

TEXAS JOURNEY

by Gerry Booth

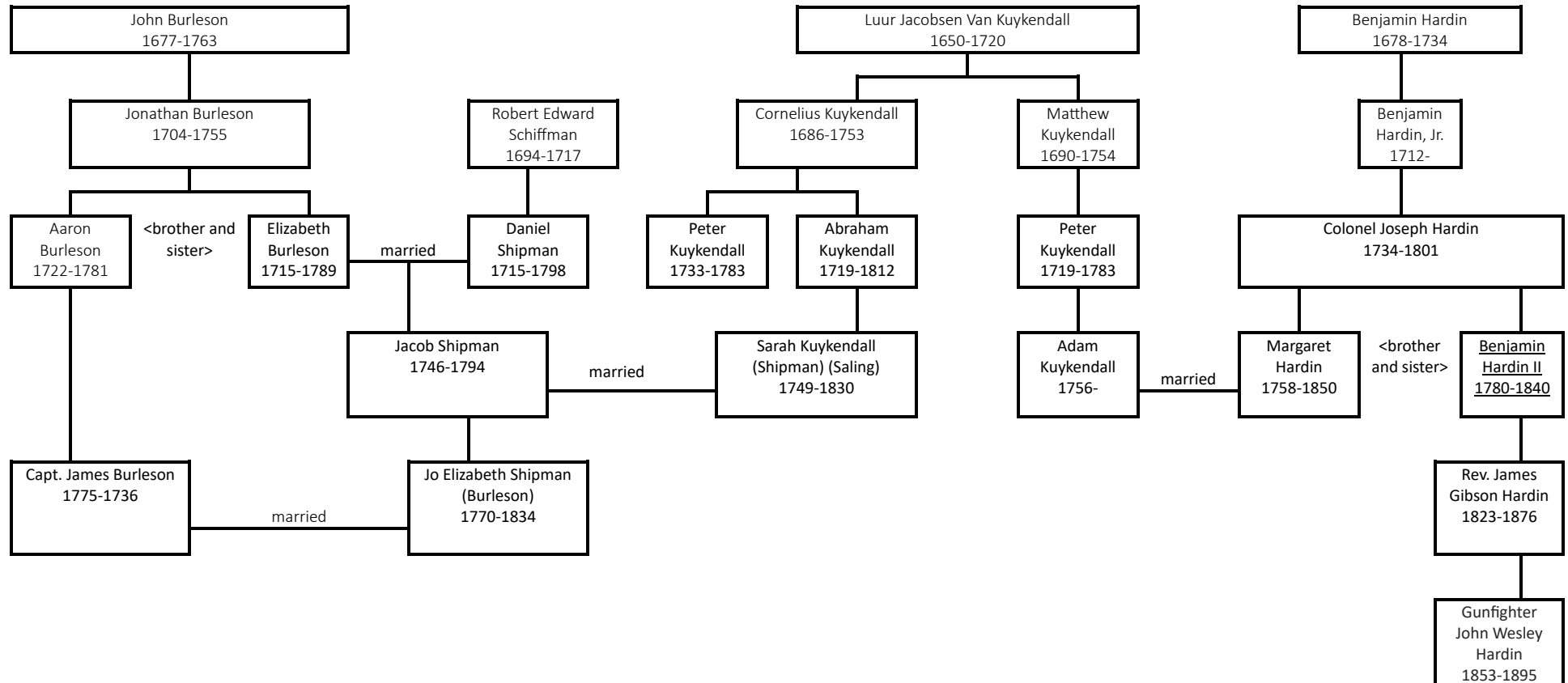
Headed to the Border

The journey is almost over. In fact, this is the penultimate article. I found so much information and the article was running so long, that I decided to divide it into two parts. This is the first part of the end. I did not find all the answers I wanted but what I did find is fascinating. I hope you enjoy it.

CORRECTION:

I found a mistake on the Kuykendall Relationship Chart in the article "Shipmans in the Carolinas and the First Texas Revolution." If you want to read this article, it is posted at <http://burlesonsbigtent.com>. Once you are on the home page, click on my picture to find the past articles.

The Kuykendall family had three brothers that married three sisters and they all named their children with the same names. My mistake was I had Abraham attached to the wrong father. Since I will be writing more about the Kuykendalls in this and the last article, I thought it important to correct the chart and place it here for your review. You will see I have added to the chart Cornelius Kuykendall, Abraham's father, and Peter (1733), Abraham's brother.





THIS MAP IS FROM 1839 WHICH IS LATER THAN THE TIME PERIOD DESCRIBED, BUT IT HAS THE 3 MAIN COMMUNITIES, NACOGDOCHES, JONESBORO, AND PECAN POINT, WHERE THERE WERE SETTLERS BEFORE AUSTIN'S COLONY.

1

BACKGROUND:

Anglo-Americans had been interested in Texas for years before Moses Austin applied for permission to colonize Texas. In 1804 the census indicated sixty-eight foreigners lived at Nacogdoches. Many of these were Americans who had not applied for Spanish citizenship.²

In addition to the area around Nacogdoches, there were settlements further north on the Red River in an area that later became Miller County in 1820. This area was under Mexican jurisdiction and United States jurisdiction.

Settlers in this area had mixed views about which government they favored. "From a law and order standpoint, they felt belonging to the [Arkansas] Territory would be a plus. However, from a land acquisition viewpoint, it would be easier to work with the Spanish, and later the Mexicans, obtaining new grants and settlements."³

¹ "An Important Republic of Texas Map, 'Map of Texas,' New York, 1839,," Lot - AN IMPORTANT REPUBLIC OF TEXAS MAP, "Map of Texas," NEW YORK, 1839, www.simpsonalleries.com/auction-lot/an-important-republic-of-texas-map-map-of-texas_C5C4636B1A. Accessed 21 Aug. 2024.

² McDonald, Archie P. *Texas All Hail the Mighty State*, (Austin, Texas, Eakin Press, 1983), 42.

³ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months From Tennessee* (Wolfe City, Texas, Hennington Publishing Company, 1983), 101

In 1819, the Adams-Onís Treaty established the boundary line between the United States and Spain. The east boundary line of the Spanish Province of Texas was the Sabine River and the northern boundary was the Red River. The area north of the Red River and west of the Kiamichi River was designated as Indian Territory and all settlers in this area were illegal “squatters.”⁴

This Indian territory was given to the Choctaw Indians to push their nation further west and out of the expanding United States.

