 at New Roe, Allen Co., Kentucky. He was born 11 August 1865 at Allen County, Kentucky to John W. and Martha Catherine (Harrell) Eubank. Cora died 6 August 1952 and Richard died in 1956. Both expired in the Franklin hospital and were buried in the family cemetery near their farm, where their daughters Mildred and Jewell lived for many years.

Cora's daughter, Mildred, remembers her mother as "a remarkable woman who taught school for a number of years before and after her marriage. She was active until the day she had a cerebral hemorrhage a week before her death. Her hands were never idle and when she rested she did needlework, such as Irish Crochet, Battenberg Lace, knitting and quilting."

#### Children of Richard and Cora (Potts) Eubank

- i. A daughter Eubank who died at birth.
- ii. Clay Eubank, b 1891; d 1965; m Zelma Laura Walker
  - (1) Barbara Eubank m Ralph Shelburne
- 8 iii. Mildred Olevia Eubank, b 15 Oct. 1895; d 13 Oct 1985

- iv. Amy Katherine Eubank, b 1897; m Walter C. DeBerry in 1921 at Allen Co. KY.
  - (1) Della Jane DeBerry, b 1936; m James H. Carter
    - (a) Jacqueline Carter
    - (b) Douglas Hayden Carter
    - (c) Debra Lynn Carter
    - (d) Kevin Ray Carter
    - (e) Susan Kay Carter
    - (f) Tracy Elaine Carter
  - (2) Clarence Eubank DeBerry, b 1938; m Phoebe Kinsler
    - (a) Jeffrey Clay DeBerry
    - (b) Marty Walter DeBerry
- v. Jesse Carl Eubank, b 1899; d 1903 Allen Co. KY
- vi. A daughter Eubank, b & d 1900
- vii. A daughter Eubank, b & d 1901
- viii. Richard Douglas Eubank, b 1903, Allen Co.; m Anice Bolin; no chn
- ix. Jewell Eubank, b 1905; taught school in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky; taught Equitation for twenty-five years in Girls' Camps in North Carolina and maintained an avid interest in horses and horsemanship.

**8 Mildred Olevia Eubank** was born 15 October 1895 in Allen County, Kentucky and taught school for thirty-five years, mostly in McDowell County, West Virginia. She reports: "When I taught in West Virginia I would often go through Abb's Valley when I went to Bluefield to shop. At the time I did not know that Abb's Valley was named for Absolum Looney, my third great-grandfather. Absolum lived in a cave in the Tazewell County, Virginia valley. His father sent word to come home as Indians were on the warpath. It is said that Absolum was killed by Indians while drinking from a spring." Mildred lived a quiet life on the old family farm with her sister Jewell, occupying herself with research into family history, becoming a recognized authority in genealogical circles. She died 13 October 1985 and is buried in Harrell Cemetery, Allen County, Kentucky.

## CHAPTER NINE

### Joel Potts - son of David Sr., and Martha Short<sup>17</sup>

**J**oel Potts was born 20 October 1811 in Mercer Co., Kentucky [1]<sup>18</sup>, and died 19 July 1898 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois. He married (1) Sarah Ann Blizzard 25 July 1834 in St. Charles Co., Missouri [2], daughter of Nathan Blizzard and Catherine Epler. She was born 22 December 1818 in Prentice, Sangamon Co., Illinois, and died 28 November 1848 in Prentice, Cass Co., Illinois. He married (2) Mary Ann Clark 1 July 1851 in Christian Co., Illinois [3]. She was born about 1815, and died 25 July 1878 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois ?. He married (3) Ruth S. (Clark) Myers 19 October 1881 in Christian Co., Illinois [4]. She was born 7 August 1820, and died 15 August 1892 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois ? [5]. Joel owned land in Section 8 of Taylorville, Christian Co. in 1872. He was a member of the Walnut Hill Universalist Church after 1881 (the church was torn down in 1963).

#### Joel and Ruth Potts



**Black Hawk War.** Black Hawk (1767-1838), A Sauk Indian, was noted for his struggle against the westward movement of the white men in Illinois. Black Hawk was born at the mouth of the Rock River in Illinois, and became chief of his tribe in 1788. The Sauk and Fox tribes agreed in 1804 to give the United States their lands east of the Mississippi River. But Black Hawk refused to accept the contract. He declared that the chiefs had been given intoxicating liquors before they signed the documents.

During the War of 1812, Black Hawk and about 500 of his warriors joined the British for a time. By 1830, most of the Sauk and Fox Indians, led by Keokuk, had moved to a reservation west of the Mississippi River. Black Hawk's tribe refused to move. They fought the whites in what was known as the Black Hawk War. The Indians were defeated, and Black Hawk and his two sons were captured. They were kept in Fortress Monroe until 1833, when they joined their tribe on a reservation near Fort Des Moines. Black

<sup>17</sup> This chapter courtesy of Cyrus Edward Potts, Internet web site located at: <http://www.Potts.net.au/tree/Cy/default.asp>

<sup>18</sup> Bracketed numbers refer to chapter endnotes

Hawk's surrender marked the end of the Indian-held lands in the Illinois region. Black Hawk died on the reservation 31 October 1838.

The Index to Volunteer Soldiers in Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815-1858, Vol. II, L-Z, transcribed by Virgil D. White (The National Historical Publishing Co., Waynesboro, TN, 1994), indicates that Joel Potts served as a Private in Capt. Smith's Company of the 3rd Regiment in Whiteside's Brigade of Mounted Volunteers in the Illinois Militia in the Black Hawk War.

**Children of Joel Potts and Sarah Blizzard are:**

- i. Louisa Jane Potts, b. 15 October 1835, Morgan Co., Illinois; d. 1847, Cass Co., Illinois
2. ii. Maria Elizabeth Potts, b. 5 September 1837, Cass Co., Illinois; d. July 1928, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois.
3. iii. Nathan Columbus Potts, b. 10 June 1840, Cass Co., Illinois; d. 25 March 1885, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
- iv. Gilbert Lafayette Potts, b. 8 August 1841, Cass Co., Illinois; d. bef. 1850, Cass Co., Illinois ?.
- v. William Albert Potts, b. 26 February 1843, Cass Co., Illinois; d. Aft. 1860, Christian Co., Illinois ?.
4. vi. George Dallas Potts, b. 17 July 1845, Cass County, Illinois; d. 6 January 1910, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
5. vii. Cyrus Alonzo Potts, b. 22 June 1847, Cass Co., Illinois; d. 3 November 1918, Ottawa, Franklin Co., Kansas.
- viii. Sarah Catherine Potts, b. 28 November 1848, Cass Co., Illinois ?; d. November 1848, Cass Co., Illinois ?.

**2. Maria Elizabeth Potts** was born 5 September 1837 in Cass Co., Illinois, and died July 1928 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois. She married William B. Davis 18 December 1859 in Christian Co., Illinois [6]. He was born 4 March 1836 in Sangamon Co., Illinois, and died 3 September 1900 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois.

**Children of Maria Elizabeth Potts and William Davis are:**

- i. Flora Evaline Davis, b. 1861, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 1906, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois.
- ii. George Albert Davis, b. about 1862, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; d. about 1863, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois.
6. iii. Joel Jerome Davis, b. 28 December 1865, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 1947, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois.
- iv. Julian Eugene Davis, b. 1869, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; d. Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois.

**3. Nathan Columbus Potts** was born 10 June 1840 in Cass Co., Illinois, and died 25 March 1885 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He married Fianna Elnora Kemmerer 12 April 1866 in Edinburg, Christian Co., Illinois [7], daughter of Joseph Kemmerer and Elizabeth Johnson. She was born 25 December 1845 in Hannover Twp., North Hampton Co., Pennsylvania [8], and died 14 January 1922 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois [8].



### Nathan Columbus Potts Family

SEATED (L - R) Luella Matilda (Alexander); Fianna "Annie" Maria (Benham); Fianna Elnora "Nora" Kemmerer Potts; Nathan "Nate" Columbus Potts; Charles Edwin Potts; Myrtle Elmina (Edmunds); Almond Alonzo Potts.

STANDING (L - R) Archie Elsworth Potts; Joseph Carmen Potts; Nathan Clyde Potts; Harry Joel Potts; Herbert Franklin Potts; Myron Elmer Potts

Nate, a Union Army veteran, and Nora, a teacher, were married April 12, 1866 in Edinburg, Christian County, Illinois. This picture was taken a few years after Nate died (Nathan Clyde was only 10 months old at the time of his father's death). Apparently the photographer took a picture of Nora and the children, then cut and pasted a previous picture of Nate onto the photo.

Nathan enlisted 14 August 1862 in Company E, 77th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers. Discharged as a Corporal from Company D, 130th Infantry on 17 June 1865. He fought in the battle of Vicksburg, then entered with his company in the Red River Campaign. On 8 April 1864 he was captured by the Confederates at the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana and spent more than a year as a prisoner of war in Tyler, Texas. He never fully recovered from the trials of his imprisonment.

The 1870 Christian Co. census, enumerated June 15th, indicates that the family farm was located 13 North, Range 2 West; Taylorville Post Office. Real estate was valued at \$3,200 and personal property at \$1,500. The 1870 Christian Co. census also reveals two additional children, Anna and Harriet, who were not mentioned in other family records. Neither child lived until the 1880 census.

**Children of Nathan Columbus Potts and Fianna Elnora Kemmerer are:**

- i. Anna Potts, b. Bef. June 1866, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. Bef. 1880, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
7. ii. Charles Edwin Potts, b. 10 November 1866, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 16 May 1947, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
- iii. Harriet Potts, b. about 1867, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois? [9]; d. Bef. 1880, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
8. iv. Almond Alonzo Potts, b. 21 September 1868, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 29 January 1953, Olathe, Johnson Co., Kansas.
- v. Myron Elmer Potts, b. 7 January 1870, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 28 September 1939, Christian Co., Illinois; m. Ida A. Runyon, 6 April 1892, Sangamon Co., Illinois; b. 8 August 1868, Illinois; d. 10 August 1936, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He owned 80 acres of land in R2, Section 19, Taylorville, Christian Co.
9. vi. Luella Matilda Potts, b. 2 July 1871, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL; d. 5 September 1947.
- vii. Addie Ilona Potts, b. 9 September 1872, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 28 July 1873, Christian Co., Illinois?.
10. viii. Herbert Franklin Potts, b. 13 December 1874, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 11 September 1927, Rosamond Twp., Sangamon Co., Illinois.
11. ix. Harry Joel Potts, b. 23 May 1876, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 7 December 1914, Perry Co., Illinois.
12. x. Joseph Carmen Potts, b. 28 June 1877, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 31 January 1960, Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas.
13. xi. Archibald Elsworth Potts, b. 8 January 1879, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 26 July 1928, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
14. xii. Fianna Maria Potts, b. 9 June 1880, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 20 September 1970, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.
- xiii. Myrtle Elmina Potts, b. 6 June 1882, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 12 May 1964; m. Samuel Edmonds, 4 March 1903, Taylorville, Christian Co., IL; b. about 1880.
- xiv. Nathan Clyde Potts, b. 21 May 1884, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 1 April 1939, Christian Co., Illinois [10]; m. Mary Elizabeth Wilson, 25 December 1904; b. 7 December 1885; d. 26 September 1956, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. Nathan owned 40 acres in R2, Section 17, Taylorville, Christian Co.

**4. George Dallas Potts** was born 17 July 1845 in Cass County, Illinois [11], and died 6 January 1910 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois [12]. He married (1) Lenora Adaline Langley 5 December 1866 in Christian Co., Illinois [13], daughter of Robert Langley and Minerva Pittman. She was born 27 April 1848 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois [14], and died 14 August 1876 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois [15]. He married (2) Sarah Elizabeth Flinn 18 November 1877 in Christian Co., Illinois, daughter of William Flinn and Dinah (Unknown). She was born 24 February 1856 in Sangamon Co., Illinois [16], and died 8 July 1934 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL [16].

Although born in Cass County, George Dallas Potts resided in Christian County until his death. He was the first commissioner of highways in Taylorville Township - 1876. He was a farmer and obtained his education in Christian County. He was kicked in the back by a horse late



in life, and apparently suffered from liver damage, which eventually brought about his death so the story goes.

*Notes for Lenora Adaline Langley:* Data from Old Walnut Hill Cemetery grave marker indicated as "wife of George D., d. 1876 - aged 28 yrs." From: Christian County, IL Cemetery Inscriptions, Vol. I. Decatur Genealogical Society, 1969. Data from New Walnut Hill Cemetery grave marker indicated as "wife of Geo., 1846 - 1875". From: Christian County, IL Cemetery Inscriptions Vol. II, Decatur Genealogical Society, 1969.



### George Dallas Potts Family

#### SEATED (L - R)

Sarah Elizabeth Flinn Potts;    Tony Roscoe (Sarah E. Flinn);    Lineal Otis (Sarah E. Flinn);  
George Dallas Potts

#### BACK (L - R)

Dempster Orville (Lenora A. Langley);    Cyrus Alvin (Lenora A. Langley);  
William Albert (Lenora A. Langley);    Rufus Monroe (Lenora A. Langley);

### Children of George Dallas Potts and Lenora Adaline Langley are:

15.    i.    William Albert Potts, b. 17 November 1867, Illinois; d. 22 October 1937.
- ii.    Joel Preston Potts, b. 17 May 1869, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL [17]; d. 31 May 1869, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL [18].
16.    iii.    Rufus Monroe Potts, b. 3 September 1870, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 21 July 1948, Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois.
17.    iv.    Cyrus Alvin Potts, b. 18 January 1873, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. Aft. 1939, Long Island, New York?.

18. v. Dempster Orville Potts, b. 15 March 1875, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 26 February 1950, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.

**Children of George Dallas Potts and Sarah Flinn are:**

19. vi. Tony Roscoe Potts, b. 17 April 1880, Illinois; d. 15 November 1966, Christian Co., Illinois..  
 vii. Lineal Otis Potts, b. 15 March 1884, Illinois [19]; d. 1919; m. Ella Parrish.  
 viii. Orië Earl Potts, b. 11 March 1890; d. 17 July 1890.

**5. Cyrus Alonzo Potts** was born 22 June 1847 in Cass Co., Illinois, and died 3 November 1918 in Ottawa, Franklin Co., Kansas [20]. He married (1) Florence Rhodell Miller 13 June 1878 in Illinois?. She was born 31 October 1854 in Ohio [21], and died 31 December 1881 in Kansas?. He married (2) Mary E. Cline (Maupin?) about 1890 in Kansas? [22], daughter of ? Maupin and Sarah (Unknown). She was born 26 July 1857 in Kentucky [23], and died 13 April 1913 in Kansas City, Jackson Co., Missouri.

The 1880 Atchison Co., KS census indicated that Cyrus was 33 years old, had a wife named F. B., 25 years old who was born in Ohio, and had a son Elmer C., 1 year old, born in Illinois. The 1900 Republic Co., KS census indicated that Cyrus was 52 years old, had a wife named Mary and they both had been married for 22 years. Mary had given birth to four children who were all alive, and Elmer C. (1879), Claude H. (1881), Florence (1891), and Byron C. (1894) were all living with them, the last three having been born in Kansas.

It would seem that the indication that Mary had been married for 22 years and had given birth to 4 children was not correct as regards Cyrus' family. It seems more likely that Cyrus' wife Florence B. Miller must have died sometime between 1881 and 1890, and that Cyrus remarried, to Mary E. Maupin, and then had two more children by her.

**Children of Cyrus Alonzo Potts and Florence Rhodell Miller are:**

- i. Elmer Clarence Potts, b. 11 April 1879, Illinois [24]; d. Aft. 1900  
 20. ii. Claude Henry Potts, b. 18 October 1881, Atchison, Atchison Co., Kansas; d. 23 October 1960, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho.

**Children of Cyrus Alonzo Potts and Mary E. Cline (Maupin?) are:**

21. iii. Florence Marie Potts, b. 2 July 1891, Kansas; d. April 1974, Ottawa, Kansas.  
 iv. Byron Cecil Potts, b. 28 January 1894, Kansas; d. 24 February 1979, Seattle, Washington; m. (Unknown).

**6. Joel Jerome Davis** was born 28 December 1865 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 1947 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois. He married (1) Minnie Mason. She was born 1868, and died 1893. He married (2) Jesse Mason. She was born 1883, and died 1917.

**Child of Joel Jerome Davis and Minnie Mason is:**

- i. Ada Marie Davis, m. Ernest R. Wiley, 30 November 1903, Hancock Co., IL [25].

**Child of Joel Jerome Davis and Jesse Mason is:**

- ii. Ada Marie Davis, m. (Unknown).



7. **Charles Edwin Potts** was born 10 November 1866 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 16 May 1947 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He married Sorilda Cincinnatus Speagle 20 April 1890 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, daughter of Asa Speagle and Ophelia Roup. She was born 16 February 1864 in Xenia, Clay Co., Illinois, and died 19 September 1950 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He owned 56 acres in R2, Section 13, Taylorville, Christian Co. and was a tenant on 200 acres owned by A Powell.

**Children of Charles Edwin Potts and Sorilda Cincinnatus Speagle are:**

- 22. i. Lloyd Edwin Potts, b. 13 January 1891, Christian Co., Illinois?; d. 27 April, 1955.
- 23. ii. Clarence Dee Potts, b. 11 March 1892, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 2 December 1972, Brownburg, Indiana.
- 24. iii. Verna Pearl Potts, b. 29 April 1893, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 9 September 1941, St. Charles, Missouri.
- iv. Irma Merle Potts, b. 29 August 1899; d. 11 January 1924, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; m. Fay L. Attebery, 24 June 1922; d. 1980.

8. **Almond Alonzo Potts** was born 21 September 1868 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 29 January 1953 in Olathe, Johnson Co., Kansas. He married Mary Ann Dellen 24 September 1887 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois. She was born 1866 in Green Castle, Putnam Co., Indiana, and died 1 March 1949 in Olathe, Johnson Co., Kansas.

**Children of Almond Alonzo Potts and Mary Ann Dellen are:**

- i. Dwight Potts, b. October 1889, Illinois [26].
- ii. Elta Potts, b. June 1891, Illinois [26]; m. W. C. Broadhurst/Broaddus.
- iii. Claude Potts, b. March 1894, Illinois [26].[25].
- iv. Roy Eugene Potts, b. 20 September 1898, Illinois; d. 21 September 1970, Gardner, Johnson Co., Kansas.
- v. Thomas Raymond Potts, b. about 1901.
- vi. Hiram A. Potts.

9. **Luella Matilda Potts** was born 2 July 1871 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL [27], and died 5 September 1947. She married Albert Marion Alexander 21 February 1893 in Taylorville, Christian Co., IL, son of Hugh Alexander and Martha Snodgrass. He was born 2 July 1871 in Hannibal, Marion Co, Missouri, and died 6 March 1946.

**Children of Luella Matilda Potts and Albert Marion Alexander are:**

- 26. i. Lyman Eugene Alexander, b. 19 December 1894, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 28 October 1974, Bowman, Bowman Co., North Dakota.
- 27. ii. Elsie Vadna Alexander, b. 16 January 1896, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 5 June 1974.
- 28. iii. Harlan Albert Alexander, b. 5 March 1897, Christian Co., Illinois.
- 29. iv. Delmer Bruce Alexander, b. 28 October 1898, Christian Co., Illinois.
- 30. v. Bonnie Louise Alexander, b. 14 February 1901, Christian Co., Illinois.
- 31. vi. Eunice Marie Alexander, b. 25 March 1900, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 2 May 1955.
- 32. vii. Flossie Fern Alexander, b. 17 April 1903, Christian Co., IL; d. 21 January 1980.
- viii. Edgar Leland Alexander, b. 21 October 1906, Christian Co., Illinois; d. November 1973; m. Charnelia Rebecca Allen, 3 August 1935, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.

ix. Roland d. Alexander, b. 5 August 1905, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 7 October 1905, Christian Co., Illinois.

33. x. Gordon Wayne Alexander, b. 6 September 1910, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 5 September 1949, Bowman, Bowman Co., North Dakota.

**10. Herbert Franklin Potts** was born 13 December 1874 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 11 September 1927 in Rosamond Twp., Sangamon Co., Illinois. He married (1) Mary Arminta Peden 1 January 1895 in Christian Co., Illinois, daughter of William Peden and Harriet (Unknown). She was born January 1876 in Christian Co., Illinois [27], and died 7 June 1905 in Christian Co., Illinois [27]. He married (2) Minnie Mae Gore 12 September 1906, daughter of William Gore and Margaret Oliver. She was born 1888 in Bowling Green, Warren Co., Kentucky, and died in Pana, Christian Co., Illinois.

**Children of Herbert Franklin Potts and Mary Arminta Peden are:**

34. i. Herbert Lester Potts, b. 14 June 1895, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 14 July 1971, Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois.

ii. Adeline Potts, m. Paul D. Cothorn.

35. iii. Merle Eugene Potts, b. 23 November 1900, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 5 October 1955, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois.

**Child of Herbert Franklin Potts and Minnie Mae Gore is:**

iv. Norman C. Potts, b. about 1908, Missouri(?).

**11. Harry Joel Potts** was born 23 May 1876 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 7 December 1914 in Perry Co., Illinois. He married Roxanne A. Goodrich 14 August 1897 in Christian Co., Illinois, daughter of Henry Goodrich and (Unknown). She was born 19 January 1878 in Illinois [28], and died 1929.

**Children of Harry Joel Potts and Roxanne A. Goodrich are:**

36. i. Garland Henry Potts, b. 27 March 1898, Olean, Kansas; d. 27 November 1945, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.

ii. Nathan Lowell Potts, b. January 1900, Illinois; d. 18 September 1952, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; m. "Icy".

iii. Elwood H. Potts, b. about 1900.

iv. Clifford A. Potts, b. aft. 1900.

v. Ivan Earl Potts, b. 1910; d. 17 May 1955, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; m. (1) Anna Gillen; m. (2) Roxie Drewes.

vi. Alleta B. Potts, b. aft. 1900.

vii. Elinor Agnes Potts, b. aft. 1900.

viii. Helen Helena Potts, b. aft. 1900.

ix. La Vay Potts, b. aft. 1900.

**12. Joseph Carmen Potts** was born 28 June 1877 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 31 January 1960 in Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas. He married Emma Violet Nutt 15 March 1899 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois, daughter of Joseph Nutt and Ann Bishop. She was

born 18 February 1879 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 15 April 1973 in Del Rio, Texas.

**Children of Joseph Carmen Potts and Emma Violet Nutt are:**

- 37. i. Gordon Harold Potts, b. 12 November 1901, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 9 July 1967, Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas.
- 38. ii. Dallas Carmen Potts, b. 7 December 1903, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 27 June 1986, McAllen, Hidalgo Co., Texas.
- iii. Edythe Carolyn Potts, b. 13 December 1907, Cavalier, North Dakota; d. 23 January 2002, Dallas, Texas; m. Hal Douglass.
- 39. iv. Myron Joseph Potts, b. 4 October 1913, Cavalier, North Dakota.

**13. Archibald Elsworth Potts** was born 8 January 1879 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 26 July 1928 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He married Addie Belle Lamb 3 March 1903. She was born 6 September 1879, and died 2 September 1954 in Taylorville. He rented 84 acres in R2, Section 6, Taylorville, Christian Co., land owned by Mrs. F. E. Potts.

**Child of Archibald Elsworth Potts and Addie Belle Lamb is:**

- i. Marvin L. Potts, b. 19 October 1909, Illinois; d. 1 September 1975, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois [29].

**14. Fianna Maria Potts** was born 9 June 1880 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 20 September 1970 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. She married Frank Ernest Benham 3 December 1901 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He was born 12 February 1881 in Edinburg, Illinois, and died 6 May 1958 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.

**Child of Fianna Maria Potts and Frank Ernest Benham is:**

- 40. i. Thelma Benham, b. 26 January 1903, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 28 December 1974, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.

**15. William Albert Potts** was born 17 November 1867 in Illinois, and died 22 October 1937. He married (1) Ruth Wood Pierce 22 September 1892 in Sangamon Co., Illinois [30], daughter of William Howard Pierce. She was born 6 October 1865 in Pennsylvania, and died 20 September 1905 in Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois. He married (2) Mary M(arie?) Riefenstahl Bef. 1912, daughter of Charles Riefenstahl and Anna Melsinger. She was born 4 June 1877 in Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois, and died 21 June 1924.

**Children of William Albert Potts and Ruth Wood Pierce are:**

- 41. i. Curran Pierce Potts, b. 7 March 1895, Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois; d. 1966, Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois.
- ii. Unknown Child Potts, b. about 1898, Illinois [31]; d. Bef. 1900, Illinois.
- 42. iii. Albert Wood Potts, b. 9 March 1901, Pekin, Illinois; d. 28 August 1993, Evanston, Illinois.

**Children of William Albert Potts and Mary M. Riefenstahl are:**

- iv. William J. Potts, b. 4 September 1912; d. 29 January 1937.

43. v. Ruth Potts, b. Unknown.

**16. Rufus Monroe Potts** was born 3 September 1870 in Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 21 July 1948 in Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois [32]. He married Wilhelmina Rebecca Grunwaldt 16 October 1895 in Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois [33], daughter of Otto Grunwaldt and Emma Federhen. She was born 4 October 1876 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., Wisconsin [34], and died 22 June 1961 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA [35]. He met (2) Ona V. Hayes about 1908, daughter of John Hayes and Flora Denton. She was born 1 November 1884 in Ramsey, Fayette Co., Illinois? [36], and died 18 December 1909 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois. Rufus Monroe Potts grew up on a farm until age 18 when he taught in country schools for two years. He studied law in the offices of Drennan & Hogan and was admitted to the Illinois Bar on 16 November 1892 at age 22. He spent a year in the office of Palmer, Shutt & Drennan at Springfield and then returned to Taylorville and resumed his general practice.

At the age of 28 he was elected County and Probate Judge of Christian County and was chosen as first president of the Illinois County and Probate Judge Association. In 1899 he assisted in recruiting Colonel Bluford Wilson's Provisional Regiment for service in the Spanish American War, and was commissioned a Major on 19 July 1899 by Governor John R. Tanner. While the regiment was ready for service, it was never called for active duty, due to the war ending.

#### **Rufus Monroe Potts**



In 1903 he moved to Springfield and organized the Reich Indemnity Co. (a casualty insurance co.) and served as its general counsel. In 1909 Judge Potts was nominated as a candidate for U. S. Senator from Illinois. On 18 March 1909, in a joint assembly of the House and Senate in the U. S. House of Representatives, he received 30 of the 189 votes cast, the third highest total. He was appointed by Governor Edward F. Dunne and served as Insurance Commissioner of the State of Illinois from 1913 to 1917, and authored the book "Addresses and Papers on Insurance". He was a member of the executive committee and chairman of the Social

Insurance Committee in the national convention of Insurance Commissions. He was called to present his recommendations before a Congressional Committee hearing in Washington, D.C. He recommended much social insurance legislation and brought about much insurance reform legislation. In 1916 Judge Potts' candidacy as Secretary of War was proposed to President Woodrow Wilson. In 1918 Judge Potts was

nominated for the position of Federal District Judge of Southern Illinois.

He practiced law in Chicago, Illinois from 1917 to 1937, and lived at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. One office in Chicago was at 29 So. LaSalle St. He was admitted and qualified to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court on 12 December 1927. After recovering from a severe heart attack in 1937 which forced him to give up his practice in Chicago, Judge Potts moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana. He lived at the Majestic Hotel there from 1937 to 1945 while directing the affairs of the Louisiana Farm & Livestock Co., Inc. of which he was a director and its President. In May of 1945 he moved back to the Frisina Hotel in Taylorville, Illinois. His health

deteriorated and in 1947 he spent 81 days in the hospital. In about May 1948 he took up residence in the St. Joseph's Home of the aged in Springfield. In June, 1948 he entered St. John's hospital in Springfield, where he died July 21st. Judge Potts and his wife separated in 1926, apparently for health reasons, and she went to live with two of her sisters in Los Angeles. From about 1926 until her death Wilhelmina lived (at various times) with her sisters Clara Grunwaldt Parker and Emma Grunwaldt Thiele.

**Child of Rufus Monroe Potts and Wilhelmina Rebecca Grunwaldt is:**

44. i. Wilhelmina Madonna Potts, b. 5 October 1896, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 2 December 1981, Wilmette, Cook Co., Illinois.

**Child of Rufus Monroe Potts and Ona V. Hayes is:**

45. ii. Cyrus Albert Joseph "Billie" Potts, b. 11 May 1909, Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois; d. 21 June 1981, Winfield, DuPage Co., Illinois.

**17. Cyrus Alvin Potts** was born 18 January 1873 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died aft. 1939 in Long Island, New York?. He married (1) Loretta Myrtle Moore about 1890 in Illinois?. She was born 1873 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He married (2) May Scarr 1897, daughter of Nicholas Scarr and Margaret Howatt. She was born November 1872 in Monroeville, Indiana [37], and died aft. 1946 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.

The Long Island (NY) Library has three collections of manuscripts from Cyrus Alvin Potts. Two are bunches of newspaper clippings on the development of Jamaica Bay, NY. Apparently Cyrus played a major role in that community's development. In addition, he wrote a 200 page Dictionary of Bible Proper Names. [Source: George Dallas Potts' inquiry to the library January 1999.]

**Child of Cyrus Alvin Potts and Loretta Myrtle Moore is:**

46. i. George Charles Potts, b. 26 September 1891, Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois; d. 7 May 1947, Lombard, Du Page Co., Illinois.

**Children of Cyrus Alvin Potts and May Scarr are:**

ii. Russell A. Potts, b. 28 February 1898, Missouri [37]; d. 3 June 1963, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas; m. (1) Loretta M.; m. (2) Thelma Langston.  
iii. Mary Margaret Potts, b. 15 November 1901, Belleville City, St. Clair Co., Illinois; m. Paul Milner.

**18. Dempster Orville Potts** was born 15 March 1875 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 26 February 1950 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. He married Clara Elizabeth Meyer 8 April 1896 in Peoria, Illinois, daughter of Adolf Otto Julius Meyer. She was born 6 March 1877 in Gilman, Illinois?, and died 13 November 1950

### Dempster Orville Potts



Dempster, or "D.O." as he was called, grew up on the family farm near Sharpsburg, Illinois. His mother died when he was but seventeen months old, and his father remarried. Legend has it that D.O. did not get along with his father and step-mother, and he ran away from home with his cousin Eldon Dick at about the age of fourteen. He lived in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) until about the age of twenty, when he moved to Pekin, Illinois. He worked in a clothing store in nearby Peoria. Clara Elizabeth Meyer, from Gilman, Illinois was visiting her sister in Peoria and met D.O. at a band concert. It wasn't long before they got married.

About 1898 D.O. and Clara moved to Atchison, Kansas where D.O. studied law with B. P. Waggener (his uncle Cyrus Alonzo Potts lived in Atchison at the time). He also studied law in Pekin, Illinois with his older brother William Albert Potts. He passed the Illinois Bar circa 1903 and

practiced law in Taylorville, Illinois with his brother Rufus Monroe Potts until 1906, when he moved to Wichita, Kansas.

In Kansas he gained prominence as a trial attorney and fame as a courtroom and political orator (his sense of humor was legendary). He was an active Democrat and represented the party at national conventions. D.O. ran for the Kansas Supreme Court (an elective office then), Governor, and U. S. Senator (like most Kansas Democrats at the time, he was unsuccessful).

D.O. loved the role of patriarch of a large family, and in the summer would proudly drive his wife and children around town in one of his big town cars. He and Clara were founders of the Riverside Christian Church in Wichita, and both were active in church affairs until their deaths. D.O. experienced excellent health throughout his life, and it was a shock to all when he died suddenly of a heart attack at age 75. He practiced law until the day of his death.

#### **Children of Dempster Orville Potts and Clara Elizabeth Meyer are:**

47. i. Lynda Lenora Potts, b. 5 February 1897, Peoria, Illinois; d. 19 April 1925, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.
48. ii. Emma Louise Potts, b. 13 March 1899, Atchison, Kansas; d. 7 November 1975, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.
49. iii. Edna Belle Potts, b. 24 March 1902, Atchison, Kansas; d. 27 April 1985, Kansas City, Jackson Co., Missouri.
50. iv. Dallas Meyer Potts, b. 24 August 1904, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 9 June 1955, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.
51. v. Monroe Orville Potts, b. 1 September 1905, Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 23 March 1974, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.
  - vi. Walter Dempster Potts, b. 15 October 1907, Wichita, Kansas; d. 16 October 1982, Winfield, Kansas; m.(1) Helen Curry, 24 December 1927, Wichita, Kansas; m.(2) Frances Geraldine Ogg, 16 February 1939, Wichita, Kansas; b. 10 September 1918[52].
  - vii. Daniel Eldon Potts, b. 9 October 1915, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas; d. November 1994, Jackson Port, Arkansas.

**19. Tony Roscoe Potts** was born 17 April 1880 in Illinois [38], and died 15 November 1966 in Christian Co., IL [39]. He married Susie M. Howard 1 January 1901 in Christian Co., Illinois. She was born 1881, and died 1958 in Christian Co., IL?. He owned 20 acres in R2, Section 1, Taylorville, Christian Co.

**Children of Tony Roscoe Potts and Susie M. Howard are:**

- i. Orié A. Potts, b. 27 January 1902, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois [40]; d. 2 February 1989, Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois [40]; m. Eliza Ruth (Unknown); d. 5 May 1995, Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois.
- ii. Unnamed Son Potts, b. 16 June 1908, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL; d. 24 June 1908, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., IL.
- iii. Ruby Mae Potts, b. 4 October 1916, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 19 October 1916, Sharpsburg, Christian Co., Illinois; m. (Unknown).

**20. Claude Henry Potts** was born 18 October 1881 in Atchison, Atchison Co., Kansas, and died 23 October 1960 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho. He married Helen Lea Nichols 17 June 1905 in Olathe, Johnson Co., Kansas [41], daughter of Francis Nichols and Almira Van Eman. She was born 18 January 1884 in Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., Iowa, and died 16 February 1980 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho.

**Children of Claude Henry Potts and Helen Lea Nichols are:**

53. i. Margaret Evelyn Potts, b. 16 May 1907, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho; d. 29 June 1964.
54. ii. Helen Lea Potts, b. 26 October 1909, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho.
55. iii. William Howard Potts, b. 23 December 1911, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho.
56. iv. Edward Everett Potts, b. 24 May 1916, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho; d. 4 February 1974.
57. v. Claude Henry Potts, Jr., b. 11 June 1918, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho; d. 24 May 1966.
58. vi. Robert Nichols Potts, b. 6 June 1921, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho; d. 15 October 1972, Boise, Ada Co., Idaho.

**21. Florence Marie Potts** was born 2 July 1891 in Kansas, and died April 1974 in Ottawa, Kansas. She married James W. King 27 November 1912 in Kansas?.

**Child of Florence Potts and James King is:**

59. i. Evelyn King.

**22. Lloyd Edwin Potts** was born 13 January 1891 in Christian Co., Illinois?, and died 27 April 1955. He married Lillian Mae Wolf 8 March 1916. She was born 23 November 1896. He was tenant on 20 acres of land owned by Mrs. F. E. Potts in R2, Section 12, Taylorville, Christian Co.

**Children of Lloyd Edwin Potts and Lillian Mae Wolf are:**

- i. Infant Son #1 Potts, b. 1917.
- ii. Edwina Mae Potts, b. 17 March 1919; m. Glee Shipman, about 1942.

- iii. Eloise Lefern Potts, b. 3 January 1922, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 19 April 1930, Christian Co., Illinois.
- iv. Roberta Marie Potts, b. 3 March 1923; m. Max James Willis, 8 June 1940.
- v. Loys Edwin Potts, b. 20 September 1924.
- vi. Charles Henry Potts, b. 15 January 1926.
- vii. Noel Eugene Potts, b. 25 February 1933; m. Christal (Unknown).
- viii. Bobby Lee Potts, b. 25 October 1938.
- ix. Infant Son #2 Potts, b. Unknown; d. 1917, Christian Co., Illinois.

**23. Clarence Dee Potts** was born 11 March 1892 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 2 December 1972 in Brownburg, Indiana. He married Naomi Grace Wolf 4 October 1914. She was born 15 October 1892 in Edinburg, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 5 December 1985 in Edinburg, Christian Co., Illinois.

**Child of Clarence Dee Potts and Naomi Grace Wolf is:**

- i. Roscoe Clarence Potts, b. 8 May 1920; d. 3 April 1996, Brownburg, Indiana; m. Dorothy O'Brien.

**24. Verna Pearl Potts** was born 29 April 1893 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 9 September 1941 in St. Charles, Missouri. She married Albert Nehemiah Gibson 27 November 1913 in Valparaiso, Porter Co., Indiana, son of George Gibson and Enola Tuttle. He was born 27 February 1891 in Hamilton, Caldwell Co., Missouri, and died 10 September 1969 in St. Charles, Missouri.

**Children of Verna Pearl Potts and Albert Nehemiah Gibson are:**

- i. Marjorie Helen Gibson, b. 28 July 1914, Valparaiso, Porter Co., Indiana; d. 1 July 1988, Maryland Heights, Missouri; m. Walter John Broeker, 28 May 1938, St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri; b. 1912; d. 1993.
- ii. George Charles Junior Gibson, b. 4 January 1916, Hamilton, Caldwell Co., Missouri; m. Betty Maude Jacoby, 3 November 1940, Ironton, Iron Co., Missouri; b. 25 December 1920, O'Fallon, St. Charles Co., Missouri.
- iii. Maurice Potts Gibson, b. 31 January 1917, Appleton City, Missouri; d. 22 September 1963, St. Louis Co., Missouri; m. Alice Mae Bull, 23 August 1941, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co., Missouri; b. 1917.
- iv. Marilda Pearl Gibson, b. 10 February 1920, Nevada, Missouri; m. Charles William Tucker, 4 December 1941, St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri; b. 1915; d. 1965.
- v. Irma Faye Gibson, b. 10 February 1925, St. Charles, St. Charles Co., Missouri; m. (1) Jack Demsey Hill, 16 April 1943; m. (2) Edwin William Brinkman, Jr., 28 August 1955, Maryland Heights, Missouri; b. 1925.
- vi. Verna Lucille Gibson, b. 17 October 1927; d. 1927.

**25. Roy Eugene Potts** was born 20 September 1898 in Illinois [42], and died 21 September 1970 in Gardner, Johnson Co., Kansas. He married Goldie M. (Unknown) about 1922.

**Children of Roy E. Potts and Goldie M. (Unknown) are:**

- i. Virginia Potts?, b. about 1923.



- ii. Maxine Potts?, b. about 1925.

**26. Lyman Eugene Alexander** was born 19 December 1894 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 28 October 1974 in Bowman, Bowman Co., North Dakota. He married Ethel Elizabeth Lang 2 February 1921 in Miles City, Custer Co., Montana. She was born 1902, and died 1974.

**Children of Lyman Eugene Alexander and Ethel Elizabeth Lang are:**

- i. Flossie Fern Alexander, b. 1923; d. 1983; m. Clark Spethman, 1941; b. 1917; d. 1978.
- ii. Nathan W. Alexander.
- iii. Bonnie J. Alexander.
- iv. Doris L. Alexander.
- v. Dorothy M. Alexander.

**27. Elsie Vadna Alexander** was born 16 January 1896 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 5 June 1974. She married Patrick Leo Lorge in Amidon, Slope Co., North Dakota. He was born 17 March 1891, and died Bef. 1973.

**Children of Elsie Vadna Alexander and Patrick Leo Lorge are:**

- i. Luella M. Lorge.
- ii. John P. Lorge.
- iii. Jual Lorge.
- iv. Eugene Lorge.

**28. Harlan Albert Alexander** was born 5 March 1897 in Christian Co., Illinois. He married Ione Reager 5 August 1923 in Slope Co., North Dakota.

**Children of Harlan Albert Alexander and Ione Reager are:**

- i. Lois I. Alexander.
- ii. Phillis Alexander.
- iii. Arlene Alexander.
- iv. Norma J. Alexander.
- v. Byron A. Alexander.
- vi. 3 Unknown Alexander.

**29. Delmer Bruce Alexander** was born 28 October 1898 in Christian Co., Illinois. He married Gladys Mcclutchen 12 February 1926.

**Children of Delmer Bruce Alexander and Gladys Mcclutchen are:**

- i. Carrie L. Alexander.
- ii. Donald W. Alexander.
- iii. Duane E. Alexander.