With the October 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand, this Indian territory was located in the northern watershed of the Red River, and it comprised nearly thirteen million acres of land to compensate the Choctaw for their homelands in Mississippi.⁵ As a condition of this treaty, on May 16, 1819, Major William Bradford, the commander of Fort Smith, Arkansas Territory, started an expedition to evict the settlers

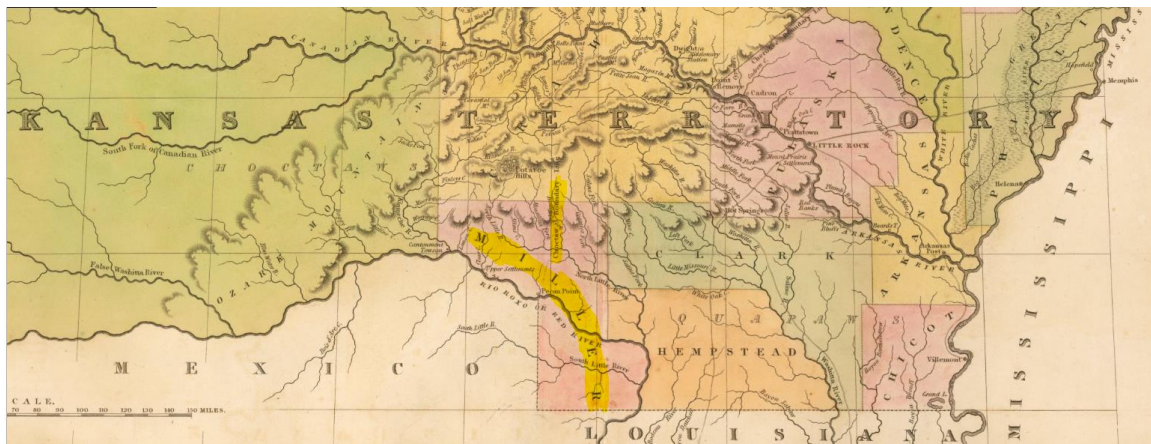
He found that most of the illegal settlers were in the process of growing crops when he made his visit. He ordered the settlers to leave but gave them until October so that they could harvest their crops to feed their families during the coming winter.

When the grace period ended in the fall of 1819, Major Bradford ordered Captain Robert L. Coomb, from Fort Jessup at Natchitoches, Louisiana, to evict all the remaining settlers west of the Kiamichi. Captain Coomb executed his orders by burning the homes and destroying crops. This action enraged the settlers.

A man who would soon play a role in the Shipmans’ journey was Martin Varner, one of the illegal settlers evicted from his land. After this incident, Martin Varner and the other evicted settlers crossed the Red River and joined their friends at Jonesborough (also called Jonesboro) on the south side of the Red River, in the Spanish Province of Texas. A short time later, on April 1, 1820, Arkansas Governor James Miller, signed an act creating Miller County, Arkansas Territory. The southern boundary of Miller County was not well defined and an indeterminate portion of northeast Texas was included.

With the Indians moving into the area, the county seat was moved to Jonesborough.

In 1821, the Miller County settlers wrote a memorial to the President of the United States presenting their eviction from the Indian Territory and requesting compensation for their losses. ... Some of the signers would soon migrate to Austin’s colony and become members of Austin’s “Old Three Hundred.”⁶

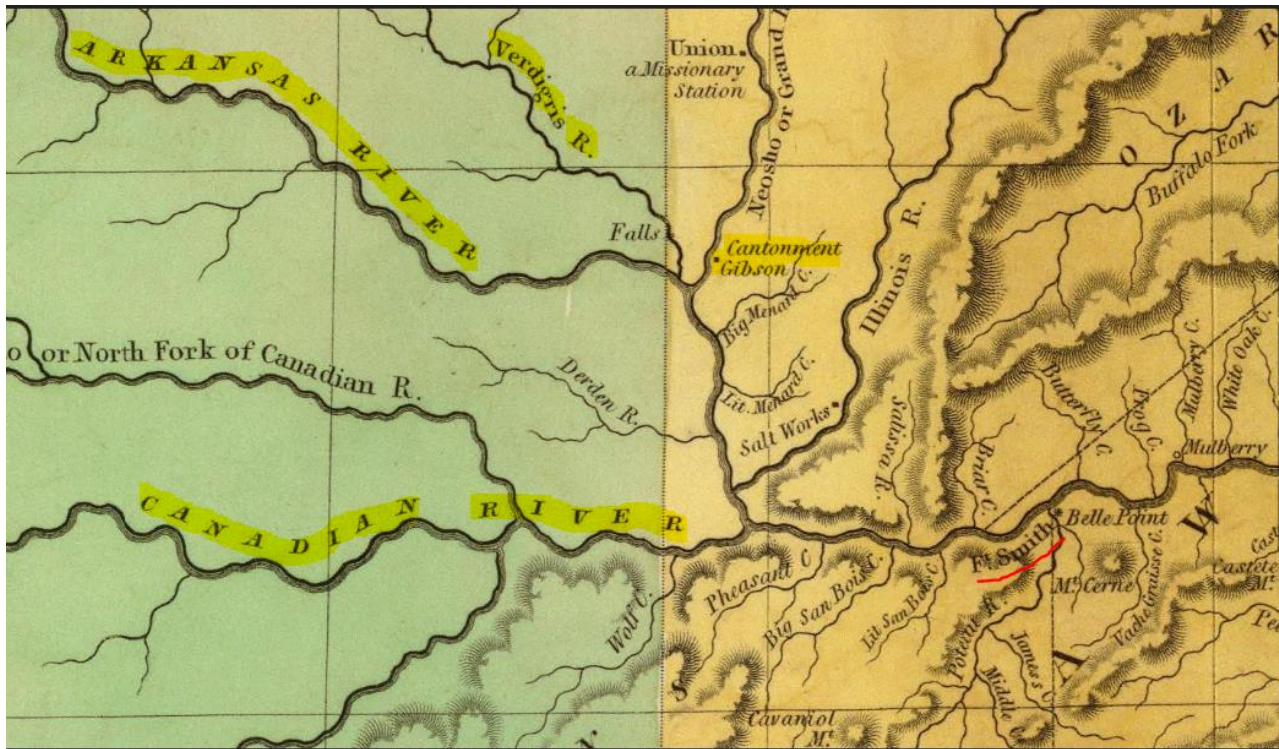


⁴ Ramsey, Don. *Martin Varner: Texas Pioneer* (San Diego, California: www.Bookwarren.com, 2009), 34.

⁵ Everett, Dianna. “Pecan Point,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Published December 21, 2017 Accessed August 21, 2024, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=PE006>

⁶ Ramsey. *Martin Varner*, 36-37

⁷ Map of the State of Missouri and Territory of Arkansas 1826 https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/57698/map-of-the-state-of-missouri-and-territory-of-arkansas-compl-finley?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3Odm-JM_R7_DLx0VYXWtLYKp1FXwVXGvLJj24amSDRxIlnXosCP2K98_aem_AW6yOJKIPFfj09dYVdbgFBAtIWr6B7bfzvAJDaEyhuJ6cW8RtQbjFBEjPBF6ghkb_hcGuMwigtBYTseHT-iglyR



DANIEL'S ACCOUNT:

On Christmas day, 1821, we crossed the Arkansas at the mouth of the Verdigris river, there being some seeping springs on the east side which prevented the water from freezing, and we broke the ice on the west side, and got our wagons all over to a point on the beach between the two rivers, from there we rolled our wagons across the Arkansas river on the ice. The river being very low, we took our axes and cut the ice away, so that we drove all of our stock through the water and broken ice. We were in the water nearly all that day; got all over a little before dark, so as to get up the bank and go two or three hundred yards and find a camping place. Next morning we called all the force we could raise to help us cut a road through the bottom to the prairie; staying so long at the Glenn's old place, our friends who were following on our trail overtook us and aided in cutting this part of our road.

Is this a wagon train? Who are the friends"? In the last installment, the Shipmans held a meeting to decide the future of the trip. "The result was that Mr.[Reuben] Gage and his family were to go to Gasconade county; Mr. Harrell and family and two young men by the name of Jacob and George Nidever, and father and family to Arkansas."

⁸ Map of the State of Missouri and Territory of Arkansas 1826 https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/57698/map-of-the-state-of-missouri-and-territory-of-arkansas-compl-finley?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3Odm-JM_R7_DLx0VYXWTcLYKp1FXwVXGvLJjI24amSDRxIlnXosCP2K98_aem_AW6yOJKIPFfj09dYVdbgFBAtIWrm6B7bfzvAJDaEyhuJ6cW8RtQbjFBEjPBF6ghkb_hcGuMwigtBYTseHT-iglyR

When all in the prairie we made our start again and went down the Arkansas river, leaving it along on our left. Now about seventy-five miles to Fort Smith from where we crossed the river. My recollection is that we traveled the most of our time in a heavy forest country; it seemed to me that we found a considerable number of quite ugly creeks and branches, among which we found a little river called Canadian. At this stream we had considerable digging and chopping to do, and a great deal of hard work. They generally put me ahead and I being young and foolish was willing to risk myself for the sake of being first. It seemed like I had almost got to believe that I could almost go anywhere that my team could get through, up or down, and as I was ascending the bank of the Canadian river at the outcome, father, to assist me, took hold of my lead animal and as I went to make my first effort to rise the bank, he did not turn loose as soon as I wished him to in my hurry and excitement, and being quite anxious, I spoke to him in so hurried and abrupt a manner that I felt hurt at myself and felt bad all that evening about it, and in fact I have not fairly gotten over it yet, but I watched my opportunity so that when talking about it in his presence I brought up the subject in such a shape that I could express my feelings in such away that I suppose satisfied him. My recollection is that he said he did not notice it, but, believe me, gentle reader, I did.

One evening, about this time, father seemed a little anxious about finding and fixing a good camping place, a little earlier than common. I was old enough to have some idea what was the matter.

When we started from Missouri we had no idea of being all the winter on the way, so that accounts for being caught in such a scrape.

Lo and behold, next morning in calling the family roll there appeared to be one more member. (December 28th 1821), I had a beautiful little sister, whom I had never seen before that morning, and old Mrs. Harrell insisted on having the privilege of naming her, which was granted and she named her Lucetta. We staid at that place one day and the next morning mother told us to put her in the wagon and go ahead, which we did, and traveled a few miles further and came to a large creek called Samboys at this camp we stayed until the old Frenchman brought all of our horses, but one out of nine, and that one we never got. At this camp the twenty first anniversary of my birthday came along, which I enjoyed greatly by killing a very nice bear; it being the 20th of February, 1821. I was out hunting and came to a large pecan tree and I noticed mud on the bark of the tree, and when I went to camp told an old bear hunter by the name of Herrington, what I had seen, and he said there was a bear up in that tree. So we all went and cut down the tree, and in falling it split open and sure enough out rolled a large fat bear and our dogs flew in and caught it ere it had time to get away from the

tree, and they kept it so closely engaged that I ran up and put my old fashion rifle so near to its breast that it was powder-burnt, and then father being so well acquainted with the nature of a bear, ran up and gave it another shot, fearing it might hurt some of the dogs; so now we had another nice fat bear; I think this was the third or fourth bear we had killed since we started on our long and tedious western trip.

One day I was out hunting I suppose a mile or two from camp, going along looking very close for deer, and the first I knew there was a very large old buffalo, (I never had seen one before), but had seen many pictures and heard a great deal said about them, so I felt sure what it was. He was lying down with his head from me. Well, now I did not know how to shoot him in that position; he appeared to have no idea of any danger, lying perfectly still as far as I could see, except chewing his end. I stood there some time consulting with myself what I should do first, or how should I commence on him. At last I came to the conclusion that I would speak to him and tell him to get up, which I did. He did not seem to hear me. I spoke to him a second time a little louder; he then raised himself up, turned with his side square to me; I raised my rifle, took deliberate aim with my gun resting against the side of a tree. My gun flashed in the pan; he then turned so as to have his head and breast directly towards me; I kept myself pretty well hid behind a tree; I primed again; let him have the contents of my rifle in the sticking place; he wheeled off at the report of the gun and jumped several times, stopped and began to stagger; I thought he was going to fall. He stood there then with his head down for some time. I slipped around and shot him behind the shoulder, and I shot him nine times before he fell. I shot him two or three times about his head, but could not kill him, until he died from the effect, as I suppose, of the first shot. When examining him, found he was quite poor, so much so that I left him where found, or very near the same place, I did not think him worth taking care of.

I think between the twenty-fifth and the last of February the Harrell family began to talk about stopping on the Samboy creek on the west side and near the Arkansas river some distance above Fort Smith. We were told that we could not take our wagon across the mountains to Red River. When we started from Missouri our minds were on Arkansas for the time being, but ere we got there our idea was to go to Texas; but it seemed the Harrell family could not see the point so far ahead, so they concluded to stop. We were now compelled, not only to give away our wagon, but nearly all that we could not take on horseback for little or nothing, for under the circumstances we could not expect to get one half the value of any thing, for Harrell was all the chance we had to sell any thing to. I think he got a good wagon for thirty-five dollars, and as far as I know all the balance

thrown in the bargain, so as to be sure and give him a good trade. We bid each other adue forever, as we have never seen any of them since, except George Nidever. He quit them then and came with us to Texas.

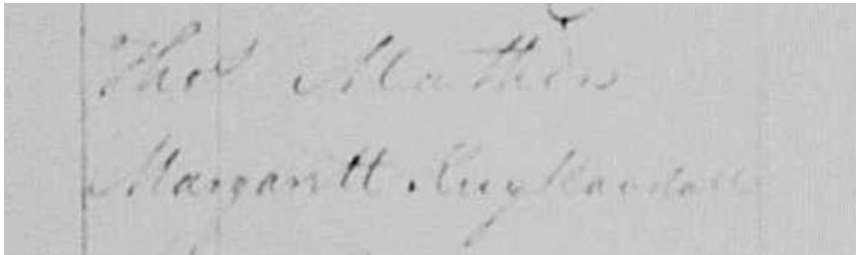
We started about the first of March on our not only lonely and more lonesome than ever, but rough and mountainous road. Our company had all wasted away to none but father and family and George Nidever.

This is the point where everyone else who had been traveling with or close to Moses went their way except for George Nidever. Even George's brother, Jacob went with the rest of the company. So now with the group parting ways, we get some information about who had been traveling with the Shipmans.

According to the book *Martin Varner — Texas Pioneer*, Moses Shipman's family and six other families the Nidevers, the Blevens, the Harrells, and three Mathers families traveled together to Arkansas.

In looking for evidence of the Mathers families to try to determine which Mathers were in Arkansas I found the 1830 US Census for Arkansas.

This is very hard to read but it says Thos Mathers and below is Margaret Kuykendall⁹.



Margarett Kuykendall and Thomas Mathers were living in Conway, Faulkner County in 1830 according to the US Census record. Often, I have read of the early settlers of Arkansas living in the Cadron settlement. The Cadron settlement was roughly five miles west of present-day Conway, now in Faulkner County, which was formed in 1873 from Conway and Pulaski counties. This area was a trading post on the Arkansas River. Many of the veterans of the War of 1812 were given the right to claim land there before grants were issued by the United States government.

One additional fact, in the book *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas* in the chapter on Longevity of Pioneers, Margarett Kuykendall was listed as living in Conway County and being "from seventy to eighty," as well as Henry Siscoe. Is this one of our Siscoes? Another research project.