**30. Bonnie Louise Alexander** was born 14 February 1901 in Christian Co., Illinois. She married Harry D. Wells 12 October 1919. He was born 16 November 1902, and died before January 1973.

**Children of Bonnie Louise Alexander and Harry D. Wells are:**

- i. Delbert B. Wells.
- ii. Lyndoll L. Wells.
- iii. James H. Wells.

**31. Eunice Marie Alexander** was born 25 March 1900 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 2 May 1955. She married Peter Erio September 1922 in Illinois?.

**Children of Eunice Marie Alexander and Peter Erio are:**

- i. Victor A. Erio.
- ii. Robert E. Erio.

**32. Flossie Fern Alexander** was born 17 April 1903 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 21 January 1980. She married John Willard Slaughter 16 February 1923 in Muskegon, Michigan, son of John Slaughter and Sarah Clauson. He was born 16 November 1902 in Stonington, Illinois.

**Children of Flossie Fern Alexander and John Willard Slaughter are:**

- i. Carlisle J. Slaughter, b. Muskegon, Michigan?; d. Infancy.
- ii. Albert Wayland Slaughter, b. 17 June 1924, Muskegon, Michigan.

**33. Gordon Wayne Alexander** was born 6 September 1910 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 5 September 1949 in Bowman, Bowman Co., North Dakota. He married Wilma Goldene Davis. She died in Slope Co., North Dakota.

**Children of Gordon Wayne Alexander and Wilma Goldene Davis are:**

- i. Betty L. Alexander.
- ii. Marian R. Alexander.
- iii. Russell D. Alexander.

**34. Herbert Lester Potts** was born 14 June 1895 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois [43], and died 14 July 1971 in Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois. He married Rosetta Jaquish 27 July 1921 in Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois.

**Children of Herbert Lester Potts and Rosetta Jaquish are:**

- i. Robert Potts.
- ii. Donna Potts, m. Allan Yauch.

**35. Merle Eugene Potts** was born 23 November 1900 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 5 October 1955 in Pana, Christian Co., Illinois. He married Ethel Lena Burrus 9 July 1922 in Pana, Christian Co., Illinois. She was born 23 June 1904 in Assumption, Christian Co., Illinois, and died about 1996 in Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois.

**Children of Merle Eugene Potts and Ethel Lena Burrus are:**

- i. Betty Lou Potts, b. about 1923, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois?; m. James Wilbur Nicol.

- ii. William Herbert Potts, b. 22 July 1924, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 14 March 1988, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois; m. Lelia Ferne Michelman.
- iii. Mary Eileen Potts, b. 14 May 1928, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois; d. 24 January 1986, Hillsborough, Illinois; m. Roger Barnes.
- iv. Richard Eugene Potts, b. 25 April 1934, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois; d. November 1996, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois; m. Inge (Unknown).
- v. Carolyn Ann Potts, m. (1) Ronald Ruot; d. about 1989, Pana, Christian Co., Illinois; m. (2) Kenneth Barlow.

**36. Garland Henry Potts** was born 27 March 1898 in Olean, Kansas, and died 27 November 1945 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. He married Florence Madeline Ellrich 3 April 1920 in Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois, daughter of Henry Ellrich and Fanny Cross. She was born 24 September 1897 in Blue Mound, Illinois, and died 8 August 1953 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois.

**Children of Garland Henry Potts and Florence Madeline Ellrich are:**

- i. Loren Elwood Potts, b. 27 February 1921, Barry, Pike Co., Illinois; d. 11 June 1963, Jacksonville, Morgan Co., Illinois; m. Katherine Sergeant.
- ii. Norma Jean Potts, m.(1) Minor Abraham Stephens; m.(2) Charles Henry Fitzpatrick.
- iii. Theda Louise Potts, m. Earl Henry Toles.
- iv. Kenneth Larue Potts, m. Monica Erickson.

**37. Gordon Harold Potts** was born 12 November 1901 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 9 July 1967 in Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas. He married Edrine Goode 19 January 1929 in Pasadena, Texas. She was born 18 October 1906 in Burkeville, Texas.

**Children of Gordon Potts and Edrine Goode are:**

- i. Gordon Harold Potts, Jr., b. 14 July 1930, Mercedes, Texas; d. 3 January 1980, Dallas, Texas; m. Helen Jo Plasek, 20 June 1952, West, Texas; b. 2 July 1932.
- ii. Robert Joe Potts, b. 5 July 1933, Mercedes, Texas; m. Dorothy Martin Cook, 22 July 1955, Mission, Texas; b. 22 July 1933, Mission, Texas.
- iii. Alan Richard Potts, b. 8 August 1945, McAllen, Hidalgo, Texas; m. Vivian Lee Hewett, 29 July 1967, Fort Worth, Texas; b. 22 October 1943, Atlanta, Georgia.

**38. Dallas Carmen Potts** was born 7 December 1903 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 27 June 1986 in McAllen, Hidalgo Co., Texas. He married Inez Parkman 20 June 1926 in McComb, Mississippi. She was born 30 December 1904 in Brookhaven, Lincoln Co., Mississippi, and died 30 September 2002.

**Children of Dallas Carmen Potts and Inez Parkman are:**

- i. Doris Jean Potts, b. 9 May 1929, Pharr, Hidalgo Co., Texas; M. Frederick Johnson Lister, 2 April 1954, Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas; b. 5 March 1929, Greensburg, Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania.
- ii. Patricia Ruth Potts, b. 31 October 1933, Brookhaven, Lincoln Co., Mississippi; m. (1) Joel Eugene Austin, 25 July 1953, Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas; b. 30 November 1931, Alice,

Jim Wells Co., Texas; d. 19 January 1993, Weslaco, Hidalgo Co., Texas; m. (2) John Clancy Mullen, 2 January 1994, Georgetown, Texas.

**39. Myron Joseph Potts** was born 4 October 1913 in Cavalier, North Dakota. He married (1) Lela Johnson. He married (2) Juanita Holmes 30 January 1940 in Weslaco, Texas. She was born 21 May 1919 in Winona, Mississippi, and died 6 July 1965 in Del Rio, Texas.

**Children of Myron Joseph Potts and Juanita Holmes are:**

i. Ellen Juanita Potts, b. 25 September 1941, Uvalde, Texas; M. Wayland D. Parsons, 6 July 1963, Del Rio, Texas; b. 7 May 1939, Sweetwater, Texas.

ii. John Howard Potts, b. 26 November 1942, Del Rio, Texas; d. 22 April 2000, Castroville, Texas; m. Carla Jean Fisher, 3 August 1963, Bryan, Texas; b. 1 September 1943, Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

iii. Gary Holmes Potts, b. 9 May 1944, Del Rio, Texas; m. Linda Jolene Altum, 29 December 1966, Mesa, Arizona; b. 18 February 1948, Abilene, Texas.

iv. Emma Catherine Potts, b. 3 January 1947, Ft. Worth, Texas; M. William Robert Cook, 30 July 1971, Ft. Worth, Texas; b. 16 August 1941, Macon, Georgia.

**40. Thelma Benham** was born 26 January 1903 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 28 December 1974 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois. She married Henry Ural Gardner 26 September 1922 in Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois, son of Henry Gardner and Etta Young. He was born 7 December 1899 in Christian Co., Illinois, and died 7 January 1952 in Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois.

**Children of Thelma Benham and Henry Ural Gardner are:**

i. Yvonne Lee Gardner, m. Varel Fraley.

ii. Annette Gardner, m. James E. Reeves.

**41. Curran Pierce Potts** was born 7 March 1895 in Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois, and died 1966 in Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois. He married Elizabeth Smith. She was born 5 November 1892, and died 17 October 1975.

Lynn Potts Cook (Curran's granddaughter) writes: " My grandfather was an Insurance Examiner with the State of Illinois. After the change of politics my grandfather moved to Champaign and worked for Uncle Al (this is A. W. Potts of Evanston, IL). Uncle Al owned a factory that manufactured a machine that combined wheat - or something of the sort - in Champaign, Illinois. Grandma and Grandpa lived there and eventually moved to Evansville, Indiana (Dad and Mom were there). At that point Dad got Grandpa a job with the company he was with. Grandpa became ill in Evansville with numerous illnesses. His first was diagnosed at Mayo Clinic (cancer). He developed Parkinson's and it was a steady downhill." "Grandma was the worker! During the depression she made and sold her candy all across the U.S. It was named Ann Rutledge. I have all the recipes and on her death bed promised to haunt me if I ever gave them to anyone!?! Anyway, because of her skill they made it through those times. In Evansville she was literally begged to go to work for a candy firm - she declined."

**Child of Curran Pierce Potts and Elizabeth Smith is:**

i. Albert Leslie Potts, b. 11 August 1918, Pekin, Illinois; d. 22 November 1974, Atlanta, Georgia; m. (1) Cornelia Neal; m. (2) Martha Boyd, 18 May 1940, Springfield, Illinois.

**42. Albert Wood Potts** was born 9 March 1901 in Pekin, Illinois, and died 28 August 1993 in Evanston, Illinois. He married Margaret Tilton Hack 1931, daughter of Frederick Hack and Clara Tilton. She was born 29 May 1907, and died 1991 in Evanston, Illinois?. Albert Wood Potts began his distinguished legal career in 1930 at his father's law firm in Pekin, Illinois. He was a generous benefactor to charities and a valued advisor to family, friends and clients alike. An avid mountain climber, he hiked in many wilderness areas around the world.

**Children of Albert Wood Potts and Margaret Hack are:**

i. Albert Wood Potts, Jr., b. 27 June 1932; m. (1) Mary Gentile; m. (2) Joanne (Unknown), about 1985, Evanston, Illinois.

ii. Margaret Joan Potts, b. 8 February 1935; m. Rodney Linklater; b. Australia?.

**43. Ruth Potts** married Lucian Ragsdale.

**Children of Ruth Potts and Lucian Ragsdale are:**

i. Robert Ragsdale,

ii. Donna Ragsdale

**44. Wilhelmina Madonna Potts** was born 5 October 1896 in Christian Co., Illinois [45], and died 2 December 1981 in Wilmette, Cook Co., Illinois [46]. She married Harry Donaldson Leopold, Jr. 29 December 1924 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois. He was born 4 December 1897 in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and died 20 December 1971 in Cape May, Cape May Co., New Jersey.

**Child of Wilhelmina Madonna Potts and Harry Donaldson Leopold:**

i. Louise Elizabeth Leopold, b. 20 January 1931, Chicago, Illinois [47]; d. 19 March 1981, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; m. Frank Marotto; d. 2 September 1981, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Louise had her debut at the Drake Hotel (Chicago?) during the 1948-49 season. In the mid-1950s she worked at a large beach-front hotel in Nassua, The Bahamas, as social director. Later she suffered from a variety of medical problems which eventually led to her death at age 50.

**45. Cyrus Albert Joseph "Billie" Potts** was born 11 May 1909 in Springfield, Sangamon Co., Illinois [48], and died 21 June 1981 in Winfield, DuPage Co., Illinois [49]. He married Margaret Lovett Sandke 16 May 1934 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois, daughter of Edward L. Sandke and Mary V. Daly. She was born 23 November 1906 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois, and died 17 February 1998 in Huntington Beach, Orange Co., California.

**Children of Cyrus Albert Potts and Margaret Lovett Sandke are:**

i. Rosemary Lovett Potts, b. 6 April 1935, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois [50]; m. James Rush Loyacono, 9 July 1955, Winnetka, Cook Co., Illinois [51]; b. 23 February 1934, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois.

ii. Cyrus Edward Potts, b. 9 August 1936, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois [52]; m. (1) Patricia Ongley, 1 September 1960, Atlantic City, Atlantic Co., New Jersey; b. 3 February 1940, Akron, Summit Co., Ohio; m. (2) Betty Lee Teasley [53], 20 November 1971, Springfield, Virginia; b. 31 March 1936, Springfield, Tennessee [53].

Cyrus created and maintained the POTTS surname database available on the Internet at: <http://www/Potts.net.au/tree/Cy/default.asp>. The database contains information on over 30,000 Potts individuals, and their spouses, that lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

iii. Dennis John Potts, b. 29 March 1942, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois [54]; m. (1) Cynthia Clausen Hadley, 1 October 1966, Winnetka, Cook Co., Illinois [55]; b. 8 November 1941, Evanston, Cook Co., Illinois [56]; m. (2) Susan Diane Joyce, 1 June 1976 [57]; b. about 1953, Reddick, Illinois; m. (3) Mary Margaret (Heins) Rollins, 11 November 1980, Waukegan, Illinois; b. 7 April 1949, Highland Park, Illinois.

iv. Deborah Margaret Potts, b. 9 September 1943, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois [58]; m. John Michael Kelly, 28 December 1963, Winnetka, Cook Co., Illinois; b. 24 January 1941, Rockwell City, Calhoun Co., Iowa.

**46. George Charles Potts** was born 26 September 1891 in Pekin, Tazewell Co., Illinois, and died 7 May 1947 in Lombard, Du Page Co., Illinois. He married Fanny Mecartney 9 April 1918 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois. She was born 30 September 1893 in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois, and died 18 August 1977 in St. Petersburg, Pinellas Co., Florida.

**Children of George Charles Potts and Fanny Mecartney are:**

i. George Calvin Potts, b. 26 January 1920, Evanston, Cook Co., Illinois; m. Edith Hookham, 16 March 1942, Alexandria, Fairfax Co., Virginia; b. 4 October 1919, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois.

ii. Marian Loretta Potts, b. 2 February 1923, Evanston, Cook Co., Illinois; M. Gilbert Linne Persson, 25 April 1942, Villa Park, DuPage Co., Illinois; b. 8 July 1920, Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois; d. 13 February 1991, Bay Pines, Florida.

**47. Lynda Lenora Potts** was born 5 February 1897 in Peoria, Illinois, and died 19 April 1925 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. She married Frederick Oscar Hansen 11 November 1917 in Wichita, Kansas. He was born 1 September 1893 in Argentine, Kansas, and died 3 March 1968 in Inglewood, California.

**Children of Lynda Lenora Potts and Frederick Oscar Hansen are:**

i. Dorothy Jean Hansen, b. 22 October 1918, Wichita, Kansas; d. 17 April 1975, Inglewood, California; m. Charles Edward Dennis, 29 October 1939, Kansas City, Missouri; b. 30 July 1913, Kansas City, Missouri.

ii. Constance Lenora Hansen, b. 21 August 1920, Wichita, Kansas; m. Frank Frederick Wolven, 20 August 1941, Santa Monica, California; b. 21 September 1913, Kingston, New York; d. 30 November 1961, Los Angeles, California.

iii. Robert Dempster Hansen, b. 8 June 1923, Wichita, Kansas; m. Ginnie (Unknown), 2 September 1946, California.

**48. Emma Louise Potts** was born 13 March 1899 in Atchison, Kansas, and died 7 November 1975 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. She married Harley Broadfoot Riley 19 August 1919 in Wichita, Kansas. He was born 11 October 1898, and died 24 March 1985 in Wichita, Kansas.

**Child of Emma Louise Potts and Harley Broadfoot Riley was:**

i. Harley Broadfoot Riley, Jr., b. 18 October 1921, Wichita, Kansas; d. 7 March 1993, Wichita, Kansas; m. Lois Jones, 15 September 1945, Wichita, Kansas; b. 11 July 1924, Valley Center, Kansas.

**49. Edna Belle Potts** was born 24 March 1902 in Atchison, Kansas, and died 27 April 1985 in Kansas City, Jackson Co., Missouri. She married Charles Earl Shockey 11 June 1922 in Wichita, Kansas. He was born 17 February 1900, and died 1981 in Kansas City, Jackson Co., Missouri.

**Children of Edna Belle Potts and Charles Earl Shockey are:**

i. Evelyn Jeanne Shockey, b. 25 March 1923; m. Paul Vincent Pallanich, 10 December 1953, Kansas City, Missouri; b. 26 April 1924.

ii. Charles Earl Shockey, Jr., b. 11 April 1925; m. Mary Elizabeth Brannigan, 27 August 1949, Kansas City, Missouri; b. 31 August 1925.

iii. Donald Ray Shockey, b. 12 December 1927, Wichita, Kansas; d. 2 January 1997, Prairie Village, Kansas; m. Susanna Pauline Lindsay, 17 September 1952, Kansas City, Missouri; b. 17 March 1927.

iv. Margaret Louise Shockey, b. 20 May 1937, St. Louis, Missouri; m. (1) Roy Davis; m. (2) Jerry Gage Miller, 1 June 1958, Kansas City, Missouri; b. 24 August 1937.

**50. Dallas Meyer Potts** was born 24 August 1904 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 9 June 1955 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. He married Mary Burns Robinson 22 December 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was born 11 January 1901 in Peculiar, Missouri, and died 16 May 1996 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. Dallas Meyer Potts moved with his parents to Wichita, Kansas in 1906. He attended Irving and Riverside Elementary Schools, Horace Mann Intermediate School, and graduated from Wichita High School in 1923. He took a pre-law curriculum at Fairmount College (now Wichita State University), then went to the Kansas City School of Law (now the University of Missouri School of Law at Kansas City) where he received his LLB. In 1928. He was admitted to practice law in both Missouri and Kansas, and entered into partnership with his father, Dempster, in Wichita. While in Law School, Dallas met Mary Burns Robinson from Kansas City. They were married on 22 December 1928.

In 1943 Dallas was appointed Police Judge (now Municipal Judge) for the City of Wichita, and presided over more than 20,000 cases during his four year tenure. He ran, unsuccessfully, for Sedgwick County District Attorney in 1948. Shortly thereafter, he retired from public life, and returned to general practice in the firm of Robert Blase, where he remained until his death. Dallas was a Charter Member of Riverside Christian Church, and active in the Young Men's Christian Association, Wichita Bar Association, Democrat Party, the Wichita business community and several fraternal organizations. He suffered a heart attack at age 39, and his health was tenuous until his death at age 50 on 19 June 1955.

Judge Potts had a keen legal mind, a genuine concern for the human condition, and an infectious sense of humor. He was held in high regard by his colleagues as attested to in a

memorial resolution by the Wichita Bar Association..."he (Dallas M. Potts) was implicitly trusted and affectionately regarded by every lawyer he came into contact with, and we shall always remember him fondly with respect and esteem."

**Children of Dallas Meyer Potts and Mary Burns Robinson are:**

- i. Lynda Lucile Potts, b. 20 March 1932, Wichita, Kansas; m. (1) Frederick Howard Schoeb, 1 September 1951, Wichita, Kansas; b. 2 March 1929, Kansas; m. (2) Kenneth Dale Ireland, 26 January 1974, Leawood, Kansas; b. 4 December 1922, Smith Center, Kansas.
- ii. George Dallas Potts II, b. 16 August 1939, Wichita, Kansas; m. Alice Margaret Rolf, 20 January 1968, LeRoy, Kansas; b. 27 October 1943, LeRoy, Kansas.

**51. Monroe Orville Potts** was born 1 September 1905 in Taylorville, Christian Co., Illinois, and died 23 March 1974 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. He married (1) Lucy Bruce 4 November 1925 in Wichita, Kansas ?. She was born 13 June 1908. He married (2) Jessie Dean Piersol Cook 1945 in Wichita, Kansas ?

**Child of Monroe Orville Potts and Lucy Bruce is:**

- i. Dempster Orville Potts II, b. 6 August 1926, Wichita, Kansas; m. Virginia Fern Moreland, 20 September 1944.

**52. Daniel Eldon Potts** was born 9 October 1915 in Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas, and died November 1994 in Jackson Port, Arkansas. He married Maxine Martin 1 November 1941 in Wichita, Kansas. She was born 5 July 1922.

**Children of Daniel Eldon Potts and Maxine Martin are:**

- i. Dana Lea Potts, b. 19 October 1942, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas; m. Victor Lucas, about 1962.
- ii. Daniel Eldon Potts, Jr., b. 13 June 1946, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.
- iii. Jeanne Ann Potts, b. 12 September 1949, Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas.

**53. Margaret Evelyn Potts** was born 16 May 1907 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho, and died 29 June 1964. She married (1) Maury Kirkland about 1930. She married (2) (Unknown) Setzer after 1930.

**Child of Margaret Evelyn Potts and Mr. Setzer is:**

- i. Robert Setzer.

**54. Helen Lea Potts** was born 26 October 1909 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho. She married Eldon Reiley.

**Children of Helen Lea Potts and Eldon Reiley are:**

- i. Eldon Reiley, Jr., m. (Unknown).
- ii. Susan Reiley.



**55. William Howard Potts** was born 23 December 1911 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho. He married Iva Lee Huffman 26 March 1958, daughter of John Huffman and Lottie Hethershaw. She was born 21 June 1921.

**Children of William Howard Potts and Iva Lee Huffman are:**

- i. Mary Ann Potts, b. 11 December 1958, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho; m. James Pattis, 2 November 1985, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho.
- ii. William Howard Potts, Jr., b. 10 May 1960, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho; m. Denise Kroetch, 24 March 1990, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho.

**56. Edward Everett Potts** was born 24 May 1916 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho, and died 4 February 1974. He married Janet (Unknown). She died about 1992 in Boise, Ada Co., Idaho?.

**Child of Edward Everett Potts and Janet (Unknown) is:**

- i. Brad Potts, adopted child.

**57. Claude Henry Potts, Jr.** was born 11 June 1918 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho, and died 24 May 1966. He married Barbara (Unknown).

**Children of Claude Henry Potts and Barbara (Unknown) are:**

- i. Five Unknown Potts.
- ii. Claude Potts.

**58. Robert Nichols Potts** was born 6 June 1921 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai Co., Idaho, and died 15 October 1972 in Boise, Ada Co., Idaho. He married Shirley (Unknown).

**Child of Robert Nichols Potts and Shirley (Unknown) is:**

- i. Greg Potts.

**59. Evelyn King**, married Clifford Blunt.

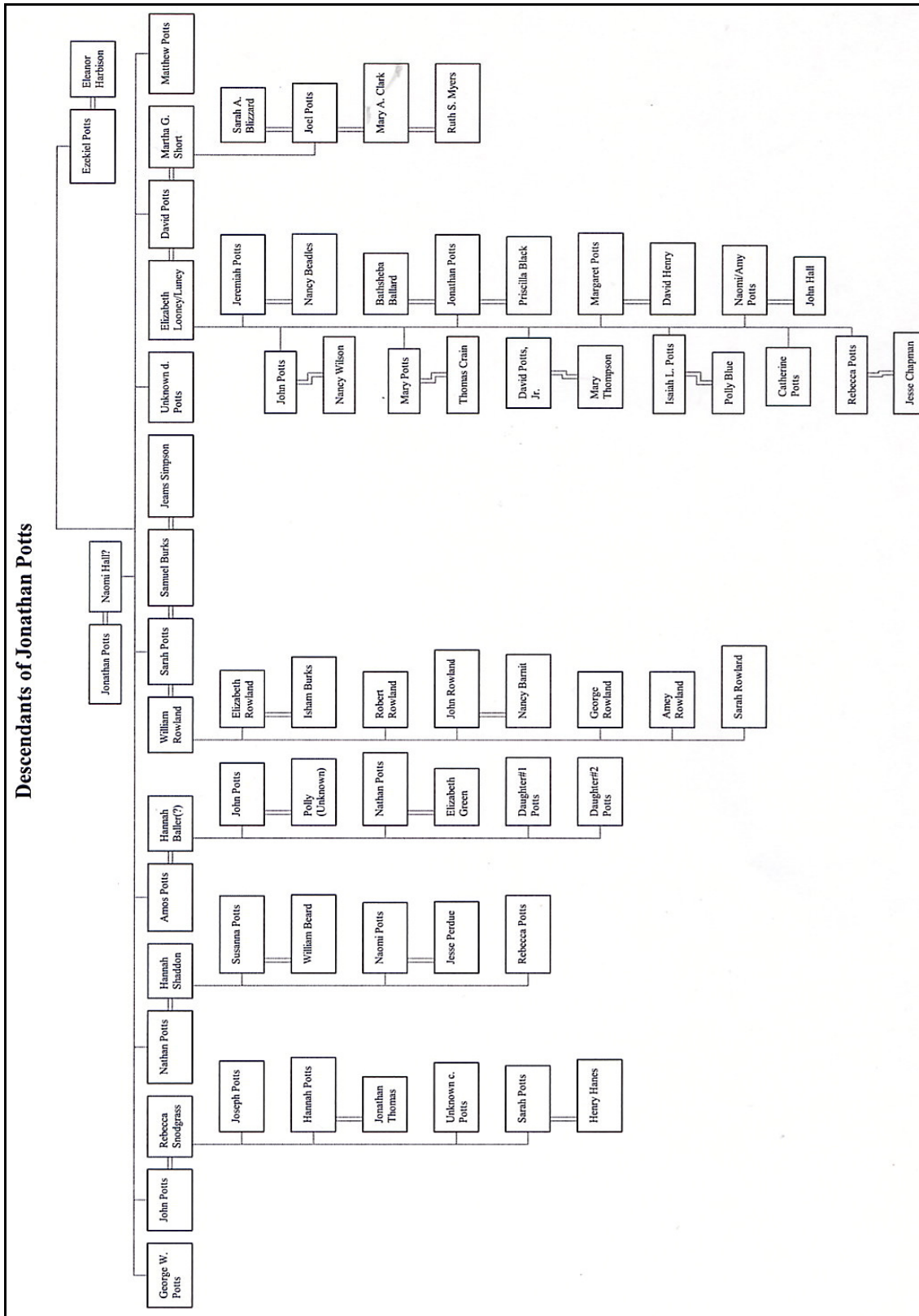
**Child of Evelyn King and Clifford Blunt Is:**

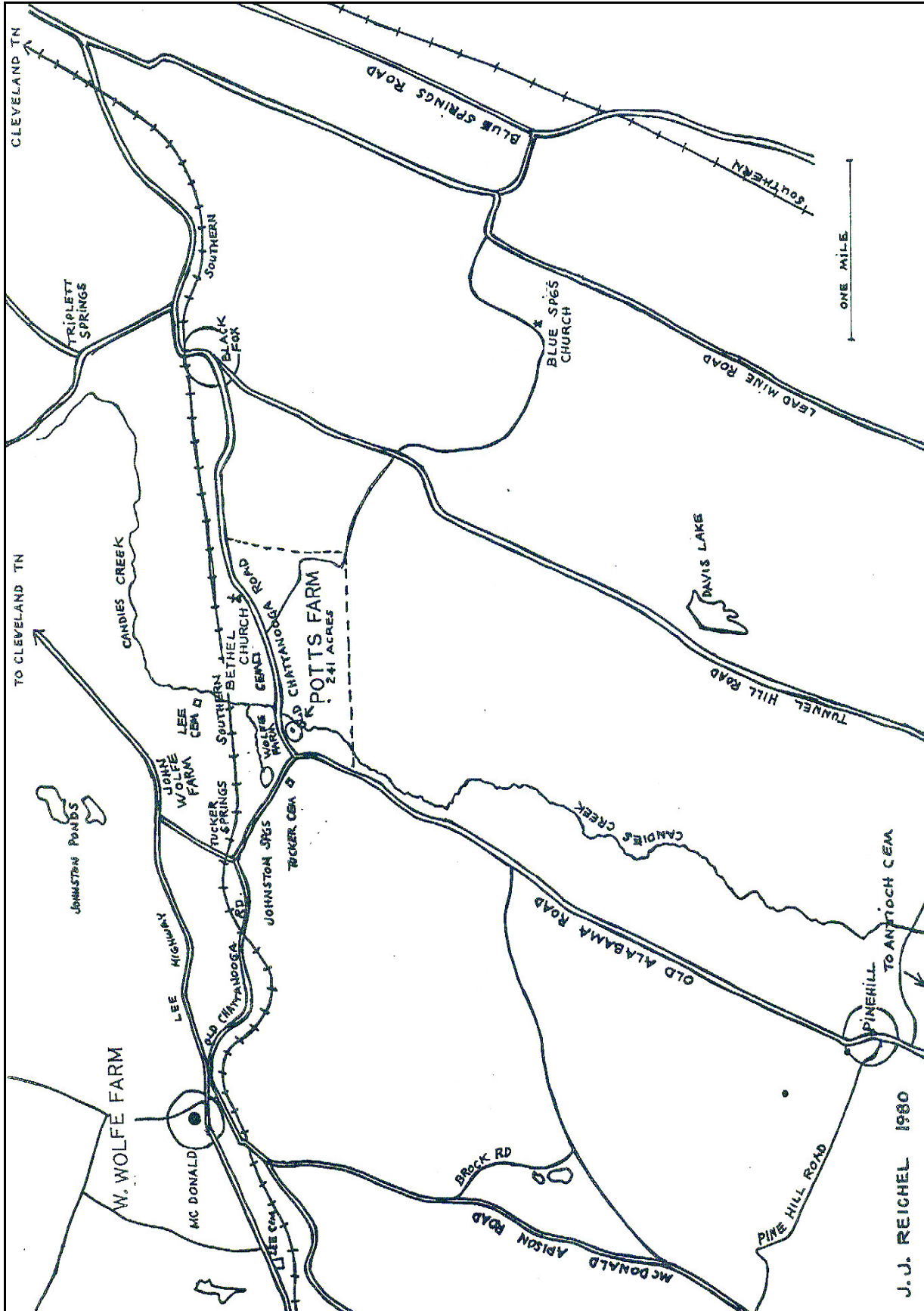
- i. Sandra Marie Blunt, b. 1953.

**Endnotes**

1. Grave marker, New Walnut Hill Cemetery.
2. CD-227
3. Christian Co. Genealogical Society & Illinois State Genealogy Society
4. Illinois Statewide Marriage Index
5. Grave marker
6. Marriage license no. 973
7. Illinois State Genealogy Society
8. Oak Hill Cemetery headstone
9. 1870 Census, Christian Co., IL.
10. Illinois. Dept. of Health Death Index.
11. "The Potts Family" by Thos. Maxwell Potts
12. Death Certificate & grave marker
13. Christian Co. Genealogical Society
14. Grave Marker - "1846"
15. Grave Marker - "1875"
16. Grave Marker
17. "The Potts Family" by Thos. Maxwell Potts
18. Grave marker - "1869 - infant"
19. Census, 1900 Census, Christian Co., IL.
20. Grave Marker.
21. 1880 Census.
22. 1900 Census, Republic Co., KS ( indicates married for 22 years).
23. 1900 Census, Kansas
24. 1880 Census.
25. North American Vital Records Index - Marriages.
26. 1900 Census, Christian Co., IL.
27. Grave marker
28. 1900 Census, Christian Co., IL.
29. Social Security Administration, Social Security Death Index.
30. Illinois State Genealogy Society
31. 1900 Census, Tazewell Co., IL (# of children born to mother).
32. Death certificate
33. Certificate of Marriage
34. Rufus M. Potts' Bible
35. Death certificate
36. 1900 Census, Fayette Co., IL.
37. 1900 Census, St. Clair Co., IL.
38. 1900 Census, Christian Co, IL.
39. Social Security Administration, Social Security Death Index
40. Social Security Administration, Social Security Death Index
41. Johnson Co., Archives, Olathe, KS.
42. 1900 Census, Christian Co., IL.
43. 1900 Census, Christian Co., IL.

44. Letter rec'd 11/28/94 from Lynn Potts Cook
45. Rufus M. Potts' Bible
46. Death certificate
47. Rufus M. Potts' Bible
48. Delayed Record of Birth. Affidavits of natural mother's relatives (see Decatur Labor World, February 20, 1914 issue.)
49. Death certificate
50. Birth certificate
51. Wedding announcement
52. Birth certificate
53. Marriage certificate
54. Birth certificate
55. Mass Leaflet Missal
56. Cynthia Clausen Hadley
57. Dennis John Potts
58. Birth Certificate





## CHAPTER TEN

### Amos Potts of Bradley County, Tennessee

**A**mos Potts, son of John and Polly Potts (see chapter seven), was born 1 November 1794, during the presidency of George Washington, probably in Lee County, Virginia. He and Rachael Nunley were married in Warren County, Tennessee on 6 June 1815 by Minister James Cope of the Blue Springs Baptist Church near Viola. Rachael was born 15 December 1795 in Rutherford County, North Carolina to Archibald Nunley. She has described her husband as “fair of complexion, blue eyes, and about five feet ten inches high.” Amos passed away on 18 June 1873 in Bradley County, Tennessee, aged “79 years, 6 months and 17 days, at 3 ½ o’clock PM.” Rachael died in Bradley County 8 March 1883. They were buried in the family graveyard near their farm.

#### War Service

The first recorded mention of Amos Potts is made on the occasion of his enlistment in the Army to serve in the War of 1812. In September 1814, as a lad of twenty, he journeyed from McMinnville, Warren County, to Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee to become a private in Captain William Chisum’s Company of Major William Russell’s Separate Battalion of the Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Gunmen. He later served as a rifleman in the scouting party of Brigadier General John Coffee’s Brigade in the Southern Army. His pension application (Appendix I) records that he “marched to Mobile and Pensacola on the Scamba [Escambia] Rout after Indians under Major Blue.” *From Fayetteville, where the battalion was mustered in, the unit traveled to Fort Stephens (crossing the Tennessee River); leaving their horses behind. Then marched to Pensacola (via Fort Montgomery) where they participated in the battle of 17 November 1814, and returned to Fort Montgomery to be under the command of Major Uriah Blue. Major Blue formed an expedition that roamed along the Escambia River in search of renegade Creeks toward the end of the war. Approximately 500 men served in the battalion, one of whom was David Crockett, a sergeant in Captain Conway’s company.*<sup>19</sup>

Amos enlisted for a six-month period and was honorably discharged on 27 March 1815 at Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee. Copies of his enlistment and discharge papers are shown below.

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<sup>19</sup> Regimental histories of Tennessee units during the War of 1812. Prepared by Tom Kanon, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

P | Russell's Separate Batt'n, Tenn. Mounted Gunmen. Vols.

Amos Potts

Px, { Capt. William Chisum's Company, Major William Russell's Separate Battalion Tennessee Vol. Mounted Gunmen.

(War of 1812.)

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for Sep 28, 1814, when mustered into service, to Mar 27, 1815, when discharged.

Roll dated Murfreesborough

Date of appointment or enlistment, June 5, 1815, or Sep 28, 1814.

To what time engaged or enlisted, Mar 27, 1815.

Present or absent, present

NOTE: Each non-commissioned officer, musician and private travelled 73 miles from McMinnville, Warren County, place of residence, to Fayetteville, in Lincoln County, where mustered into service.

Remarks and alterations since last muster:

Potts

P | Russell's Separate Batt'n, Tenn. Mounted Gunmen. Vols.

Amos Potts

Px, { Capt. William Chisum's Company, Major William Russell's Separate Battalion Tennessee Vol. Mounted Gunmen.

(War of 1812.)

Appears on

Company Pay Roll

for Sep 28 1814 to Mar 27, 1815.

Roll dated Mar 27, 1815.

Commencement of service or of this settlement, Sep 28, 1814.

Expiration of service or of this settlement, Apr 1, 1815.

Term of service charged, 6 months, 4 days.

Pay per month, 8 dollars, cents.

Amount of pay, 49 dollars, 06 cents.

100

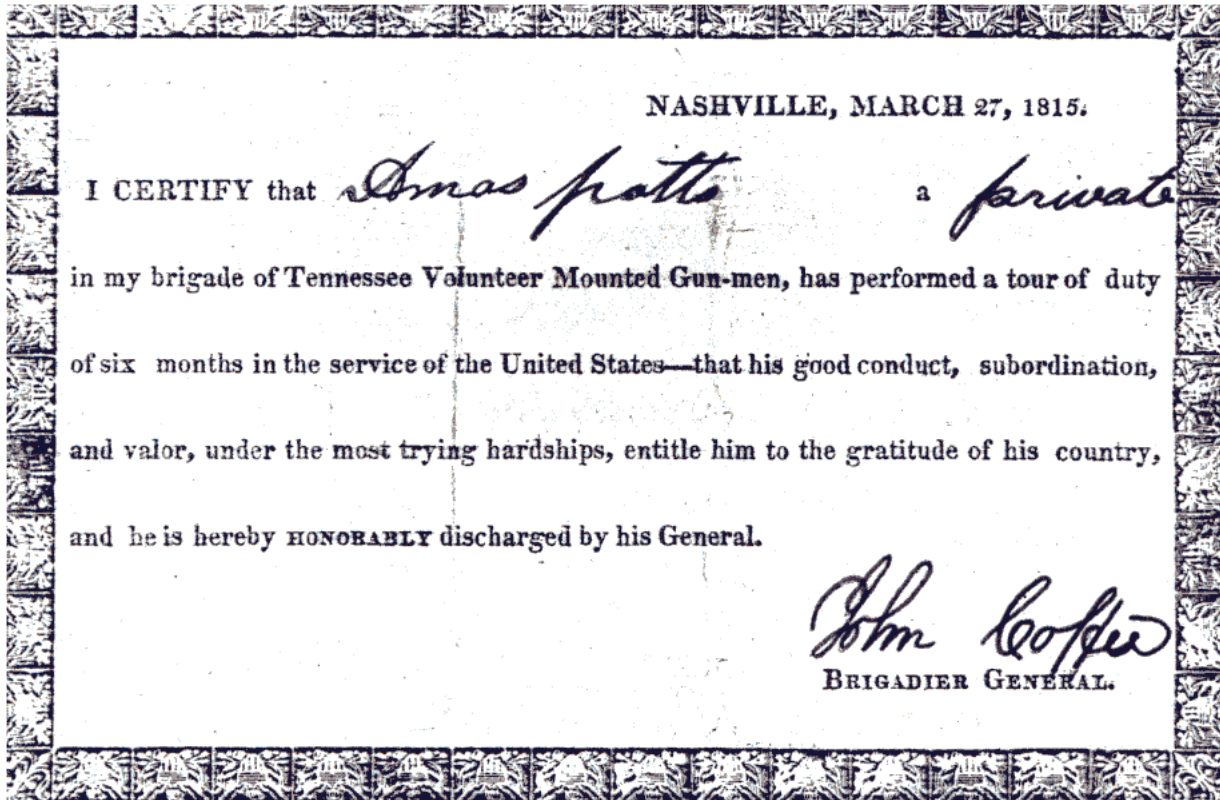
Allowance for pay of horse from Sept. 28, 1814, to April 27, 1815, at 40 cents per day.

121 days, 72 dollars, 40 cents.

Amount, 122 dollars, 46 cents.

REMARK: Added 4 days for traveling.

Remarks:



### Early Life

Upon being discharged from the Army in March, Amos traveled north to Warren County and there met Miss Rachael Nunley whom he wed on 7 June, revealing that he was either a fast worker, or else he had known his bride before he joined the Army. Their first child was born in March 1816 and they were to have seven more over the following years. Just how Amos earned his livelihood in those early years is not known, but it very likely involved farming in some capacity or other.

Sometime between 1815 and 1830 Amos moved eastward to McMinn County, Tennessee where he is listed in the 1830 Federal census with his family of six children. By the time of the 1840 census two of the boys had left home and two more children were born. In December 1840 Amos received an appointment as Postmaster for the small community of Walnut Hill in Bradley County, but how long he kept that position, and whether or not it occupied his full time, is not known. Mr. Ernest Ross, a noted historian and author, of Cleveland, Tennessee, adds the following comments concerning this region:

The place was known as Walnut Hill Post Office and Trading Post. Boone school was located nearby. The Post Office and school were located on the west side of the Old Alabama Road, 8/10 of a mile south of the intersection of the Old Chattanooga



Knoxville Road, near the old Tucker Cemetery. They were on the hill just across the road at a point where the Candies Creek comes nearest to the road. The creek makes a sharp horseshoe turn at this point. To this day [1980] two large maple trees tower among the pines in front of the Post Office site, which is about 100 feet west of the road and 175 feet from Candies Creek where it bends west. It was on the Boone place, which through intermarriage, passed to the Lauderback family. To the south of the Potts farm was the Kelley farm on which was located a two-story building used for a school, a church, and one of the four Masonic Lodges in Bradley County.

Around 1840 Amos was involved in a real estate venture. Armstrong's *History of Hamilton County* says that in 1839 there was discussion about moving the county seat from Dallas to within a short distance of the former estate of Joseph Van, an influential and wealthy Indian. A company was formed to buy and sell land around the new site of "Vanville" and it included "some of the most important men in the early history of Hamilton County." Amos Potts was one of the twelve persons listed.