Margarett Jane Hardin Kuykendall (1763-1841) was the wife of **Adam Robert Kuykendall, Sr.** (1756-1828). Adam died two years before the 1830 census, so his wife Margarett was listed as the head of household on the census. Margarett is not listed again. It is presumed that she died between 1830 and 1840. Margarett's parents were **Colonel Joseph Abraham Hardin, III** (1734-1801) and **Jean E. Gibson Hardin** (1742-1817). Adam was the son of **Peter Kuykendall** (son of "Old Matthew") (1718-1783) and **Mary**, probably **Hampton Kuykendall** (1725—). Margarett and Adam had fourteen children. Seven lived past infancy. Of the seven, three of the grown sons went to Texas with Stephen F. Austin in 1821, and became members of the "Old Three Hundred."

Thomas Mathers (1790-1839) was listed on the 1830 census just above Margarett Kuykendall. This does not prove that Thomas was with Moses Shipman's wagon train, but he was a Mathers who settled in Arkansas before or around 1820. It is reasonable to assume that he encouraged other members of his family to move to Arkansas. Thomas did locate his land

⁹ "Thomas Mathers," *United States Census, 1830 (View Original Document)*, FamilySearch, Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBC-932T?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHPX-DH9&action=view> .

warrant from his service in the War of 1812 at Pulaski County in 1820. The transcribed census record is for Faulkner County. Faulkner County was formed from parts of Conway and Pulaski counties in 1873. Thomas built a mill known as Cadron Mill.

In September of 1823, he married **Mary Bently Mathers**, daughter of **George Bentley** (-1829). Mary's family came to the Arkansas Territory in 1819 and settled on the Arkansas River in the Pecannerie settlement.

Colonel Mathers served in the third territorial legislature from 1823 to 1825 and was clerk of Conway County from 1832 to 1836. He died at his home at Cadron Mills in 1839.^{10 11}

I am suggesting that further research of the Thomas Mathers family might result in determining who the three Mathers families who traveled with or close to Moses' family were.

According to Mrs. V. M. Nidever, in a comment in the Arkansas Genealogical Society publication:

Two of the Nidever sons, Jacob 20 and George 18, joined a wagon train from Missouri to the Red River. If they liked Arkansas they would come back for the rest of the family. Young Jacob Nidever took up land and in 1821 the rest of the family arrived.¹²

On Find-A-Grave, the memorial for **George Neidhoefer** (1772-1840), the father of Jacob and George, has an excerpt from George Nidever's book:

My brother Jacob sold his stock consisting of hogs and cattle, to the Choctaw and Cherokee Indians, at a good bargain, and settled down on a farm just below Fort Smith. The next year all of our family came down from Missouri and settled a few miles from Jacobs's place."¹³

Further proof of the Nidevers moving to Arkansas is found in the petition to the President of the United States from the citizens of Miller County, dated 1825.¹⁴ Jacob Nidever, George Nidever, Mark Nidever, Issac N. Charles (Charles Nidever) and Henry Nidever all signed the petition.

After the Nidevers had settled in Arkansas, one of George's sisters, Isabella Nidever (abt. 1805-1830) married one of the Harrells. Again from Mrs. V. M. Nidever, she said Nancy (but it should have been Isabella) married "a Captain Harrell who traveled with the wagon train from Missouri and then went on to Austin's colony south of the Brazos."¹⁵ In researching I found a military pension document that lists Isabel as the widow of Matison B. Harrell.¹⁶

0					(8-18-9)				
NAME OF SOLDIER:					Harrell, Matison B.				
NAME OF DEPENDENT:					Widow, Harrell, Isabel V. Minor,				
SERVICE:					B, 4 Ark, Milit. Inf.				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.					
1827, May 1-	Invalid, Widow, Minor,	653839		Ark					
ATTORNEY:									
REMARKS:					A. N. 11-11				

¹⁰ "Col. Thomas Mathers" Find A Grave, Accessed August 21, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/220717149/thomas_mathers

¹¹ "Colonel Thomas Mathers," Arkansas History and Pioneers. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~rgwomack/genealogy/arkansaspioneers.htm>

¹² "Saga of the Pioneers," The Arkansas Family Historian, Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 167, Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://argensoc.org/wp-content/uploads/afh/AFH254Dec1987.pdf>

¹³ "George Neidhoefer," Find A Grave, Accessed August 21, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228158908/george_neidhoefer

¹⁴ Carter, Clarence Edwin, ed. *The Territorial Papers of the United States, Vol. 20, The Territory of Arkansas 1825-1829 Continued* (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1954) 139-142.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/165923/?offset=0#page=143&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=mathers>

¹⁵ "Saga of the Pioneers" 167. <https://argensoc.org/wp-content/uploads/afh/AFH254Dec1987.pdf>

¹⁶ National Archives and Records Administration, "Matison Harrell," *U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934* (Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/4654/images/32959_032865-03239?pld=1441271

Daniel writes about the Harrells when his youngest sister was born at Christmas. In that description, he writes that Mr. and Mrs. Harrell had a son about his age named Joel. Daniel was born in 1801, so it is reasonable to assume that Joel was born about the same time. He also said that the Harrells had “three grown sons and one nearly so.” On the petition to the President of the United States from many of the citizens of Miller County in 1825 the names James, Joel, Isaac, Timothy, and Joshua Harrell are recorded just two lines above the Nidever signatures.¹⁷ Is this Mr. Harell and his four sons? On a delinquent tax list for Miller County in 1825, published in the *Arkansas Gazette*, May 30, 1826, I found the names Lydah Harrell, Joel Herrel, Timothy Herrell along with George and Jacob Nidever¹⁸. Could Lydah be Joel’s mother?

With those clues, I have found that there were two Joel Harrells that were about the right age. One was born in 1800 and the other in 1801. The 1801 Joel died in 1863 in Arkansas. The 1800 Joel middle name, Blue, died in 1853, in North Carolina.

I believe that **Joel Harrell** (1801-1863) is the Joel that Daniel knew. This Joel made his home in Arkansas. He married **Elizabeth Carter** (1805-1879) and he had four sons: **Isham Harrell** (1832-1893); **Thomas Harrell** (1836–); **John Harrell** (1840–); and **Samuel Harrell** (1844–).

On the 1850 Washington County, Illinois Township, Arkansas, US Census under the Joel Harrell household there are two extra people listed, Matilda Richardson, 50 years of age born in Tennessee, and a child named Elizabeth Sinclair, 5 years of age.¹⁹

22	18 48	Joel Harrell	49	M	"	1200	N.C.
23		Elizabeth "	45	f			Va.
24		Isham "	18	M	"		Ark.
25		Thomas "	14	M			"
26		John "	10	M			"
27		Samuel "	6	M			"
28		Matilda Richardson	50	f			Tenn
29		Elizabeth Sinclair	5	f			Ark.

The Sinclairs were part of our “big family.” I do not know why this Sinclair child is living with Joel Harrell. I do know that two of George Nidever’s brothers married two Sinclair sisters. **Aury Sinclair** (1805-1917) married **Mark Nidever** (1804-1830). **Naomi Sinclair** (ABT. 1809 – AFT. 1860) married **Henry Nidever** (1806-1847). The girls were the daughters of **Charles Sinclair** (1785-1855) and **Mary A. Havens** (1786-1860) and the granddaughters of **Charles Sinclair** (1717-1766).

If we go back to Virginia and find Charles Sinclair, the grandfather of Aury and Naomi, we will discover some interesting relationships and some possible motivations to move west. Many details of Charles’ life are missing. His date of birth and death are only an estimate. It is estimated that he was born between 1715 and 1720 assuming him to be a young man when he took a well-recorded journey to explore the Mississippi River. His date of death, 1766 is more accurate because his will was recorded June 5, 1766, and probated August 12, 1766. The parents of Charles Sinclair are not known. DNA has ruled out the possibility of his descending from Alexander Sinclair of Stafford County, Virginia who immigrated to America in 1698.

¹⁷ Carter, Clarence Edwin, ed. *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, 139-142.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/165923/?offset=0#page=143&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=mathers>

¹⁸ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months From Tennessee*. 128

¹⁹ "Joel Harrell," *United States Census, 1850 (View Original Document)*, Ancestry. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191551-00269?pld=10041042>

Charles Sinclair, recorded as Charles "Sinckler" on the Map of the Forks of the James Community, lived south of the James River in Virginia. His neighbor to the north and across the river was John Salling, also known as John Peter Salling.²⁰

John Salling settled on the first Fork of the James River on July 6, 1741. He was one of the earliest settlers in the region. This John Salling or John Peter Salling (1704-1754) is one of the two brothers from whom the early Sallings in America descended. (*Texas Journey Article: "To Okaw"*). This John Peter Salling was the father of John Salling (1740-) and George Adam Saling (1736-1785). George Adam Saling was the father of George Saling (1770-1830), who married Jacob Shipman's widow, Sarah *Kuykendall* Shipman (1783-1830), also known as Old Aunt Saling.



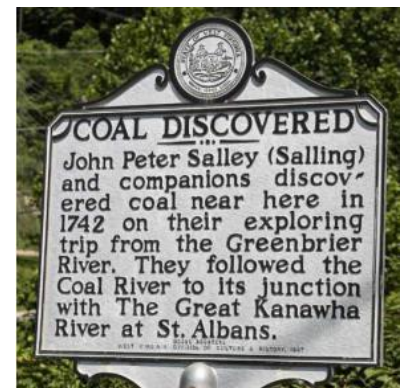
MAP OF THE FORKS OF THE JAMES COMMUNITY

Charles Sinclair, John Peter Salling, and John Poteet participated in an expedition organized by John Howard in 1742. Howard had been commissioned by the Governor to travel to the Mississippi River "to make Discovery of the Country."²¹ The men were captured by the French and suspected of being spies. They were imprisoned but were finally able to escape and return to Virginia in 1745.

In 1748 Charles had moved to the Rye Valley area and was living on the St. Clair Creek, a tributary of the Holston (Indian) River in Smyth County. This land had been granted to Colonel James Patton for colonization. Colonel John Buchanan was Patton's son-in-law and a surveyor. While Buchanan was camping on one of his surveying trips of this large grant, he was visited by Charles Sinclair who lived deep in the woods on this grant. Sinclair warned Buchanan that if he should encounter any wandering Indians to present himself as just a hunter and to not let them know he was a surveyor. If they should see his surveying equipment he would be in great danger. Sinclair made an agreement with Buchanan to be a guide of the surveyors in exchange for one thousand acres of land of his choosing. The land he chose in 1748 was patented in August 1753 and is still called Sinclair's Bottom.

Before 1750, Charles Sinclair moved to Reed Creek on the New River in present-day Wythe County. There were two areas of settlement on the New River, Reed Creek, and Draper's Meadow. Draper's Meadow was situated where the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia is today.

William Ingles (1728-1782) married **Mary Draper** (1732-1815) in the summer of 1750, and they had two sons **Thomas English Sr.** (1754-1756) and **George Draper Ingles** (1752-1756). They were living at Drapers Meadows along with Mary's mother, **Eleanor Hardin Draper** (1712-1755); Mary's brother, **John Draper** (1730-1824); and his wife, **Betty Robinson Draper** (1734-1774) and her son.



²⁰ Kegley, Fedrick Bittle, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier: the beginning of the Southwest, the Roanoke of colonial days, 1740-1783, with maps and illustrations* (Roanoke, Virginia: The Stone Press, 1938) 138. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/402522/?page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=#page=174&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=>

²¹ Sinclair, Lynne, "Charles of Sinclair Bottom," *Sinclair Stories*, Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://sinclairpioneers.wordpress.com/charles-of-sinclair-bottom/>

(The name Ingles was also recorded as Inglis, English, and English).

In July 1755, during the French and Indian War, a small group of Shawnee Indian warriors attacked the Drapers Meadows settlement, killed at least five people, wounded at least one person, and burned the settlement. Among those killed were Mary's mother, Eleanor Draper; the baby of her sister-in-law, Bettie Robertson Draper, as well as Colonel James Patton and a neighbor, Caspar Barger.

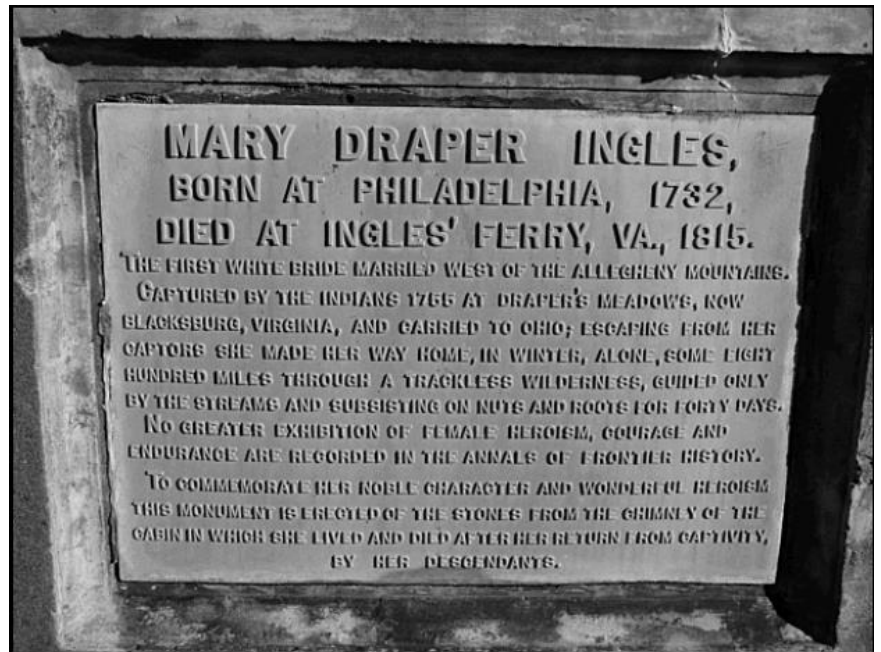
John Draper, husband of Bettie Draper and William Ingles were out working in the fields and not at the settlement at the time of the attack.

The Indians took five or six hostages back to their Shawnee village in Kentucky to live among the tribe. Among the captives were Mary, and her sons, Thomas, and George. Mary was able to escape at Big Bone Lick, now Boone County, Kentucky, and walked more than 800 miles across the Appalachian Mountains back to Fort Frederick. Mary was not able to get her children out with her.