On 22 April 1851, fifty-six year old Amos applied for and received a Bounty Land Grant (#4310) for eighty acres, conferred upon former soldiers by act of congress. His acreage was located in the twelfth district of Bradley County, along the Old Chattanooga Road between Tucker Springs and Black Fox. Five years later, on 19 March 1855, he was granted an additional eighty acres under a new Act and a new warrant (Appendix H).

Another Potts family, apparently no relation, lived in Bradley County between 1840 and 1850—that of Isaac Potts. The 1850 Census lists this family as follows:

POTTS, Isaac, 52; Rachael, 46; Rosa S. 20; George, 16; Elisha, 14; David, 11; Mark, 10; Isaac, 8; Margaret, 6; William Black, 75; Mary, 60. Both Isaac and Rachael were born in South Carolina.

A Potts family also owned eighty acres near the community of Pine Hill, but whether it belonged to Amos and his descendants, or to Isaac Potts is not known.

In 1977 Mrs. L. V. Ledford lived on the former Potts farm in a house she built "some forty years ago" on the site of the old Potts home.

### **Civil War**

The Potts family farmed their land in peace and prosperity, enjoying a fine reputation in the community, until the tragedy of the "war of the rebellion" erupted in 1860. The citizens of Bradley County, in common with most of the eastern portion of Tennessee, were divided in their loyalties—the Potts family sided with the Union and managed to avoid actual military service. Because of the family's pro-union sympathies, it was harassed and plundered on several occasions by rebel forces in the area. The nature of this bedevilment is brought out in the following narrative taken from *History of the Rebellion in Bradley County, East Tennessee*, published locally by J. S. Hurlburt just after the war.

## CHAPTER XXV

## Mr. Amos Potts

Mr. Potts was among the earliest settlers of Bradley, being at the commencement of the rebellion upwards of sixty-five years of age. His home was in the twelfth district. Mr. and Mrs. Potts were people whose industry, frugality, and unscrupulous honesty, had procured for them through life a competency of this world's blessing; while their exemplary moral and Christian character, and their natural inoffensiveness as members of society, secured for them not only the respect and confidence, but the love and esteem of all who knew them. They were the opposite of those whom considerate judges of human nature would suspect of intentional wrong, or whom any one could think deserving of punishment for political opinions.

Mr. Potts served in the War of 1812, under Gen. Jackson, and like all others in advanced age, who serve their country in early life, at the opening of the rebellion, felt a proportionately stronger attachment than he otherwise would have felt for the government he once defended, and, upon the same principle, also felt an unusual veneration for the flag under which he fought and risked his life fifty years before. Accordingly when the rebellion showed its bloody hand, Mr. Potts and his whole family were not long in declaring themselves loyal to their country.

Mr. Potts, with his children and grand-children around him, formed a nucleus of twelve or fifteen persons in the twelfth district, who did their share during the war of throwing obstructions in the way of rebellion.

Albert Potts, an unmarried son, living with his father, in the fall of 1861, was arrested at the instance of Capt. Brown, and given his choice to enlist in the rebel army or be sent a prisoner to Tuscaloosa during the war. One or the other of these propositions must be immediately complied with. Albert reflected upon the consequences to himself of going to Tuscaloosa, and balanced these against the chances of desertion in the other case, and finally, with a mental reservation which he thought justifiable under the circumstances, told Capt. Brown that he would enlist. Shortly after his enlistment his regiment was sent to Knoxville, where young Potts took the benefit of the first opportunity, and left Capt. Brown to manage both his Tuscaloosa prison and rebel army to suit himself. He returned to his home but soon fled to Kentucky, and after an absence of over two years, stole his way back, reaching home in June 1863, and by concealing himself in the woods and caves eluded his enemies until our army took the country. Mr. Langston, a son-in-law of the old gentleman, was driven into the woods, but at length fled to Nashville, where, in the employ of the government, he sickened and died. Mr. A. [K.] Potts and his son William, resorted to the same strategy of living in the woods, and fleeing North to escape from the rebels.

Notwithstanding the eagerness with which these men were pursued by traitors, all but Mr. Langston escaped and lived to see the rebellion conquered.

Four or five times in two years these families were plundered of everything on their premises the rebels could find that struck their fancy.

On the 25th of December, 1863 a company of convalescent Federal soldiers passing from Chattanooga to Knoxville, camped for the night a short distance from Mr. Potts' dwelling. A squad of rebel cavalry led by a fellow named Tyner, was on the same day making a plundering cavalry dash from Dalton into Bradley, and ascertaining from rebel citizens that these Federals were passing through the county Tyner headed his column in the direction of their trail, which he struck about four miles south of Mr. Potts' plantation, and followed it until he reached Mr. Potts' house. Feeling themselves not strong enough, perhaps, to justify an attack of the Federals, the rebels wreaked their vengeance, what little time they dare remain, upon old Mr. Potts, accusing him of feeding the Yankees, abusing him and his family and robbing the house and premises.

Three Union boys name Winkler, brothers, were at the house of Mr. Potts when the rebels dashed up. Two made their escape, the other being lame was captured but a few rods from the house. A leader among them named McDaniels, immediately commenced to abuse Winkler, cursing him and drew his revolver to shoot him. Winkler being lame and unarmed was unable to make any defense. The old gentleman, the old lady, and their daughter, Mrs. Langston, begged McDaniels not to take his life. This appeared the more to enrage McDaniels, who with his revolver cocked, was endeavoring to aim it at Winkler's face. Mrs. Langston and the old lady threw themselves before Winkler, pleading with McDaniels not to shoot, both being able so vigorously to resist his attempts, that after struggling with him three or four minutes he desisted.

Failing to kill Winkler, McDaniels drew his revolver on old Mr. Potts, threatening to shoot him if he did not immediately deliver up his best saddle, an article, he said which he greatly needed. The old gentleman refused, when McDaniels thrust his revolver against him, pushed him across the room and through the door into the yard, cursing him continually, and ordering him to deliver the saddle without delay. Though about seventy years of age, and exceedingly frail, instead of being frightened, when fairly out of doors, the old gentleman commenced to halloo for the Federals at the top of his voice. This seemed to operate favorably upon his cowardly assailant, who, on looking toward the Federal camp, was diverted from stealing Union saddles to making preparations for retreat.

Another circumstance besides the hallooing of the old gentleman, tended to hasten the retreat of the rebels. Miss Rebecca Potts, the daughter of A. [K.] Potts, confronted McDaniels when assaulting her grandfather, and told him that she would go herself and report him to the Federals. One of the rebels informed her that if she left the house she would find herself overtaken with a bullet. Unintimidated, she started in full view of the whole party, ran to the Federal camp and reported the rebels. They left, however, before the Federals could attack them.

The lame Winkler boy being unable to travel, and the rebels having no horse for him to ride, he was left behind. Another boy, however, named Mitchell, whom they there captured, was taken to Dalton, but he subsequently escaped.

Before reaching the house of Mr. Potts, while on the trail of the convalescents, the rebels captured thirteen of their number, those who had fallen behind their companions, and were resting in the houses by the way. These with young Mitchell were hurried off to Dalton that night, some of whom no doubt suffered and possibly lost their lives in the horrible pens at Andersonville or other rebel prisons in the South.

Although the rebels were at Mr. Potts' but a few minutes, yet they stripped the house and premises of what they could find that suited them. As to McDaniels, beside his abuse of Mr. Potts, and robbing Albert of his money and other valuables notwithstanding the extent of his cowardly threatening, the haste of his departure was such that Mr. Potts is still in possession of his saddle.

One of the most remarkable visits, however that Mr. Potts received from his rebel friends during the rebellion was that of a rebel, who at the time said his name was Husten; but whose right name was probably Hunley, a rebel Colonel. He, with two others, on the 25th of September, 1864, came to Mr. Potts' house enquiring for horses. Mr. Potts owned a fine young horse, a large clay colored [yellow-tan] animal, already evidently reported to Hunley by rebels in the vicinity, as appeared from his conversation. He found where the horse was kept, and demanded of Mr. Potts the keys to the stable. Mr. Potts began to expostulate with him upon the injustice of taking his property in the way he proposed, when Hunley instantly went into a rage, clutched the old gentleman by the throat and choked him to the ground. The old lady being present when the conversation about the keys commenced, and seeing that the rebel was becoming angry, thought it best to give up the key, and hurrying into the house to get them, she was returning with them through the

door as the old gentleman went down under Hunley's grasp. She quickly handed him the keys. He took them without saying a word, and deliberately went to the barn and took the horse. With the attention of the old lady, Mr. Potts soon began to recover, and as Hunley was leading the animal past the door, was able to tell the thief what he thought would become of such men as himself, and saying that it was his prayer, that God for the future would deliver him and his family from the hands of all bloodthirsty men of his class. To this address Hunley returned no reply, but got himself through the gate as hastily as possible and left with his booty without so much as a look of thanks toward its owner.

This was the last that Mr. Potts saw of this rebel Colonel, but this is not the sequel of the transaction. The next day, ten or twelve miles from Mr. Potts' plantation, Col. Hunley turned the horse loose, or rather left him with Mr. Abram Slover, desiring Mr. Slover to send him back to Mr. Potts, or send Mr. Potts word where he could find him, Hunley representing to Mr. Slover that he simply borrowed the animal to use for a short time in driving out a lot of stock that he had purchased in Bradley. Mr. Slover immediately delivered his trust to its proper owner, when both Mr. and Mrs. Potts were as greatly surprised and rejoiced at the appearance, in this way, of their favorite animal, as they were the day before afflicted to lose him.

The only solution that could be reached in reference to this sudden change in Col. Hunley, was that a guilty conscience commenced a controversy with him on the subject of his treatment of Mr. Potts.

The most ripened villain could hardly avoid an hour of returning consciousness after thus abusing such a man as Mr. Potts, a man nearly seventy years of age, and one whose very countenance and tone of voice indicated him to be among the most innocent and harmless men in the world—one that never willfully injured a hair on the head of a human being. That Col. Hunley was pursued by the ghost of his outrage upon such a victim is not remarkable; and the fact that he yielded and restored the property, is evidence that, though the outward hardening had fearfully progressed and was fast turning his nature into a stone, an impressible point remained in the center which the petrification had not fully mastered.

After this by various strategies Mr. Potts kept this valuable animal out of the hands of the rebels until the next July, a period of about ten months, when he was again taken in a similar manner. Martin McGriff, Bud Beagles, and Reuben Boyd were the individuals who committed the robbery the second time. McGriff was raised in Bradley and was then living in Cleveland.

The three came to the house of Mr. Potts together, McGriff acting as the leader. Mr. Potts was not at home and McGriff enquired of the old lady where her husband kept his clay-bank horse, adding that her sons were in the federal army fighting against the Confederacy, and he should take the horse if he could find him. They soon found the animal and took him away.

McGriff was mistaken in supposing that the old lady's sons were at that time in the Northern army. Albert, with three of the Winkler boys were then concealed in the barn, and saw him bridle the horse, and could have shot him while in the act, and would have done so had they known that only two other rebels were present, and had it not been for the revenge which they knew would be visited upon the family in consequence, the whole country then being at the mercy of the rebellion. McGriff was a notorious rebel, though in justice to the family it ought to be stated that he had brothers who were good Union men, and who lectured him at the time on his villainy in thus robbing one of the most worthy and inoffensive citizens of the county. These Union brothers tried to prevail on Martin to return the horse but without avail. He was seen riding him about the country, and once or twice rode him past Mr. Potts' house. In order to screen himself from the odium of being called a thief, McGriff reported that he purchased the animal of Mr. Potts, and paid him \$600.

The old gentleman never obtained his horse, and never fully ascertained what disposition was made of him. McGriff, doubtless disposed of him to great advantage, as he was universally conceded to be one of the finest animals in the country.

In relating this affair in the winter of 1864, the old lady remarked that she felt the loss at the hands of McGriff much more than at the hands of Col. Hunley. When the horse was taken by Hunley the case was fruitful of other troubles, so much greater and so much more calculated to excite her fears, that the idea of property was forgotten, and she was even glad to see the animal go if that would save their lives and rid their premises of such a monster as Hunley. But when she saw him taken by one of their own neighbors whom they had never injured, but had always been ready to befriend, it was an injury and a loss that stung her to the heart. She also remarked, that when McGriff led the animal by the door, he showed himself so high and lofty, was so full of life and looked so grand, that it brought to her mind how long and hard she and her whole family had struggled, and in how many ways they had tried to secret and save him, and remembering in connection, at that moment all their other troubles of the rebellion, she went into the house and wept over the loss, feeling almost as though one of the family had been taken away.

After the war Mr. Potts prosecuted McGriff for damages and mulcted him in the insignificant sum of three hundred dollars; when every principle of justice dictated that it should at least have been one thousand.

This, as one instance, will illustrate the justice that is likely to be awarded in cases where the mildness, amenities and advantages of civil law, and the customs of trial by civil law, can be resorted to by criminals whose offences were committed, not in defiance of existing civil law, but only after they, as a body of traitors in insurrection and rebellion against their government, have annihilated all civil law in the premises....

This was exactly the condition of things, not only in Bradley, but in the whole of East Tennessee, for three years. McGriff's offence, therefore, against Mr. Potts, was not committed against civil law, for no civil law existed in fact or held jurisdiction, or even claimed to hold jurisdiction, in the country at the time...it was committed against Mr. Potts because he was loyal to the Government—a Union man and an enemy to the rebellion; because he was considered as aiding and abetting these authorities in putting the rebellion down, in fact, because he was considered part and parcel of the power then endeavoring to crush the rebellion. The Union people of Tennessee were a part of the power working to accomplish this object. Our military authorities looked to and depended on them for aid in various ways...

### Later Life

In 1871, when Amos was seventy-six, Congress authorized a pension to be paid to war veterans and he began receiving eight dollars each month. (Appendix I). By the time he was seventy-nine he became quite ill for several months and felt that it was time to make his final wishes known. His will, dated 15 January 1873, is recorded as follows in Will Book B, p91, in Bradley County, Tennessee:

#### Will of Amos Potts

I Amos Potts do make and publish this as my last will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me at any time made. First I direct that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be paid as soon as possible after my diseas. 2nt I bequeath all my Real and personal property to my wife Rachael Potts during hr life or widowhood. 3rd to my son John Potts he having received his portion of my estate for which I have his Receipts I do not bequeath him anything and to my son Arch Potts in consequence of his attention to me all his life and for his improvements on my farm I direct that he have Three Hundred Dollars, and to my Daughter Mary Martin I direct that she have One Hundred dollars as part of my Estate,

and to my son William Potts, he being dead, I direct that his heirs Arch Bluford and Sara Eviline Potts have fifty dollars each as their father's part of my estate, and to my Daughter Martha Langston in consequence of her kind attention to me all her life and for the improvements she has made on my farm I direct that she have One Hundred and Twenty five, and to my Daughter Matilda Mitchell I direct that she have One Hundred dollars it being her part of my estate, and to my son Albert Potts in Consequence of his devotion and attention to me all his life and for his improvements on my farm I direct he have One Hundred and fifty dollars, and to my grandson William A. Potts for his kindness in attending on me in my illness I direct he have ten dollars and to my grandson James M. Potts for his Kindness in attending on me in my illness I direct he have ten dollars and then the remainder of my Estate to be Equally divided between my son Arch Potts and my daughter Martha Langston and my son Albert Potts share and share alike and lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint my son Arch Potts my executor of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I do to this my last will set my hand and seal this 15 day of January 1873

*Amos Potts*

Signed sealed and published in our presence and we have subscribed our names hereto in the presence of the testator this 15 day of January 1873

*L F Phillips*  
*B. F. Mitchel*

Amos died in June and the will was proven on 3 November 1873. Among the family treasures possessed by Mrs. Reba Harrison of Chattanooga, Tennessee, a descendant of Amos Potts, is a "religious book" published in 1849, which contains the following note in Amos' own handwriting:

The object of all civil government are the same, viz, to suppress error and redress grievances. Therefore they are ordained of God or Recognized by Him, for all things was created by Him that are in heaven and that are on earth visible and invisible whether they be thones [thrones] or dominions or principalities or powers all things was created by Him and for Him.

The reason he felt compelled to record this statement, in which he borrowed from *Colossians Ch 1 Vs: 16*, is not known, but in all likelihood it mirrored the frustration he must have felt as a result of his legal troubles with Martin McGriff for taking his horse during the rebellion.

Rachael lived on under the care of her son, Arch, and in 1878 qualified for a widow's pension of eight dollars a month, based upon Amos' wartime service (Appendix M).

Amos and Rachael were buried in the family graveyard near the farm. In 1977 Mr. Ernest L. Ross of Cleveland, Tennessee, author of several books on Bradley County cemeteries, located what he believes to be their unmarked graves in the lot which is now part of the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. According to Mr. Ross, the church was built in 1915, incorporating the family burial ground with the community and church cemeteries. His description of the lot follows:

In the edge of the cemetery about fifty feet from the front door in the Cemetery consisting of about two acres, I found the Potts lot....The grave of Arch Potts is plainly marked. To his right were two spaces with a large round mountain stone, brought from the mountain some two miles away and placed at the head and between the two graves. To Arch's left is an unmarked grave, probably his wife Caroline. To the left of Caroline is the grave of T. C. Williams, Dec 10, 1857 – March 7, 1920. In the row back of Arch were Thomas Henry Potts, September 27, 1866 – February 4, 1939, and his wife Mollie Potts, January 8, 1875 – February 21, 1908. To the left of Thomas were Albert William Potts, September 14, 1906 – June 4, 1907; and Mariah Potts, January 26, 1830 – June 19, 1902. Albert Potts, December 22, 1883 – February 26, 1920, was just behind Albert William. To the right of Albert were two spaces with a sandstones at the head; about twelve inches square and about four inches above the ground.

### Children of Amos and Rachael (Nunley) Potts

- 2 i. John Potts, b 27 March 1816
- ii. **Archibald R. "Arch" Potts, b 3 February 1818 (See Chapter Twelve)**
- iii. Rebecca Potts, b 5 March 1820; m \_\_\_\_\_ Mitchell; d 9 April 1843
- iv. William Potts, b 3 September 1822; d 8 June 1859; wife's name is not known;  
Children:
  - (1) Arch Bluford Potts (2) Sarah Eviline Potts
- v. Mary "Polly" Potts, b 18 November 1824; m [Charles ?] Martin.
- vi. **Martha Potts, b 7 March 1827 (See Chapter 11)-**
- 3 vii Matilda Potts, b 22 February 1831
- 4 viii. Albert Potts, b 22 December 1833

**2 John Potts** was born 27 March 1816, probably in Warren County, Tennessee. He married Frances Melinda Davis about 1836, probably in Tennessee and then moved to Jasper County, Missouri between 1839 and 1843. John was a soldier in the Civil War, and in the late 1860s, joined a wagon train with the intention of going to Mexico. When he reached Arkansas the family stopped briefly to visit with his daughter, Matilda (Potts) Kemp near Mount Pleasant, Stone County. When they reached Ladonia, Texas they visited with two of John's sisters: Mary, (Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Martin), and Matilda, (Mrs. Richard T. Mitchell). From there the family went to Gonzales County, Texas and settled in Belmont. John bought a sheep ranch in Hamilton County, Texas.<sup>20</sup>

### Children of John and Frances ( ) Potts

- i. Henderson F. Potts, b 1837 in Tennessee
- ii. William H. Potts, b 1839 in Tennessee, m Mary C. \_\_\_\_\_ c1871, chn: (1) William K. Potts b c1872; (2) John S. Potts b c1873; (3) Amos E. Potts b c 1876; (4) Lucy M. Potts b c1878; (5) Lillian Potts b 1880. All chn b Texas. Family lived in Hamilton County, Texas in 1880.
- iii. Nancy R. Potts, b 1843 in Missouri
- iv. Martha Potts, b 1845 in Missouri
- v. James A. Potts, b 1847 in Missouri
- vi. Matilda Potts, b 1848 in Missouri

<sup>20</sup> Contributed by Thomas Ralph "Tom" Rogers, Georgetown, Texas, 2003.

vii. Elizabeth Louise Potts, b 1853, Missouri, m Ralph Rogers.

**3 Matilda Potts** was born 22 February 1831 in Athens, McMinn County, Tennessee and died 14 January 1914 in Ladonia, Fannin County, Texas. She married Richard Temolian Mitchell on 30 October 1851 in Bradley Co. Tennessee. He was born 9 March 1829 in Cumberland Co. Virginia, son of Samuel Cosby Mitchell and Martha Cocke, and died 14 June 1900 in Ladonia, Texas.

**Children of Matilda Potts and Richard Temolian Mitchell**

i. Samuel Layfate Mitchell, b 10 March 1853; d 26 June 1944, Ladonia, TX; m Mattie Roberts.

ii. Amos Franklin Mitchell, b 10 September 1855; d 10 January 1924.

iii. Terry Wodddville Mitchell, b 17 October 1857.

iv. William Richard Mitchell, b 2 May 1863 in Texas; d 26 Dec. 1940, Lamar Co. TX; m Martha Ann Ross 22 June 1884.

v. John Albert Mitchell, b 14 June 1866 in Tyler, Smith County, Texas; d 5 June 1943 in Ladonia, Texas. Married Idella Roberts on 25 May 1887 in Ladonia.

vi. Lura Dora Mitchell, b 30 March 1869 in Ladonia, Texas and died September 1944, Ladonia, TX; m Joseph Hayden Robardey on 24 December 1884 in Ladonia, Texas. He was born 18 June 1865 in Whitesboro, Texas and d 21 June 1928 in Ladonia. Their children are:

(1) Clara Edith Robardey, b 24 February 1886 in Ladonia, Texas; d 31 August 1950 in Wolfe City, Hunt County, Texas. She married Clyde Charlie Jones on 1 June 1909 in Clinton, Oklahoma. Clyde was born 10 May 1882 in Peabody, Kansas and died 4 May 1970 in Groom, Carson County, Texas. They had the following children:

a. Mina Clair Jones, b 8 Dec. 1911, Hollis, OK; d 1 Aug. 1981, Amarillo, Texas; m(1) Emory Lee; div; m(2) Joe Howard Atherton, b 9 June 1914, Childress, TX.

b. Clyde Robardey Jones, b 29 July 1919, Ladonia, TX; d 16 Feb. 2001 Palm Desert, CA; m Charlotte Elizabeth Hamer, June 1946, b 25 Mar 1921, Alabama.

c. Clura Carldeene Jones, b 15 May 1921, Ladonia, TX; married Vaughnie Bee Langwell 2 April 1937. He was born 21 June 1914 in Castle, OK; d 2 April 1982 in Amarillo. They had (a. Patricia Ann Langwell, b 4 March 1938 in Perryton, Ochiltee County, Texas; (b. Vaughnie Doyl Langwell, b 14 Oct 1941, and (c. Linda Clair Langwell, b 22 Jan 1948. (d. Wanda Waunella Jones, b 28 Dec. 1925, Perryton, TX.; m(1) Bob Brown, div; m(2) Joe Johnston, div; m(3) John Howard Kerbow 7 Sep 1948, Pampas, Texas.

(2) Phronia Robardey, b 3 Mar 1889, Ladonia, TX; d Aug 1965; m Dee Bridges.

(3) Ola Robardey, b aft Nov. 1889, Ladonia, TX; married Walter Redding.

(4) Vance Robardey, b aft 1890, Ladonia, TX; dy

(5) Joseph Hayden Robardey, Jr., b 1898, Ladonia, TX; d 1952 in TX.

(6) Mitchell Alf Robardey, b 1900, Ladonia, TX; d 1956.

(7) Albert Lane Robardey, b 1901, Ladonia, TX; d 1947, Ladonia.

(8) Jessie Porterfield Robardey, b 4 Sep 1905, Ladonia, TX; d July 1962.

(9) Lura Robardey, b abt 1910, Ladonia, TX; married Phil Lechner.

(10) Ben Edgar Robardey, b 7 December 1912, Ladonia, TX; d 10 May 1993, TX.



**4 Albert Potts** was born 22 December 1833 in Bradley County, Tennessee, youngest son of Amos and Rachael Potts. He married Mariah Winkler on 3 October 1865 in Bradley County. Mariah was born 26 January 1830 in Bradley County to Abraham and Mable Winkler. She passed away 19 June 1902 and Albert died 26 February 1920. Both are buried in Bethel Cemetery near the old family farm.

Albert's interesting experience with the "recruiting officer" in the early part of the Civil War is related in Mr. Hurlbut's story on the preceding pages. The Winkler brothers also received mention in that tale and it is presumed that Albert married into that same family after the war.

#### **Children of Albert and Mariah (Winkler) Potts**

i. Thomas Henry Potts, b 27 September 1866, Bradley County; m Mary Jane "Mollie" Lauderback, 25 December 1903; d 4 February 1939 in Bradley County; bur at Bethel Cemetery. Mary Jane was b 8 January 1875; d 21 February 1908 and is buried in Bethel Cemetery. Children:

- 5 (1) Amos Abraham Potts, b 12 February 1905  
 (2) Albert William Potts, b 14 September 1906; d 4 June 1907
- ii. William Nunley Potts, b 23 August 1869; d before 1880

**5 Amos Abraham Potts** was born 12 February 1905 in McDonald, Bradley County, Tennessee to Thomas and Mollie (Lauderback) Potts and was married 21 March 1926 at Black Fox, Bradley County to Mildred Elizabeth Phillips. Mildred was born 17 August 1909 to Henry and Mary Caroline (Bell) Phillips. Before his retirement, Amos was a machinist for the American Lava Company. He and Mildred resided in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

#### **Children of Amos Abraham and Mildred (Phillips) Potts**

i. Reba Mae Potts, b July 1927, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee; m 24 December 1949 in Chattanooga to Joseph Turner Harrison. Children:

(1) Wanda Faye Harrison, b 10 November 1950; m Robert Patrick Hagan 19 September 1970. Their dau, Emily Caroline Hagan b 21 July 1976.

ii. Helen Louise Potts, b 19 February 1930, Chattanooga; m James Kean 30 March 1950 at Fort Payne, Alabama. Children:

- (1) James Stephen Kean, b 22 July 1951, d 18 December 1952  
 (2) Ricky Lee Kean, b 11 November 1954  
 (3) Timothy Lamar Kean, b 10 June 1959  
 (4) Myra Lynn Kean, b 2 April 1963

iii. Gertrude Lenore Potts, b 30 August 1935 in Chattanooga; m(1) Carol J. Norman 20 February 1954; m(2) M.C. Trotter Jr., 20 August 1961, Rossville, Catoosa County, Georgia.

Child: (1) Cassandra Elizabeth Norman, b 13 December 1956

iv. Mary Ruth Potts, b 9 December 1940, Rossville, Catoosa Co, Georgia; m 20 October 1961 in Chattanooga to Robert Pace Roach. Children:

- (1) Karen Yvette Roach, b 30 June 1962  
 (2) Robbie Pace Roach, b 24 September 1963

v. Martha Elizabeth Potts, b 29 May 1945, Chattanooga; m 2 January 1963, Rossville, Georgia to Wayne Douglas Gentry. Children:

- (1) Scott Wayne Gentry, b 31 December 1963  
 (2) Melissa Page Gentry, b 12 December 1967

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### Martha (Potts) Langston of Tennessee<sup>21</sup>

**M**artha Potts, daughter of Amos and Rachael Potts (Chapter Ten), was born 7 March 1827 in Bradley County, Tennessee, and was married to John W. Langston about 1857. When the War Between the States began, John, along with many others in the area, was sympathetic with the cause of the federal government and found it expedient to live in the woods to escape harassment by confederate forces. Eventually he fled to Nashville where he worked for the federal government, apparently in a civilian capacity. He became ill and passed away in 1861 or early 1862. Martha's date and place of death are unknown.

#### Children of Martha Potts and John Langston

- 2 i. James Amos Langston, b 18 October 1858
- 3 ii. Mary Ann "Mollie" Langston, b ca 1860
- 4 iii. Samuel Albert Langston, b 2 February 1862

**2 James Amos Langston** was born 18 October 1858, probably in Bradley County, Tennessee. He married Laura Jane James and they later divorced. Both remarried, she to Abram L. Bone and they had two children:

- (1) Lucian Bone
- (2) Iris Estelle, b 18 November 1907; m \_\_\_Camp

After both remarriages ended; by death in one case, and by divorce in the other, James and Laura remarried, to each other, in 1929 in Centralia, Washington. James worked as a watchman at *Mountain Top Mines* at Sneffles, Colorado for a time, then returned to Tennessee when he was about seventy-two years old where he operated a shoe shop in Ooltewah. He died there around 1943 and is buried in Sylar Cemetery.

#### Children of James and Laura (James) Langston

- i. Lula Pearl Langston, b 27 February 1890, Tyler, Texas; m Earl Tackett.
- ii. Lester Langston, b 1893; d 31 December 1921, Salem, Oregon
- iii. James Amos Percy Langston, b 10 July 1895, Paonia, Colorado; served with the Marines in WWI and was never heard from again.

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<sup>21</sup> Material for this chapter was contributed by Annie Mae Langston.

iv. Anna Laura Dawn Langston, b 10 July 1898, Hotchkiss, Colorado; m(1) Herbert Brown 31 October 1919; m(2) Glenn Shaver, div and retained name of Brown.

v. Lillian Eula Belle Langston, b 19 October 1903, Bone Mesa, Colorado; m(1) William Harmon, Centralia, Washington 1918; div; m(2) Joe Collom and they lived many years in Bakersfield, California before div about 1948; m(3) Jack Rodgers who died. ch: (1) Joe Collom Jr., b 31 October 1937

**3 Mary Ann “Mollie” Langston** was born about 1860. She married Will Wolfe.

**Children of Will and Mollie (Langston) Wolfe**

- i. Eva Wolfe m Robert E. Carson; Chn:
  - (1) Roy Bryan Carson; m Florence Keaton
  - (2) Ernest Carson; d ca 1974-76
  - (3) Glenn Carson; m Wyman Henry
  - (4) Edna Carson, m(1) Lyle Johnston; m(2) Max Richards
  - (5) Robbie, dy
- ii. Elbert Delmah Wolfe, b 7 February 1892; d 6 May 1978; m Icie Ealy
- iii. Clifford [female], m Arlie A. Epperson
  - (1) A child
  - (2) Ann Epperson
  - (3) Neil Epperson
  - (4) Margaret Epperson
- iv. Jesse Wolfe, m several times, latest Vera Alder
- v. Clyde Wolfe
  - (1) Clyde Wolfe Jr.
- vi. Nelle Wolfe, m \_\_\_Sweeney
- vii. Pearl [male], m Clyde\_\_\_\_[female]
- viii. Telia, dy

**4 Samuel Albert Langston** was born 2 February 1862 and lived in Bradley and Hamilton Counties, Tennessee and Trion County, Georgia. He died in June 1911 at Trion, Georgia and is buried in the “old cemetery” there. Samuel married three times: m(1) Rosely Elizabeth McSpadden, who died; m(2) Mary Ann Griffitt who died soon thereafter; m(3) Susan Elizabeth Griffitt. Susan was born 30 September 1873 to Emanuel and Mary Ann (Land) Griffitt and was the sister of Samuel’s second wife. She died 13 September 1921 and is buried near Samuel in Trion. Both Samuel and Susan were Missionary Baptists.

**Children of Samuel and Rosely (McSpadden) Langston**

- 5 i. Mamie Lee Langston, b 20 September 1884
- ii. Charlie Langston, b 13 July 1886; d c1967 in Ooltewah, Tennessee; bur National Cemetery, Chattanooga; m(1) Minnie Owens (or Goins); a son, Homer Langston; m(2) Georgia Williams Smith who d 1956; m(3) Rhoda Alma Davis.
- iii. Bertha Langston, dy
- iv. Ethel Langston, dy

**Children of Samuel and Susan (Griffitt) Langston**

- 6 v. William Anson Langston, b 13 October 1908
- vi. Emanuel Langston, b 30-31 December 1909; d January 1910

7 vii. Annie Mae Langston, b 30 November 1910

**5 Mamie Lee Langston** was born 20 September 1884, died 16 July 1953, and is buried in Sylar Cemetery at Ooltewah, Tennessee. She married 22 June 1902 to Calvin Robison who died 6 September 1932.

**Children of Calvin and Mamie (Langston) Robison**

- i. Mary Robison, b 6 August 1903; d 5 April 1975; m Otis A. Chambers; chn:(1) Lloyd Chambers; (2) Bertha Chambers; (3) Charlotte Chambers (4) Reita Chambers;
- ii. Ruby Robison, b 15 December 1907; m Robert David Simms who died 11 February 1974 at Ooltewah, Tennessee; chn: (1) Peggy Jean Simms; (2) Robert David Simms, Jr.
- iii. Pauline Robison, b 15 September 1910; m Bill Ray who d 11 September 1976.
- iv. Clarence Robison, b 19 February 1913, Ooltewah; m Roberta Bennett; chn: (1) Jackie Gill Robison; (2) A dau.
- v. Fred Robison, b 29 June 1915 at Ooltewah. Never wed
- vi. Ruth Robison, b 4 January 1918; m(1) Robert Lee Chambers, had (1) Kenneth Chambers and (2) dau unidentified; m(2) Edward Wilson and had (3) Mike Wilson, and (4) Rhonda Wilson
- vii. Howard Robison, b 2 June 1920
- viii. Helen Robison, b 2 December 1923; m \_\_\_Oliver
- ix. Dorothy Robison, b 12 April 1926; d c1971; m(1) Glenn Sutton and had (1) Calvin Sutton and two unidentified daughters; m(2) \_\_\_Eckert, ch: (4) Pamela Eckert; m(3)\_\_\_Kuber.
- x. Billy Robison, b 3 November 1930 at Ooltewah

**6 William Anson Langston** was born 13 October 1908 at Trion, Chattooga County, Georgia and died 14 November 1955 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. He married (1) Laura Inez Clowdis; (2) Martha (Nettles) Daniels.

**Children of William and Laura Inez (Clowdis) Langston**

- i. Clifford Deforest Langston, b February 1927, dy
- ii. William Fay Langston, b 10 February 1928; served with U.S. Air Force. m(1) Mary\_\_\_ and had (1) Keith Langston, b 24 December 1950; m(2) Margie Eady and their children are:
  - (2) Faye Renee Langston, b 16 February 1957; m Jack Leggett 23 July 1977.
  - (3) Lola Marie Langston, b 17 December 1958; m Daniel Kilcrease 24 Mar 1977; ch Ryna Marie Kilcrease, b 11 October 1977
  - (4) Clifford Dwight Langston, b 10 September 1960
  - (5) Stella Denice Langston, b 9 May 1964
- iii. Robert Anson Langston, b 23 January 1931; d 25 May 1964 at Mt. Clemons, Michigan; m(1) Charlotte\_\_\_; chn: (1) Suzanne Frances Langston, b 1949; (2) Gregory Dale Langston, b 1954; m(2) Joan\_\_\_ (3) A dau, b June 1978; (4) William Anson Langston, II, b 2 September 1962; (5) Cheryl Lee Langston, b 19 January 1965
- iv. Shirley Ann Langston, b 4 October 1933; d 22 August 1974 at Knoxville, Tennessee; m Richard Lee Anderson of Powell, Tennessee; chn: (1) Richard Anson Anderson, b 20 October 1954, served in the USAF 1977; m Cindy\_\_\_.

7 **Annie Mae Langston** was born 30 November 1910 at Trion, Chattooga County, Georgia. On 16 May 1936 she married Edgar Jennings Wofford, son of Willie Freeman and Martha Jane (Hurtt) Wofford. Edgar was born 9 February 1911 at Menlo, Chatooga County, Georgia and was a farmer and carpenter. He passed away from a heart attack on 4 January 1979 in Summerville, Georgia and is buried in the Summerville Cemetery.

#### **Children of Edgar and Annie Mae (Langston) Wofford**

i. Harold Bennett Wofford, b 24 March 1937 in Trion; m Marjorie Mae King; chn: (1) Lisa Wofford, b 19 August 1962; (2) Sara Wofford, b 8 August 1963 (both at Columbia Air Force Base, Mississippi); (3) Harold Wofford, b 16 March 1971 in Cleveland, Tennessee.

ii. Edgar Dale Freeman Wofford, b 5 May 1939; m 9 October 1970 to Gayle Diane Rose; chn: (1) Corey Dale Wofford, b 13 July 1972, South Bend, Indiana; (2) Jill Diane Wofford, b 14 July 1976, Indiana.

iii. Samuel Langston Wofford, b 25 May 1941; m(1) Harriet Ann Espy; chn: (1) Randall Vance Wofford, b 7 October 1960; m Jean Marie Driver 28 June 1980; (2) Donna Wofford, b 8 October 1961; m(2) Jo Ann Teems Huffman; ch: (3) Brenda Kay Wofford, b 2 December 1969; m(3) Dallas Faye (Kennedy) Nations, and she brought two daughters: Paula Nations and Pat Nations.

iv. Larry Willie Charles Wofford, b 26 July 1943; d 10 March 1974 at Resaga, Georgia; m(1) Patsy Jane Bowling, chn: (1) Jefferson Wofford, b 4 May 1964; (2) Kelly Wofford, b 8 November 1965; m(2) Vista Barnette, ch (3) Robbie Wofford, b 18 November 1966; m(3) Charlotte Ann Bowden.

v. Jerry Leon Wofford, b 28 August 1945, m Viola Mae Johnson; chn: (1) Rhonda Elaine Wofford, b 12 October 1970; (2) Stanley Leon Wofford, b 14 August 1973.

vi. Martha Ann Elizabeth Wofford, b 11 May 1951, Menlo, Georgia; m Jesse Delaine Blansit 4 August 1968; chn: (1) Tony Blansit, b 25 November 1969 at Fort Gordon, Georgia; (2) Chris Blansit, b 10 July 1971, Rome, Georgia; (3) Edwin Lee Blansit, b 23 January 1979, Rome, Georgia.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### Archibald R. Potts of Bradley County, Tennessee

**A**rchibald R. Potts, more commonly known as “Arch,” was born 3 February 1818 in Alabama—according to the 1880 Census—to Amos and Rachael Potts (See Chapter Ten). The exact date of his marriage to Nancy Caroline Williams, and details about her ancestry has not been learned, but the marriage probably took place in 1840, since their first child was born in December of that year. Nancy, also called Caroline by some, was born 6 March 1823 in North Carolina and passed away 22 June 1891 of pneumonia. Arch was living with his daughter, Rebecca, when he died on 17 October 1906, and is buried in Bethel Cemetery near the farm.



**Arch and Nancy Potts**

Grandma would always send one of the children to tell Arch when meals were ready. He lived alone for a while and took his meals with Grandma and then, after some years, he went to live with Aunt Becky.” Arch’s granddaughter, Lee Belle (Wolfe) Galloway, recalled that her grandfather “was a fine looking man and always wore a white goatee.”

Since Arch was named executor of his father’s will, it was his unhappy duty to sell off part of the land, after Rachael died, in order to satisfy some of the bequests. In the process he seems to have alienated his son-in-law, Hiram Kelley, and that individual brought a lawsuit against Arch and John Wolfe, another son-in-law. A copy of the original bill, and Arch’s response, as well as briefs of depositions, is located in Appendix K. It provides information as to the exact location of the property, as well as other interesting comments about the settlement of the Amos Potts estate.

Arch was undoubtedly named after Rachael’s father, Archibald Nunley, but there is only one reference of record wherein he was called Archibald. Throughout the lives of his parents he maintained a close relationship with them, managing their affairs and caring for them in their declining years. Besides managing the family farm he, at various times, served as a Justice of the Peace and County Trustee in Bradley County, and as a Post Office Clerk for a time in Chattanooga. It is believed that the Potts and Wolfe homes were adjacent as one descendant remembers her mother

saying: “After Grandmother Caroline died,

Apparently the difficulty with Hiram Kelley did not last long. Arch's old family Bible is held by Mrs. Nancy Huggins, a descendant of Hiram and Nancy (Potts) Kelley. The Bible contains a record of births and deaths, but is in a very delicate condition due to age.