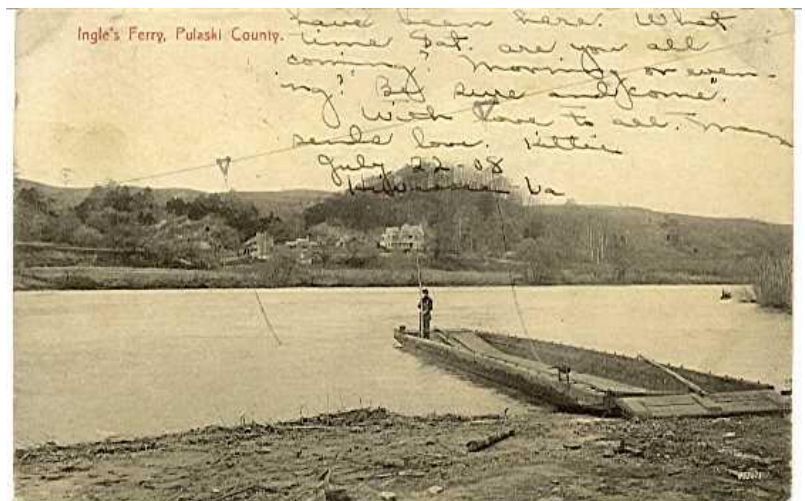
William and Mary's home was destroyed by the fire the Indians set. They bought new land and helped to build a blockhouse, which was later named Fort Frederick.

In February 1756, 140 Cherokee warriors allied with the British gathered at Dunkard's Bottom before joining the Sandy Creek Expedition. The Ingles abandoned their farm after only a few months and in June 1756 they relocated to Fort Vause, seeking protection from raids during the French and Indian War.²²

William spent a great deal of his time negotiating for the return of his sons. In 1768, Thomas Ingles, 17 years old was returned to Virginia. Their son George died in captivity. Mary's sister was also ransomed, 6 years after being taken.



ABOVE: INGLE'S TAVERN.



RIGHT: INGLE'S FERRY

William and Mary had four more children: Mary, Susannah, Rhoda, and John. The road to the ferry they established to cross the New River, known as the Ingles Ferry Road, became a main highway in the colonial years of this country. The

²² "Dunkard's Bottom, Virginia," Wikipedia, Modification June 1, 2024, Accessed August 21, 2024. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunkard%27s_Bottom,_Virginia

road later became a part of the Great Wagon Road and the Wilderness Road. In 1772 William applied for a license to operate a tavern which is still standing in Pulaski County today.²³

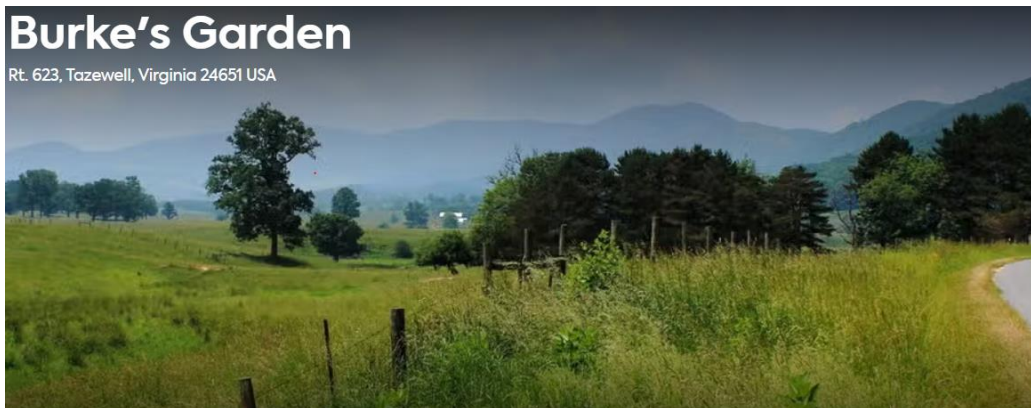
Mary's son Thomas who lived with the Indians for thirteen years was known as **Thomas English, Sr.** (1754-1829). He married **Jane Wicker** (1760-1842) and they had twelve children, six sons and six daughters.

When researching this information I found that on Find A Grave there were two "Thomas English" listings, and both had the same parents but the rest of the information about them was different. I found this entry which convinced me that I was following the correct Thomas English, the son of Mary *Draper* Ingles.

From the old family Bible, now in possession of the widow of Rev. John Wicker English, the following entry is taken:

Thomas English Sr. son of William and Bettie English was born October 13, 1754. Jane English, daughter of Robert and Hannah Wicker, was born May 27, 1760²⁴

Thomas and his wife Jane *Wicker* English experienced another ordeal with the Shawnee Indians in 1787. Thomas' family was living at Burk's Garden.



Thomas was away when a group of Shawnee Indians led by "Black Wolf" took Jane English and her children captive.

Mr. English returned, and as he was passionately devoted to his family, made every possible exertion to get a company to go in pursuit of the Indians. His movements were so rapid, that by sunset, the same day, he and his party were fairly in pursuit. Night came on; but still the frantic husband and his brave companions pushed on; they came up with the Indians at about eleven o'clock at night. One of the men, named Thomas Maxwell, had on a white hunting-shirt, which English desired him to pull off; telling him that he would become a mark for the Indians rifles. He refused to do so, and declared his willingness to die. As soon as the Indians found that the whites were in pursuit, they quickened their pace. English, who had been a prisoner among them, and speaking their language, bantered them to stop and fight him; all to no purpose, however, for as soon as they entered Maxwell's Gap they charged the Indians, who fired in return, upon the whites, doing no injury, however, to any except to Maxwell, whose white hunting-shirt had furnished a target amid the surrounding darkness. Hence the name of the gap in which this scene transpired.

The Indians, finding themselves pressed, killed one child, scalped another, and also Mrs. English.

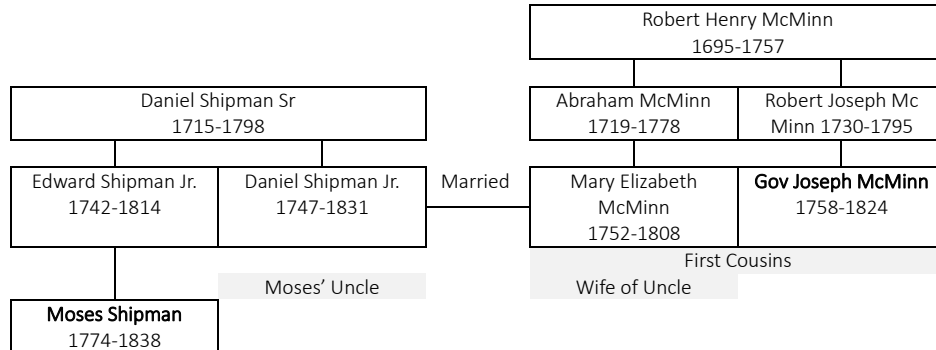
²³ "Ingles Ferry," *Wikipedia* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingles_Ferry

²⁴ Clark, Pat B. *The History of Clarksville and Old Red River County*, (Dallas, Texas, Mathis, Van Nort & Co., 1937), 171. Accessed August 21, 2024. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/28211/images/dvm_LocHist012166-00106-1?ssrc=&backlabel=Return&pld=231

Mrs. English and her mangled child were brought back to William Wynn’s fort, where they received such attendance as was necessary. The child died the next day, but Mrs. English recovered, and raised a small family afterward.²⁵

One of Thomas’ six sons was named **John English** (1783-1827). John English married **Sinia Bellew** (1790-1841) on April 2, 1809, in Attakapas County in the Territory of Orleans, one of the twelve parishes formed after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. About 1818 or 1819, they moved to what is now Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory.