### **Children of Arch and Nancy Caroline (Williams) Potts**

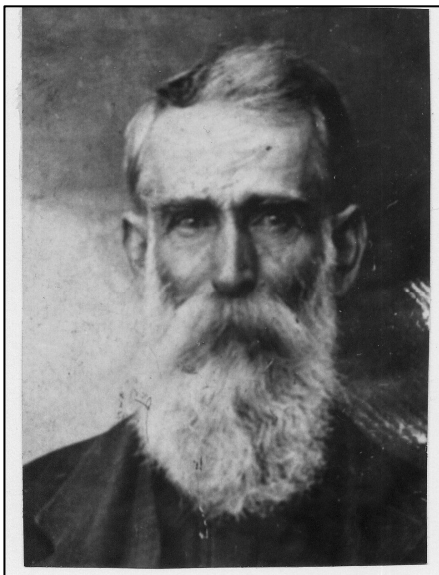
- i. Rachael Elizabeth Potts, b 15 December 1840, Bradley County, Tennessee; d 26 January 1891 of pneumonia, within a few days of her mother's death. No record of marriage.
- ii. Rebecca "Becky" Jane Potts, b 27 December 1843, Bradley County; m John "Sam" Henry, no chn. Becky's character and bravery is illustrated in Hurlbut's story about Amos Potts beginning on page 77.
- iii. **William Amos Potts, b 30 January 1845 (see Chapter Thirteen).**
- iv. James Madison Potts, b 24 April 1847; moved to Texas with his brother, William, settling near Dallas. He is described as "a good carpenter." He married Louise Taylor and had a daughter, Evalee; d 16 November 1934; bur Antioch Cemetery, Bradley County, TN.
- v. **Mary Marthena Potts, b 28 October 1850 (see Chapter Fifteen).**
- vi. **Nancy Matilda Potts, b 28 November 1853 (see Chapter Sixteen).**
- vii. Archibald John Guthrie Potts, b 2 September 1856; d 22 February 1857.
- viii. Archibald "Bud" Martin Potts, b 31 December 1857 in Tennessee; m Martha "Mattie" M. Moorland 26 July 1877, Bradley County; migrated to Texas with brothers and was reportedly killed in a train accident in Dallas on 27 January 1882. A dau, Callie, was born in Tennessee in 1878.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### William Amos Potts of Texas and Oklahoma

**W**illiam Amos Potts was born 30 January 1845 on the ancestral farm in Bradley County, Tennessee to Arch and Nancy Caroline (Williams) Potts (Chapter Twelve). He married Mary Emma Mosley in Ladonia, Fannin County, Texas on Christmas Day 1879 at the home of her maternal grandparents. Emma was born 28 December 1863 at Ladonia to John W. and Elizabeth Parsada (Maloney) Mosley. William Potts, or “Bill” as he was more commonly known to his friends, died on Friday 19 November 1934 at 6:45 P.M. in Oklahoma City, of Lobar Pneumonia complicated by hypertension. Emma passed away at 1:45 A.M. 14 September 1953 in Oklahoma City of Intra-cranial hemorrhage due to senile Arterio Sclerosis. Both were laid to rest at Rose Hill Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

#### William Amos Potts



The year Bill was born, President Polk was inaugurated and the Mexican government broke off relations with the United States—Texas was admitted to the Union as the 28th State. Bill spent some very unsettled years as a boy in Tennessee during the Civil War. His family, from grandparents on down, were supporters of the Union in a region where about half of the folks were Confederate sympathizers. He and his father were of an age where they could be expected to join one side or the other in fighting, but they chose to hide out in the woods and caves of the area and for a time stayed with Potts relatives in Kentucky.

After the war he and his brothers helped with the family farm and were apparently very considerate of their grandfather, Amos, as he left each of them ten dollars in his will.

About 1875 Bill and brother, Jim, migrated to Texas to try to improve their lot in life. Bill ended up in Fannin County where he worked as a wheelwright and blacksmith in the village of Ladonia, repairing wagons, buggy wheels and farm implements. Jim located nearer to Dallas. It was in Ladonia that Bill met Emma Mosley.

Emma’s father, John W. Mosley, was born 8 January 1839, according to most sources, but his ancestry and place of birth are still not clear. He married Elizabeth Parsada Maloney in Fannin County on 10 October 1860. Parsada was born 13 April 1843 in Cobb County, Georgia to Israel D.



and Mary J. (Oslin) Maloney. Israel died 1 October 1885 of a heart attack at his home near Ladonia, suffered while he and his attorney were in the process of drawing up his will.

On 7 July 1861 John Mosley enlisted in the Texas State Troops to serve the Confederacy as an Ensign with the 14th Brigade, 34th Cavalry. Parsada passed away, in Ladonia, 1 June 1863 shortly after their only child, Mary Emma, was born. John saw service until the war ended then obtained farm land in Hunt County, Texas near the town of Commerce. He married again on 23 January 1867 to Hannah Jernigan and had ten more children. John died 13 December 1919 of heart problems and senility and was buried in Highland Cemetery in Lawton, Oklahoma.

During the 1880s over thirty Indian tribes from the East, South and Plains regions were relocated by government edict to an area specifically set aside for them in what is now Oklahoma. At the time it was referred to as "The Indian Territory." The Indians were given land grants in this territory which were to be "theirs forever." However, pressures for expansion in the rapidly growing United States forced the government to reconsider its treaty. So, starting in 1889, the government took back a portion of the territory and opened it to white settlers, and on opening day in April 1889 thousands of pioneers had lined up on the border of this newly opened land. At noon the sound of a gun sent them racing to find a suitable location to stake out their own one hundred and sixty acres to homestead. The first land rush was followed by others as more and more of the Indian Territory was opened for settlement. Every time a portion was to be opened there was the formality of lining up at the border and firing of the starting pistol. Sometimes individuals were so anxious to get the best land possible that they would leave hours before the gun, usually the previous night. These persons became known as "Sooners" because they arranged to get there sooner than they were authorized.

An obituary written at the time of the death of William Amos Potts, reports that he and his small family were part of this scramble for land in 1889, and were among those called "89ers." It is tempting to allow this romantic version to go unchallenged, however, the facts tend to cast doubt on the truth of the story. Bill Potts settled near Warren in Greer County at the time it was still part of Texas—around 1889-1893. The county was positioned between the forks of the Red River and was settled gradually by Texas pioneers as early as 1860. There was never a "run" on its land. The Territorial census of 1896 revealed that there were about 8000 people resident in the county.

For several years Greer County's ownership was in dispute while the courts decided which branch of the Red River was to mark the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. The southernmost branch was finally selected as the boundary and the county was attached to Oklahoma following a Supreme Court decision on 16 March 1896. In 1897 Congress declared it open for settlement in the same manner as the rest of the Oklahoma (Indian) Territory. Later, in 1907, that part of Greer County which contained the village of Warren was partitioned to become Jackson County in Oklahoma.

Bill Potts settled his family on one hundred and sixty acres along the south bank of the Red River near the town of Warren. He first sheltered his family in "dug-outs," which were just holes scooped out of the earth, usually into the side of a hill, and fitted with makeshift supports of scrap material. The family had one dugout for sleeping and another for cooking and eating. Later he built a proper home. He farmed his homestead and did blacksmithing for his neighbors—shoeing horses, sharpening plows and repairing farm equipment. The children would help operate the bellows to keep the fire "white hot." Frequently there were horse and cattle roundups and trail drives where the drovers made it a practice to stop overnight at the Potts farm where there was a good sized corral and where Bill's ability as a blacksmith could be used to good advantage.

The children went to a little red school house about a mile and a half from home. They walked the distance in the warm months, but during the winter father took them to school in a horse-drawn cart. Mother, Emma, would heat rocks and wrap the rocks in blankets at the bottom of the cart to help keep the children warm. Bill and Emma's daughter, Lena, while in her eighties, wrote this about her mother:

### Mary Emma Mosley



*I can see her now on a long wide porch, sitting in a high-backed rocking chair with wide arms. She wears a black dress with a tight fitting waist and long sleeves, and the skirt touches the floor. She is busy knitting a red stocking cap for one of the children to wear to school. The cap fits the head snugly and has a wide turned-back cuff for extra warmth....*

In later years Bill tired of farming and opened a combination general store and home in the village of Warren, which he operated for several years. Finally, in 1922, he moved to Oklahoma City where he was employed for a time by the Wilson Meat Packing Company. He and Emma were very active in the Presbyterian Church.

### Children of William Amos and Mary Emma (Mosley) Potts

- i. Jesse Drake Potts, b 20 December 1881, Ladonia, Texas; d 10 November 1971, Oklahoma City; m Bertie Gardner, b 1881, Fort Smith; d October 1971 Oklahoma City.
- 2 ii. May Etta Potts, b 1 May 1884.
- iii. **Lena Parsada Potts, b 2 September 1887 (see Chapter Fourteen).**
- 3 iv. Joe William Potts, b 17 August 1894.
- v. Emma Pearl Potts, b 24 April 1897; d 15 Apr 1898.
- 4 vi. Auban Anna Potts, b 8 March 1899.
- 5 vii. Ruby Earl Potts, b 12 April 1902.
- viii. Archie R. Potts, b 25 May 1905; d 10 August 1913.

2 **May Etta Potts** was born 1 May 1884 in Ladonia, Fannin County, Texas and was married around 1906 to Marcus P. "Mark" Smith, who was born 10 October 1880 to Jessie L. and Martha Smith at Kemp, Kaufman County, Texas. May passed away 5 April 1914 at Warren, Oklahoma, and Mark died 2 March 1966 at Yukon, Canadian County, Oklahoma. He was a farmer.

### Children of Mark and May (Potts) Smith

i. Orion A. Smith, b 12 November 1907 at Cold Springs, Kiowa County, Oklahoma; m(1) Marguerite Isbell on 3 July 1933 at Mountain Park, Oklahoma; b 14 February 1909 Okeene, Oklahoma – div Jan 1969; m(2) Alta Thomas at Ardmore, Oklahoma 11 August 1969; Engineering Technician at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. Chn of Orion and Marguerite:

(1) Myrna Jean Smith, b 2 September 1935, Mountain Park, Oklahoma; m Olin Lee Kelley 18 September 1953.

(2) Wanda Gay Smith, b 1 January 1945 at Duncan, Stephens County, Oklahoma; m Wayne Lindy 12 July 1963.

ii. Doris L. Smith, b 30 January 1910, Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma; m Dennis Duty 5 December 1927 at Eakley, Oklahoma; reside Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

**3 Joe William Potts** was born 17 August 1894 in Greer County, Texas and married Margaret Mae Smart 30 January 1921 in Oklahoma City. Margaret was born 28 January 1900 at Alma, Oklahoma to Joe and Lydia (Owens) Smart and she died of cancer in Oklahoma City 17 August 1976. Joe and Margaret lived in Cement, Oklahoma where he was employed as lease operator for Ohio Oil Company until retirement in 1960. In 1972 he suffered a severe stroke which required that he receive special care in a facility at Norman, Oklahoma. It was there that he passed away on 6 March 1979. He and Margaret rest in Fairlawn Cemetery in Cement and were members of the First Christian Church which he helped to build.

#### **Child of Joe and Margaret (Smart) Smith**

i. Margaret Jo Smith, b 11 August 1929 in Cement, Oklahoma; m Charles "Chuck" McDowell 6 August 1950 at Cement –b 6 August 1929 to Henry Behn and Fannie Mae (Traylor) McDowell. He worked for Mobil Oil Company as a drilling specialist in Libya and died in April 1981 at Chickasha, Oklahoma. Margaret died in April 1981.

(1) JoAnn McDowell, b 7 June 1951, Chickasha, Oklahoma; m Steve Helzer 19 July 1968, son of Jesse D. and Henretta Helzer.

(2) Janet Kay McDowell, b 4 December 1954 at Chickasha, Oklahoma; m Tom Talboys, son of Lee and Marge Talboys, on 12 July 1975.

(3) Susan "Sue" McDowell, b 12 November 1955, Chickasha; m Larry Cavett, son of Marion and Ramon Cavett, 21 August 1976 at Canton, Oklahoma.

**4 Auban Anna "Jack" Potts** was born 8 March 1899 at Warren, Greer County, Oklahoma and married Martin Buren Hinton at Blair, Oklahoma on 21 January 1916. "Mart" was born 14 December 1894 at Breckenridge, Stephens County, Texas to Henry Molton and Sallie (Wilford) Hinton. After many successful years in the farming business near Blair, Oklahoma, Mart died on 19 November 1973 and was laid to rest at Warren Cemetery in Blair, Oklahoma. Jack died 12 May 1987 at Altus, Oklahoma.

Around 1903 or 1904, Emma's father, John Mosley, came to visit the Potts family. There was an occasion when he had to share a bed with little Auban and Ruby. He said that they kicked like a couple of mules and so he nick-named them accordingly. Auban he called "Jack" and Ruby he called "Dick." The name stuck with Auban the rest of her life, but Ruby "got rid of hers early in life." Their older sister, Lena, must have been an angel for he called her "sugarhead."

#### **Children of Mart and Auban (Potts) Hinton**

i. Jubil Jesse Hinton, b 19 February 1917 in Blair, Jackson County, Oklahoma; m Oletta Brown at Altus, Oklahoma 20 July 1947. Oletta was born 23 June 1924 at Manitou, Tillman County, Oklahoma to Raymond and Jessie (Young) Brown. Jubil served with the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

ii. Marlot Odell "Bud" Hinton, b 16 November 1918, Blair, Oklahoma; m 5 August 1940 at Yakima, Washington to Gladys Marie Caton – b 7 December 1918 at Strickler, Arkansas to George Washington and Nellie (Starwalt) Caton. Bud retired from Civil Service.

**5 Ruby Earl Potts** was born 12 April 1902 at Warren, Oklahoma and died 26 November 1987. She was buried in Resurrection Cemetery, Oklahoma City. Ruby married Robert Lowell McCune at Oklahoma City on 14 June 1922. Robert was born 31 August 1903 at Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma to George Edward and Myrta Elizabeth (Birt) McCune. He worked in the shipping department at Sunshine Biscuit Company until his death 23 August 1974 at Bethany, Oklahoma.

#### **Children of Robert and Ruby (Potts) McCune**

i. Alura Evelie McCune, b 25 June 1932, Oklahoma City; m(1) Raymond Earl Crawford 31 August 1947 at Guthrie, Oklahoma, div 26 July 1966; m(2) Bruce Barclay Wheeler 11 July 1968 at Fort Bragg, Cumberland twp, North Carolina. Chn: (1) Raymond Earl Crawford, Jr. b 5 November 1948, (2) David Ray Crawford, b 30 May 1950; (3) Mark Andrew Wheeler (stepson), b 11 December 1963; (4) Spencer Brady Wheeler, b 27 February 1969.

ii. Alverna Marie "Donna" McCune, b 20 July 1937 at Oklahoma City; m(1) 14 August 1954 to Robert Emmett Kincaid; div 9 June 1958; m(2) 11 July 1964 James Ray Violet, Oklahoma City. Ch: Danny Lynn Kincaid, b 7 Sep 1956; d 3 January 1976.

iii. Bernice Jane "Dolly" McCune, b 27 July 1938, Oklahoma City; m 7 September 1956 Paul Edward Unsell who was born 18 April 1932 at Oklahoma City. Chn: (1) Wesley Dean Unsell, b 19 April 1957; (2) Stanley Lowell Unsell, b 18 August 1959; (3) Lesley Duane Unsell, b 11 September 1965; (4) Charles Edward Unsell, b 30 December 1968.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### **Lena Parsada (Potts) Reichel of Oklahoma and California**

**L**ena Parsada Potts was born 2 September 1887 in Ladonia, Fannin County, Texas. She married (1) Joseph Phillip Reichel in the Potts home in Warren, Greer County, Oklahoma on 31 March 1904. Joseph was born 21 May 1873 at Grasheim, Bavaria, Germany to Carl August and Magdalena (Dallinger) Reichel. He died 30 June 1930 in Hanford, California.



**Joseph P. Reichel and Lena (Potts) Reichel**

Lena married (2) Lewis Carol Baker on 11 June 1939 at Visalia, California. She died 25 June 1981 at 12:30 P.M. in Fresno, California, age 93, and is buried in Visalia, California. Lewis died 18 February 1983 in Fresno.

When Lena was a young girl, at the turn of the century, the cigar store Indian was still a common sight. Tunes sung and played on the mandolin were: *My Gal Sal* and *On the Banks of the Wabash*. Popular novels of the day were: *Just So Stories* and *Brewster's Millions*. Telephones were confined to offices and public places. Transportation was still largely via horse and buggy and train—automobiles numbered fewer than 14,000 in the entire country in 1903. The average wage was fifty cents for a twelve hour day and electricity was only for the very wealthy. The poor farmers, after a hard day in the fields, went to bed when it turned dark, or brought out the kerosene lanterns to light up the center of a room, leaving the corners in shadows.

Lena was just a child when she traveled with her parents via covered wagon from Ladonia to their new homestead in Greer County. Later she went to school at the Warren community school house, which doubled as the Church each Sunday. There she completed her formal education at the end of the “twelfth reader.” She learned to play the organ “by ear” and often played at church services.

Western Oklahoma in the wintertime can experience rather severe weather, and Lena’s sister Ruby relates the following story:

One time when Jesse, May and Lena were at school a big blizzard came up unexpectedly. They were walking home in driving snow when Lena got so cold that she wanted to just lie down and go no further. Jesse and May tried to get her to move, but she refused. Finally Jesse broke a switch from a nearby bush and began whipping her with it until she got up, then whipped her all the way home, with Lena crying and protesting the entire distance. When they arrived home tears had frozen to her face.

An Indian uprising is one of the earliest of Lena’s memories. The “territory” was still rather untamed, and there were a number of Indians in the immediate vicinity of the Potts farm. The clamor was over the murder of an Indian by a white settler, and the situation became so tense that all of the settlers loaded up their wagons and hurried to a safer location where they remained for several days. The Indians could be seen in threatening clusters on the horizon, but no reprisals were forthcoming so the families returned to their homes.

About the time three or four year old Lena was moving to Greer County, young Joseph Reichel, a lad of seventeen in Bavaria, was helped by his mother to stow away on a ship bound for New York. He arrived there late in the year 1890 or early 1891. For a while he worked as a grave digger in New York City, then went to Johnstown, Pennsylvania where he worked in cleaning up the devastation brought about by the famous Johnstown Flood of 31 May 1889. Eventually he joined his brother, Mike, who had preceded him to America and was “punching cows” in Oklahoma. Joe and Mike were cowboys for several years, then, in 1901 when another piece of Indian Territory was opened for settling, the two brothers claimed 160 acres along the Red River opposite the Potts homestead. Joe used to row a boat across the river to buy butter and eggs from the Potts family, and thus became acquainted with Lena. A few years after their marriage they moved to Des Moines, a railroad town in northwestern New Mexico where Joe and Mike opened a saloon to take care of the thirsts of railroad workers. The business flourished until 1917 when New Mexico amended its constitution to make it unlawful to sell or possess liquor. This bad news compelled the brothers to seek a livelihood elsewhere, so Joe and his family moved to California where Joe became foreman of a cattle ranch in the San Joaquin Valley, near Hanford.

In her early seventies Lena became handicapped with a vision impairment which limited her normally active pastimes of reading, knitting and sewing, but her determination drove her to find other means for finding enjoyment in life. She was particularly fond of traveling to visit her widespread family and was always a welcome sight whenever she arrived to stay a few days. On her eightieth birthday she began to teach herself to type by the touch method and thereafter kept up a lively correspondence with family and friends. She also wrote some brief articles which were published in a small magazine which she received regularly. The following is an example of her writing:

### **Our Indian Friends**

In the early eighteen-nineties, my parents homesteaded 160 acres of land along the Red River in Oklahoma—still Indian Territory then.

The famous Red River, always red and muddy, divided the white settlers from the Kiowa Indian Reservation. The Kiowa, one of the tribes of Plains Indians, seemed to be friendlier to the white man than other tribes. Now and then a band would leave the main tribe temporarily and live separately. One of these bands located near us on a clear-running creek where they could swim and do their washing. The cone-shaped teepees made of skins sat in rows under the big shade trees. Lines stretched from tree to tree hung with strips of beef drying in the sun to make “jerky.”

My father knew blacksmithing and settlers brought their farm machinery to be repaired and their horses to be shod. This work fascinated the Indian men. They came in pairs down the dusty road, dismounted at the gate, threw the bridle reins over the fence post and found a shady spot to squat on the ground to watch the white man work.

War paint often remained on their faces and arms. They wore beaded moccasins, buckskin leggings and pants with fringe down the side seams. Holsters or long-bladed knives hung on wide belts. They usually had some sort of feathered arrangement in their jet-black hair which hung in two braids down the front,

The Indians could tell when it was dinner time by the shadow of a fence post, so they would rise, come to the house and walk in without so much as a knock. They would go to the old wood-burning cook stove and have mother raise the lid of the iron kettle so they could see what was cooking. By grunts and gestures—a common form of communication among the tribes, not speaking each others language—mother was given to understand that they were staying for dinner. They seated themselves on benches at the kitchen table and mother served them while we children huddled behind the stove or clung to her skirt. After eating, they would leave without a word and mount their horses and be off. Mother would then scrape their plates clean and scald them in a brass kettle, not once but twice.

We could always tell, toward the end of the month, when the Indians were preparing to do some bartering. Down the dusty rode they came, the men on horseback leading the way, while squaws and papooses followed in a wagon

drawn by two pinto ponies. If they had money they indicated to father that they wanted to buy a beef. Selecting an animal in the field, they dressed it in the hot sun, tossed the carcass behind a saddle, tied it securely and were on their way.

Meanwhile, the squaws were busy trading with mother. One family might have moccasins, leggings and perhaps some yard goods to trade for eggs, butter and milk. Another family had calico, beaded baskets, bracelets and necklaces to trade for fruits and vegetables which we raised on the rich river bottom where the wild plums grew. I remember that our house seemed to have a certain Indian goods smell about it.

We children gradually lost our fear and entered into the bartering. We traded corn and melons for cradles in which they carried the papooses. We used them for our dolls. We also acquired a supply of bows and arrows. Hoot owls coming out at dusk to sit on a fence post made excellent targets. Even though ours and the Indian's ways were so different, we thought of them as our friends and I imagine the feeling was mutual.

Despite some trying periods throughout her life, Lena made it a practice to find pleasure wherever she could, experiencing the happiest moments with children and grandchildren. She always had a sparkling wit and a remarkable sense of humor, having little patience or sympathy for glumness.

### Children of Joseph and Lena (Potts) Reichel

- 2 i. Lillian Reichel, b 17 April 1905
- 3 ii. Margaret May Reichel, b 25 May 1907
- 4 iii. August William Reichel, b 3 June 1909
- 5 iv. Michael Jesse Reichel, b 31 October 1911
- 6 v. Tressa Pauline Reichel, b 13 November 1913
- 7 vi. Ernestine Reichel, b 15 March 1916
- 8 vii. Joseph J. Reichel, b 5 July 1920
- 9 viii. Phyllis Eleanor Reichel, b 27 April 1923
- 10 ix. Beverly Myrle Reichel, b 23 October 1926

**2 Lillian Reichel** was born 17 April 1905 at Hobart, Kiowa County, Oklahoma. She accompanied her parents from Des Moines, New Mexico to California in 1918 and there married Talmadge Dewitt "Jake" Bristow on 12 May 1924 at Hanford, Kings County, California. Jake, a veteran of World War I, was employed as a farm hand on the ranch near Hanford where Lillian's father was foreman. He was born 19 April 1898 at Hickman, Tennessee to Wilford and Nanie (Smith) Bristow. Lillian and Jake farmed for many years and were prominent citizens of the community around Dos Palos in Merced County, California. Jake passed away on 15 March 1970. Lillian resides in Dos Palos near her children and grandchildren.



**Children of Lillian Reichel and Jake Bristow**

i. Beatrice Lillian Bristow, b 12 March 1928, Hanford, California; m(1) 11 March 1946 to Stephen Howard Laird at Dos Palos; div April 1961. Stephen died 11 May 1969; m(2)

11 Aug 1963 to James R. Burgin at Reno, Nevada; div April 1969; m(3) 17 September 1977 to Robert Bidwell Mumby.

Children of Beatrice Bristow and Stephen Laird;

- (1) Patricia Fay Laird, b 9 December 1946, Dos Palos, CA.
- (2) Beverly Jean Laird, b 27 April 1949, Merced, CA.
- (3) Stephen Howard Laird, b 17 April 1952, Fresno, CA.
- (4) Jimmie Duane Laird, b 10 May 1954, Los Banos, CA.
- (5) Ricky Randall Laird, b 28 February 1959, Merced, CA.

Child of Beatrice Bristow and James Burgin:

- (1) Jamie Catherine Burgin, b 22 February 1963.

ii. Laverne Tressa Bristow, b 7 June 1932, Dos Palos, CA; d 21 June 1996, Concord, CA. Married Carl Edward Campbell 16 December 1953 in Dos Palos. He was born 17 August 1929 in Arkansas.

Children of Laverne Bristow and Carl Campbell:

- (1) Sandra Kay Campbell, b 27 April 1955, Merced, CA.
- (2) Carl Edward Campbell, Jr., b 13 December 1956, San Pablo, CA.
- (3) Jennifer Lee Campbell, b 8 June 1958, San Pablo, CA.
- (4) Mark Anthony Campbell, b 17 August 1959, San Pablo, CA.

iii. Leland Wilford Bristow was born 30 August 1934 in Dos Palos, CA and died 26 January 1999. He married Susie Boggs 26 September 1953 in Reno, Nevada. She was born 27 February 1937 in Dos Palos.

Children of Leland Bristow and Susie Boggs:

- (1) Michael Eugene Bristow, b 9 January 1954, Merced, CA.
- (2) Judith Lynn Bristow, b 4 May 1955, Merced, CA.
- (3) Vicki Diane Bristow, b 18 July 1956, Merced, CA.
- (4) Timothy Leland Bristow, b 8 September 1957, Merced, CA.
- (5) Jeffrey Alan Bristow, b 13 August 1959, Merced, CA.

iv. Ernestine Faye Bristow was born 6 April 1939 in Dos Palos, CA. She married Herman Otto Burbach II on 6 September 1958 in Dos Palos, son of Herman Burbach and Alzenia Baily. He was born 23 April 1928 in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Children of Faye Bristow and Herman Burbach II:

- (1) Kimberly Ann Burbach, b 30 August 1959 in Concord, CA; died 23 September 1978.
- (2) Herman Otto Burbach III, b 4 August 1961, Concord, CA.
- (3) Eric Talmadge Burbach, b 4 Aug 1964, Concord, CA.

**3 Margaret May Reichel** was born 25 May 1907 in Geronimo, Comanche County, Oklahoma, and died 19 October 1991 in Carmichael, California. She was buried in Fair Oaks Cemetery, Fair Oaks, California. Margaret married Orion H. Stenehjem 3 September 1927 in Hanford, California. He was born 23 August 1905 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They divorced 10 July 1950 in Bakersfield, California. Orion's parents were Lewis and Anna Stenehjem of Minneapolis. Orion was a master dental laboratory technician.

### Children of Margaret Reichel and Orion Stenehjem

i. Jacquelyn Marie Stenehjem, b 30 July 1928 in Minneapolis, MN; died September 1993 in Carmichael, California; m(1) Earl Castner 11 September 1949 in Bakersfield, CA; div 29 November 1960; m(2) Jack Duke 28 July 1962 in Reno, Nevada.

Children of Jacquelyn Stenehjem and Earl Castner:

- (1) Michael Albert Castner, b 8 July 1953, San Jose, CA.
- (2) Patrick Earl Castner, b 27 May 1955, San Francisco, CA.

Child of Jacquelyn Stenehjem and Jack Duke:

- (1) Cheri Marie Duke, b 27 March 1963, Roseville, CA.

ii. Marlene Joyce Stenehjem, b 13 August 1932, Minneapolis; m James Dale Herren 25 March 1951 in Tucson, AZ, son of Joseph Herren and Rilla Briton. He was b 22 July 1930 in Springfield, CO; d 20 November 1985, Redwood City, CA.

Children of Marlene Stenehjem and James Herren:

- (1) Debera Lynn Herren, b 1 April 1952, Tucson, AZ.
- (2) Jeffrey Scott Herren, b 18 January 1955, Bakersfield, CA.
- (3) Steven Dean Herren, b 16 December 1958, Fresno, CA; d 21 May 1988, Foster City, CA.

**4. August William Reichel, "Gus,"** was born 3 June 1909 in Des Moines, New Mexico and died 17 April 1993 in Duarte, Los Angeles County, California. He married Valeria Boggs 2 November 1930 in Santa Ana, California. She was born 16 August 1910 in Salsbury, North Carolina and died 1990 in Pasadena, California. They had no children.

**5. Michael Jesse Reichel** was born 31 October 1911 in Des Moines, Union County, New Mexico and died 17 February 1992 in Leucadia, San Diego County, California. Mike, a veteran of World War II and Korea and a career Army Officer, was buried at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He retired from the Army as a Brigadier General. Mike married Lillian Skagen on 23 January 1947. She was born 16 April 1916 in Bergen, Norway to Oluf Skagen and Louise Hansen. Lillian died 17 September 1998 in Kansas City, Kansas.

### Children of Michael Reichel and Lillian Skagen

i. Kathryn Beverly Reichel, b 17 December 1949 at Fort Belvoir, VA.; m(1) Kent Jay Ruch 28 August 1971 in Media, PA. He was born 7 October 1950 in North Hampton, PA; div 1988; m(2) Paul Nigel Dyer 5 August 1989. He was born 2 September 1943 in London, England, and died 26 May 2001 in PA. Katie and Paul had no children.

Children of Kathryn Reichel and Kent Ruch:

- (1) Amy Lynn Ruch, b 27 January 1976; m David Huffman 6 October 2000.
- (2) Melissa Karen Ruch, b 18 September 1976; m Philip Gallagher Crystle 7 October 2001.
- (3) Jeremy Michael Ruch, b 27 July 1978.

ii. Karen Reichel, b 4 August 1953 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; m(1) Ronald Driggers 9 October 1976; div 1983; m(2) William E. Kidder, Jr., 2 January 1987.

Children of Karen Reichel and Ronald Driggers:

- (1) Sarah Kathryn Driggers, b 5 May 1978, Wash, DC.
- (2) Kristen Jean Driggers, b 13 October 1981, San Antonio, Texas; m Jeromy Michael Scanlon 1 December 2001, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Children of Karen Reichel and William Kidder:

- (1) Emily Michelle Kidder, b 8 January 1989, Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany.
- (2) William Michael Kidder, b 25 March 1992, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

**6 Tressa Pauline Reichel** was born 13 November 1913 in Des Moines, New Mexico, and died 18 October 2001 in Castro Valley, California. She married Ernest Edward Upchurch 12 September 1937 in Hanford, Kings County, California. "Ed" was son of Francis Upchurch and Janie Crabtree, and was born 13 February 1914 in Hanford. He died 13 July 1994 in Hayward, California.

#### Children of Tressa Reichel and Edward Upchurch

i. Byron Edward Upchurch, b 21 September 1942 in Hanford, CA; m Terri Lynn Hatten 22 June 1970 in Aurora, Arapahoe County, CO. She was born 1 September 1949 in San Francisco, CA to Newton Hatten and Wilma Scott. They div August 1994.

Children of Byron Upchurch and Terri Hatten:

- (1) Brad Edward Upchurch, b 3 April 1971, Mount Pleasant Twp, Missouri.
- (2) Jeffrey Byron Upchurch, b 10 May 1973, Kansas City, Missouri; m Kara Anne Shauger 4 April 2002.
- (3) Kyle Christopher Upchurch, b 29 October 1976, Castro Valley, CA
- (4) Timothy John Upchurch, b 7 September 1984, Hayward, CA.
- (5) Cassia K. Upchurch, b 8 August 1986.

ii. Lynn Marie Upchurch was born 20 November 1945 in Hanford, CA. She married (1) Terry Finley in 1965 at Hanford and they later divorced. She married (2) Donnell Joseph Amo 2 November 1974 in Carmel, CA.

Child of Lynn Upchurch and Terry Finley:

- (1) Laura Jean Finley, b 1 January 1966, Castro Valley, CA. Laura was adopted in 1976 by her stepfather, Don Amo.

**7 Ernestine Reichel** was born 15 March 1916 in Des Moines, New Mexico. She married (1) Miles B. Fuller "Bud," 23 May 1936 in Hanford, California. She married (2) Frederick Earl Swanson in February 1952 in Fresno, California. Ernestine died 1 Jan 2006 in Fresno.

#### Children of Ernestine Reichel and Miles Fuller

i. Judith Ann Fuller, b 24 May 1939, Hanford, CA; d 17 March 1979, Fresno, CA.; m Ronald Villi 28 October 1960 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She died 17 March 1979 in Fresno.

Children of Judith Fuller and Ronald Villi:

- (1) Jeffrey Villi, b 31 July 1961, Taft, Kern Co., CA.
- (2) Mark Villi, b 10 October 1963, Taft, CA; m Natasha Tereshkova 10 July 1999 in Volgograd, Russia, born 7 June 1971, Volgograd.

ii. David Allen Fuller, born 26 May 1941, Hanford, CA; m Connie Camarena 29 May 1962 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was born 17 September 1943, Fresno, CA.

Children of David Fuller and Connie Camarena:

(1) David Todd Fuller, born 4 September 1962, Fresno, CA; m Nora Ramos 13 June 1992, Sanger, CA. She was born 13 May 1964 in Visalia, CA.

(2) Lisa Marie Fuller, born 10 December 1963, Fresno, CA; m Douglas Laurence 24 September 1988 in Sanger, CA. Divorced.

**8 Joseph J. Reichel “Joe”** was born 5 July 1920 in Selma, California. He married Virginia Ruth Spry 16 December 1945 in Sergeant Bluff, Woodbury Co. Iowa. Joe was a career Air Force officer, serving in World War II and Korea, and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1972. Virginia was born 17 November 1922 in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, daughter of Hugh Spry and Minnie Lee Jones. Joe became interested in genealogy after retirement and compiled three books of family history—(1) *Jonathan Potts—1714 – 1785*, (2) *A Reichel Family*, and (3) *Ancestors and Descendants of Hugh W. Spry and Minnie Lee Jones*.

#### **Children of Joe Reichel and Virginia Spry**

i. Philip Lee Reichel, Ph.D.; born 8 October 1946, Bakersfield, CA; m(1) Paula Jean Hauschild 7 June 1969 in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Divorced in 1980; m(2) Eva Maria Jewell 15 December 1983, Augusta, Georgia. Philip is a tenured Full Professor of Sociology, and head of the department of Criminal Justice Studies at a Colorado university. He is the author of two textbooks: *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: A Topical Approach*, and, *Corrections: Philosophies Practices and Procedures*.

Children of Philip Reichel and Paula Hauschild:

- (1) Scott Andrew Reichel, b 13 September 1970, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- (2) Matthew Jason Reichel, b 12 June 1974, Augusta, Georgia.

ii. David Alan Reichel, Ph.D.; born 25 October 1951, Camp Stoneman Army Hospital, Pittsburg, California. He married Patti Kay Burger 17 April 1976 in Augusta, Georgia and they divorced in 2001. His doctorate is in Industrial Psychology, specializing in Compensation and Organizational Development. He is employed in industry and teaches classes concerning Compensation Programs at University level. There are no children.

**9 Phyllis Eleanor Reichel** was born 27 April 1923 in Hanford, California. She married James Ira Mercier 10 August 1955 in Santa Anna, California. Jim was born 13 October 1925 in Santa Ana and died 18 March 1991 in Bakersfield, California. Both served with the US Navy in World War II. Phyllis died 19 Mar 2007 in Bakersfield.

#### **Child of Phyllis Reichel and James Mercier**

i. Kimberly Ann Mercier, b 23 January 1959 in Ventura, CA; m Michael Hugh Mason 29 September 1984 in Carmel, California.

Children of Kimberly Mercier and Michael Mason:

- (1) Breanne Michael Mason, b 8 May 1988, Bakersfield, CA.
- (2) Jill Christine Mason, b 16 December 1991, Bakersfield, CA.

**10 Beverly Myrle Reichel** was born 23 October 1926 in Hanford, California. She married Harold Bernard Leydenfrost 6 August 1945 in Fresno, California. “Frosty,” born 16 December 1923 in Budapest, Hungary, was a pilot in World War II. He died August 2003 in San Diego, CA.

#### **Children of Beverly Reichel and Harold Leydenfrost**

i. Greg Elliot Leydenfrost, b 13 October 1946 in Hanford, CA.

ii. Christine Diane Leydenfrost, b 8 March 1948 in Bakersfield, CA. Her marriage to John Paul ended in divorce.

Child of Christine Leydenfrost and John Paul:

(1) Tracy Andrea Paul, b 25 September 1969, Santa Monica, CA.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### Mary Marthena (Potts) Wolfe of Tennessee

**Mary Marthena Potts** was born in Bradley County, Tennessee 28 October 1850, daughter of Arch and Nancy Potts (See Chapter Twelve). She died 18 March 1929 at Ooltewah, Hamilton County, Tennessee. On 26 December 1867 she married John Wolfe, who was born 25 May 1842 in James County, Tennessee to David and Hulda (Epperson) Wolfe. He was ninety-seven at the time of his death on 1 October 1939 at Ooltewah. Both are buried in Ooltewah Cemetery. John served as a Union soldier during the Civil War.

#### Children of John and Mary Marthena (Potts) Wolfe

- i. William Duard Wolfe, b 20 January 1869, Bradley County, Tennessee; d 13 January 1902; m Amanda North. Children:
  - (1) Irene Wolfe; m \_\_\_ Morris.
  - (2) Grace Wolfe; m John Breen, dau Lucille.
  - (3) Amos Wolfe.
- ii. George Madison Wolfe, b 20 July 1871, Bradley County; d 6 July 1962.
- iii. Alice Caroline Wolfe, b 7 July 1874, Bradley County; d 21 January 1966; m James Bradley. Children:
  - (1) Lester M. Bradley, d 1977.
  - (2) Bertie Bradley, m Douglas Whitten.
- iv. Archibald Oscar Wolfe, b 6 February 1877, Bradley County; d 6 March 1932; m Clara Mason. Children:
  - (1) Ernest Wolfe; m Thelma Newton; dau Tina.
  - (2) Milburn Wolfe.
  - (3) Icie Lee Wolfe; m \_\_\_ Norton.
  - (4) Mary Ellen Wolfe; m Thomas R. Heffner.
- v. Emma Rebecca Wolfe, b 20 July 1880, Bradley County, TN; d 18 April 1966; m Ed Rice; no chn.
- 2 vi. Nena Olivia Wolfe, b 15 September 1882.
- vii. Lavinia Mae "Vena" Wolfe, b 27 March 1884, Bradley County; d May 1973; m William Franklin Barnes. Children:
  - (1) William Franklin Barnes, Jr.; m Helen Trinton.
  - (2) Mary Barnes.
  - (3) Lee Barnes; m Kenneth Rogers.
- viii. Lee Belle Wolfe, b 18 December 1887, Bradley County; d August 1976, Baltimore, MD; m Alexander K. Galloway. No children.
- ix. Icie Aronia Wolfe, b 18 January 1890, Bradley County; d 23 April 1941.



**The family of John and Mary (Potts) Wolfe**

Back Row: George, Alice, Archibald, Emma

Middle Row: William, Icie, Father John, Nena, Mother Mary

Front Row: Lavinia, Lee Belle

2      **Nena Olivia Wolfe** was born 15 September 1882 in Bradley County, Tennessee, and married John Taylor McCollister 21 January 1904 in Bradley County. John was born 16 June 1875 at Defiance, Van Wart County, Ohio to David and Rebecca (Briggs) McCollister and died 26 March 1952. Nena died 9 December 1966 in Chattanooga, Tennessee and was buried near her husband in Forrest Hills Cemetery.

**Children of John and Nena (Wolfe) McCollister**

- 3      i.      Edna Helen McCollister, b 8 October 1904.  
       ii.      Robert T. McCollister, b 13 February 1906; d 7 March 1975.  
       iii.     Nena Mae McCollister, b 2 January 1914; d 11 November 1938.
- 4      iv.     John David McCollister, b 10 October 1915.

**3 Edna Helen McCollister** was born at Ooltewah, Hamilton County, Tennessee on 8 October 1904. She married Charles Turner Howland at Chattanooga, TN on 23 January 1925. Turner was born at Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama on 19 July 1899 to Lorenzo Dow and Mary Isabel (McWilliams) Howland. Edna died 2 September 1988 in Chattanooga.

**Child of Turner and Edna (McCollister) Howland**

5 i. Robert C. Howland, b 15 September 193.

**4 John David McCollister** was born 10 October 1915 at Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. He was in World War II and saw service in New Guinea and the Philippines. John retired from the Army in May 1965 as Lieutenant Colonel. He married (1) Eileen Kay who was born 23 September 1928 to Dewey L. and Hattie Virginia (Van Meter) Kay. He married (2) Eileen McCarty on 1 August 1959. Eileen was born 14 November 1921 to Leland H. and Rachel (Hollis) McCarty in Chattanooga.

**Children of John and Eileen (Kay) McCollister**

i. Nena Kay McCollister, b 1 November 1947, Baltimore, MD; m(1) Shipp C. Davis, divorced. m(2) Tom Riley in Chattanooga Children:

- (1) Damon Davis
- (2) David Riley

ii. Virginia Geraldine McCollister, b 14 May 1949 at Clarksburg, West Virginia; m Jerry Andrews in Atlanta, GA. Children:

- (1) Winfield Cole Andrews.
- (2) Vanessa Marie Andrews.

**5 Robert Charles Howland** was born 15 September 1931 in Chattanooga, Tennessee and married Rosetta June Jarnagin on 5 December 1953 in Chattanooga. She was born 13 June 1935 to Rufus and Pansy (Wann) Jarnagin of Chattanooga. Robert was a career Army non-commissioned officer, serving in Korea, Germany and Viet Nam as a Helicopter Crew Chief. He retired as a Master Sergeant on 1 February 1971.

**Children of Robert and Rosetta (Jarnagin) Howland**

i. Pamela June Howland, b 18 January 1955, Chattanooga; m Walter Howell 18 January 1977 in Kingsland, GA; div.

- ii. Robert Turner Howland, b 10 January 1958, Fort Campbell, KY.
- iii. David Wayne Howland, b 28 March 1959, Fort Campbell.
- iv. Katherine Anne Howland, b 16 October 1960, Chattanooga.



## CHAPTER SIXTEEN<sup>22</sup>

### Nancy Matilda (Potts) Kelley of Tennessee

**Nancy Matilda Potts** was born 28 November 1853 in Bradley County, Tennessee to Arch and Nancy Caroline (Williams) Potts (see Chapter Twelve). She and Hiram Douglas Kelley were married 1 November 1877 in Bradley County. Hiram was born 1 January 1854 in Bradley Co to Elijah and Julia (McSpadden) Kelley and died of a heart attack on 30 May 1928 in Walker County, Georgia. Nancy passed away 31 March 1931 in Walker County. They are



buried in the Chattanooga Valley Cemetery in Flintstone, Georgia.

Nancy Huggins, who contributed this portion concerning her grandparents, has this to say of her grandmother: "If the rest of the Potts family are just half as nice as my grandmother, they are wonderful...she loved staying with us...she was the best cook and I can still remember the delicious food.... One morning at our house, March 31, 1931, grandmother just got out of bed, started to get dressed and just fell and was gone.... Her mind was just as good as a young person's." Nancy and Hiram were good Christians and belonged to the Pine Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Hiram was a skilled carpenter, constructing several fine homes and helping to build the Officers' Quarters at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

#### Hiram and Nancy Kelley

An interesting sidelight on family relations is found in court records of Bradley County, in which Hiram Kelley brought suit against his father-in-law, Arch R. Potts. Extracts of that litigation are contained in Appendix K.

#### Children of Hiram and Nancy (Potts) Kelley

- 2 i. Minnie Elizabeth Kelley, b 17 August 1878.
- 3 ii. Carolyn Franklin Kelley, b 14 February 1880.
- 4 iii. Louise Evelyn Kelley, b 4 March 1882.
- 5 iv. Edgar Elijah Kelley, b 27 January 1884.

<sup>22</sup> Contributed by: Margaret Kelley Simmons, Nancy Johnson Huggins, Aileen Pittman Oliver, Patricia Langwell Weaver, and Pamela Catlett Mullinax.

- v. William Lee Kelley, b 8 January 1886; d 28 August 1886.
- 6 vi. Jesse James Kelley, b 8 July 1887.
- 7 vii. Ora Rebecca Kelley, b 28 August 1889.
- 8 viii. Esca Hiram Kelley, b 8 April 1892.
- ix. Nancy M. Kelley, b 25 March 1895; d 25 June 1896.
- x. Archibald Thomas Kelley, b 29 June 1897; d 18 October 1899.

**2 Minnie Elizabeth Kelley** was born 17 August 1878 in Bradley County, Tennessee and died 14 January 1960 in Walker County, Georgia. She married John Griffis McAllister who was born 20 June 1878 in McMinn County, Tennessee to James and Fannie (Tallant) McAllister. He passed away 17 May 1942 in Walker County.

#### Children of John and Minnie (Kelley) McAllister

- 9 i. Fannie Irene McAllister, b 27 July 1902.
- ii. James D. McAllister, b 11 December 1903; d 6 December 1904.
- iii. Nannie Marie McAllister, b 28 November 1906; d 15 March 1908.
- iv. Ora Lee McAllister, b 11 March 1908; m Houston R. Ellis; ch: (1) Elizabeth.
- v. Lyla Bell McAllister, b 25 August 1910; m Jessie Wallace; chn:
  - (1) June Wallace.
  - (2) Wanda Wallace.
- vi. Edgar C. McAllister, b 19 February 1913; d 16 Jan 1964; m Beatrice Bowman; chn:
  - (1) Bobby McAllister.
  - (2) Fred McAllister.
  - (3) Linda McAllister.
- vii. Jesse James McAllister, b 24 October 1915; m Mardell Glenn; chn:
  - (1) Mary M. McAllister.
  - (2) Jessie Lee McAllister.
- viii. Lester Thomas McAllister, b 17 October 1918; m Rena Mae Farris, b 10 December 1920. Served with US Army in World War II. chn:
  - (1) Tom McAllister, b 12 March 1948; m Sharon Davidson.
  - (2) Rickey McAllister, b 15 July 1958.
  - (3) Judy M. Wren.
- ix. John Franklin McAllister, b 15 May 1922, Walker Co., GA; m(1) Nora Mae Shankle 30 Jan 1942, b 30 Jan 1925 in Chickamauga, GA to Jesse Edgar Shankle and Ethel Bowman, and she d 4 Apr 1974; m(2) E. Burnell Conkle Chapman, b 15 Jul 1934 to Mack Conrelius Conkle and Thelma Inez McClung. chn:
  - (1) Joan Francis McAllister, b 25 Apr 1943, Chickamauga, GA; m(1) A. George Byrd, Jr. on 27 Jan 1962; m(2) Larry Fults on 11 Aug 1981. chn: twins Ricky Baron Byrd and Nicky Aaron Byrd, b 19 Dec 1970.
  - (2) Marcia Louise McAllister, b 21 Sep 1946, Chickamauga, GA; m James Robert Nation 23 Nov 1968. chn: (a. Tira Chapree Nation, b 9 Jul 1969; (b. Frankie Woodrow Nation, b 19 Dec 1970.

**3 Carolyn Franklin Kelley** was born 14 February 1880 in Bradley County, Tennessee and married James Jackson Johnson, son of James and Mary Elizabeth (Varnell) Johnson, on 11 October 1908 in Cleveland, Tennessee. This was a double wedding with her sister Ora. James

died 9 July 1936 in Walker County, Georgia and Carolyn died 31 October 1970. They were members of the Charleston, Tennessee Cumberland Presbyterian Church. James at one time directed a church choir. Carolyn's daughter, Nancy, writes: "When mother was a very young girl she worked at sewing to make money to buy an organ. She never had a lesson in her life, but learned to play by note and played the organ in church for years....Mother wanted me to have her organ...it is beautiful and we have it in our living room."

#### **Children of James and Carolyn (Kelley) Johnson**

- i. Jessie Blaine Johnson, b 17 August 1909; d 14 January 1911.
- 10 ii. Willie Matilda Johnson, b 7 December 1910; d 28 November 1965.
- 11 iii. James Douglas Johnson, b 22 July 1912.
- 12 iv. Mary Lee Johnson, b 9 November 1914.
- 13 v. Nancy Pearl Johnson, b 17 July 1918.

**4 Louise Evelyn Kelley** was born 4 March 1882 in Bradley County, Tennessee and died 20 August 1940 in Walker County, Georgia. She married Thomas Walter Long, who was born 10 October 1876 to John A. and Mary (Newton) Long, and died in October 1923.

#### **Children of Thomas and Louise (Kelley) Long**

- i. Charles Clyde Long, b 26 February 1902; m Jewell Hartline who was born 20 November 1902 ch:
  - (1) Saralyn Sue Long, b 16 August 1932; m Jesse M. Sellers. Denver, CO.
- ii. Ernest Leroy Long, b 23 Nov 1903, Chattanooga Valley, GA; m Amelia Ransom 18 Apr 1929; d 25 June 1963; bur Forest Hill Cemetery, Chattanooga, TN. ch:
  - (1) Jaucille Rae Long; b 27 Mar 1930; m Darrell Reid 18 Dec 1949. chn: (a Clark L. Reid, b 27 Oct 1950, Knoxville, TN; (b Amelia Rae Reid, 16 Jan 1952, Knoxville; m Robert Pearson.
- iii. Elizabeth "Lizza" Mae Long, b 21 September 1903, Chattanooga Valley, GA; m 10 Sep 1924 to Fred Douglas Moore, b 7 March 1902. ch:
  - (1) Fred D. Moore, Jr., b September 1925; m 21 Jun 1947 Virginia June Henry. chn: (a. Melanie Anne Moore, b 17 Jun 1949, m Tephpen L. Tolleson; (b Rebecca Chance Moore, b 17 June 1949, m Carl Don Mancha; (c Stephanie Michelle Moore, b 4 Sep 1953, m Richard J. Theoret; (d Amy Elizabeth Moore, b 17 Apr 1955, m John L. Keith; (e Julie Beth; Moore, b 4 Apr 1958, m Robert Mark Davison.
- iv. Lloyd Griffin Long, b 24 Jan 1907, d 2 Jun 1980.
- v. Walter Floyd Long, b 2 Jan 1907, d 26 Nov 1907.
- vi. Mary Louise Long, b 10 Jan 1908, Chattanooga Valley, GA; d 9 September 1974; m 29 Jun 1925 George Russell Painter, b 1904; d 15 September 1969; chn:
  - (1) Betty Louise Painter, b 14 March 1926; m 28 Mar 1956 Alex Corliss, b 14 April 1910.
  - (2) William Russell Painter, b 18 May 1927; m Mae Padgett, b 25 May 1931. chn: (a. William Alan Painter, b 29 Aug 1960, m Tina E. Parham; (b. Gail Dean Painter, b 11 Feb 1963.
  - (3) Charles Leroy Painter, b 9 March 1930; m Shirley\_\_\_\_. chn: (a Russell Leroy Painter, b 3 Oct 1957; (b. Cindy Louise Painter, b 22 Apr 1960.

- vii. Wilma Long, b 15 Jan 1912, Chattanooga Valley, GA; 4 Aug 1929 m Jesse L. Miller.
- viii. Helen Long, b 7 Feb 1914, d 8 Jun 1914.
- ix. Virginia Earlene Long, b 17 Apr 1917, Chattanooga Valley, GA; m 1 Sep 1937 Edwin Hayes; d 17 Jul 1984. Ch: (1) Sharon Yvonne Hayes, b 3 Jul 1971; m Larry Glenn Hartley. chn: (a. Sharon Louise Hartley, b 22 Oct 1973; (b. Shannon Lynn Hartley, b 28 Jan 1977.
- x. Paul Long, b 2 Dec 1921; d 8 Dec 1921.
- xi. Pauline Long, b 2 Dec 1921; d 9 Dec 1921.

**5 Edgar Elijah Kelley** was born 27 January 1884 in Bradley County, Tennessee and died 22 February 1929 in Walker County, Georgia. He married Fay Iown Newby who was born 10 August 1892 in Walker County, Georgia to David Henry and Olive (Long) Newby. Edgar and Fay both bur in Chattanooga Valley Cemetery.

#### **Children of Edgar and Fay (Newby) Kelley**

- i. Bonnie Lee Kelley, b 25 January 1916, m 4 Jul 1943; Charles Edward Pierce, b 7 October 1917.
- ii. Lydia Louise Kelley, b 10 January 1918; m 9 Oct 1947 James W. Looney, b 11 August 1920. chn:
  - (1) James Edgar Looney, b 1 June 1949; m Claire Terry Lane.
  - (2) Ronald Howard Looney, b 8 May 1950; m Elizabeth Nan Hobson.
  - (3) Shelia Annette Looney, b 6 August 1951; m David Eugene Cooper.
- iii. Eugene Douglas Kelley, b 28 June 1920; d 22 March 1945 in World War II.
- iv. Tom Franklin Kelley, b 19 October 1923, with the US Army in World War II; m 14 Aug 1953 Katherine Zeigler, b 27 June 1924; chn:
  - (1) Franklin Eugene Kelley, b 16 March 1955; m Deborah Ruth Farmer. ch: Brently Garret Kelly, 11 Mar 1984.
  - (2) Harriet Fay Kelley, b 9 August 1958.
- v. Betty Jewell Kelley, b 1 February 1926; m William O. Ransom, b 2 October 1925.
- vi. David Henry Kelley, b 7 December 1928; d 6 Nov 1976; m(1) Zona Chambers, m(2) Barbara Hudson Blacko 26 Apr 1969. chn:
  - (1) Tracy Lee Kelley, b 17 May 1958.
  - (2) Sandra Darlene Kelley; b 9 Jul 1959; m Darrell Wings 30 Jun 1978.

**6 Jesse James Kelley** was born 8 July 1887 in Bradley County, Tennessee and married Hester America Long 1 June 1913. Hester was born 28 August 1894 to Joseph and Margaret (Hardin) Long. Both died in an automobile accident at Happy Valley Drive, Walker County—Hester on 26 June 1970 and Jesse on 28 June 1970. The following story is related by Aileen Oliver about her uncle Jesse: “He...was choir director at Chattanooga Valley Baptist Church for many years, but could never lead in prayer. When I asked him why, he told me that his dad had once been called upon to pray in church and he finished his prayer, but could not think of the proper words to end it, so he continued to pray and pray. Finally he just said ‘let’s quit.’ Uncle Jesse said he was afraid the same thing would happen to him.”

#### **Children of Jesse and Hester (Long) Kelley**

i. Reva Drucilla Kelley, b 10 April 1915, Chattanooga Valley; m Jack Dibrell Pope 6 June 1937. He was born 5 Nov 1914 in Bledsoe Co., TN and d 28 Nov 1980 in TN: chn:

(1) James William Pope, b 14 August 1938; d 16 Aug 1938.

(2) Jacqueline Sue Pope, b 10 August 1939; m(1) Joe W. Lindsey 17 Mar 1960. He was b 17 Jun 1938, Lenox, GA to Joe and Loyes (Carter) Lindsey; m(2) Thomas J. Windsperger 29 Dec 1988 in Las Vegas, NV. chn: (a. Cynthia Dawn Lindsey, b 25 Oct 1960; m(1) Brian Wahl; m(2) Steve Nieman 18 Sep 1998, ch: Emma L. Nieman. (b. Sandra Lee Lindsey, b 11 Oct 1962, Sacramento, CA; m James Ross 5 Apr 2000, ch: Claire L. Ross, b 7 Aug 2001, Sacramento.

(3) Edward Darrell Pope, b 20 June 1942, Chattanooga Valley, GA; m Rebecca Rose Eddington 3 Feb 1967, East Ridge, TN; she was b 26 May 1946 to Marion and Hazel (Kilgo) Eddington. chn: (a. Rebecca Pope, b 15 Mar 1968, m Tommy Maynard; (b. James Kelley Pope, 7 Oct 1970.

ii. Nancy Margaret Kelley, b 18 August 1916, Walker Co., GA; m(1) Robert Fitzgerald 7 Apr 1938, Walker Co.; he was b 18 Sep 1916; m(2) Martin Luther Simmons 18 Apr 1970 who was b 22 Feb 1925 in LaFayette, GA to Ernest and Rachael (Jones) Simmons. Margaret died 27 Sep 2002 at her home in Chattanooga Valley, GA and is buried in Chattanooga Valley Baptist Cemetery. chn:

(1) Joe Douglas Fitzgerald, b 14 Nov 1938, Chickamauga, GA; m(1) Marie Swafford in 1972, b 20 May 1948 to George and Nancy (Howard) Swafford; m(2) Ann Marie Talley 1 Jul 1979, b 8 Oct 1950; ch: (a. Sean Douglas Fitzgerald, b 20 Feb 1973, m Harmony Fowler; Ch: Garren C. Fitzgerald, b 20 Jul 2002.

iii. James Randall Kelley, b 1 July 1918, Chattanooga Valley, GA; m(1) Evelyn Virginia Roberson 6 Jul 1948, Walker Co., GA. She was b 2 Jan 1930 in Gadsden, AL and d 19 Oct 1972. He m(2) Edna "Eddie" Mae Heger 10 Oct 1975 and she was b 4 Oct 1922 in Cleveland, OH. Served with US Army in World War II in North Africa, Sicily and France. chn:

(1) Cheryl Diane Kelley, b 5 Apr 1949; m Larry Massingil; chn: (a. Tammy Coleen Massingil and (b. Laura Rene Massingil, m Stephen Walden, ch: Christian Walden.

(2) Joyce Elaine Kelley, b 14 Apr 1951; m Kingsley C. Blake 1983; chn: (a. Travis A. Blake, (b. Adam C. Blake.

(3) Rhonda Jeanne Kelley, b 29 Jul 1954; m Michael Sherman 1992; ch: James B Sherman.

iv. Audrey Kelley, b 22 February 1922, Walker Co, GA; d 6 Oct 1997 Chattanooga, TN; m William Byrd Catlett 5 Apr 1942 in GA. He was b 27 Oct 1916, Chattanooga, TN. chn:

(1) Gary Landon Catlett, b 16 Sep 1943, Chattanooga, TN; m(1) Patricia Brewer 1964; m(2) Robyn Anderson 1982; ch: Gary Landon Catlett, Jr. b 30 Oct 1964.

(2) Pamela Kaye Catlett, b 8 Sep 1945, Chattanooga, TN; m(1) Lofton D. Spencer 27 Dec 1966; m(2) John William Mullinax 8 Sep 1972 in Marietta, Cobb Co, GA, son of Elmer and Jurel (Mullins) Mullinax.

v. Forrest Edward Kelley, b 1 June 1923, Chattanooga Valley, GA; d. 3 Mar 2002 there; m Bernice Lee Gregory 2 July 1948, dau of John and Mary (Majors) Gregory. She was born 12 Dec 1924 in Fyffe, AL. Forrest served in US Army in World War II, with 16th Armored Division, and in Germany and Czechoslovakia. chn:

(1) Wawana Lee Kelley, b 7 Dec 1955, Ft. Oglethorpe, GA.; m Steven R. Perry 28 May 1981; ch: Justin Lee Perry, b 14 Sep 1984.

(2) Myra Willena Kelley, b 13 Jan 1960; m David L. Hakes 22 May 1982, Walker Co., GA.; ch: Christopher David Hakes, b 28 May 1990.

vi. Jessie Louise Kelley, b 1 June 1931 Chattanooga Valley, GA; m William F. Hipp 20 Aug 1948 at Chattanooga Valley, GA. He was b 16 Jan 1928 to Walter and Eva (Johnson) Hipp. chn:

(1) Michael Cameron Hipp, b 24 Apr 1949, Chattanooga, TN; m Marilyn Jenkins 6 Mar 1999 in Chattanooga.

(2) James Patrick Hipp, b 7 Sep 1954, Chattanooga, TN; m Cynthia Lynn Braden 17 Feb 1984; chn: (a. Justin Colby Hipp, b 19 Feb 1986; (b. Lindsey Marie Hipp, b 26 Jul 1988.

**7 Ora Rebecca Kelley** was born 28 August at Bradley County, Tennessee and was married 11 October 1908 at Cleveland, Tennessee to James Alexander Heffner in a double ceremony with her sister Carolyn. James died on Christmas Day 1952.

#### **Children of James and Ora Rebecca (Kelley) Heffner**

i. Edna Louise Heffner, b 1 November 1909; d 5 January 1911.

ii. Thelma Easter Heffner, b 17 April 1911; m(1) 17 August 1930 to Grady Thomas Lamb, b 13 August 1906 – d 18 June 1935; m(2) Cecil Wert Parrish 17 March 1940. He was born 13 July 1909 and d 28 August 1978; chn:

(1) Wayne Lebron Lamb, b 21 March 1934; m 15 March 1954 to Delphia Joyce Hales, b 7 June 1937.

(2) Beverly Ann Parrish, b 12 March 1942; m Paul David Hallman 12 December 1959.

(3) Sharon Louise Parrish, b 3 July 1944; m Aaron Luther Dean 14 September 1963.

iii. James Hiram Heffner, b 28 May 1914; m 27 March 1937 to Margaret Hunter. Served with US Navy in World War II.

iv. William Kelley Heffner, b 24 March 1916; m Betty Dempsey. WW II veteran.

v. John Austin Heffner, b 27 November 1919; m Alice Stevens, b 3 February 1918 and d 7 May 1971, John was with the US Army in World War II.

vi. Vernon Keith Heffner, b 23 August 1923; m 13 April 1946 to Marguerette Schmitt, b 16 March 1927. World War II veteran.

**8 Esca Hiram Kelley** was born 8 April 1892 at Apison, Hamilton County, Tennessee and died 21 July 1968. He married Dovie Exa Harp on 8 December 1912 in Chattanooga. Dovie was born 6 January at Chickamauga, Georgia to James H. and Malissa (Wall) Harp. Esca was once a member of the Georgia State Representatives and served on the Georgia State Board of Corrections before retirement.

#### **Children of Esca and Dovie (Harp) Kelley**

14. i. Evelyn Kelley, b 21 November 1913.

ii. Julius Theodore Kelley, b 24 November 1915 at Walker County Georgia.

iii. Jean Taft Kelley, b 18 December 1919 in Walker County, Georgia; m(1) 31 March 1941 to Helen Opal Higdon, b 21 May 1924 in Tulsa, Oklahoma; m(2) 11 December 1957 to Sue Stanfield Owens. Served with US Navy in World War II. chn:

- (1) Barbara Jean Kelley, b 28 July 1943 Chickamauga, Georgia; m 17 March 1962 to Robert Henderson Smith, Jr., b 11 July 1944.
- (2) William Higdon Kelley, b 11 December 1945 Chickamauga, Georgia; m 1 November 1968 to Rosa Beall Edwards, b 13 August 1938.
- (3) Jean Taft Kelley "Timmy," b 29 July 1958.

**9 Fannie Irene McAllister** was born 27 July 1902 and married Lester Herman Pitman 12 August 1918 at the home of Jesse Kelley. Lester was b August 1898.

#### **Children of Lester and Fannie (McAllister) Pitman**

- 15
- i. Aileen Pitman, b 13 December 1920.
  - ii. Lester H. Pitman, Jr., b 11 September 1926 at Chenchat, Georgia; m Otsie (Shannon) Burrell 2 April 1942 at Ringgold, Georgia. chn:
    - (1) Ben Pitman, b 4 October 1954, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; m Cheryl Freeman 15 February 1975.
    - (2) Joe Pitman, b 26 March 1956, Fort Oglethorpe.
    - (3) Robert Burrell, b 12 November 1938.
    - (4) William Burrell, b 28 July 1940.

**10 Willie Matilda Johnson** was born 7 December 1910 in Belfont, Tennessee and died in an automobile accident 26 November 1965. She married John Thomas Hughes on 12 Jul 1930. He was born 22 August 1909.

#### **Children of John and Willie (Johnson) Hughes**

- i. Helen Dolores Hughes, b 22 June 1931; m John D. McFadden 21 May 1955.
- ii. Phyllis Carolyn Hughes, b 24 November 1932; m Robert Hughes McDonald 1 January 1954; d 1 August 1973 of pneumonia.
- iii. John Thomas Hughes, b 14 October 1943; m Marie Justis, b 1 January 1942; Ch:
  - (1) John Thomas Hughes III, b 4 September 1965.

**11 James Douglas Johnson** was born 22 July 1912 in Belfont, Tennessee and died of a heart attack in his sleep on 29 July 1953 in Walker County, Georgia. He married Clara Elizabeth Hollis 2 September 1939. Clara was born 19 July 1923 in Chattanooga to A. Clyde and Curley Ann (Adams) Hollis. Clara writes this about her husband: "J.D. Johnson was a big man—well over six feet—and weighing over two hundred pounds....Due to his size and strength he was nicknamed Tarzan, Dynamite, etc, by his friends. While with the Signal Corps during World War II he was called 'Big Jim' and he saw action in New Guinea, Luzon and Japan. His size was a factor in his being chosen as one of the men to go to Japan...the press released this notice: *Sgt James D. Johnson was one of the first American soldiers to enter Japan landing at Atsugi Airdrome near Tokyo before the surrender was signed. Sgt Johnson, a member of the 304th Signal Operations Battalion flew from Leyte, PI to Okinawa with a small group from Lieutenant General Eichelberger's 8th Army Headquarters and landed in Japan where surrender negotiations were completed.*"

#### **Children of James and Clara (Hollis) Johnson**

- i. Carolyn Ann Johnson, 2 August 1940; d 22 August 1967; m Lieutenant Colonel

William E. DeWitt, USAF. chn:

- (1) William Eric DeWitt, b 23 December 1962.
- (2) Darren Jay DeWitt, b 16 August 1964.
- ii. Judith Lynn Johnson, b 20 April 1947; m Robert Gary Warnack, b 9 July 1942; ch:
  - (1) Robert Jacob Warnack, b 11 March 1977.
- iii. James Douglas Johnson, Jr., b 16 January 1950; m Deborah Ruth Derryberry, b 9 Aug 1957; chn:
  - (1) James Douglas Johnson III, b 4 May 1974.
  - (2) Jeremiah Heath Johnson, b 21 March 1977.

**12 Mary Lee Johnson** was born 9 November 1914 in Belfont, Tennessee and married Norman Judson Veazey 11 October 1935. Norman was born 20 December 1912 in Walker County, Georgia to Edward and Lutish (Walden) Veazey, and died 3 July 1975 in Center, Alabama.

**Children of Norman and Mary Lee (Johnson) Veazey**

- i. Norman Douglas Veazey, b 3 January 1937; m Mary Thompson, b 18 March 1936. chn:
  - (1) Michael Douglas Veazey, b 12 September 1960.
  - (2) Marcus Dexter Veazey, b 1 May 1963.
  - (3) Matthew David Veazey, b 5 July 1967.
  - (4) Kristen Kelley Veazey, b 10 February 1971.
- ii. Terracita Lee Veazey, b 14 August 1948; m Charles M. Ellis, b 8 July 1948; ch:
  - (1) Steven Ellis, b 23 March 1967.

**13 Nancy Pearl Johnson** was born 17 July 1918 in Tasso, Tennessee. On 1 March 1941 she married (1) William Keith Holmes, Jr., born 8 November 1916. He died Christmas Day 1944 when a ship he was on sank in the English Channel. On 10 April 1952 she married Jesse Wilbur Huggins who was born 13 November 1910 at Walker County, Georgia to Cisero J. and Eva (Strickland) Huggins of LaFayette, Georgia. Wilbur died 12 May 1988 and Nancy died 28 September 2000.

**Children of Jesse Wilbur and Nancy (Johnson) Huggins**

- i. Phoebe Gay Huggins, b 6 May 1953 in Chattanooga, Tennessee; married John Blair Neblett of Chickamauga, Georgia on 28 July 1978. ch:
  - (1) Jonathan Heath Neblett, b 8 October 1980.
- ii. Carol Diane Huggins, b 26 February 1956 in Chattanooga; m Paul Leonard Daniel 7 August 1976, son of Elmer J. and Edna Earl (Miller) Daniel.
- iii. Lyndon Wilbur Huggins, b 29 June 1958 at Chattanooga; served in US Army.

**14 Aimee Evelyn Kelley** was born 21 November 1913 in Walker County, Georgia and married (1) William Bascom Wilson on 20 February 1937. He was born 19 April 1913 at Calhoun, Gordon County, Georgia and died 10 May 1967. On 2 June 1974 Aimee married (2) James Oliver Bailey who was born 25 October 1910 at Villanow, Georgia.



**Children of William and Aimee (Kelley) Wilson**

- i. Jerry Bascom Wilson, b 6 March 1938, Walker County, Georgia; m 21 April 1956 to Delores Ann Parker who was born 22 March 1938 chn:
  - (1) Delores Roxanne Wilson, b 7 July 1957, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; m Wayne Avery 30 December 1974.
  - (2) Jerry Bascom Wilson, Jr., b 13 December 1962, Fort Oglethorpe.
  - (3) Erica Ann Wilson, b 21 April 1973, Fort Oglethorpe.
- ii. Sandra Sue Wilson, b 8 February 1945 at Chickamauga, Georgia; m 16 December 1963 to John Clifford Little, b 13 September 1942; chn:
  - (1) Rhonda Kaye Little, b 29 April 1965, Jacksonville, Florida.
  - (2) Gina Renee Little, b 27 May 1968, Honolulu, Hawaii.
  - (3) Christa Gaye Little, b 17 April 1969, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
  - (4) Angela Faye Little, b 14 August 1973, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- iii. Roger Dale Wilson, b 15 January 1953 at Chattanooga; m 8 July 1974 to Vivian Craze Carroll, b 31 March 1949; ch: (1) Kenya Kelley Wilson, b 20 February 1975, Chattanooga.

**15 Aileen Pitman** was born 13 December 1920 in Cenchat, Georgia and married (1) Grover Gordon Phillips on 2 April 1939. Grover was born 25 June 1918 and lost his life during World War II while serving aboard the Destroyer Escort Fredrick C. Davis. The ship was sunk on 24 April 1945 by a German U-Boat. Grover was buried at sea. Aileen married(2) Chester C. Oliver on 16 August 1948 at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Chester was born 16 June 1920 in Garretts Chapel, Georgia and served with the US Army Air Corps in World War II.

**Children of Grover and Aileen (Pitman) Phillips**

- i. Herman Floyd Phillips, b 8 April 1940; m Hairett Broome 3 June 1960 at Chattanooga, Tennessee; chn:
  - (1) JoAnna Phillips, b 16 August 1963 at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.
  - (2) Chuck Phillips, b 5 December 1966, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- ii. John Franklin Phillips, b 16 October 1942; m Joan McPhearson 3 May 1964 at High Point, Georgia. He served nine years with the U S Navy. chn:
  - (1) Chris Phillips, b 26 March 1966, Argentia, Newfoundland.
  - (2) Mark Phillips, b 21 April 1969, Memphis, Tennessee.
  - (3) Tim Phillips, b 4 August 1975, East Ridge, Tennessee.
- iii. Jimmy Gordon Phillips, b 2 July 1944, Chickamauga, Georgia; d 8 April 1964, Yuma, Arizona in a parachute jump. A "drop zone" at Yuma Proving Ground is named for him. Married Patricia Britton in August 1962; chn: (1) James Thurman Phillips, b 14 September 1963, adopted by step-father, Fred Pace.

**Children of Chester and Aileen (Pitman) Oliver**

- iv. Barbara Gail Oliver, b 24 April 1949, Chickamauga, Georgia; m LeBrom Autry 20 March 1967. ch: Monique Autry, b 6 January 1968, Germany.
- v. Donald F. Oliver, b 3 July 1964, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; m Julie Wolfe 4 August 1979 at Marietta, Georgia.

## APPENDIX A

Summary of Revolutionary War service for David, John and Jonathan Potts, sons of Jonas and Mary Potts of Loudoun County, Virginia.

From Company Pay and Muster Rolls:

Jonathan and David enlisted together in Captain William Smith's Company of the 11th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan. Records reflect two dates of enlistment: 5 December 1776 and 6 January 1777. (Records were maintained under trying conditions and were not always entirely accurate.) John enlisted in the same unit on the 5th, 7th, or 11th of March 1777. The period of enlistment was shown as either "3 years," or "the war." They all enlisted as privates at the starting monthly pay of £2 10s, which was later changed, in June 1777, to read 6 2/3 dollars. John was promoted to Corporal about November 1777 and was paid 7 1/3 dollars.

The first muster roll is dated June 1777 and there is no indication of where the unit was stationed until March 1778. Following is a month by month record of Roll entries pertaining to the three Potts soldiers:

**Jun 1777**—David and John are listed as deserters on 24 June 1777 and John is listed as "sick in Hosp." (*The term "deserter" appeared to be a general one for any person not immediately present or otherwise accounted for. It was very difficult to keep track of soldiers during wartime conditions.*)

**Sep 1777**—John is still in the hospital.

**Nov 1777**—They are with the late Captain William Smith's Company, commanded by Major Thomas Snead.

**Dec 1777**—The late Captain Smith's company now commanded by Captain Wm Blackwell. Jonathan is "sick in camp."

**Jan 1778**—Smith's company now commanded by Captain Charles Porterfield.

**Mar 1778**—They are at Valley Forge. David is "sick in camp" for March and April.

**May 1778**—John is "on Command." (*This is believed to be similar to what became known as 'Company punishment'—used for minor infractions, and included such things as kitchen duty, or restriction to the company area, etc.*)

**Jun 1778**—Company is finally redesignated Captain Charles Porterfield's Company, 11th Virginia Regiment, 2nd Battalion, General Woodford's Brigade, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Cropper.

(From May to Sep 1778 the 11th and 15th Virginia Regiments were incorporated and designated "Virginia 11th and 15th)."

**Jul 1778**—The men are at Camp White Plains.

**Aug to Sep 1778**—Captain Porterfield's Company. 11th Virginia Regiment now commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan. John is posted to guard duty.

**Oct to Nov 1778**—With Captain Porterfield's company at Camp Pompton.

**Dec 1778 to Apr 1779**—At Camp Middlebrook with Captain Porterfield. Jonathan is "sick in camp" for a while, David is posted to guard duty, and John is on furlough from Dec 1778 to Mar 1779.

**Mar 1779**—[Captain-Lieutenant] Philip Slaughter's Company, 7th Virginia Regiment, Gen. Woodford's Brigade, commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan, at Camp Smith's Clove.

**Jul 1779**—With the same unit at Camp Ramepough Clove. Jonathan and David are "on Command."

**Aug to Sep 1779**—With Captain Slaughter's Company.

**Oct 1779**—Same unit is at Camp Haverstraw.

\*\*\*LAST ENTRY\*\*\*

From Virginia State Archives—Revolutionary War Bounty Lands Warrants & Military Certificates.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discharge Date</b>	<b>Land Cert' No.</b>	<b>Pension Application No.</b>
David Potts	Dec 1779	2939	S 40275
Jonathan Potts	Dec 1779	2942	S 40288
John Potts	Jan 1780	2104	Not listed

David's three year service was certified by Colonel James Woods, 1st Virginia Regiment.

Jonathan's three year service was certified by Colonel Woods and Captain Isaiah Marks, 7th Virginia Regiment.

John's three year service was certified by Captain Abraham Kirkpatrick.

**APPENDIX B**

Extracts of research notes—most are taken from Botetourt County, Virginia  
Order and Minute Books, Deed Books and Will Books.  
1752 to 1800

1. 1752 John (Jonathan) Potts acquired 124 acres along Craig's Creek, a branch of the James River.
2. 1753 22 November: John purchased 124 acres on Craig's Creek from James Patton, (Augusta County Deed Book 5, p376)
3. 1754 December: John Potts Sr. acquired 150 acres on Stony Run on Craig's Creek and had it surveyed.
4. 1759 John Potts Sr., along with Peter Looney and Thomas Ramsey, appraised Robert Clark's estate (Augusta County Will Book 2).
5. 1763 7 April: Amos and John Potts Jr. bought 204 acres along Craig's Creek from David Looney for £25. (Augusta Co Deed Book 11, pp345-6; see appendix C) In December 1770 Amos also had 20 acres surveyed on Stony Run.
6. 1763 February (est): Sarah Potts, daughter of John and Naomi, marries William Rowland.
7. 1765 21 August: Amos Potts obtained a marriage license in Augusta County. Although no further information is given, it is presumed that he married Hannah\_\_\_\_on or near that date.
8. 1769 Botetourt County was formed from Augusta County, Virginia.
9. 1770 8 January: A son, John, was born to Amos and Hannah Potts. Another son, Nathan, was born later and it is known that there were other children, probably girls. (Bible record, Appendix G, and Amos' will.)
10. 1770 13 February: John Jr. appointed Constable for Craig's Creek precinct.
11. 1770 14 February: John appointed to survey road from top of Montgomery's Gap to McMuxley's Mill.
12. 1770 18 March: John is commissioned to appoint road workers.
13. 1770 9 May: John appointed to jury duty. He also served on jury duty twenty times, or more, between this date and 12 March 1779.
14. 1770 John Jr. served on jury at least once this year and on 14 March 1771 and 10 April 1771.
15. 1771 13 March: Amos, along with Absolum Looney, was commissioned to view the way for a road from Dennis Getty's on Sinking Creek to William Caldwell's Mill.
16. 1771 14 March: Amos is on jury duty—also on 10 April 1771.
17. 1771 9 April: Amos and Absolum Looney report on their "road viewing" and they are appointed surveyors of same—"who, with the tithables on the head of Sinking Creek and Stony Run, are to open and keep the same in repair Pack Horses."
18. 1771 24 June: David Potts bought 130 acres from Frederick Hartsough along Craig's Creek, adjoining John Potts. He sold it in 1778.
19. 1771 12 November: John is on grand jury—and again on 9 November 1773.
20. 1772 List of tithables for 1772 show John, John Sr., David and Nathan Potts taxed at Craig's Creek and Catawba.
21. 1772 12 September: David was sued for trespass and assault and battery by Jacob Jackson and his wife. Jury awarded damages of one penny.

22. 1772 4 October: Nathan Potts and Hannah Shaddon are married. Bond posted by John Potts, father, and James Snodgrass, guardian of Hannah (Appendix D 1).
23. 1773 John Potts Jr. is discharged as Constable.
24. 1773 10 August: Nathan Potts sold household goods and farm stock to his father.
25. 1773 13 August: John Potts was surety on Robert McClenachan's bond to obtain an "Ordinary" license.
26. 1773 13 November: Nathan was sued for a £4 debt by Edward Carvin.
27. 1774 During this year there are several instances of some of the Potts family suing, or being sued, with mixed results.
28. 1774 John Jr. was appointed guardian of Robert Shaddon. Surety was Wm Rowland.
29. 1775 John Potts Jr. collected bounty for killing "one old wolf."
30. 1776 Amos appointed appraiser of estate of William Harbison.
31. 1776 John Jr.'s term as Constable ends.
32. 1776 1 November: William Rowland, husband of Sarah (Potts), dies in Botetourt County. Three days before his death he made an oral will before James Rowland, John Potts Sr. and John Potts Jr. They recorded it on 11 March 1777.
33. 1777 8 April: Amos and John Potts, with Sarah Rowland, James Rowland and Thomas Rowland, are bonded as Administrators of the estate of William Rowland.
34. 1777 12 August: Amos was bonded as Administrator of the estate of Matthew Potts.
35. 1777 29 October: The estate of Nathan Potts, deceased, was inventoried.
36. 1778 1 March: John Sr. signed the marriage bond as father of Sarah (Potts) Rowland when she married Samuel Burks.
37. 1778 11 February: John appointed Constable "about the Courthouse"—also to view the way for a road from Wm Hawkins ford on Catawba to Israel Christian's Mill.
38. 1778 10 March: John Jr. was one of three appointed to view the way crossing the land of Israel Christian's Mill.
39. 1778 11 August: David Potts sold 130 acres on Craig's Creek to Charles Tooley.
40. 1778 12 August: John appointed as referee in dispute between Armstrong and Merchant.
41. 1779 February: Appraisal of Nathan Potts estate filed.
42. 1779 8 May: John Potts granted to Hugh Caldwell 124 acres on Craig's Creek.
43. 1779 10 September: John Potts Jr. and Rebecca, his wife, sold 102 acres along Craig's Creek to David Frame. This was the upper half of the 204 acres John and Amos bought in 1763. (see #5 above.)
44. 1780 26 June: Amos makes his will, leaving to his wife, Hannah, and sons, John and Nathan. (appendix D.).
45. 1780 August: Amos has died and his will is probated.
46. 1780 12 August: Ezekial Potts marries Eleanor Harbison. (Hinshaw—Virginia.)
47. 1781 7 December: John Jr. died prior to this date. Inventory and settlement of accounts (Appendix E).
48. 1782 Between 15 May and 13 September, John Jr.'s widow, Rebecca, dies. Her father, Joseph Snodgrass, wrote two wills. The first saying: "my daughter Rebecca Potts...my grandson Joseph Potts...Rebecca Potts four children by her husband John Potts..." The second saying: "daughter Rebecca Potts, now she is decest..."
49. 1783 14 August: Court appointed James Calvert as guardian of Rebecca, daughter of Nathan Potts. Nathan's wife Hannah had apparently died or remarried.