Leaving John English briefly, about this same time, another person dealing with Indians was the governor of Tennessee, **Joseph McMinn** (1758-1824). Governor McMinn was one of Moses Shipman’s distant relatives. According to my Ancestry tree, Joseph was the paternal first cousin of wife of uncle. This is the relationship:



During his time as governor, dealing with Native Americans was a major concern for a growing state filling with new settlers. Governor McMinn negotiated the treaty of July 8, 1817. “The object of this was to secure the removal of as many of the Cherokees as could be prevailed upon to go to lands upon the Arkansas River, where a portion of the tribe was already.”²⁶

Another treaty Governor McMinn successfully completed on October 19, 1818, was the Chickasaw Purchase Treaty or the Western Purchase which acquired the land that formed fourteen new counties in western Tennessee.

Governor McMinn worked to acquire more land for Tennessee and the settlers coming there. However, he was pushing the Native Americans to a section of the country that had inhabitants who claimed they owned the land, not the United States government. Many of those settlers of the Arkansas Territory who were pushed out of their homes later made their way to Texas.

Back to John English.

John was a merchant and a farmer in Hempstead County, Arkansas. He raised cotton and he introduced the cotton gin to that part of the country. He was a member of the House of Representatives in the First Territorial Legislature of Arkansas. His home which was built on the banks of Marlbrook Creek was used as the first courthouse of Hempstead County.

In a book of the Hempstead County court records titled, *Court of Common Pleas and Circuit Court, Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory*, the original court documents are transcribed.²⁷ On June 28, 1819, court was held in John English’s

²⁵ Summers, Lewis Preston, *Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800*, (Kingsport, Tennessee, Kingsport Press, 1929) 1507-1508. Accessed August 21, 2024. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/10533/images/dvm_LocHist000184-00791-1?pld

²⁶ Beard, William E. “Joseph McMinn, Tennessee’s Fourth Governor.” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 4, no. 2, (1945) 154–66, Accessed August 21, 2024. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45134366>

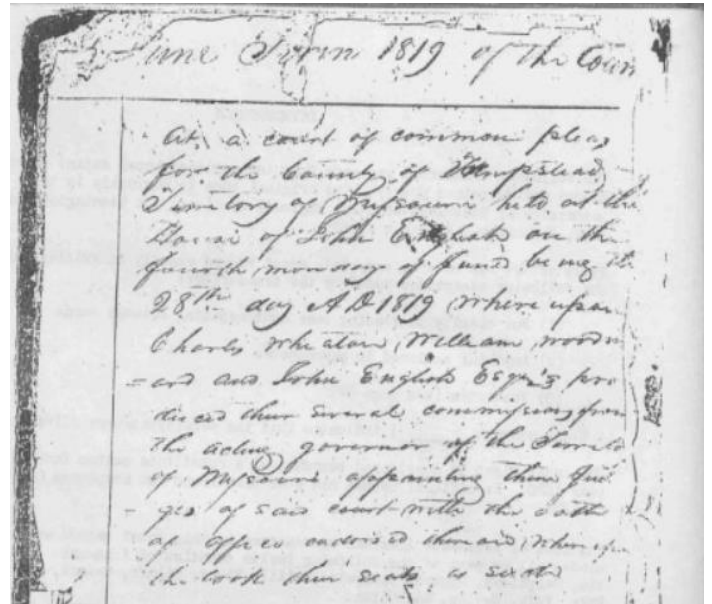
²⁷ *Court of Common Pleas and Circuit Court: Hempstead County Arkansas Territory 1819-1822*, trans. by The Hempstead County Genealogical Society Hope, Arkansas (FamilySearch International, 1990) ii-1. Accessed August 21, 2024.

home. The first order of business was for the court to proclaim a sheriff for Hempstead County and then to select a panel of grand jurors. In the record of the jurors chosen appears the name "Jos" (Joseph) English.

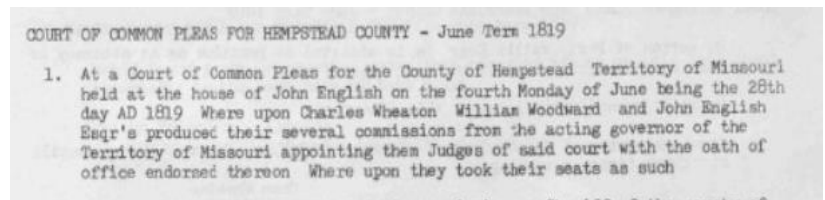
John English had a brother named Joseph. Possibly this "Jos" (Joseph) English is his brother. However, in item number forty-three of the court records, we find a juror named Bailey English. Bailey English's father was Joseph English. The names are the same but they are two different people, but all we know are the names.



ABOVE: MARKER NEAR THE LOCATION OF JOHN ENGLISH'S HOUSE.



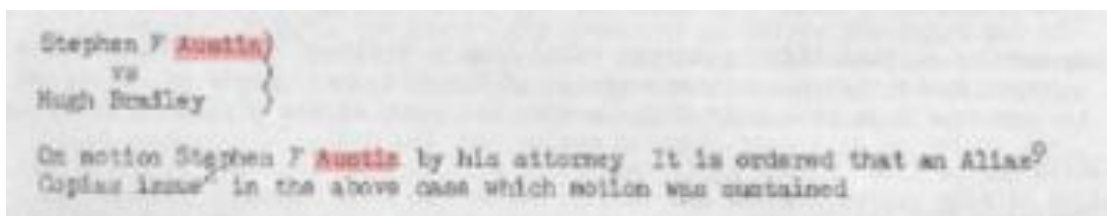
RIGHT: AN EXAMPLE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD WITH THE TRANSCRIBED RECORD.



Bailey Anderson's family migrated to Clear Creek on the north bank of the Red River about 1717. The family included **Bailey Anderson, Sr.** (1753-1840), and his wife **Mary Delilah Wyatt** (1756-1817). They had a daughter **Sarah Anderson** (1775-1834) who married **William Joseph "Joe" English** (1772-1836). Joe and Sarah had a son **Bailey Anderson English** (1793-1867) who was a juror at the Hempstead County Court which was in John English's house. They also had twin daughters, **Minerva English** (1796-1842) and **Elizabeth Eveline English** (1796-1852). Elizabeth married **Martin Varner** (1785-1844).

Since John English's brother Joe died in Missouri and William Joseph English has several records in the Arkansas Territory, I believe it is more likely that Joseph in the court records was William Joseph English.

Another court record of interest was a lawsuit brought by Stephen F. Austin, the future Father of Texas.