50. 1783 11 December: Joseph Snodgrass (John Jr's brother-in-law?) is appointed guardian to Joseph and Sarah Potts, "infant orphans of John Potts, decd." Also, Isaac Snodgrass was appointed guardian to "Sarah and Hannah Potts, orphans of John Potts." *Note: Sarah was named twice—one is probably a clerical error. John and Rebecca did have four children, per her father's will--#48 above.*
51. 1783 29 October: Jonathan Potts makes his will in Kentucky and is dead by 21 June 1785. (Copy of his will is on page 28.)
52. 1786 3 July: Hannah Potts, daughter of John Jr. and Rebecca Potts, marries Jonathan Thomas. (Appendix D 2.)
53. 178\_ Hannah Potts, widow of Amos, marries Alexander Martain and moves to Russell County, Virginia.
54. 1793 21 August: Susanna Potts marries William Beard. Robert Shaddon agrees to marriage by Henry Van Over, minister. (Appendix D 3.)
55. 1796 20 January: John Potts, son of Amos, of Russell County, Virginia, sells to Amy Reynolds, his share in 204 acres plus 20 acres Amos left to his sons.
56. 1797 11 October: Alexander Martain and Hannah, his wife, execute certificate in Lee County (formerly Russell County) Virginia giving quit claim all lands in the name of Amos Potts, dec'd, unto his sons John and Nathan.
57. 1798 17 January: Sarah Potts, daughter of John Potts Jr., marries Henry Hanes. (Appendix D4.)
58. 1799 14 August: John Potts, Polly, his wife, and Nathan Potts, of Lee County, Virginia, sons of Amos Potts, dec'd, sell to Amy Reynolds, 98 plus 20 acres, their share in land Amos willed to his sons. (Appendix F).

## APPENDIX C

### Land Purchase by Amos and John Potts Jr. in 1763. Recorded in Augusta County, Virginia Deed Book 11, p345.

THIS INDENTURE made the Sixth Day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Sixty three BETWEEN David Loony of the County of Augusta of the one part and Amos Potts and John Potts Jun. of the Same County of the other Part WITNESSETH that the said David Loony for and in Consideration of the sum of five Shillings Current Money of Virginia to him in hand paid by the said Amos Potts and John Potts at or before the Sealing & Delivery of these presents the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged HATH Granted Bargained and Sold and by these Presents DOTH Grant Bargain and Sell unto the said Amos Potts & John Potts one Certain Tract or parcel of Land Containing Two hundred & four acres by PATTENT bearing Date the Seventh Day of August MDCCLXI lying and being in the County of Augusta on the Waters of Craig's Creek a branch of James River and Bounded as Followeth to wit BEGINNING at a Large Spanish oak & white oak on the South Side of a Branch & Running thence North Ten Degrees West one hundred poles Crossing the Creek to a Spanish oak Thence North Eighty Degrees West Eighty poles to a white oak Thence South fifty five Degrees West two hundred and forty Poles to a white oak by a Meadow Thence South Ten Degrees East forty four Poles to a pine on a hill and a Long the same three hundred and thirty Six poles to the beginning and all houses Buildings Orchards Ways Waters Water Courses Profits Commodities Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the sd premises hereby Granted or any Part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining And the Reversion & Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents Issues & Profits thereof TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said two hundred & four Acres of Land and all and Singular other the Premises hereby Granted with the Appurtenances unto the said Amos Potts and John Potts Executors Administrators and Assigns from the Day before the Date hereof for and during the full Term and Time of whole one year from thence next ensuing fully to be complete and Ended YIELDING AND PAYING therefore the Rent of One Pepper Corn on Lady Day next if the Same Shall be lawfully Demanded to the Intent and Purpose that by Virtue of these presents and of the Statute for transferring Uses into Possession and the sd Amos Potts & John Potts may be in actual Possession of the Premises and be thereby enabled to accept and take a Grant & Release of the Reversion and Inheritance thereof to them and their heirs IN WITNESS whereof the said David Loony hath hereunto Set his hand & Seal the Day & year first above written

*David Loony* (L.S.)

SEALED AND DELIVERED )  
 IN THE PRESENCE OF ) At a Court Cond & held for Augusta Co June 25th 1763  
 Robt Breckenridge ) This Lease for Land from David Loony to Amos & John  
 Stephen S R Rentfroe ) Potts Jun was proved by the oaths of Wm Preston &  
 Margaret N Loony ) Robt Breckenridge two of the witnesses thereto and  
 Wm Preston ) ordered to be for further Proof At a Court Continued  
 ) and held for Augusta County March 20th 1764. David  
 ) Loony Acknowledged this his Lease for Land to Amos  
 ) & John Potts which is ordered to be Recorded

Test John Madison

## APPENDIX D

### Abstracts of Marriage Bonds

**1. Nathan Potts and Hannah Shaddon.**

Know all Men by these Presents that we Nathan Potts, John Potts & James Snodgrass are held & firmly bound to our Sovereign Lord King George the third in the Sum of fifty Pounds to be paid to our said Lord the King and his successors for Paiment whereof well and truly to be made we bind ourselves ( ) and every of our joint & several Heirs Extrs & Admtrs firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals & Dated this twenty fourth Day of October 1772. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is intended to be shortly a marriage solemnized between the above bound Nathan and Hannah Shaddon if therefore there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct the Marriage then the obligation shall be void otherwise to remain in full force & virtue.

*James Snodgrass*  
*John Potts*

Sealed & delivered  
in the Presence of  
*Joseph Snodgrass*  
*John Potts Juner*  
*Rebeckah Potts*

We John Potts Father of Nathan Potts & James Snodgrass Guardian to Hannah Shaddon do hereby certify our consent to a marriage to be solemnized between the said Nathan and Hannah & do desire the clerk of Botetourt County to issue a Licence for the same Witness our Hands & Seals this xxiii Day of October 1772

Witness	<i>Robert McClenachan</i>	<i>James Snodgrass</i>	<i>John Potts</i>
	<i>Joseph Snodgrass</i>	<i>John Pott Juner</i>	<i>Rebeckah Potts</i>

**2 Jonathan Thomas and Hannah Potts**

Know all men by these Presents that we Jonathan Thomas & Joseph Snodgrass are held & firmly bound unto his Excellancy Patrick Henry Esquire Governor of Virginia for the time being in the Sum of fifty Pounds currency to which payment well & truly to be made unto the said Patrick Henry & his successors we bind ourselves our Heirs firmly by these Presents witness our hands & Seals this 3 day of July 1786. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a Marriage shortly intended to be had & solemnized between the above bound Jonathan Thomas & Hannah Potts of this Parish if therefore there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage then this obligation to be void else remain in full force.

*Jonathan Thomas*  
*Joseph Snodgrass*

**3 William Beard and Susanna Potts**

I do Agree to the Marriage of William Beard & Susana Potts this given under my hand this 19th Day of August 1793

*Robert Shaddon*

Know all Men by these presents, that we William Beard and Marshal Galloway are held and firmly bound unto Henry Lee, Esquire, Governor of this Commonwealth for the time being in the just and full sum of



fifty Pounds current money, to the payment of which well and truly to be made to our said Governor, or his Successors for the use of the Commonwealth aforesaid: we bind ourselves, our heirs, & jointly and severally firmly, by these presents.

Sealed with our Seals, and dated the 21st day of August 1783.

The condition of the above Obligation is such, that whereas there is a Marriage shortly intended to be held and solemnized between the above bound William Beard and Susanna Potts of this county, if therefore, there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage – Then this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force.

Signed, Sealed and Acknowledged  
in the presence of

*William Beard*

Marshal            X            Galloway  
(his mark)

*H Bowyer*

#### 4        **Henry Hanes and Sarah Potts**

Know all men by these presents that we Henry Hanes – Jacob Hanes – are Held and firmly Bound unto James Wood Esquire Governor of Virginia in the Just and Full Sum of one Hundred and fifty Dollars to which payment well and truly to be made sd Govenor We bind ourselves our Heirs Executors & Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals & Dated this 17th day of January – 1798

The Conditions of the above obligation is Such that whereas there is a marriage Shortly intended to be had and Solemnized Between the above Bound Henry Hanes and Sarah Potts therefore be no lawful Cause to obstruct said marriage then this obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force and Virtue

Signed Sealed and delivered  
in Presence of

*Henry Hanes*  
*Jacob Hane (s)*

*Wm Hite*

Jacob Hane made oath that Sarah Potts is above the age of 21 Years to the Best of his Knowledge

*Wm Hite*

**APPENDIX E**

**Inventory of Estate—John Potts, Jr.  
Recorded in Will Book A, p147 & 352  
Botetourt County, Virginia**

Botetourt County Dec 7 1782

## Inventory of the Estate of John Potts Deceased

	£	s	d
One Negro Fellow	65		
One Sorrel horse	9		
A Bay Mare and colt	14		
A red cow and calf	3	10	
A brown Cow and Calf	3	15	
A brown cow	2	10	
Six hogs	4	10	
Plow irons and [?]	1	15	
An ax and hoe			8
860 Dollars of continental currency			
686 Dollars of Virginia currency			
A Bond	14		
A Feather Bed and furniture	6		
A Chaff Bed and furniture	3		
Body cloths		10	
Three pots dutch oven and frying pan	1	15	
7 basins 7 plates and two dishes	1	10	
A woman Saddle and Bridle & saddle bags	3	5	
Two hundred fifty feet of pine plank		12	6
Wooden vessals		10	
A walnut chest		7	6
A spinning wheel		12	
Three chairs		7	6
Books		15	
Box Iron and [?]		7	6
Wool Cards		1	3
Brass buttons			3
Beaver skin			6
One peck of salt		2	6
Four sheep	2		
Leather and Brimstone		4	
Eight pounds of wool		12	
Knives Forks Sheers and Candlestick		5	

*John Armstrong  
Edward Springer  
John Huly (or Heely)*

February Botetourt Court 1782

This Inventory and Appraisement was returned to Court Examined and ordered recorded.

Test

*David May CBC*

## Page 2—Appendix E

DR [Distribution?] The Estate of John Potts Deceased to Pat Lockhart

				£	s	d
1782	?	16	To paid Andrew Henry for crying the sale	0	10	0
	Sep	5	To Cash pd for land warrant		5	
1783	Sep	20	To paid Doctor William Smyth	5	17	6
1784	Feb	19	To paid Isaac Snodgrass for Whiskey	1		
			To paid Joseph Snodgrass P Receipt	68	5	1
	Mar	11	To Paid Isaac Snodgrass P do	21	8	
			To paid Michael Lloyd for Townsend proven act		7	6
1785	Feb	15	To paid David Little for coffin		19	6
1786	?		To paid David Michell for plank for coffin		4	6
1787	April	3	To paid Isaac Snodgrass a P Receipt	64	16	
	Feb	24	To paid Joseph Snodgrass	<u>31</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>
				195	3	9
			Settle with Joseph Snodgrass same day Isaac Receipt			
			To paid David May his fees 46 Tobaca		<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
				194	9	6
			To paid Joseph Snodgrass		4	7
			To an error in change / 46	195	14	1
			For making coffin		1	6
			To an allowance made me by the court for settling the Estate	9		
			Contra			
			Cr			
1782	Sep	16	By amount of Effects sold payable 12 months	142	14	4
1785	Sep	16	By hire of Negro Man	29	10	
			By part John Brickbys Bond	9	11	
			By Balance Do Bond	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
				185	1	10
		24	By interest on 82 – 8 – 9 from 1 Jan 1786 until 24th Feb 1789		<u>6</u>	<u>91/2</u>
				195	14	1

At January Botetourt Court 1793. This account was returned to court allowed and ordered to be recorded

Test *W Smith* DCBC

**APPENDIX F****Land Sale by John and Nathan Potts, 1799**Botetourt County, Virginia—Deed Book 7, pages 104 – 107

THIS INDENTURE made this fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine between John Potts and Polly his wife and Nathan Potts of the county of Lee and state of Virginia, sons of Amos Potts late of the County of Botetourt and state afoursaid Deceased, of the one part and Amy Reynolds of the county of Botetourt of the other part Witnesseth that the said John Potts and Nathan Potts for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and seventeen pounds current money of Virginia to them in hand paid by the said Amy Reynolds before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and she ( ) have bargained and sold and by these presents doth Bargain and Sell unto the said Amy Reynolds one certain tract of parcele of land situate and being on the waters of Craig's Creek a branch of the James river in the said county of Botetourt containing ninety eight acres and Bounded as follows to wit:... it being part of a tract of two hundred and four Acres land granted by Patent to David Looney the seventh day of August One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-one and conveyed by him to the said Amos Potts and John Potts (both whom are since Deceased) the seventh day of April one thousand seven hundred and sixty three and the said ninety eight acres is the mosety allotted to the said John Potts and Nathan Potts for their father's interest in said land as per agreement between them and John Taylor in whom is vested the Interest and right that John Potts deceased had in said land, Also for the consideration of the sum above mentioned and the further sum of five shillings paid by the said Amy Reynolds unto the said John Potts and Nathan Potts, they have Bargained and sold unto the said Amy Reynolds one other tract or parcele of land joining the above tract containing twenty acres and Bounded...which said tracts of Twenty Acres land was granted by Patent unto Amos Potts the twenty first day of June One Thousand Seven Hundred [eighty seven] (error) the title of both tracts of land above mentioned is now become vested in the said John Potts and Nathan Potts by virtue of the last Will and Testament of their father Amos Potts Decd the title...whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals this date above written.

Signed & Acknowledged)  
 in the presence of ( )  
 Sam<sup>l</sup> Myers  
 Eliz<sup>a</sup> Myers X (her mark)  
 George Hulbert  
 Eve Hulbert X (her mark)  
 Jacob Myers

*John Potts*

her  
*Polly X Potts*  
 mark

*Nathan Potts*

At a Court held for Lee County the 10th day of October 1799 this Indenture of Bargain & Sale from John Potts and Polly his wife and Nathan Potts to Amy Reynolds was exhibited in Court and Polly his wife being first privily examined acknowledged her right of Dower whereupon it was order to be certified to the Court of Botetourt.

Test *Charles Carter*

## APPENDIX G

### Bible Record of the Albert Potts Family, in the possession of Reba (Potts) Harrison, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

#### Marriages

Amos Potts Sr. to Rachel Nunley, June 6, 1815.  
 Albert Potts to Mariah Winkler, October 3, 1865.  
 Thomas Henry Potts to Mollie Lauderback, December 25, 1903.  
 Amos Abraham Potts to Mildred Elizabeth Phillips, November 21, 1926.  
 [*Another record has the marriage month as March*]

#### Births

John Potts, father of Amos Potts, Sr., January 8, 1770.  
 Amos Potts, Sr., father of Albert Potts, November 1, 1794.  
 Rachel Potts, wife of Amos Potts, Sr., December 15, 1795.  
 Albert Potts, December 22, 1823.  
 Mariah Potts, wife of Albert Potts, January 26, 1830.  
 Thomas Henry Potts, son of Albert Potts, September 27, 1866.  
 William Nunley Potts, son of Albert Potts, August 23, 1869  
 Mollie Potts, wife of Thomas Henry Potts, January 8, 1875.  
 Amos Abraham Potts, son of Thomas Henry Potts, February 12, 1905.  
 Albert William Potts, son of Thomas Henry Potts, September 14, 1906.  
 Mildred Elizabeth Potts, wife of Amos Abraham Potts, August 17, 1903.  
 Reba Mae Potts, daughter of Amos Abraham Potts, July 25, 1927.  
 Helen Louise Potts, daughter of Amos Abraham Potts, February 19, 1930.  
 Dimple Lenore Potts, August 30, 1935. [*Gertrude Lenore Potts, daughter of  
 Amos Abraham Potts.*]

#### Deaths

John Potts, father of Amos Potts, Sr., April 8, 1864.  
 Amos Potts, Sr., June 18, 1873.  
 Rachel Potts, wife of Amos Potts, Sr., March 8, 1883.  
 Mable Winkler, wife of Abraham Winkler, June 20, 1895.  
 Mariah Potts, wife of Albert Potts, June 19, 1902.  
 William Nunley Potts, son of Albert Potts, November 21, 1875.  
 Albert William Potts, son of Thomas Henry Potts, June 4, 1907.  
 Mollie Potts, wife of Thomas Henry Potts, February 21, 1908.  
*Note: Mollie Potts' real name was Mary Jane, but she preferred Mollie.*  
 Thomas Henry Potts, February 4, 1939.

The following is on a separate page:

I believe and confess:-That Jesus, a man who was born of Mary, the wife of Joseph in Bethlehem; who was acknowledged by God, the Father and God The Holy Spirit at His baptism by John, the Baptist in Jordan; who was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, arrested in Gethsemane, tried and condemned by the Jewish Sanhedrin and Pilate; who was crucified unto death; who was buried in Joseph's Tomb; who was resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit on the third day; who was seen and recognized by his friends for a period of forty days; who ascended to heaven from Mt. Olivet; who sat down at the right-hand of God, the Father, and who is at the right-hand of God today making intercession for His saints, and who is to come again into this world at the end of the world is the only begotten Son of God and The Christ who died for my sins as the only means of my salvation.

*T. H. Potts*

## APPENDIX H

### Bounty Land Warrant for Amos Potts

State of Tennessee,

County.

On this 19 Day of March , A.D. 1855, before me, Willis White one of the acting Justices of the Peace within and for said county, personally appeared Amos Potts , aged 60 years, a resident of Bradley county in the State of Tennessee , who being sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Amos Potts , who was a Private in the Company commanded by Captain William Chism , in the Regiment of Mounted Volunteers commanded by Colonel Coffee , in the war with Great Britain Declared by the United States on the 18th Day of June A.D. 1812 ; that he Volunteered at Winchester Franklin County, Tennessee , on or about the 28 day of Sept , A.D. 18 14 , for the term of 6 months, and continued in service in said war for the term of 6 months and was honorably discharged at Fayetteville Lincoln County, Tn on or about the 28 day of March , A.D. 18 15 .

Affiant further states that he has received a Bounty Land Warrant, No. Not Received for Eighty acres, under act of Sept 28th, 18 50 and that the above is all the Bounty Land he has ever received under any act of Congress heretofore passed.

Affiant makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining additional Bounty Land for said service, according to an act of Congress approved the 3 day of March 1855,

Amos Potts

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year first above written, and I certify that I am not concerned in the prosecution of the foregoing claim nor interested in the result of the same.

Willis White  
Justice of the Peace.

## APPENDIX I

## War of 1812 Pension for Amos Potts

## WAR OF 1812

## DECLARATION FOR PENSION UNDER ACT OF FEBRUARY 14, 1871

STATE OF Tennessee , COUNTY OF Bradley

ss:

On this 29th day of July A.D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy- one personally appeared before me James H. Rucker, Clerk of the County Court a court of record within and for the county and State aforesaid, Amos Potts aged Seventy Six years, a resident of the 12th Civil District, county of Bradley State of Tennessee , who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is married; that his wife's name was Rachel Nunley , to whom he was married at in Warren County Tennessee on the Sixth day of June 18 15; that he served the full period of sixty days in the Military service of the United States in the war of 1812; that he is the identical Amos Potts who enlisted in Captain William Chism 's company Col Coffee's regiment, brigade division, at Winchester, Tenn, on the 24th day of September , 18 14, and was honorably discharged at Fayetteville Tenn, on the 28th day of March , 18 15; that he was marched to Mobile and to Pensacola and on the Scamba Rout after the Indians under Major Blue a Regular officer,. the Brigade and Division not recollected, and has Received 2 80 acre Land warrants from government the last 80 under act of March 3rd 1855 No 2768; that he, at no time during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States, adhered to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid or comfort, or exercised the functions of any office whatever under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that he will support the Constitution of the United States; that he is not in receipt of a pension under any previous act; that he makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the act approved February 14, 1871, and he hereby constitutes and appoints, with full power of substitution and revocation of , his true and lawful attorney to prosecute his claim and procure the issuance of a pension certificate to him. That his post office address is Cleveland , county of Bradley , state of Tennessee and his domicile or place of abode is in Bradley County Tennessee, 12th Civil District.

(Witnesses)

Amos Potts  
(Applicant)

## APPENDIX J

### Rachael Potts—Widows Pension

**Note:** The standard government form for pension application was completed by (or for) Rachael, but it contains virtually the same information as that which appears in the pension application which Amos completed earlier (Appendix I).

However, the following was added in the handwriting of the clerk of the county court, James H. Rucker, and it adds pertinent information for the record:

*State of Tennessee )*

*County of Bradley ) SS*

*On this the 26th day of March 1817 Personally appeared before me James H. Rucker Clerk of the County Court of said county and state, Rachel Potts aged 82 years and made oath in due form of Law and says upon her oath that the following is a true and perfect Record of the family of Amos Potts to it [sic]*

*Amos Potts Born November the 1st 1794*

*Rachel Potts Born December the 15th 1795*

*Amos Potts Married to Rachel Nunley*

*June the 6th 1815. and the ages of there Children are*

*John Potts Born March the 27th 1816*

*Arch Potts " Feb " 3rd 1818*

*Rebeca Potts " March " 5th 1820*

*William Potts " Sept " 3 1820*

*Mary Potts " Nov " 18 1824*

*Martha Potts " March " 7 1827*

*Matilda Potts " Feb " 22 1831*

*Albert Potts " Dec " 22 1833*

*and the Deaths are*

*Rebeca Mitchell Dide April the 9th 1843*

*William Potts " June the 8th 1853*

*and my husband Amos Potts Dide on the 18th of June 1878 at 3 ½ o'clock*

*P.M aged 79 years 6 mo and 17 Days*

*Attest*

*P.E. Potts? (Almost illegible)*

*J. M. Potts*

*her  
Rachel x Potts  
mark*

*And I certify that I have Examined the family Record in the family Bible and find it to be correct and believe from the appearance of the original that it is the genuine Record of the family of Amos Potts Dec*

*J. H. Rucker , Clerk*



**APPENDIX K****H. D. Kelley vs A. R. Potts, et al**

Bill No. 572 Bradley County, Tennessee, filed 1 October 1889.

H. D. Kelley a citizen of Bradley County, Tennessee humbly complaining of A. R. Potts and his wife Nancy Potts and John Wolfe and his wife Martha Wolfe all citizens of Bradley County, Tennessee, respectfully shows to the court that about the year 1877 Amos Potts died seised of the following described land in the 12th civil district of Bradley County, Tennessee, containing about 241 acres, more or less.... Said Amos Potts died testate leaving [ ] which bequeathed all his real estate to his wife Rachael Potts during her lifetime and provided that at her death the estate should be divided among the six heirs as follows, A. R. Potts was to have \$350, Albert Potts was to have \$200, Martha Langston was to have \$125 and each of the other three heirs, Matilda Mitchell, Polly Martin and Bluford Watson \$100 each and some minor provisions which complainant does not well remember, and after these the estate including real and personal property was to be equally divided among the three heirs, A. R. Potts, Albert Potts and Martha Langston; and complainant further shows to the Court that about the year 1883 Rachael Potts, wife of the said Amos Potts, died and shortly thereafter a Bill was filed in the Chancery Court at Cleveland, Tennessee for the purpose of selling the land above described to pay off the bequests above and said land was bid off by respondent A. R. Potts. Complainant further shows to the Court that respondent A. R. Potts contracted and agreed with complainant and respondent John Wolfe that if they would pay the amount of Respondents bid on the land, deducting his interest in said land, that he would make them... a deed to about 30 acres more or less, beginning at a point ten from the creek and running northeast to the corner of Cyrus Doane's land thence running straight through parallel with a parcel that respondent John Wolfe was to have and did get a deed to, to John Boone's line thence with the Boone line to the Lauderback line thence with the Lauderback line to the beginning point at the creek, and also complainant was to have 40 acres of timbered land bounded as follows, on the north by 40 acres of land belonging to John Wolfe, on the east by lands owned by John Wolfe and on the south by lands of Cam Lauderback and on the west by the lands of Hazelet.

Complainant avers that respondent John Wolfe paid also about \$400 under the same agreement and contract aforesaid with respondent A. R. Potts and as agreed and contracted respondent A. R. Potts has always refused to deliver it and he still refused to do so. Complainant avers that it was at the instance and request of respondent Potts that he entered into the agreement to help pay off respondent Potts bid on the land described above. Complainant avers that respondent A. R. Potts is his father-in-law and respondent John Wolfe is his brother-in-law and that he would never have made or entered into this contract had it not been for the relationship between them. Complainant avers that he has never received anything for the \$400 in money paid as before stated.

The premises considered complainant prays that all proper process issue to compel respondents to come into your honor's court at the November (Rules) and answer this bill fully but not under oath which is waived....

*T. M. Griffin,* Solicitor for Complainant

I, H. D. Kelley do solemnly swear that owing to my poverty I am not able to bear the expense of the suit which I am about to commence in Chancery Court against A. R. Potts and others and that I am justly entitled to the redress sought by said suit.

The answer of A. R. Potts...Respondent

A. R. Potts...answering and admits that Amos Potts in the month of June 1873 departed this life Testate in Bradley County, Tennessee, leaving the lands described in complaint....Respondent admits that Amos Potts died leaving a will with certain bequests to his heirs after the death of his wife Rachael Potts who departed this life in the month of March 1883, but respondent insists that the bequest in said Will to said heirs are incorrectly set out in complainants said Bill; and for a true and correct statement concerning said bequest respondent begs leave to refer to the Will of Amos Potts decd. It is further true some time after the death of Rachael Potts this Respondent as the Executor of Amos Potts, under the Will of Amos Potts instituted proceedings in the Chancery Court at Cleveland, Tennessee to sell the lands described in complainants Bill for distribution among the heirs of Amos Potts, and as decree was prepared in said Court to sell the lands described and the same was sold by the Master and this respondent became the sole and entire purchaser of said lands at the Master Sale at the sum of \$2135.00 and has paid the entire purchase money thereof. This respondent positively denies the charge in complainants Bill....It is true respondent did desire his sons-in-law to aid and assist respondent in the payment of the lands in question and to live on the lands and to make a living for themselves and families and to work respondent's lands and to aid respondent in his old age, but respondent insists that such has been the conduct of complainant that he has failed and refused to aid respondent to pay for the lands purchased at the Masters Sale. Respondent invested his own individual money and means in paying for said land and in fact had to sell a portion of said lands to aid respondent in the payment of the remaining unpaid purchase money.... Respondent admits it is true when he purchased said lands that he was too old and infirm to cultivate said land and respondent desired and hoped that complainant would go in a portion of said land cultivate the same and make a support for himself and assist respondent in his old age, and in furtherance of such desire and agreement with the complainant about the 3d day of Feb 1897 respondent in consideration that complainant would keep the fences in good repair on the farm and furnish respondent and his wife and two daughters with fire-wood and good wholesome food for life, then complainants wife was to have some eighty acres of land described in complainants Bill and respondent did make a deed to that effect to complainant and wife but it is proper here to state that complainant refused to go to work on said land and also to render respondent any aid, support or assistance in the spirit of the agreement...and such has been the leniency of respondent towards complainant that complainant for some two years has been living on respondents lands and he refused to cultivate the same or repair the same or to provide in any way for respondent and family but lives on the lands of respondent and goes to other points and works for a living for himself and family....It is proper here to state respondent paid the entire purchase money for the land in question out of his own individual means with the exception of \$500 or \$600 this amount of the purchase money was paid from the proceeds of TanBark and crop trees cut and peeled from the timber on respondents farm and respondent paid to hands out of his own money for performing said work some \$150 and while said work of cutting crop trees and peeling tanbark did aid and assist other hands in said work....

*A. R. Potts*

*J. G. Stuart, Sol*

Deposition of H. D. Kelley and John Wolfe, filed 1 Mar 1890

H. D. Kelley: (extracts)

Question: What is your name and age?

Answer: H. D. Kelley and I am 36 years old.

Q: If you ever alone or in connection with any one else made a contract with the respondent A. R. Potts for he purchase of a tract of land described in your bill...state all about...giving particulars.

A: I did make a contract with him to this effect. I made two contracts with him the last one is the one I claim. The Amos Potts land had been sold by decree of chancery court and A. R. Potts had bid it off with the understanding that it was for myself and my brother Will and John Wolf and us three was to pay off his bid and have the land and we was to use the timber of said land to pay for it and me and Wolf was to pay in a sufficiency to support A. R. Potts and wife but Wolf was to pay more than I was because he was to get more land and the house on the place.

Q: How much did John Wolfe and your brother Will pay each?

A: Will paid \$625 is my recollection and Wolfe was the same as mine (\$400).

Q: As there any agreement between yourself and your brother Will and John Wolfe as to what particular part of said land each should get?

A: Yes it was all laid off, what each was to get.

Q: Was there ever any deed written to your part of the land?

A: Yes there was a deed written and I recon Potts wrote it himself it was not written exactly as the contract was made. I believe too that Mr. Potts said J. H. Gant wrote it and Potts and wife signed the deed and said here boys is four deeds take them and get them registered or just leave them here until we get ready to have them registered and we set a day to get them registered and it rained is the reason we did not come and have them registered.

Q: Was the whole of the \$400 paid by you paid in proceeds of timber off the place or not?

A: No sir it was not all paid that way. We got I believe 130 cross ties at 25 cents each off another piece of land and we got five or six cords of bark at \$6.50 a cord off another piece of land and \$12 I believe it was that Potts was owing me that I let go in that way it was for poling in groves and he owed me about sixty or sixty-five dollars for taking care of his mother and he had paid me I think it was \$25 and the balance went in on this land.

Q: How long were you in paying for said land?

A: About two years and I put in good time.

Q: How long after the time you set to have the deeds recorded until Potts refused to give you the possession of the deed to your part of the land? Why did you leave the deed in his possession after it was signed?

A: I don't remember but I think not more than two or three months and we just left it there by agreement we was aiming to come next week to have it registered.

*H. D. Kelley*

John Wolfe (extracts)

Q: Did you ever contract for the purchase of any part of the Amos Potts land if so state all about the contract?

A: Yes sir me and H. D. Kelley and his brother William. Will was to take 1/3 of the place and me and H. D. Kelley was to take the 80 acres of timberland and pay 1/3 of what the land brought at the sale when it was sold. Will Kelley was to have 1/3 of the whole land and was to pay 1/3 of the purchase money that is what they told me and A. R. Potts was one that told me so and me and H. D. Kelley was to pay 1/3 of the price that the land brought at the sale and was to take the timber off 80 acres of timbered land to make the money out of and A. R. Potts was to help us all he could about the timber and bark and said I will say, I will also give you at least \$75 besides.

Q: Did you get a deed to your part of the land?

A: I got a deed to part of it but to all I was to have he read it to me as I was to have it but when I got it it was not that way.

Q: Do you know whether or not there was ever any deed written to H. D. Kelley's part of the land?

A: A. R. Potts read what he said was a deed to Kelley and him and his wife signed it.

Q: Do you remember what was said about leaving the deed at Potts at that time?

A: A. R. Potts told us that day that we could leave them there or take them just which we pleased and we agreed to leave them there and we set a time to come up and have them registered I believe it was some 3 or 4 days after that time that we was to come and have them registered. The reason we did not come according to my understanding was that H. D. Kelley got out of the notion of having anything to do with the deed unless there was a change in it, because he was not getting as much land as he thought he ought to have. I got my understanding to the best of my recollection from Mr. Potts family and Mr. Lauderback.

*John Wolf*

Deposition of A. R. Potts, 11 September 1890 (extract)

Q: Did you purchase the Amos Potts land if so did you pay for it if so state how you paid...?

A I bought said place at \$2235 and I paid for it and got the CSM transcript or deed for it and had it registered. I put in my distributive share as an heir and my bequest \$300 and they both amounted to something over \$650 and I paid the proceeds of two cows at \$20 each and part of the price of a mule and some money I earned by assessing taxable property and other moneys of my own and I sold off part of the land and the balance was paid from proceeds of bark and crossties sold off said land.

Q: How has he failed to provide for you (as agreed) and was these the conditions of the verbal contract he was to take care and provide for you?

A: He failed to comply with our agreement by not providing for my support and my family and there was no contract about the support until after I made the deed.

Q: What was the contract between you and H. D. Kelley about the land, Did you not sell him the land described in his bill and was he not to pay for it out of tanbark and crossties from the timber on the place?

A: I wish before I answer any question to explain that I told H. D. Kelley that I would make him a deed a portion of the land he and John Wolf was in a squabble about the house Kelley was living in and I told him if he would get out I would make a deed to part of the land.

There was never any contract that I was to sell him any land. I told him there was land enough for all three of us and that they should have a home if they would help pay for it. We all thought that we could make the money out of the bark and ties. I did not sell him the land described in his bill and I did not consider it that way.

Q: Did you sell John Wolf a portion of said land and make him a deed to it?

A: I never sold him any land more than I did to H. D. Kelley. I agreed to let them both have a home and he went on and commenced fixing up the place and I gave him his land.

Q: Did you agree with John Wolf and Hiram Kelley that if they would cut the timber and pay the balance due on the farm you would give them deeds to certain portions of it and did you afterwards have the portions surveyed off to them and make them deeds?

A: No I did not agree to that. More than that I would give them homes. Only I told Hiram that I would give him a deed if he would get out of the house.

Q: Why did you give John Wolfe a deed?

A: Because he went on and help pay for the land and done more than Kelly. He hauled all of the bark in 1886 and went on and fixed up the place and I wanted to help him all I could and I thought I would give him his deed and I wanted to help Kelly all I could and still want to do so.

Q: Did you make Kelly a deed to any of the land?

A: Yes sir.

Q: Where is it now?

A: I have it in my possession.

Q: Has H. D. Kelley repeatedly called on you to give him his deed and you always refused to deliver it to him?

A: He has called on me for it and I refused to give it to him because he has done nothing and has let the ground lay out for two years.

Q: Please state if your son-in-law after you made him the present deed did furnish you the necessities of life to live on you and your wife as the stipulation in the deed call for and state wherein he failed to comply with the terms of the deed.

A: He furnished not anything at all is my recollection of the thing. I asked him to help me get some wood and he wouldn't never do that.

Q: Did he or not reduce you and family to bread and water and fail to provide for you and family any support?

A: I lived a good while on just bread and water and part of the time I just had Irish Potatoes and water and he failed to provide for me and family.

Q: Did you make and deliver to John Wolf a deed to a portion of your land containing the same stipulations and terms as this deed to Kelley?

A: I did.

Q: Did he take possession of the land included in his deed and has he worked it and held it as his own ever since?

A: He has.

Q: Why didn't he furnish you more to eat than bread and water?

A: I can't tell you – he won't do it not anything.

*A. R. Potts*

Page 1 of Courts judgment in the case of H. D. Kelley vs Arch Potts.

Be it remembered that this cause came on to be heard and finally determined before the Hon Judge A. Key, Chancellor and Judge presiding in chancery on the 19th of Sep 1890 in Cleveland, Tenn on Bill, answer proof and exhibits in the cause from all of which it appears to the court that the equities in complainants bill are truly met and denied in respondents answer in the cause and there is no proof on behalf of the complainant to sustain the allegations in the Bill, it is therefore considered and adjudged by the court that complainants Bill be dismissed and the complainant H. D. Kelley be taxed with the cost of this cause, from for which execution may issue from which decree the complainant prays an appeal to the next term of the Supreme Court to be held at Knoxville, Tenn which is granted upon the complainant giving bond as required by law within thirty days from this date.

(second page is missing)

## APPENDIX L

### ISAIAH L. POTTS and POLLY BLUE OF POTTS HILL

by William R. Carr

["...where legend says many a man has stopped for the night and never been heard of more. It looks like a place for deeds dark and dreadful."]

"What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?  
wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?"  
(*Book of Isaiah, Chapter 5, Verse 4*)



The stories of Potts' Inn and Billy Potts have become integral parts of Southern Illinois folklore, and thus, to many people, somewhat sacrosanct. Regardless of historical veracity, they have taken on the mantle of historical truth in the minds of quite a few romantics. Many tend to take umbrage at historical researchers who, often in an attempt to authenticate the legends, fail to substantiate what is popularly believed to be part of the area's colorful history. The proprietor of Potts' Inn, and his wife, however, were very real historical characters and thus deserve a fair hearing in the context of history. Since they do occupy a place in our regional history, as well as folklore, perhaps we should know a little more about them.

Possibly, there are people living in Hardin County, Illinois, or elsewhere, capable of shedding more light on the stories surrounding Potts' Inn than either I or other writers have thus far been able to do. Though there are many Potts families in Southern Illinois and elsewhere, known to be distantly related to the Potts of Potts' Hill, it is quite possible that no direct descendants exist. To date no descendent of the proprietors of the infamous tavern have come forward with information that would assist researchers in clearing up the historical ambiguities surrounding the subject. Perhaps the legends have simply been so all-pervasive, and damning in nature, that descendants and relatives that may exist simply haven't had the inclination nor stomach to either authenticate or attempt to correct the record, and thus call attention to possibly disreputable ancestors. Quite understandably many in the Potts family would prefer that the Potts Inn legends simply be forgotten. But that can only be wishful thinking. Unfortunately, the likelihood of any authoritative account surfacing becomes less likely as time goes on. It remains for those of us lacking family traditions in the matter to attempt to put those legends into plausible historical context in light of the scant evidence available.

Ronald Nelson's extensive research and work published over the years on the pages of the *Springhouse* magazine have undoubtedly been the most comprehensive on the subject to date. Much to the chagrin of many local history, legend, and lore buffs, Mr. Nelson has somewhat conclusively proven that there was probably never a person named Billy Potts in residence at Potts' Inn. The proprietors were Isaiah L. and Polly (Blue) Potts, and no record of any natural children has been uncovered to date. Still, Isaiah Potts himself is worthy of more than just passing note on the basis of what little is known. He was among area's earliest settlers, and probably the first of his family to cross the Ohio and settle in Illinois. What's more, Isaiah Potts, for better or worse, was one of the area's leading citizens of the day. While he

was undoubtedly civic minded and very much involved in public affairs, he was also a rather close associate of the notorious James Ford.

My own interest was initially whetted by the surprise discovery that I am a five times grand nephew of Isaiah L. Potts. Perhaps I am the first acknowledged relative to make an attempt to shed additional light on the life and career of Isaiah and Polly. Yet I do so without benefit of any family traditions to aid in my endeavor. I realize that I may run the risk of raising the ire of some members of the Potts and Blue families by bringing some family connections into the light of day. On the other hand, I also realize that there are probably many others, such as myself, who will be pleased to learn their family connections to the subjects of local legend. In any case, this is not a purely objective treatment of the subject. Rather, it admittedly became friendly to the long maligned couple.

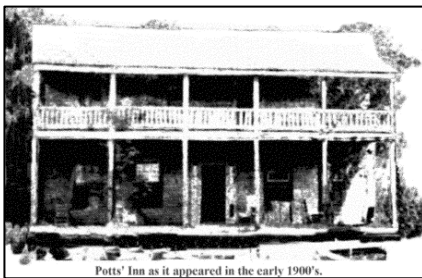
Knowing of my Potts family connections, and having grown up hearing of the Legend of Billy Potts, I'd often wondered whether I might be a descendent of the legendary Billy. (*See Springhouse Magazine*, Vol.4, No.3, June 1987, for one version of the story.) Family tradition certainly did nothing to claim any such kinship or even encourage curiosity in the matter.

Rather than speculating on any relationship with Billy Potts, the family cherished a tradition that our Potts ancestors hobnobbed with such illustrious figures as George Washington. My great-grandfather is said to have possessed letters George Washington had written to one of his ancestors. He kept them in an old trunk and brought them out from time to time, proudly showing them to young family members. One of my aunts remembered seeing them when she was a little girl during the second decade of the twentieth century. Lamentably, those priceless treasures burned some time later, along with the old family farmhouse.

My father, though uninterested in family genealogy, had read enough American history to know that General Washington had made his headquarters in the house owned by Isaac Potts during that difficult winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. From this, he surmised (wrongly, as it turns out), that Isaac must have been one of our direct ancestors. This was the tradition of which I became aware, rather than any possible Potts' Inn connection.

My quest for a Washington connection goes on, and there are many interesting theories and possibilities, but no convincing evidence, at least with regard to a direct line to my own branch of the family. That there were many Potts associated with Washington is not in question. Some were surveyors who may have worked with him during his early career. Many served during the Revolutionary War. More than one, I have been told (but have not confirmed), served as pallbearers at his burial.

Having no reason to seriously suspect any family connection with the Potts of Potts' Inn fame, I had taken only a passing interest in Ronald L. Nelson's series of *Springhouse* articles entitled "In Search of Billy Potts". Then, not long ago, one of my uncles sent me an information sheet showing that our Potts line can boast of both Teddy and Eleanor Roosevelt as distant cousins. It wasn't the remote Roosevelt connection that intrigued me, however. What sparked my interest was an Isaiah L. Potts in our direct line. Remembering that the infamous owner of Potts' Inn was an Isaiah L. Potts, I thought I'd stumbled upon tantalizing cutthroat connection. It was this that initially prompted me to investigate our Potts genealogy.



Potts' Inn as it appeared in the early 1900's.

[This photograph of Pott's Inn, was taken in the 1920s by Cave-In-Rock native Ted Frailey, a photographer and long time barber in that fabled town. It was taken for Lucius H. Zeuch, M.D., and appeared in his "History of Medical Practic in Illinois," Volume I, and originally published in 1927. This Photo and part of that publication, appeared in the *Springhouse Magazine*, Vol. 25, No. 4, in September, 2008. Compliments of *Springhouse*.]

My interest aroused, I delved into my collection of old *Springhouse* magazines and reread all of Ronald Nelson's articles with renewed interest. I located and searched several comprehensive Potts genealogies and family histories on the Internet. Surprised at the volume of information available, I easily

located my ancestor, Isaiah L. Potts. I was slightly disappointed, however, when I learned that my four-times great-grandfather, Isaiah, was not the owner of Potts' Tavern. That distinction went to his uncle, bearing the same name - my five-times great-uncle Isaiah. I was a grand nephew to a cutthroat, rather than a direct descendent. This, however, was somewhat satisfying, and certainly better than nothing.

It may seem strange that the cutthroat connection stimulated more interest than the presidential and first lady connection, but such is the perversity of human nature - at least in a significant minority of the species. The truth is, those imminently respectable connects were so distant that they hardly seemed to count, and the cutthroat connection almost eerily near. The site of Potts' Inn is only about twelve miles due east of the old family farm where I spent many happy days in my youth, and the countryside hasn't changed all that much in 170 years.

My old friend, and *Springhouse* publisher, Gary DeNeal, learning of my interest, kindly volunteered to accompany me to the site of Potts' Tavern, which I'd never before taken time to locate and visit. We first visited the state historical marker he and Ronald Nelson had been instrumental in having placed near the site, (on Illinois State Route One, some dozen or so miles south of that route's intersection with Route 13, roughly in the middle of the land some writers have referred to as "Potts' Plantation"). The actual inn site is on private property some hundred yards or more north of the marker, and a few hundred feet to the west of the highway.

The hill and old inn site overlook the bottom land that Isaiah once owned, and the old roadbed, which was the Cave-in-Rock to Vandalia trail (the famous Ford Ferry Road), can still be clearly discerned where it passed the site of Potts' Inn and over what is still known as Potts' Hill. It is still a very lonely scene, with no other dwellings in sight - as lonely as it must have been in Isaiah's day. Potts' Hill is still forest covered, but the adjacent bottom lands are under cultivation, having been incorporated into an extensive farming operation by the current owners. An abandoned house, built about a decade after the original Potts home was torn down, now occupies the site. The ruins of an old collapsed barn, just to the southwest, is the only other sign of former habitation. Gary took me down into the ancient stone-walled cellar beneath the house, which is certainly part of the original building.

The famous spring, reputed to have run red with the blood of numerous murder victims, still looks as it probably did in Isaiah's time, back-dropped against the unchanging, oak-shaded, rock bluffs that continue to lend an eerie aspect to the lonely scene. The spring is situated in a shallow cleft which forms sort of a miniature box canyon at the head of a small watercourse which originates therein. The rocks that line the spring on the three upper sides are green and moss-covered, lending to the sinister appearance of the place. Gary speculated that Isaiah himself may have placed the rocks there. I dutifully climbed down into the depression, and took a long, satisfying drink from Potts' famous spring. Gary was standing above me, looking down on my back (as he said), fingering the jack-knife in his pocket, thinking of the evil deeds my great uncle is alleged to have committed at that very spot.

Three lonely graves occupy a high piece of ground just to the northeast. These are the graves of some of the Tawzer family, who had purchased the land in 1843 from Isaiah's brother-in-law, Solomon Blue, when Isaiah L. Potts was still known to be living on the premises. In fact, it is the record of that very sale that provides history with its last mention of the infamous proprietor of Potts' Inn.

It is said that human bones were often uncovered in the vicinity of the old inn in early years. But it must be remembered that this had been the site of an Indian village, and the old trail itself a relatively recent "warpath" for both Indians and "Long Knives." Murders were known to have occurred here long before Isaiah came on the scene. The ancient trail itself had been considered "haunted" by many earlier travelers. State Route 34, unseen in this view, passes just to the right of the right margin of the photograph. The metal grain storage bin at right, other than perhaps the neatness of the cultivated field, is the only thing here which might not have fit the scene in the early 1800's. The old Ford Ferry Road would have been on the left side of photo.

Since I love a good outlaw yarn as well as anybody, I had hoped to learn something that would lend credence to the time-honored tales of my long-gone ancestor and his wife. Like Ron Nelson, I was eager to substantiate the "Legend of Billy Potts" and the worst rumors in circulation about the notorious



inn. It was my intention to write a more plausible and complete version of the story than has thus far appeared in print.

My own research has mainly been confined to running down the Potts and Blue genealogy and getting the other readily available information organized into a chronological series of historically verified facts. Since Ronald Nelson is the undisputed authority on Potts' Inn and the legends surrounding it, I have leaned heavily upon his research already published on the pages of *Springhouse*. Many other *Springhouse* articles related to Southern Illinois' early outlaw era, and the sources references therein, have also been very helpful in filling out my file on Isaiah L. Potts. Additional leads, and some unpublished data, were provided by Gary DeNeal.

Unfortunately, the genealogical record runs into a dead end with the births of both uncle Isaiah and aunt Polly. Their pedigree and marriage are well documented, but the record provides no clues as to their children or ultimate fate.

When I put the many scattered bits and pieces of information together, a picture began to emerge, and Isaiah L. Potts and his wife, for the first time, began coming to life in my imagination. I began to see a living man of energy and ambition struggling to carve out and hold a place for himself and his family in the rough, outlaw infested, frontier environment. My original desire to lend credence to the legends soon underwent something of a transformation. My intention of "convicting" my poor old uncle yet again, as it were, began to play upon my conscience. I suppose I came under the influence of a sense of family loyalty which had theretofore gone unrecognized.

After all was said and done, I had no new revelations or breakthroughs on the subject. After reviewing the legend in several of its versions, along with the historical records that have thus far surfaced, it became clear that there remains insufficient evidence to substantiate the legends, or to re-convict Isaiah Potts of the crimes of the nature commonly attributed to him or "Billy" Potts. Circumstantial evidence still casts suspicion in Isaiah's direction, but apparently legend alone has convicted him. As for the existence of the elusive legendary son of Billy, whom the elder Potts is alleged to have murdered, there seems to be almost no evidence whatever (as Ron Nelson found, much to the disappointment of many - for which finding, and breach of local etiquette, Mr. Nelson was all but tarred, feathered, and run out of Hardin County).

Perhaps old uncle Isaiah and aunt Polly had been wrongfully maligned, I thought, and a grave injustice done. I finally decided to write a historically accurate biographical sketch of Isaiah and Polly, giving them the benefit of the doubt with relation to the many unproven allegations of criminal activity. Perhaps I would be the first acknowledged relative to publicly come forth on their behalf. Lord knows that Isaiah and Polly could use a little good press - or at least some coverage that puts a human face on them.

Stories of legendary outlaws always seem to take on a life of their own. Writers romanticize and embellish, demonize, and often convict, on mere shreds of ancient hearsay. Alleged crimes and crime scenes are frequently reconstructed from figurative shards of ancient pottery and the cornerstones of old cellars. Lack of credible information often becomes the mother of invention, and pure fabrication frequently takes on the mantle of historical fact. The tales surrounding Potts' Inn, its proprietor, and the Legend of Billy Potts, are prime examples. The story has been told many times with as many variations. Darcy O'Brien's article "The Story of Potts' Tavern" (*Springhouse* magazine, Vol.4, No.3, June 1987), is an excellent case in point. While O'Brien's rendition of the story is perhaps more graphic than most, it is not at all untypical. Here is how he described my long-gone uncle (always referred to as "Billy"), and his family:

"Billy Potts was as big and tough and rough a man as ever betrayed a friend, fleeced a guest, kicked a dog, beat a wife, or emptied a quart... A curse and a fist in your face or worse was ever the way with Billy Potts.

"He had a foul-smelling little dark wife with a wart on her nose the size of a cockroach and a tongue in her mouth that would peel the paint off a church.

"And they had an ugly son, red-faced and snot-nosed, bigger than a prize hog by the time he could walk, flat-headed and bawling, filthy as a pig-sty at lunch time. And they loved him...

"As soon as the travelers bent down over the spring to take their last drink on earth, Billy Potts would sneak up behind them and plunge his big sharp knife up to its hilt into their backs. And the spring ran red with their blood.

"Meanwhile upstairs at the inn, Mrs. Potts was... slicing up the women and children as they slept in their beds... She could carve up a man as quickly and skillfully with her stone-sharpened cutlery as she could a lamb or pig. Then she and Billy would bury the human pieces in the yard and count up the contents of the purses and change the bedding on the beds..."

This extremely artful literary paintwork was fabricated in the rich imagination of a gifted and successful author of crime stories, to whom Southern Illinois was a happy hunting ground. (See his description of the region in the first chapter of his book, *Murder in Little Egypt*). The historical basis for this colorful rendering of Billy and Mrs. Potts is without a shred of historical evidence to back up the graphic description. The story goes that the elder Billy Potts, and his equally diabolical wife, unknowingly diced up their long-lost son in their eagerness to lay hands on his money. Not one iota of evidence exists to substantiate the story, yet, in the telling and retelling, it has gained the semblance of historical fact in the minds of many.

The fact is, it is highly unlikely that Isaiah L. Potts and Polly Blue were anything like the diabolical pair legend fondly holds. More than a simple innkeeper, Isaiah was very much involved in public affairs. Among other things, he was a ferry operator, Justice of the Peace, Road Supervisor, and often a bondsman for public officials. Thus he obviously must have been a man of considerable respect in the community, at least during his first two decades at Potts' Hill. It would be difficult to imagine the man O'Brien described above to have been a man of public trust over a period of twenty years or more. Such a person could not have survived in one place for thirty years, as Isaiah certainly did. Of course, this survival is not proof that Isaiah was of pristine character, but it is a strong indication that he was not quite the loathsome and diabolical character legend tends to indicate. At the same time, it is recognized that the same commendations can be applied to his even more notorious contemporaries, James Ford ("Satan's Ferryman"), and John Crenshaw (of "Hickory Hill and Old Slave House" fame). But James Ford was killed by regulators and John Crenshaw was tried (though acquitted), for kidnapping Negroes. There is no credible evidence that Isaiah was ever tried for a crime or even suspected of one during his lifetime.

It occurred to me (admittedly, as somewhat of a shock), that the notorious Isaiah L. Potts may have been the very last public official and man of prominence my particular branch of the family has produced! We have since remained a family of humble farmers, coal miners, and artisans, far aloof from politics and public affairs. As far as I know, not once, since Isaiah L. Potts, has one of our line been a Justice of the Peace, innkeeper, or road supervisor.

We know less of Mrs. Potts than we do of her husband. As with Isaiah, the only light I can shed upon Polly's character would be that reflected from the respectable family from which she sprang. Of Dutch ancestry, Polly was more likely a buxom blond than "little and dark" as described in Darcy O'Brian's rendition of the Legend quoted above. It is assumed that she stood by Isaiah through thick and thin for at least twenty years on the wild frontier, then the relationship seems to have soured and she left him for reasons unknown.

Not that I would want to attempt a total whitewash of Isaiah's character and career. Most families can boast of a few miscreants and renegades, and ours has undoubtedly had at least its fair share. The various branches of the Potts family, including my own, need have no apologies for this. Their reputations and accomplishments stand on their own merit, and many of our clans have prospered and distinguished themselves throughout their long history in America and elsewhere. The same can be said for the Blue family.

In the case of uncle Isaiah and aunt Polly, perhaps their present day reputation far exceeds their actual villainy, and they have been credited with crimes they didn't commit. It took rugged individuals to set up permanent housekeeping in Illinois country, circa 1814, which is the year Isaiah acquired the land on which his establishment was built. Isaiah and Polly were undoubtedly among the area's earliest settlers, and perhaps the first of their lines to cross the Ohio and settle in what was then still Illinois Territory.

Though Isaiah's land was situated at a frontier crossroads, the "roads" were still little more than Indian paths, only recently taken over by the advancing white man. Potts Inn was very isolated and vulnerable, situated on the south side of a hill which became known as Potts' Hill. Warring groups of Indians had only recently vacated the area. It was in the rawest frontier environment, amidst an assortment of organized cutthroats the likes of which have not been seen in almost two centuries. This was at a time when the civil authority in the Illinois Territory was non-existent except in the few river settlements, and outlawry was wide-spread, often well organized, and very mobile.

**A GOOD PLACE FOR A TAVERN** Many trails converged or crossed near Potts' Inn. Today's State Route 1 roughly follows the route of the Salt Works to Ford Ferry Road of Isaiah's day, but it passes to the east of the tavern site.

Isaiah and Polly's safety and very survival depended upon their ability to interact successfully with the social forces taking shape about them. Under such circumstances, the line between the law and outlawry was frequently somewhat blurred, and those determined to survive were often obliged to have one foot on either side of it and step nimbly when occasion demanded. At the very least, survival often depended upon the willingness to keep a tight lip. This situation changed only when the concentration of settlers became such that bands of regulators could be formed to sweep the lawless from their midst. Regulators were groups of ordinary citizens who banded together in order to overcome the strength of outlaw brigands.

When Isaiah and Polly settled at Potts' Hill, the regulators had been herding outlaws toward the Illinois region for some time. Law, frontier style, was on the march. The scourges of the earlier settlements were being pushed ahead of it. Those refugees from the more easterly Kentucky settlements had been herded westward by regulators. "Behind them, spread out in a great half-circle, the posses were sweeping them westward; ahead of them lay the lawless region of the Cave-in-Rock. When the hunt ended, the Cave was swarming with refugees and the lower Ohio a hive of outlaws." (*The Outlaw Years, the Story of the Land Pirates of the Natchez Trace*, by Robert M. Coates)

"Wilson's Liquor Vault & House for Entertainment" was established in the Cave in the late 1790s, ushering in the Cave's most famous era of notoriety as a den of outlaws and river pirates. The infamous Harpe brothers had stopped there and operated nearby. Next the Cave accommodated Mason, river and land pirate. Then came the Sturvidants, counterfeiters extraordinaire.

By the time Isaiah and Polly settled in, only a dozen miles up the trail, the heyday of the river pirates at the Cave was on the wane, but counterfeiters were still operating, and the day of the great land pirates haunting the wilderness trails was still in full flower. Mason's day had dawned and set, but Murrell was about to come into full blossom down on the Natchez Trace, and his influence spread its tentacles northward to the trails from Nashville through eastern Kentucky to southeastern Illinois.

Perhaps the most powerful individual in Isaiah's neighborhood at the time he settled at Potts' Hill - the one with the most friends, influence, and political clout - happened to be "Satan's Ferryman" himself, James Ford. Ford lived about five miles south of Cave-in-Rock on the Kentucky side of the Ohio near the former Shawnee village at Tolu, and operated a ferry just below the Cave (approximately where the present Cave-in-Rock ferry operates). There was another ferry about five miles upstream, originally known as Flinn's ferry, which was added to Ford's enterprises in 1830, which is today more often identified as Ford's Ferry. By all accounts, Ford was the law in the area when Isaiah settled at Potts' Hill, and became the Justice of the Peace in Livingston County, Kentucky, in 1815. He seems to have had his hand in everything that went on in his jurisdiction of Kentucky, as well as the Illinois bank of the Ohio, at least as far a field as the United States Salt Works near Equality. Legend has it, on rather good account, that he dabbled a little in the waning art of river piracy, and more than a little in the land piracy trade. Actually, he seems to have combined the two rather snugly alongside his ferry enterprises and civic responsibilities.

While Ford's primary political base and civil authority were confined to the Kentucky side of the Ohio, his influence and business activities reached to the important Salt Works and the surrounding areas.

Ford patented land in Illinois the same year Isaiah staked his claim, and one of the parcels was less than a mile south of Potts' land. He and his associates were involved in the Illinois salt business as early as 1817. The road from Ford's Ferry to the Salt Works, upon which Potts' Inn was located, was very much a part of Ford's domain. That section of road from Potts' Hill to the ferry was called Ford's Ferry Road, along with the nearby Flinn's Ferry Road, which joined Ford's Ferry road just south of Potts' Hill, were particularly important to Ford's business interests, legitimate and otherwise. During the first three decades of the 1800's, "James Ford & Co." was a power to be reckoned with. Had Isaiah and Polly not been on friendly terms with Squire Ford, chances are they would have found it impossible to remain in the area as long as they did.

We often read today that Isaiah L. Potts was a member of Ford's gang. While this may be somewhat inaccurate, there is no doubt that Isaiah and Ford were closely allied in some respects. They had many unavoidable common interests. Both were Justices of the Peace, bonded to uphold law and order in their respective communities. Both were ferry operators, and both had a business interest in maintaining the roads that passed Potts' Tavern. Both, being permanent settlers, rather than transients, had an interest in protecting their names and reputations, as well as their legitimate business interests. If either of them engaged in habitual criminal activity, their long-term survival in the area would be doomed, as indeed ultimately turned out to be the case with James Ford.

Isaiah Potts was, at least to a degree, a partner in Ford's ferry business, and on this basis might have been considered one of the "Ford Ferry Gang."

"Know all men by these presents that we, James Ford, Moses M. Rawlings and Isaiah L. Potts, are held and firmly bound unto William McCoy, County Treasurer in and for the county of Gallatin and his successors in office in the penal sum of one hundred dollars, well and truly to be paid to the said William McCoy and his successors... this 1st day of December, 1823

"The condition of this obligation is such that whereas the above bound James Ford hath this day obtained a license to keep a ferry on the Ohio River our fractional section of land seventeen, township 12, south of range 10 east of the third principal meridian in Gallatin County. Now if the said James Ford will keep said ferry according to law; and that he shall at all times give passage to all public messenger and expresses when required from time to time without any fee or reward for the same then this obligation to be void and of none effects or otherwise to remain in full force, power, and virtue in law." Signed by J. Ford, Moses Rawlings, and Isaiah L. Potts. (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2 No.4, 1985)

This would clearly indicate that not only were Isaiah Potts and James Ford well acquainted, but that Isaiah, along with Moses Rawlings, a respected resident of Shawneetown, acted on Ford's behalf as guarantor and bondsman to obtain his license to operate his ferry service, giving his operation legal status on the Illinois side of the river. It would thus be clear that Isaiah and Ford were more than mere acquaintances and distant business associates.

Assuming that Ford was indeed guilty of some of the crimes attributed to him, the only question would be, to what extent did Isaiah cooperate with him and his allies in their illegal activities? Did he actively participate in the criminal depredations common to the area, and attributed to him by legend? Was he a willing accessory to crime, or was he merely hostage to the real perpetrators (as many settlers undoubtedly must have been), to the extent personal safety and survival may have required? It could very well have been that Isaiah and Polly Potts were friends of James Ford simply because circumstances at the time demanded it.

Before delving into speculation on these matters, let me give a short rundown of Isaiah and Polly's paternal pedigrees, in hopes of putting a human face on them in the context of history. I feel this is important to Isaiah and Polly's long-maligned public image. Both came from distinguished lines.

#### THE POTTS FAMILY

"Billy Potts was as big and tough and rough a man as ever betrayed a friend, fleeced a guest, kicked a dog, beat a wife, or emptied a quart... A curse and a fist in your face or worse was ever the way with Billy Potts."

Isaiah's ancestors arrived in Pennsylvania during the time of William Penn, and played a significant role in the settlement and development of that colony. There has been sufficient pride and accomplishment within the ranks of the Potts family to have rendered up several very comprehensive volumes of family history, making it a relatively easy matter to discover Isaiah's pedigree.

He was of Anglo-Welsh descent in that his ancestors had immigrated from Wales, England. The Potts families of Wales, however (according to Mrs. Thomas Potts James, in her *Memorial of Thomas Potts, Junior*, published in 1874), are believed to have immigrated to Wales from Germany about a century prior to the time Isaiah's ancestor moved to Pennsylvania. The Welsh Potts were Quakers and had suffered much persecution in England on that account, which is what prompted many of them to immigrate to the New World. That Isaiah's ancestors were among the first settlers in Germantown, Pennsylvania (which was initially a very German settlement in the New World), tends to indicate that the Potts family was quite comfortable settling among Germans rather than nearby English.

The genealogical trail begins with a Thomas Pott, of Llangirrig, Montgomeryshire, Wales, who was born about 1590. Thomas had a daughter named Anne Pott (born about 1612), who married a John Pott. They had a son named Thomas, born in 1632, who married an Elizabeth. They had a son named Jonas Pott, born about 1662.

Elizabeth was widowed in England, where her seven children had been born, and came to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with all her children in tow. The name seems to have been rendered Potts after their arrival in the New World. They are believed to have arrived in 1698, on the ship "William Galley," and were among the first settlers of Germantown. Jonas was married twice, to two different Marys, whose last names are not known. Jonathan Potts, born in 1714, of Jonas' second wife, was Isaiah L. Potts' grandfather. Jonathan's son, David, born in 1751 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, was Isaiah's father. Isaiah's mother was Elizabeth Luna Looney (sometimes rendered Luney), daughter of Absalom Looney, from whom he took his middle name. Isaiah was their third or fourth child, probably born in Loudoun County, Virginia. The year of his birth is uncertain, but it is likely he was born about 1784 or before.

Jonas' brother, John, is believed by some to have been the grandfather of the famous Pennsylvania Ironmaster, John Potts, founder of Pottsgrove, (later Pottstown), and builder of Pottsgrove Manor which still stands in that town (though there is still some confusion as to the exact relationships between several Potts who landed in this country from Wales). This John's son, Isaac, was the owner of the house at Valley Forge where George Washington made his headquarters in the winter of 1777-78. It is also this Isaac who is believed to be the subject of the famous legend where a Mr. Potts observed General Washington in prayer at Valley Forge. John also had a son named David, a Philadelphia merchant, who owned an interest in the Valley Forge properties.

As mentioned, most of the Pennsylvania Potts were Quakers when they arrived in America. As such, they can be considered to have been a peace-loving and law-abiding lot. However, among the society of Friends, religious principle took precedence over law and patriotism. Nonetheless, many Quakers took up arms in the Revolution. Most of those who did were disowned by the Meetings of Friends. It is estimated that from four to five hundred Quakers were disowned for supporting the Revolution and only four for supporting the King. Isaiah's father, like many others in the family, chose to join the struggle for independence.

In any case, at some point David converted to the Baptist faith. He learned to read after his marriage and it is said that he thereafter spent a considerable amount of time reading the Bible. In 1784, he received a hundred acres of military bounty land in Kentucky (then a county of Virginia), for his service as a soldier in the Virginia Continental Line. (A cousin, also named David, took up military bounty land in Ohio, as did other members of the Potts family.)

It is not known when David first crossed over into Kentucky to claim his land, but it appears all of his ten children by Elizabeth were born in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Elizabeth must have died during, or shortly after, the birth their tenth and last child, Rebecca, who was born about 1790. When David moved to Mercer County, Kentucky, he remarried to Martha (Tines) Short, a widow. David was about sixty years old when he remarried, but the union produced one additional child, Joel.

Isaiah's brothers and sisters were: David, Jeremiah, Jonathan, John, Catharine, Mary, Margaret, Amy, Rebecca, and half-brother Joel.

Isaiah, a single man, followed his father and brother, David, to Kentucky. It seems he and his brother, David, must have gone first to Mercer County with their father, then moved on to Warren County where brother, David, settled. Ronald Nelson's research also revealed an Isaiah Potts paying taxes on 1000 acres of land in that county in 1809. Isaiah's brother, Jonathan, had also settled in Warren County, where a year earlier, Isaiah's nephew, also named Isaiah L. Potts, had been born.

Isaiah was in Union County, Kentucky, by the time he married Mary (Polly) Blue, in October of 1811. Theirs was one of the very first marriages in Union County, in the very year that county was formed. He is listed in the History of Union County as one of the first settlers in Bordley Precinct in which the settlement of Spring Grove is situated. It can be deduced that Isaiah Potts was considered quite a respectable young man at this point of his life. Otherwise it is unlikely that Polly's father would have given his blessing to the marriage, which he apparently did, having signed the marriage document.

Possibly while living in Union County Isaiah became acquainted with John A. Murrell, who, tradition has it, was among the original squatters in the neighborhood (around Red Banks, later Uniontown), along with "the Vincents, the Masons, the Jeemes', the Carters, the Moulders, (who) made up the original inhabitants." (History of Union County)  
See Isaiah's Genealogy

#### THE BLUE FAMILY

"He had a foul-smelling little dark wife with a wart on her nose the size of a cockroach and a tongue in her mouth that would peel the paint off a church."

The Blues, like the Potts families, take a great deal of interest in their family history and their genealogy may be found on The National Blue Family Association Homepage on the Internet.

Polly's ancestors immigrated to New York (once, New Amsterdam) from the Netherlands, and the genealogical trail begins with a John Blaw, who died in New Jersey, in 1757. John had a son also named John (b. about 1691, d. 1770), who married Catron Van Meter. They first lived in New Jersey and then moved to Hampshire County, Virginia. John and Catron's third child, Uriah, was born in 1726. Uriah married a Mary Jordan in 1747 and produced a son named James J. Blue, born in Berkeley County, Virginia in 1748. James Blue married Margaret Kearney in 1773. James and Margaret were Polly's parents.

Like Isaiah's parents, James Blue had migrated from Virginia to Kentucky, probably some time before 1803. It has been claimed that James had been with General Washington at Braddock's defeat. If this is true, and his birth date is accurate, he was only seven years of age at the time. Perhaps he was a drummer boy or a very young orderly. In any case, it is claimed he was a captain in the Revolutionary War. According to the genealogical record, he obtained a 300 acre grant on the Tradewater River in Kentucky on May 13th, 1785. On April 18th, 1800, he obtained an additional 200 acres in Henderson County, Kentucky on Cyprus Creek. He obtained yet another 400 acre grant on the Caney Fork of the Tradewater River in Henderson County. He apparently settled at Spring Grove, about half-way between Shawneetown and present day Morganfield, where his son Solomon attended school. James Blue seems to have been an energetic man who acquired much property and influence in western Kentucky (in what are now Christian, Caldwell, Crittenden, Henderson, and Union Counties).

Polly (Mary), was the third of nine children born to James and Margaret Blue. She was born about 1794, probably in Berkeley County, Virginia. (The Blue genealogy gives the birth as 1777, but other sources indicate she was 17 years of age when she married). This, along with her marriage to Isaiah Potts, is about all we know about Polly. The genealogical record states only her birth year and that she is buried in Gallatin County, Illinois.

Polly's siblings were William, Uriah, Nancy, James, Jr., John, Margaret, and Solomon. Though little is known of Polly's sisters, all of the males of the family distinguished themselves in one way or

another. James, Jr., became sheriff of Union County in the 1820's, and died in Caldwell County in 1848. William, Uriah, John, and Solomon took an interest in military affairs.

William Kearney Blue (1774-1802), served with General Anthony Wayne in 1793 at Fort Greenville as a Colonel of Light Dragoons, and was military escort of John Brickel in the Northwest Territory in 1795. He was Captain in the 7th Infantry in 1799, and honorably discharged in 1800. He was killed in a duel at Fort Washington, Ohio, in 1802.

Uriah Blue (1775-1836) joined the regular army and held a commission as a colonel. He was Sheriff of Henderson County, Kentucky at one point. He fought through the Seminole and Florida war, and was with General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. He later died of illness while serving as commanding officer of the military garrison at Mobile, Alabama. (Kentucky: A History of the State, Battle, Perrin, Kniffin 2nd ed., 1885, Crittenden County.)

The Pensacola, Florida, Web Page, under the title "Dateline Pensacola," for the year 1815, states: "Major Uriah Blue and Davy Crockett drove Red Stick Creeks (warriors) from the land between Escambia and Yellow Rivers." Colonel Blue is mentioned twice in *The Life of Davy Crockett*, Crockett's autobiography.

Coincidentally, Amos Potts, one of Isaiah's cousins from Tennessee, also served under Major Blue at Fort Montgomery, Alabama (Joseph Reichel's history of the Potts family).

John S. Blue (1784-1840) is listed in the family genealogy as a Colonel, perhaps in the Kentucky militia. He might also have served in the War of 1812. Union County was formed from part of Henderson County in 1810-1811. John was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in Union County at the first court in January of 1811. He was also on the committees to fix the site for the public square and plan and let contracts on the public buildings in July of the same year. (History of Union County)

Polly's brother, Solomon David Blue (1788-1868), served in the War of 1812. As he is described in a biography in the History of Union County: "Major Blue, as all of his day called him, was a man in more than one sense, brave, generous and true, a man of fine size, muscular, as straight as an Indian, of indomitable energy and perseverance... He was a good talker, fond of company, and loved his friends. At his death he possessed considerable real estate, and left his children independent. It is needless to say more, perhaps, only it is impossible to conjecture to what eminence he might have attained had he been educated."

After his return to Kentucky after the War of 1812, Solomon became active for many years as a colonel in the Kentucky State Militia. He was a farmer in Union County and a prominent citizen, living to a ripe old age. He died at the age of eighty-four, in Morganfield, Kentucky. His descendents also became prominent citizens in the area. His son, James Barnwell Blue became County Road Supervisor and a state legislator.

Solomon's reputation may stand somewhat sullied, however, in view of information published by Jon Musgrave in his 2004 book, *Slaves, Salt, Sex & Mr. Crenshaw*, indicating (to quote Musgrave), "As late as 1850, Solomon Blue operated a slave-trading agency based in Shawneetown." (Musgrave's source was the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, "Slave Trade Between Kentucky and Cotton Kingdom." December 1934). This would have been legitimate business at the time, and Solomon probably acted as a business agent providing contracted slaves for the Salt Works.

In 1816 and 1818 Polly's father, James Blue, purchased land near where Raleigh, Illinois, was later established. In 1816 he had petitioned Congress for permission to establish a public house on the government reservation connected to the federal Salt Works near Equality. It appears that James Blue moved to Illinois some time after Margaret's death in 1810, and lived somewhere on the Saline Reservation in 1816. In the Illinois Territorial Papers, dated 10 December, 1816, appears: "Memorial to Congress by inhabitants of Gallatin County, asking that a lease be given to James Blue... Said Blue is well known in the area and was unable to apply for preemption of the property, as he was residing in the Saline Reservation." (Nelson, "In Search of Billy Potts," *Springhouse* Vol. 2, No. 3) Apparently the petition was not granted, or was not acted upon, and James returned to Union County, Kentucky before his death. When James died in 1819, Isaiah and Polly sold their share of his estate to Solomon.

I include such lengthy mention of the Blues by way of character references on Isaiah and Polly's behalf, for it appears that the Blues were singularly respectable. Solomon seems to have remained a staunch friend to Isaiah right up until the time Isaiah completely disappeared from the public record.

Isaiah was among Southern Illinois earliest permanent settlers, for "not until 1812-1814 could land be bought in Southern Illinois... in 1814 a government land office was established in Shawneetown." It was in that year, on November 2nd, that Isaiah acquired his initial 160 acres at Potts' Hill. He paid \$2.00 an acre at that time when the Illinois lands were first being sold. The property was at a prime location near where several old Indian trails crossed at a spring where, only a few years before, an Indian village had been located. Though most of the Indians had removed westward, there were undoubtedly a few hold-outs in the area (known as "stowaways," having eluded removal), when Isaiah arrived. As favorable as Isaiah's location was, the area had gained a sinister reputation long before his acquisition. According to the 1939 Centennial History of Hardin County, Illinois ("Prehistory of Hardin County," written by Judge Hall):

"The Saline and Ohio rivers were the main avenues of trade between these cities." (the Shawnee cities at Shawneetown, Equality, and Tolu, Kentucky) "...But the main land trail which traversed our county began at Equality proceeding southeastward to the Salt Spring, where it was joined by a branch trail from Shawneetown. From that juncture it proceeded to Potts Hill Spring, where there was a village... and from time immemorial has been known as Shawnee Hollow Trail..."

"If we may rely upon the traditionary (sic) history of Shawnees, that 25-miles of path was famous as a war-path. Here Cherokees and other tribes driven southward met their Waterloo defeats under such famous Shawnee Chiefs as Logan the Eloquent and Tecumseh the Wise. Here also that favorite path was marked and colored with blood when Shawnee later clashed with Big Knives..."

"...Whole families weirdly disappeared on that road never to be heard from again. Virtually every mile of it has its murder story as well as its ghost story. The folklores of three races of mankind which occulty (sic) hover about that most notorious path in the Mississippi Valley are hoary and bloody, fantastic and marvelous. In Indian days as well as in pioneer days it was also spoken of as 'the Road of the Werwolf.' ...Honest pioneers from that race of men honored for truth and veracity claim that at least three men at different times had tried to kick the Werwolf off Fords Road, but that their home-made boots slipped through that vicious-looking animal as if they had kicked through a shadow. Many a brave Red Man and sturdy White Man have taken to forest paths travelling some distances around rather than tread the dust of that Werwolf Road after sunset. Nevertheless that 25-miles did not cease to flow with human blood even after Indians were gone..."

"...(B)ush-whacking warfare continued in Hardin County till 1813 bloodily fought between three tribes in their free-for-all war. These were the Cherokees, the Shawnees, and the Big Knives (White settlers)."

A log cabin, perhaps a remnant of the Indian village or a trader's cabin, had stood on the property prior to Isaiah's time, and had been the site of an avengement murder some years before Isaiah's arrival, as well as earlier killing.

"It's not known when Potts built his inn, but a cabin stood on the site as early as the first decade of the 18th Century. Here, the male kin of a kidnapped/eloped young woman caught up to Moses Steagall and the would-be groom and shot the pair. In August 1799, Steagall had rode with the posse chasing the notorious Harpes after they killed Steagall's wife and son. After capturing Big Harpe, Steagall cut off the outlaw's head. Earlier that spring, after the Harpes escaped from the Danville, Kentucky jail they crossed over into the Illinois Country. They murdered two or three hunters on Potts' future plantation before joining the pirates at Cave-in-Rock." (Illinois History web pages by Jon Musgrave)

Just when Isaiah and Polly moved from Union County, Kentucky to Potts' Hill is uncertain. Probably in 1814 or 1815. The house that Isaiah finally built (if it resembled the building that survived until 1937), was a pretty impressive affair, especially as frontier "inns" went in that day and time, boasting two stories with upper and lower covered porches running its full length. Though it has been described as a frame building in at least one account, it was probably a log structure, later covered with "weather boarding."



[THE BLUFFS THAT WITNESSED ALL What dark secrets might these rocks withhold? Potts Spring is just behind the photographer in this view.]

As early as 1813, a ferry was operating across the Saline River not far from Potts' Hill. Court was first held in Shawneetown on May 24th, 1813, on two flatboats moored together at the bank. At that time, "...a tax of \$2 per year was levied on a ferry operating next above the mouth of Saline Creek." (*History of Hardin County*, 1939) It is not known whether Isaiah was the one who established the ferry, but in any case, sometime prior to 1818 (when it has been estimated that only four to five hundred people lived within the present boundaries of Hardin County), Isaiah had taken over operation of the ferry. Gallatin County Court records of 23 November, 1818, in a matter concerning the marking of a new road from Golconda to Shawneetown, mentions, "passing A McElroy's to Potts' Ferry on the Saline Creek..." (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2, No. 3) The ferry site was a little over a mile from Isaiah's property.

On June 7th, 1819, Isaiah was appointed supervisor for that portion of Flinn's Ferry Road, from "Powell's Cabins," (between the Ohio River and Potts' Hill), to where it crossed Beaver Creek, about a mile north of Potts' Hill. Being a road supervisor was no small responsibility. The subject stretch of road was several miles in length, and there was no large state highway department at Isaiah's back. It was presumably the supervisor's job to single-handedly motivate local residents within certain bounds mentioned in the appointment, to get out and work on his section of the road when necessary. Since the population was sparse anyway, labor would certainly be difficult to come by. Since there is no mention of payment to the help, it must be assumed that work on the road was a form of civic duty in lieu of taxation, and thus was probably about as easily extracted as teeth. Apparently Isaiah performed satisfactorily, as he was reappointed supervisor in June of 1820.

Judge James Hall refers to the section of road from "Flynn's Ferry to Saline Tavern" and, "At this time the court order the road established as a public highway with Hugh McConnel appointed supervisor of stretch from the ferry to Powell's cabins, Isaac Potts supervisor from there to include the crossing of Beaver Creek, John Black thence to Eagle Creek, and Robert Watson (supervisor) on the intersection with road from Shawneetown to Saline Tavern." (*History of Hardin County*, 1939) It is not known whether the Saline Tavern to which he referred was Potts' Inn, or if there was another tavern at the Saline River. In all probability it was another name for Isaiah's establishment.

On March 7th, 1820, Isaiah was called upon to adjust the accounts of the overseers of the poor in Rock and Cave townships for the previous year. (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2, No.3, 1985) So, six years after Isaiah's acquisition of his Illinois property, he was still considered trustworthy enough by the community to look after the interests of the poor on behalf of those two townships.

Isaiah was first commissioned Justice of the Peace for Gallatin County, on February 1st, 1821. Thus, at about 37 years of age, he officially became "Squire Potts." The office of Justice of the Peace was pretty important and prestigious in Isaiah's day. A J.P. was a "judicial magistrate," or early peace officer, which carried many responsibilities. Among other things, a Justice of the Peace was empowered to perform marriages and act in the capacity of judge, holding court in civil and minor criminal matters.

The 1820 census of Isaiah's household included two "servants or slaves." Before researching the Potts genealogy, I'd always been rather confident in my belief that my ancestors were more likely to have been indentured servants than slave-owners, but it appears Isaiah (and thus probably some of my direct ancestors), may have been part of the "slavocracy." In any case, it appears that Isaiah freed his two slaves. The Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records 1720-1865, indicate that an "Ailsy," a female negro, was emancipated by Isaiah on June 16th, 1834, and Mary, a mulatto, was emancipated on October 7th, 1836.

The Blues are also known to have been slave-owners, and, in the case of Polly's brother, Solomon, at one point, a slave broker. *The History of Union County Kentucky* relates a story of an old slave, the property of Mr. David Blue (probably Polly's Uncle). "She was very old, crooked and feeble, and had been to the spring, and when returning she was followed by a big bear. Her master saw the bear,

and cried out: 'Look behind you, Jin!' She turned and saw the bear, and her infirmities were immediately forgotten, so that she ran with alacrity to the house to escape the great beast..."

The same source mentions that, in about 1840, two slaves belonging to Col. John Blue (Polly's brother), were drowned, along with a third slave, while attempting to cross the Ohio in a skiff. The three men had been on a mission to Shawneetown to obtain consent for one of them to marry, from the mother of the intended bride, who also belonged to Col. Blue.

Of course, we tend to forget that not all slaves or servants were Negroes. This is shown at one point in Polly's genealogy: "On March 28, 1754 the following appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette: 'Thomas Donaldson, Irish servant, ran away from Uriah Blue (Polly's grandfather) near White Clay Creek in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle Co...'"

In 1825 Isaiah added to his land holdings with the purchase of 80 acres of land, adjoining the west side of his previous property. This gave Isaiah a total of 240 acres of prime bottom and forest land. Obviously, at this time, Isaiah's star was still rising. Apparently he and Polly were enjoying some degree of prosperity with their Potts' Hill holdings and ferry business.

A mile or so north of Potts' Hill, the road to the Salt Works forded Beaver Creek. In 1830 Isaiah and Joseph Robinett applied for a permit to build a toll bridge across it. Apparently the permit was approved. (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2 No. 4, 1985) If it was built, Isaiah had another enterprise to his credit.

According to Jon Musgrave, in *Slaves, Salt, Sex & Mr. Crenshaw*, Robinett and Isaiah built and ran the toll bridge, and Musgrave also notes that three of Robinett's daughters married three of Isaiah's nephews, indicating that several of Isaiah's family had also probably moved to Illinois from Kentucky by that time.

A David Potts is mentioned in the public record in connection with the ferry in 1831. Isaiah's father, David, had died in 1824 in Mercer County, Kentucky. His elder brother, David Jr., is said to have died in Warren County in *about* 1830, leaving a wife, Mary, and six children. David Jr.'s eldest son, also named David, was sixteen years old when his father allegedly died. I had speculated that it might have been this young nephew who joined Isaiah and Polly at Potts' Hill after his father's death, and had taken an interest in the ferry operation. But (this edit Jan. 2011), I now believe it was most probably Isaiah's brother David, Jr. who joined Isaiah and became his ferryman, for reasons shown below.

On January 6th, 1832, Isaiah apparently had a violent argument with a Nathaniel Simpson and his son, John, in the public highway at Potts' Inn. Simpson filed an official complaint in a letter to Gallatin County District Attorney, Henry Eddy, dated January 12th, in which he claimed Mr. Potts had assaulted him violently both verbally and physically. He said Isaiah had struck him with a pole, and threatened to kill both he and his son. Nathaniel apparently wasn't well acquainted with Isaiah, since he did not know his given name. He assumed it was the Mr. Potts, who was the Justice of the Peace, and the "same who keep tavern on the road from Fords Ferry to Equality." It might have been Isaiah or it might have been Isaiah's brother David who was of a similar age.

This incident doesn't reflect well upon Isaiah (or, perhaps David), but there would likely have been a cause for the incident which Simpson neglected to mention in his letter. It is not known whether or how Nathaniel was related to Ford's ferryman, Vincent B. Simpson. Perhaps there had been a long-term rivalry between the two ferrymen, and Nathaniel somehow entered into it. Ford had a falling out with Vincent Simpson in 1829, when he had brought suit against him in a dispute over the purchase of a slave. It is possible that the bad blood rising between the Fords and Simpson had somehow broadened into a larger feud by 1832, involving a wider circle of participants than the public record reveals.

David Potts died at Potts' Hill in April of 1832, apparently having drowned under suspicious circumstances which prompted a coroner's inquest. A Dr. Alexander Posey performed a post mortem examination. How David drowned is not known, but perhaps foul play was suspected. If so, that suspicion might have somehow been tied to the Simpson quarrel only a few weeks earlier.

Jonathan Potts, another of Isaiah's brothers, was living in nearby Union County, Kentucky. Isaiah paid him \$5.00 to make David's coffin. Isaiah, who was appointed administrator of David's estate, charged the estate \$200.00 "for washing, boarding and lodging for 2 years." (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2,

No. 3, 1985) This would indicate that David had lodged with Isaiah and Polly for at least two years prior to his death.

Joseph J. Reichel's genealogical account of the Jonathan Potts Family tells us this about Isaiah's elder brother, David Potts:

David Potts, Jr. was born 1784 and died 1830 in Warren County, Kentucky... *David Jr. was drowned in either the Ohio or the Mississippi River around 1830. "He had five hundred dollars and was going to Illinois or Missouri to find a new home."*... (Data based on research and narrative by Mildred Eubank... Emphasis added).

My feeling is that David, Jr. probably left his family in 1830 and joined Isaiah in Illinois with the intent of establishing a home there, and he drowned two years later in the Ohio River in April of 1832.

It is also very interesting to note that this David is alleged to have "had five hundred dollars and was going to Illinois or Missouri to find a new home." Such a person, with heavy money bags, would have been a prime candidate for robbery and murder by the Ford Ferry gang or the legendary Billy Potts. Clearly, that didn't happen, and David still had an "estate" to be charged in 1832. But it may have been the mysterious death of David, and later suspicions involving his five hundred dollars, that somehow coalesced into the seed that developed into the Legend of Billy Potts over seventy years later. Perhaps David's wife considered that he died in 1830, because he abandoned her in that year, and blamed Isaiah for both his disappearance and the apparent loss of his money.

Against these many small items we actually know about Isaiah's career at Potts Hill, and the speculation they arouse, there are the legends of Potts' Inn and Billy Potts, which seem to run counter to the facts. Obviously, uncle Isaiah was not "Billy" though many writers of frontier history have insisted on giving him that name. Nor do we know that Isaiah had a son of that name, or that he had any natural children at all. He is known to have adopted a child in 1833, by the name of Viola Ellis, but nothing is known of her or the circumstances of the adoption.

(Dec. 2004 NOTE: Jon Musgrave, in his 2004 book, *Slaves, Salt, Sex & Mr. Crenshaw*, mentions a William Ellis who lived "in the eastern portion of modern day Hardin County joined Capt. Barker's (militia) company around April 1, 1813" (to guard against Indian attacks). Perhaps twenty years later Viola was an orphaned member of his or a related family.

That all the stories of Potts' Inn and the Legend of Billy Potts invariably refer to the elder Potts as Billy (or "Willie," in the case of John W. Allen, in *Legends & Lore of Southern Illinois*), is the first big hint that the legends fail to meet the first and most basic tests for veracity. Though William is a very common name, it was not all that common amongst the Potts families of Isaiah's line and era. Ironically, however, Isaiah's nephew of the same name, did have a son named William Woodring Potts, who may have taken up residence in Illinois, but he would have been too young to have been the subject of the Billy Potts legend, and is known to have married and had children.

Nobody has ever been able to prove that a Billy Potts ever existed at Potts' Inn, though it certainly isn't beyond the realm of possibility that Isaiah and Polly had a child of that name. Nor is there any plausible reason to believe Isaiah went by such a nickname. If Isaiah and Polly were childless, it would hardly be in keeping with the tenancy of most families of the day to produce large numbers of offspring. Of course, there is always the possibility that Polly was unable to have children. The only evidence that Isaiah might have had a son named Billy appears in accounts written almost a century later. As far as I have been able to determine, the story of Billy Potts first appeared in *The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock*, by Otto A. Rothert, in 1923.

One of the most interesting mentions of a Billy appears in Elihu N. Hall's work, *Anna's War Against River Pirates and Cave Bandits*... where it is said that "Mrs. Potts became mistrustful of Squire Potts and left home, taking 'little Billy' with her." (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2, No. 3, May-June 1985) but this account was apparently written after Rothert's work. Unfortunately, Hall's work is not noted for its historical accuracy. However, most of his errors seem to be in the shuffling of dates and events rather than the names of characters.

Ronald Nelson's research did reveal that Polly sued for divorce in Gallatin County in 1834. Isaiah entered into an agreement, apparently brokered by his brother-in-law, Solomon, to pay Polly \$1,000.00. This was a pretty large sum in those days, and thus raises some interesting questions. The divorce motion was withdrawn, but there is no evidence that Polly ever returned to her husband. The genealogical record of the Blue family says Polly was buried in Gallatin County, however, so she apparently did not return to her relatives in Kentucky. It is probable that she had relatives living in Illinois at the time.

The mention (in the *History of Union County Kentucky*), of a slave belonging to Col. Blue, living in Shawneetown, would seem to indicate that some of the Blue family must have lived there. Thus it may have been to these relatives that Polly moved after leaving Isaiah, explaining why the family history indicates she was buried in Gallatin County. The fact that Solomon was said to have "operated a slave trading agency in Shawneetown," is another indication that the Blues had an established presence in that town, though most, including Solomon, appear to have remained officially domiciled in Kentucky.

A known "slave trading agency," allegedly operating in Shawneetown as late as 1850, may at first seem rather peculiar, given that slavery had been "officially" illegal in Illinois for some twenty-five years by that year. But slave indentures remained legal within the U.S. Saline Reservation to provide labor for the salt works. Presumably, Solomon's agency would have served that trade, supplying a flow of indentured or contracted slaves to and from Kentucky, where slavery remained legal until the Emancipation Proclamation.

Subsequently, and probably as the direct result of the settlement with Polly, Isaiah became impoverished and lost all of his property. His land was sold at auction to satisfy a judgment lodged against him by John Siddall and an Edward Jones, of Gallatin County. John Siddall, was the highest bidder at the auction, held on January 10th, 1835, purchasing the land (for which Isaiah had paid \$420.00), for slightly over \$70.00. Since there were considerable improvements to the property, \$70.00 seems to have been an unrealistically low price. Perhaps there had been some sort of a gentleman's agreement between Isaiah and Siddall. In any case, Mr. Siddall must have been somewhat friendly to Isaiah in spite of the action, for not only had he and Jones apparently loaned Isaiah a considerable amount of money, which Isaiah had been unable to repay, but he apparently allowed Isaiah to continue to occupy his home at Potts' Hill.

This followed a tumultuous period which saw the end of organized outlawry in the region. Ford's two sons, Phillip and William, reputed to have been chips off the old block, had died in November of 1831 and November of 1832, respectively. Some accounts claim they died of illness, others that they were killed. In any case, they both had the forethought to make their wills shortly before their death. Then Ford's former ferryman, Vincent B. Simpson, had been shot by Henry Shouse on June 30th, 1833. It was widely believed that the murder was committed at the behest of James Ford. Apparently it set off the chain of events that doomed James Ford. He was killed by regulators (which included former friends), on July 5th, 1833. It seems nobody was charged in Ford's murder, but Shouse was hanged for Simpson's murder at Golconda, on June 9th, 1834. Further south, the career of John A. Murrell was also coming to a close.

Isaiah's downturn in fortunes at this particular time would give the appearance that they may indeed have been tied to the fortunes of the area's banditti, but the thousand dollar settlement with Polly was undoubtedly its most significant contributing factor. As mentioned, the amount of Isaiah's settlement with Polly was enough to raise some interesting questions. Could Polly's mistrust of Squire Potts have been somehow tied to these other events? If so, how? Had she only recently become aware of Isaiah's alleged outlaw associations? Was she fearful that the regulators were closing in on Isaiah too? Was the large settlement really extortion to purchase her, and maybe Solomon's, silence?

These questions provide fertile ground for speculation, but, except for the considerable cost of the loss of his wife and title to his property, Isaiah apparently came through the crisis relatively unscathed. Records show that he remained engaged in public affairs at least until 1837. In 1836 he signed a petition for a new county to be formed from Pope and Gallatin Counties, to be named "Ohio County." The proposed new county was later established, but it was named Hardin County. In 1837, Isaiah was listed

with commissioners "to locate state road Shawneetown to Golconda, to meet at the house of Isaiah L. Potts..." (Nelson, *Springhouse* Vol. 2, No. 4, 1985)

Would the home of a known, or even suspected, outlaw have been selected for such a meeting? Would a suspected murderer have been a member of such a commission? Highly unlikely. Apparently Isaiah was still considered a respected citizen at this late date of his career.

Only a year earlier, Isaiah still owned a mulatto slave named Mary, whom he freed on October 7th, 1836. (Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records, Illinois State Archives - Internet)

Regardless of Isaiah's respectable roles in the community, it seems he may have been considered, "of the right stripe" among the principal outlaw organization of the day, prior to 1835. An "L. Pots," of Kentucky, appeared on a list of "friends" of John A. Murrell, recorded in 1834 and later published by Virgil Stewart, who was instrumental in bringing Murrell to justice. L. Pots may or may not have been Isaiah. As mentioned above, Isaiah may have met Murrell while he was still a resident of Red Banks, and may have given Stewart only the initial of Isaiah's middle name. Of course, Isaiah had been a Kentuckian when they were neighbors, and maybe Murrell was unaware that Isaiah had moved to Illinois years earlier. Of course, it is also possible that Murrell, like many of the day, had a rather broad definition of "Kentucky." The term Kentuckian, or Kaintuck, was commonly applied to everybody from the Ohio Valley region. The Ohio River was not the stark political boundary that it is today.

This possible inclusion on the list of associates of the terror of Natchez Trace may have contributed to the suspicion with which Isaiah seems to have been later regarded. Stewart's list contained a surprising number of names (452 in all, given in *The Devil's Disciples*, by Wellman), and clearly not all of them were active highwaymen or "Mystic Clan" members. Nor could they all have been co-conspirators in Murrell's alleged scheme to set off a slave rebellion. Many were known (or thought), to have been quite respectable citizens. Some were literal pillars of their respective communities. Yet they may have provided safe havens or lodging from time to time to Murrell associates. This could have been through fear, or merely a requisite of early frontier survival during a period when organized "power" was in the hands of bands of desperate characters. Isaiah's necessary association with James Ford might have been sufficient for him to be considered one of Murrell's friends. Ford's name did not appear on the list, but this could be because Murrell knew Ford had already been killed.

Virgil Stewart, himself, was suspect. According to the story told by Wellman, he received the names from Murrell while on the trail only a few days after they had met. Stewart supposedly recorded the names in his notebook as Murrell listed them from memory while they were on horseback. This feat is a little difficult to believe, and it is also difficult to believe Murrell would have entrusted such information to a new acquaintance if the great land pirate was as smart as he is reputed to have been. Be that as it may, many people, both on and off the list, had obviously cause to wish to see Stewart discredited. In *The Devil's Backbone*, the Story of the Natchez Trace, by Jonathan Daniels, one "Claiborne wrote later that Stewart was 'a notorious scamp.'"

"The whole story was a fabrication,' he wrote, in 1860, when a greater and sadder revolt was about to begin. 'Murrell was simply a thief and counterfeiter, and Stewart was his subordinate, who, having quarreled with him, devised this plan to avenge and enrich himself...'"

Before his apparent fall from grace, Isaiah was certainly a man of public affairs with a strong sense of civic duty. Maybe he did provide occasional sanctuary to outlaws, and could be trusted to keep his mouth shut. But there is apparently no record of him ever having been indicted or tried for a crime. There is no contemporary scrap of evidence to prove that he was ever even strongly suspected of a specific crime while he lived at Potts' Hill. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that Potts' Inn had managed to gain a rather strikingly sinister reputation, at least in later years.

Since this is admittedly a friendly treatise on Isaiah and Polly, let me explain how Potts' Inn might have gained such a reputation, assuming they were not parties to any of the crimes of the nature now commonly attributed to them. Beside the reasons given above, which may have technically made him an accessory to the fact in illegal activities, others were known to actively engaged in criminal activity around Potts' Hill. One such gang was a bunch led by a Nysonger and Dr. King. They operated for some time in the vicinity of Potts' Hill, in about 1819. A Hardin County Independent article, dated

December 2 and 9, 1920 claims they lived on Potts' Hill. "There, men robbed, stole and were killed..." (Nelson, *Springhouse* Vol. 2, No. 4, 1985)

Though Isaiah was apparently not implicated in their activities, the proximity was certainly close enough to give Potts' Inn a bad name and cast a strong pall of suspicion upon the hill's namesake. Crimes committed from a base on Potts' Hill, in the minds of some, would naturally tend to reflect poorly on Isaiah's establishment at the foot of the hill. But what can you do when the neighborhood goes to pot?

As for all the travelers alleged to have disappeared at Potts' Inn (no number or particulars have ever been given), it is quite easy to speculate that anybody who came up missing between Ford or Flinn's Ferries and the Salt Works and Shawneetown, or between Golconda and Shawneetown, might have disappeared at Potts' Inn. As mentioned, the Potts' establishment was at an isolated place at the crossing of the roads connecting those locations. If the Ford Ferry gang did away with any northbound wayfarers, and were later questioned about the disappearances, Ford's men would have undoubtedly said "The party in question was last seen safely on his way to points north." Potts' Inn happened to be on the route they must have taken, thus it is easy to see how suspicion would fall in Isaiah's direction. In the case of southbound travelers who met their fate somewhere on the Ford or Flinn's Ferry road, Ford's men would simply say they had never seen them.

The stories claim that Ford sent spotters and advance men to inform Isaiah of likely prospects for murder and robbery. But it seems unlikely that Ford would have referred business he and his own gang were probably much more capable of taking care of themselves. The scene of Isaiah and Polly frequently butchering up multiple wayfarers in their own home hardly seems believable.

"At Potts' Hill, or before reaching that wayside tavern on the south hillside, the newcomer was either robbed or permitted to continue his journey unmolested. It is said that many a traveler who was found weak and destitute by the 'strangers' was given money and other help by them. On the other hand, the traveler who exhibited evidence of wealth and prosperity almost invariably met his fate along the road, at the ferry or at Potts' Hill..."

"Billy Potts was the strategist on whom the highwaymen relied as their last and best man to dispose of any encouraging cases that had not been settled before they reached his house. Potts, by one means or another, succeeded in persuading the selected travelers to remain all night at his inn. His log house was large and comfortable and stood near a good spring which, then as now, offered an abundant supply of water for man or beast. Tradition say many a man took his last drink at Potts' Spring and spent his last hour on earth in Potts' house..." (From *The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock*, by Otto A. Rothert, 1923, as republished in *Springhouse* v15n1 1998).

Could it be that Isaiah and Polly Potts engaged in the kind of good Samaritanism suggested by Rothert above? I find it more likely that the helping of poor strangers was much more common on the frontier than the robbing of the rich. It would be fairly certain, in any case, that both Ford and Isaiah would be very careful to protect their "good names" and family reputations. This would dictate that robberies and murders, whoever committed them, would be very few and far between. Victims would have to have been selected very carefully. Unlike the outlaws and river pirates who did steady business for only a relatively short while and moved on, both Ford and Isaiah had fixed abodes, and lived in the area for many years. Isaiah was a resident of the area from about 1814 to at least 1843, a period of 29 years, and possibly a few more. It is highly unlikely that the regulators would have left him unmolested for such a period if he really was the "strategist on whom the highwaymen relied." They did catch up with James Ford, but why didn't they catch up with Isaiah? Because, perhaps, Isaiah simply wasn't what legend has painted him. In short, it is likely that "Billy" was the later invention of a legend-maker.

Unlike isolated Isaiah, James Ford was apparently able to raise a small army at any time. On occasion, after there had been a particularly outrageous (or embarrassing), crime in the area, it is said Ford would lead his men in pursuit of the guilty parties, often returning to announce that the culprits had been overtaken and dealt with, or at least run out of the country. It is believed that many of those Ford "ran off" were members of his own outlaw associates. When this happened, they may have been sent, under Ford's protection and instructions, to safer territory to the south, perhaps to join Murrell's riders

then operating on the Natchez Trace. In this manner, Ford was able to appear to be an effective champion of law and order, whereas Isaiah was unable to bring such favorable acclaim to himself.

In comparing the financial rewards of the alleged outlaw career of Isaiah L. Potts to that of James Ford, we find that the latter died leaving an estate of close to \$22,000.00 (a hefty sum in those days), whereas Isaiah went bankrupt after a thousand dollar settlement with Polly. (Nelson, *Springhouse*, Vol. 2, No. 3) And it appears Isaiah had to borrow much of the money for his settlement with Polly. Obviously Isaiah could not have robbed many wealthy travelers. If Isaiah and Polly prospered during their first two decades at Potts' Hill, they only prospered modestly - so modestly, in fact, that they might even have come by their gains honestly.

At least once, however, Isaiah found himself in a dangerous situation fighting on the side of the law. This was in June of 1822, when a posse led by Circuit Attorney, James Hall, of Shawneetown, had arrested the suspected counterfeiters, Roswell and Merrick Sturdivant. Hall and his men had taken the two prisoner that morning at their fortified home, called Sturdivant's Fort, on the banks of the Ohio near present day Rosiclare. They were headed toward Shawneetown when they reached Potts' Hill late in the evening. A gang of Sturdivant's compatriots had pursued them, however, and they'd just managed to reach Potts' Inn before being overtaken.

Hall and his men took refuge in Isaiah's home, and soon Potts' Inn was surrounded by numerous Sturdivant supporters. Isaiah and Polly's roll in this episode is not known, but it can be assumed that Polly and her servants dutifully fed the posse and prisoners. Isaiah, in all probability, had taken down his rifle to lend support to his beleaguered guests if the situation warranted. After all, he was the local Justice of the Peace. They passed a long and harrowing night, but apparently no shots were fired. By morning the outside guests had departed, and Hall and company proceeded on to Shawneetown with their prisoners unmolested.

The end of Isaiah's wealth, and decline in social standing, may seem to lend credence to the notion that his prosperity had been tied to that of the James Ford gang. However, Isaiah was bankrupt, his family broken up, and his inn business perhaps ruined by sordid rumors, preventing him from rebounding from the hard times that had come upon him. In short, after 1835, Isaiah seems to have been a ruined man. Regardless of character, when one, who was once prosperous, is found to be both landless and penniless, his social standing tends to decline. If there are rumors in circulation about that individual's past association with known outlaws, all the worse.

Remembering that his brother-in-law, Solomon Blue, had a hand in brokering Isaiah's extravagant settlement with Polly, one might also conclude that even that friendship had gone sour. Yet it would appear that Solomon remained a steadfast friend to Isaiah to the end. In spite of Polly's estrangement, and the suspicion under which Isaiah might have been regarded, perhaps Solomon considered Isaiah an unfortunate victim of circumstance.

In August of 1837, Solomon Blue had purchased Isaiah's former property from John Siddall and his wife Martha, for \$180.00. Solomon then owned the property for six years, after which he sold it, in 1843, to Andrew and Thomas Tawzer for \$1400.00. During those six years, Isaiah continued to live there. This would have been highly unlikely had Isaiah and Solomon not been on good terms.

Since Solomon sold the property for what might have been a realistic market price, it appears that the previous transactions had been among friends, and that Isaiah had continued to have an unofficial ownership interest in the property. In fact, since Isaiah seems to have departed the country soon afterwards, it is possible that Solomon may have shared some of the \$1,400.00 with Isaiah according to an old agreement. This may have provided him a stake with which to move on to a new life in the west, or quiet retirement nearby.

Where Isaiah went after 1843, when he would have been about 59 years old, is still a mystery. Chances are, having lost all, and being regarded with continued suspicion, he felt he could do better elsewhere. Perhaps he moved westward where all trace of him has been lost in the vast new frontier of the day. Of course, it is possible that he died at Potts Hill some time after 1843, and is buried there. He may have moved back to Kentucky to live out his remaining days with his many relatives. It is also quite possible that he remained with relatives nearby in Illinois, and died there in obscurity.

The later alleged circumstances of suspicion of Isaiah and Polly often appear tantalizingly incriminating. Potts' Inn finally collapsed and was finally torn down in 1937 or 1938. According to Wellman, "...bloodstains a hundred years old were found in one of its rooms, evidently the murder chamber. And over the years ploughmen, turning the soil in what was called Potts' Old Field, have more than once uncovered moulding human bones, the relics of men killed and buried there in shallow graves." But the plausibility of such speculation seems questionable at best. Surely those hundred year-old blood stains would have been noted much earlier, and made the subject of criminal inquiries in light of the many allegations and suspicions we hear of today. The stains, if they were really bloodstains, could easily have dated from some time after Isaiah's departure.

Would not the uncovering of human bones have prompted official inquiry even a hundred years ago, if they were suspected to have been the bones of "white men"? Chances are, the bones were those of Indians. It must be remembered that Isaiah's property was on the site of an Indian village, and that the trail had been a "warpath" just prior to Isaiah's day, and Indian artifacts were rendered up in the area in great quantities during ensuing decades.

In any case, Isaiah's establishment was of sufficient notoriety that in 1854, J. J. Williams, moving with his family from Keysburg, Kentucky to Missouri by covered wagon, noted in his diary entry for October 25th:

"...We came to the foot of Patz' hill about ten o'clock; there is a house at the foot of the hill where legend says many a man has stopped for the night and never been heard of more. It looks like a place for deeds dark and dreadful. The hills and rocks around have a wild and fearful look about and seem to be a fit place for the ghosts of the murdered dead, to howl in. It may be fancy, but the house itself has a forbidding appearance, every shutter was closed but those that were broken off and looked like they might have been shut for half a score of years..."(Illinois History Internet web pages by Jon Musgrave)

This mention, some eleven years after Isaiah's disappearance, is possibly the only "official," and earliest, recorded mention of Potts' Inn's reputation to come to the attention of the modern world. It would seem to verify the legends of Potts' Inn with which we have become familiar, and demonstrates that Potts' Inn had an early reputation. But there is always the possibility that the inn's most sordid reputation was earned after Isaiah's departure. Nothing, for example, is known of the activities of the Tawzers, who occupied the premises after Isaiah's departure and are buried there.

Significantly, there is no mention of the Legend of Billy Potts which, if it were then known, would certainly have been foremost in Mr. William's mind.

Doctor F. F. Johnson, author of the *Life and Works of F. F. Johnson*, first came to Illinois in the same year J. J. Williams crossed the state, in 1854. He crossed over from Kentucky at Golconda, Illinois, and trekked across Pope County in route to Benton, Illinois, to visit relatives, and later settled in Illinois. Johnson's book was published in 1913. Dr. Johnson relates a story he found interesting which he called "The Treacherous Hosts." It was set in a village on the coast of Normandy. (See *Springhouse* Vol. 14, No. 3, of June 1997) Except for the setting, and lack of names, the story is the same as that which later attached itself to Potts' Inn and became the Legend of Billy Potts. Had the Legend of Billy Potts been current at any time during F. F. Johnson's life between 1854 and 1913, he undoubtedly would have seen the similarity to the story he thought significant enough to put in his book, and would certainly have made mention of it.

A lengthy news article, dealing primarily with the Belt and Oldhams feuds of the 1870s (July 17th, 1879 issue of the *Chicago Times*, and reprinted in Vol. 21, Nos. 1,2, & 3, 2005 issues of the *Springhouse* Magazine), entitled "Hell on the Ohio, A Hardin County Picture," goes into considerable detail about the history of crime in Hardin County, Illinois. It refers to the county as the "cancerous part of the State." Most of the old outlaws are mentioned, including James Ford and several of his gang, but Isaiah Potts and his Inn are conspicuously absent from the account.

It does, however, mention that (James Ford) "kept a hotel, which is to this day thought of with horror by those who knew of it... Dead bodies were found near his house, and isolated and freshly made



graves were discovered in that neighborhood. Men were known to start west with a little money to locate, and were never after heard of. Their friend would inquire, follow them to Ford's and there loose all traces of them..." These quotes seem so familiar that they might have been transposed directly into the Legend of Billy Potts by later writers.

If James Ford also operated a hotel, it has not yet come to this writer's attention. Perhaps the Times reporter was a little mixed up and the "hotel" he referred to was Pott's Inn. Yet it seems strange that a reporter who obviously researched the area's crime history, and spent considerable time in the area covering the Logan Belt murder trial and its background would have made such a glaring error or omission. But apparently the name of Isaiah Potts and his infamous inn were unworthy of mention in 1879 and unknown to the *Chicago Times* reporter. The article was written only about forty years after Isaiah's disappearance, and if Isaiah Potts had been an infamous name at the time, it would have undoubtedly have been noted.

Perhaps the earliest account of the Legend appeared in *The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock*, by Otto A. Rothert, which was published in 1924, only a decade after F. F. Johnson's book. Rothert's source for the story is uncertain, but at some point it must have been picked up from local legend passed down for at least two or three generations. Or, it might have simply been invented - perhaps soon after F. F. Johnson's book (or another source of the story), suggested the plot.

The famous poem, "*The Legend of Billie Potts*," by Robert Penn Warren (published only a few years after Rothert's work), claims an independent source for the story told in his poem. In a letter, Mr. Warren told Ronald Nelson that he first heard the story from his great aunt Anna (Mitchell) Baker, and it was allegedly set in Kentucky between the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. (*Springhouse*, Vol. 2, No. 4, 1985) Warren had been unaware of Rothert's work at the time he wrote his poem. Presumably, Mrs. Baker would have heard it sometime in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This would seem to give credence to the story, but it doesn't tie in with Isaiah and Polly Potts and Potts' Inn. Apparently Warren did not tell how Mrs. Baker heard the story, where she lived, or whether it had been passed down in her family, or had been a local legend. Of course, as many have since assumed, the location may simply have been placed in error.

Isaiah's outlaw fame seems to have been gained on the coat-tails of James Ford's notoriety. Before the advent of the Legend of Billy Potts, there was apparently little note taken of him. In *The Outlaw Years, the History of the Land Pirates of the Natchez Trace*, written by Robert M. Coates, and published in 1930, James Ford is given a full page. Isaiah Potts and the Legend of Billy Potts are alluded to only in a footnote to James Ford, and then not by name:

"A great mass of legend grew up, for some reason, about Ford and his activities. Many of his gang figure in tales of which most are familiar variants of ancient bandit dramas - the highwayman who kills his wife by mistake in a hold-up, the robber returning in disguise who is assassinated by his father and mother, etc...."

Thus it appears that Coates was familiar with the Legend of Billy Potts, recognized the ancient script, and considered it unworthy of serious consideration. The story, in various forms and locales, has obviously migrated considerably. England, Normandy, Czechoslovakia, Kentucky, etc. Just when it migrated to Potts' Hill is unclear, but seems to have been some time after 1913.

In the *History of Hardin County*, Illinois, written for Hardin County's Centennial in 1939, the only mention of Isaiah, given as "Isaac," was with reference to his road supervisor appointment. There is no mention that he was one of the area's outlaws. Ford is mentioned, however. "...Old Ford's Ferry Road, where many a hapless traveler, crossing from Kentucky into Illinois country, met his fate at the hands of the notorious Ford's Ferry band of robbers."

But none of this spells certainty. It may be that there was a Billy Potts who was killed by his parents in the Land Between the Rivers in Kentucky, or elsewhere. For those who prefer to believe the legend is true, and that it occurred at Potts' Hill in what is now Hardin County, Illinois, there is still hope. The possibility cannot yet be totally discounted.

If Isaiah and Polly had had a son named Billy a year after their marriage, he would have been born in 1812. When Polly grew suspicious of Isaiah and left him in 1834, he would have been twenty-two

years old. (Of course, he might have been born some years later, and thus still "little" in 1834.) It might have been that Billy had left as a young teenager and returned about 1834 at age twenty-two. During his absence, he might have been marauding with Murrell on the Natchez Trace. When he returned in disguise, he was killed for his bulging purse by his unsuspecting parents. Perhaps Polly had not participated in, or known of, the murder, but grew "suspicious" that Isaiah had murdered their son. Either way, the traumatic experience might have prompted Polly to leave Isaiah and extract a thousand dollars in extortion money to keep the matter quiet.

The sordid tale, thus suppressed, did not surface until decades later, with the locale changed to the land between the rivers to protect certain family reputations. Meanwhile, Isaiah had continued to occupy his home at Potts' Hill until his own conscience, and perhaps suspicions of other crimes, caused him to flee the area about ten years later.

But this is pure speculation of the variety necessary to bring plausible "history" into accord with what is most probably a legend without foundation in fact.

There are some other matters that provoke speculation with regard to Isaiah and Polly Potts. Most especially with regard to some events in the mid 1830s. For instance, it is interesting to speculate how Isaiah and Polly's apparent break-up in 1834 might have related to their two slaves. Ailsy was freed in that same year. It can be speculated that she accompanied Polly when she left her husband. On the other hand, Mary (a mulatto), wasn't freed until 1836. So Mary was possibly Isaiah's sole companion for at least two years after Polly left him. Could it have been that Isaiah found Mary attractive, and that the relationship had something to do with the breakup of his marriage? Could it be that there was more to Isaiah's relationship with Mary than anybody in the family would like to admit-then or now? Perhaps an untouchable subject, but it does have interesting possibilities, especially since there is at least one branch of the Potts family in Southern Illinois who are known to be descendents of slaves. Could Isaiah and Mary have been the source of this branch of the family? If so, this could be one reason why Isaiah has literally disappeared from both the family history and the public record. Isaiah would have been disowned by most friends and family alike. Likely he would have lived out the remainder of his life in the most object obscurity, hidden away from the world in a cabin in the woods either in Illinois or Kentucky or further west. This could be the reason that no family member, until now, has had the desire to uncover the details of Isaiah's career - it possibly being the unspoken consensus that even the Legend of Billy Potts was more palatable than this possible alternative. Of course, it must be remembered that this is just wild speculation, and the suggestion may constitute another outrageous injustice. If so, I regret having pointed out the possibilities.

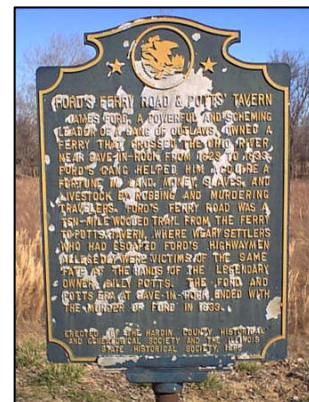
The known facts pertaining to the life of Isaiah L. Potts, indicate that he was among the earliest pioneers of Illinois, and a man of energy and ambition. There is no doubt that he occupied a position of prominence, trust, and respect in his community. On this basis, he is an historical figure well worthy of note, and a credit to his family as well as the nation. On the other hand, if he was guilty of any of the crimes legend alone has attributed to him, his reputation would stand considerably compromised. But, thus far, there is no evidence that this is the case. In any case, in the court of inquiry of my own mind, I acquit Isaiah on every count legend has lodged against him. As for the Legend of Billy Potts, it will live on as local folklore regardless of what historical scholarship happens to reveal to the contrary.

May 2001

Updated December, 2004 and January, 2011

[This historical marker "disappeared" in 2003. This seems to be the story of more than one of our historical markers commemorating notorious outlaws and gangsters.]

## Acknowledgments



Special thanks to Joseph W. Potts, the uncle responsible for whetting my genealogical interest in the Potts family, and who has provided much valuable information; my friend Gary DeNeal; Editor/Publisher of *Springhouse* magazine; Ronald Nelson, local historian and *Springhouse* contributor; and those many others whose writings I have consulted in my search for the story of Isaiah L. Potts.

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## APPENDIX M

### THE LEGEND OF BILLY POTTS

The following article was first published in 1937 by the Illinois Department of Public Works, Division of Highways in a magazine called *Safety*. It Later appeared in the *The Metropolis News*.



Pictured is a building in Hardin County that is about 100 years old and has a most unusual gruesome history.

This building is located on what was the old Ford's Ferry to Vandalia Trail in Hardin County. Travelers coming from the eastern territory beyond the Ohio River into the Illinois country, usually crossed the river on Ford's ferry, then followed the Vandalia Trail as a necessity, as it was then the only cross-country route that a stranger unfamiliar with the surroundings could follow.

The tavern was on the Vandalia Trail about ten miles from Ford's ferry, at the foot of a high

rocky bluff, the first indication of the fact that the Ozark foothills would have to be taken into consideration by the weary traveler. Here, also, was a clear, cool spring, which was then and is now, a source of never failing supply of water, about which we will hear more later. The tavern was operated by a cheerful villain who bore the name of Potts.

Jim Ford owned the ferry and hired one Vincent Simpson to operate it. These three merry-gentlemen — Potts, Ford and Simpson — had an eye for business and were not bothered by any questions of remorse, if their business methods resulted in an untimely death for some of their customers. The dominating idea that the inspiration for this unholy alliance of three cut-throats; was that of separating the travelers from their worldly possessions, which they usually carried in their saddlebags or in a convenient "poke", fastened to a belt. As indicated above if, in the separating process, the surprised customers chose to take issue with them and point out that they were engaged in a nefarious enterprise, which if not illegal, most certainly could be classified as being rude and discourteous, they promptly dispatched him to another world as befitting one who was not versed in modern business and had made the unhappy mistake of talking out of turn, thereby revealing to them that such an uncouth person would not be missed in the circle of polite society of Hardin County.

In order to put their business of murder and robbery on a big dividend paying basis, they evolved the idea of hiring spotters and runners whose business it was to fall in with approaching travelers and make an inventory of their belongings, which they forwarded, together with a report of about how much resistance to expect from each victim to either Messrs. Ford and Simpson at the ferry or to Mr. Potts at the tavern,. This information, turned in by the spotters and runners, cut down to a minimum the useless knocking off of a penniless wayfarers, which could not result in any possible gain of any sort, and had the added disadvantage of cluttering up the landscape with a varied assortment of lifeless gentry that someone would have to bury, or at least drag off, out of the way of a not-so-very fast coming civilization.

Potts had a son who finally grew to young manhood and was making a very efficient hand in his father's business organization, as he apparently inherited the knack of murder and highway robbery from a long line of forefathers who have been ranked by historians as being tops in this field of endeavor. However, he chafed at restraint and would on occasions and on his own initiative, make solicitations that did not have parental sanction. One of these individual efforts on his part was rather crudely staged, and resulted in his having to leave the immediate vicinity in a hurry. Thrown on his own, he still plied the trade which had been taught him by long association with his father, and made quite a name for himself in the Ohio River territory as a freebooter and river pirate, par excellence. After an absence of some fifteen or twenty years, pangs of homesickness smote him to such an extent that he turned his footsteps homeward. A newly-discovered sense of humor, and the natural desire of our true artist to test the effectiveness of his careful disguise which had been supplemented by a full, luxuriant, natural bear, led him to have a try at keeping his identity a secret for a short space of time, when he returned to the scene of his boyhood days. More than this, if he were unknown, he would have a chance to view at close range, the business operations of his father's firm, with the now criticizing eye of an efficiency expert and be in a position to finally point out flaws in the set-up or possibly pick up for himself a few pointers on skullduggery to augment his own voluminous knowledge of his craft. Whatever his motive, history records his coming as an unheralded one.

He approached the ferry from the Kentucky side. Sure enough, a man he knew for a spotter in his father's hire, fell in with him and carefully sounded him out as to his finances. He let it be known that he was in possession of a considerable quantity of the coin of the realm, which later

proved to be the truth. This man and the ferry attendant gave him careful instructions to guide him to Potts' tavern, as they were now convinced that fortune had favored them indeed, by sending his lone individual who would yield up a maximum of profit for a minimum of effort. They also knew that if this lone bearer of potential company earnings failed, for any reason, to arrive at Potts' tavern for his already-arranged-for hulling out and demise the wrath of Potts senior, who now had been elevated to the exalted position of managing direct of the firm Death and Robbery, Unlimited, Hardin County, Illinois, would be visited upon the underline responsible for this mismanagement. Previous experiences had taught them that old man Potts was much more than a mere novice when it came to visiting wrath on anybody of anything.

Anyhow, Potts junior, wearing his beard at full mast, and enjoying his huge joke to the utmost, drove in sight of the hold homestead and bidden welcome by his father, who was not only a most genial host, but had developed little mannerisms and tricks of hospitality which often induced the guest to extend his stay at the hostelry for an indefinite period of time.

Potts, senior, now went into the old routine of asking his new guest if he did not want to quench his thirst at the old spring. This idea had long been incorporated in the firm's by-laws for a two-fold purpose. Some of the more fastidious guests had been known to squawk about the idea of sitting idly on the tavern veranda and having to watch the innkeeper bounce a pole ax off the head of another guest, especially just before the dinner hour. Having originated the idea that some of the customers-particularly the ones who had arrived without much money-were always partially right., Potts, with a fine display of sympathetic feeling for his other gusts always maneuvered any newcomer whom he planned to rob out of sight, down by the spring. This couple with the fact that his private burying ground was immediately adjacent to the springs, not only smoothed the remaining, living guest, but added just that gesture of efficiency of the brand he so ardently demanded from all the members of his organization.

Not knowing that the elder Potts had long since completed his graduate work and had been awarded a master's degree in the gentle art of preparing passengers for their journey across the River Styx, and acting as chief usher to them while en route, Potts junior strolled unwarily ahead of him down the path leading to the spring. Local historians have recorded the fact that this particular murder, because of its masterful handling, should be included in the upper brackets when compiling any kind of a list of deaths by violence in Hardin County. Some have gone as far as to say, without qualification, that its perfection had never been approached when viewed in the cool, analyzing way unprejudiced experts have of judging such matters.

When it was subsequently rumored that the last Potts' tavern guest who had been murdered and robbed in the order named, was in reality, young Potts, it irked the old man no end, To put a stop to such foolish outburst of woman's chitter-chatter, he without further delay diligently removed the shallow earth covering the body and hauled him forth to prove to all the known world and that part of Hardin County which had shown any interest in the matter, that he was not a citizen who would do such a dastardly thing as murder his own son, even when he was harassed by an unusual rush of seasonal business.

Here, though, he tripped himself, as he had not reckoned on his wife's remarkable memory. She happened to be dipping a bucket of water from the spring and saw her spouse uproot his latest business venture. She identified the remains as their son by a birthmark and some indentations in his skull, the latter a result of her having tried to correct him in his wayward youth, with an iron poker, usually kept near the fireplace, but had been pressed into use on one occasion as an emergency remedy.

Potts' tavern is located in Hardin County, on S.B.I. No. 1, 13 miles south of the junction of

S.B.I. No. 13, about 400' west of the pavement.

(Picture and article courtesy of *Safety* magazine published by Division of Highways, district nine, at Carbondale, in the interest of highway safety.)

— *Ann Laird of Metropolis contributed this article.*

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