<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/819012/?page=6&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=english#page=7&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=>

²⁸ Court of Common Pleas and Circuit Court: 30. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/819012/?offset=#page=36&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=austin>

Stephen F. Austin was still legally involved in Hempstead County as late as August 1820. A document, Stephen F. Austin v. Hugh Brady, was uncovered in research with Dr. Rex Strickland and given to the Washington Arkansas Archives (SARA), which told that a decision was granted to Austin and damages of \$2,000 were to be paid to him by Brady, if he could be found and returned to the court 'to be holden at the house of John English . . . on the fourth Monday in August.' (*Steely Papers*, Hempstead County Documents File).²⁹

"Austin established a plantation on Red river, resided in Hempstead county for a time and thence, in 1821 he went to New Orleans, where he joined his father, Moses Austin."³⁰ While he was in Hempstead, he lived in the town of Washington, just seven miles from where John English's house was. During the summer of 1820, he "was appointed judge of the circuit court, and held the summer term of court."³¹ The courts were abolished by the legislature in the fall and this prompted Stephen to move to New Orleans.

One more thing about the town of Washington, it had a famous blacksmith named James Black, who forged the original Bowie knives for Jim Bowie in the early 1830's.³²

One of John English's brothers, **Simeon English** (1798-1887) who was married to **Erina McFerron** (1814-1874), went to Arkansas to help with John's estate when he died in a terrible accident

His death was reported in the Arkansas Gazette on December 12, 1821:

Whilst engaged in tending his cotton gin, one of his hands was caught by the machinery; in endeavoring to extricate it, the other was caught, and both drawn in. Before assistance could be rendered, his arms were mangled in a most shocking manner. He survived the unfortunate accident only a few hours.³³

While Simeon English was handling his brother's estate, he bought some property in the area.

This area was known as the Marlbrook area, in Hempstead County in 1819. The following map shows the community with John English's first store.³⁴ North of his store is the location of the property owned by his brother, Simeon English. Just below Simeon's property is property owned by Hugh Blevins.

A Blevins family was traveling with the Shipmans. This Blevins family living in the Marlbrook area might be the family. Again, this may just be a starting point to identify the Blevins. More research is needed.



²⁹ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months From Tennessee*. 166.

³⁰ Hempstead, Fay, *Historical Review of Arkansas Its Commerce, Industry and Modern Affairs* (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911) 75. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/98887/?offset=0#page=106&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=austin>

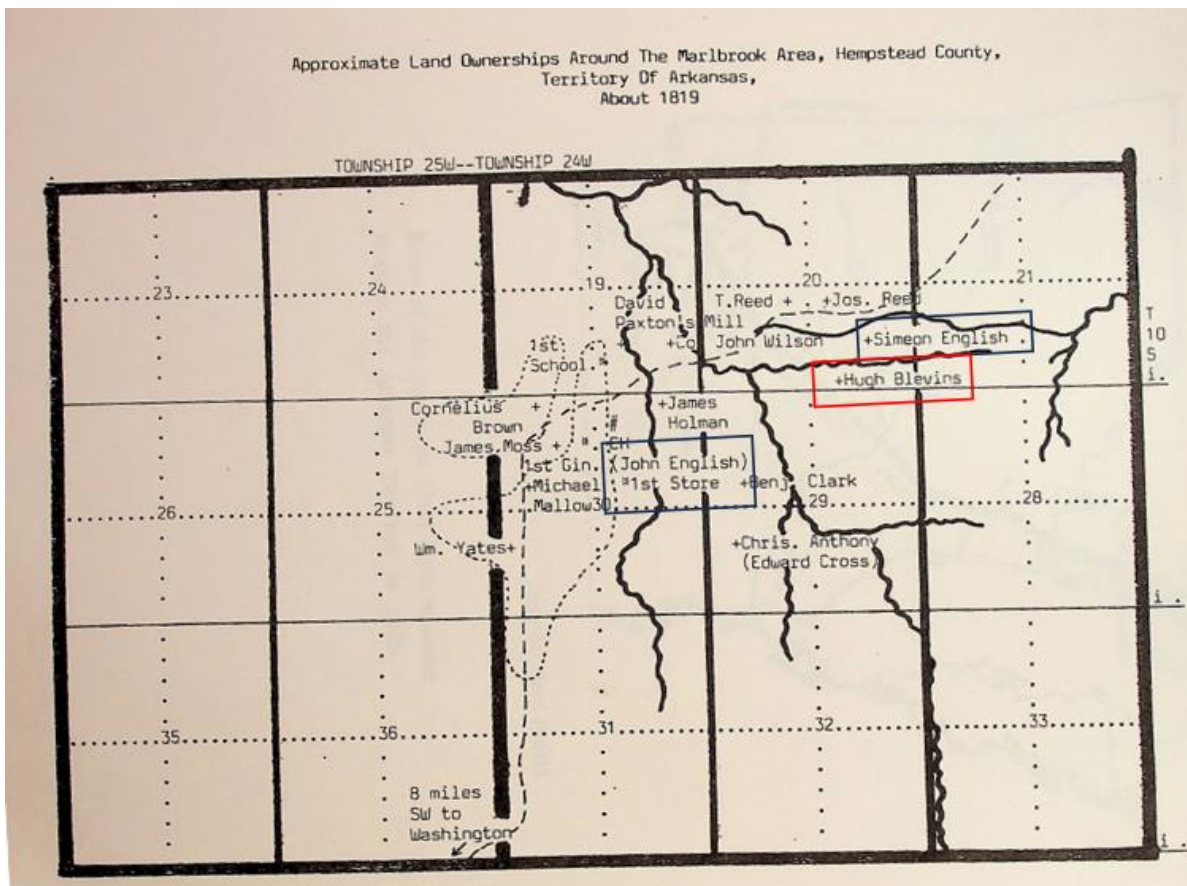
³¹ Hempstead, Fay, *Historical Review of Arkansas* 497.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/98887/?offset=0#page=528&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=austin>

³² Clift, Zoie, "Make a Stop at the Blacksmith Shop at Historic Washington State Park," Arkansas.com, Modified May 2021. Accessed August 21, 2024. <https://www.arkansas.com/articles/make-stop-blacksmith-shop-historic-washington-state-park>

³³ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months from Tennessee*, 160.

³⁴ Willis, Mrs. Bonita Stone, *blevinsarhistory*, Accessed August 21, 2024, <https://www.blevinsarhistory.com/places-events/area-maps>



The Marlbrook community shifted about two miles south and was later named Blevins, Arkansas in honor of Hugh Blevins.

A full description of Hugh Blevins' home is given in an Historical American Buildings Survey:

Arkansas became a part of the Missouri Territory prior to 1820, and territorial court was held in the neighborhood of Blevins. One of the pioneers was a man by the name of Blevins, and from the current history which I gathered, as a boy, this man, Blevins, constructed this old two story house which you possess sometime about 1820, and the house is built within 100 yards of this old Chihuahua Trail. In about 1831 or '32, President Andrew Jackson transported the Choctaw, Chickashaw and Seminole Indians from Memphis by way of this trail, and the Government improved this old Chickashaw Trail, and these Indians were transported by Military escort down this trail, and they passed by this Blevins residence, and went as far down the trail as Washington, and then turned west and went by Columbus and on into the southern portion of the Indian Territory. The name of this Chihuahua Trail was then changed to the Military Road, and was commonly designated as such until long after the Iron Mountain Railroad was built. This Trail became the most important trail in the State of Arkansas. A vast quantity of Indians passed down it with Military escort, and it was a mail route in that early day, evidently as early as 1830. The Blevins house became, as I gathered, a stage stand, and a resort for travelers going down this trail into Texas. The old settlers told me that David Crockett, on his way to Texas, was entertained in this Blevins home. It was not only a stage stand but a way side inn. I have read

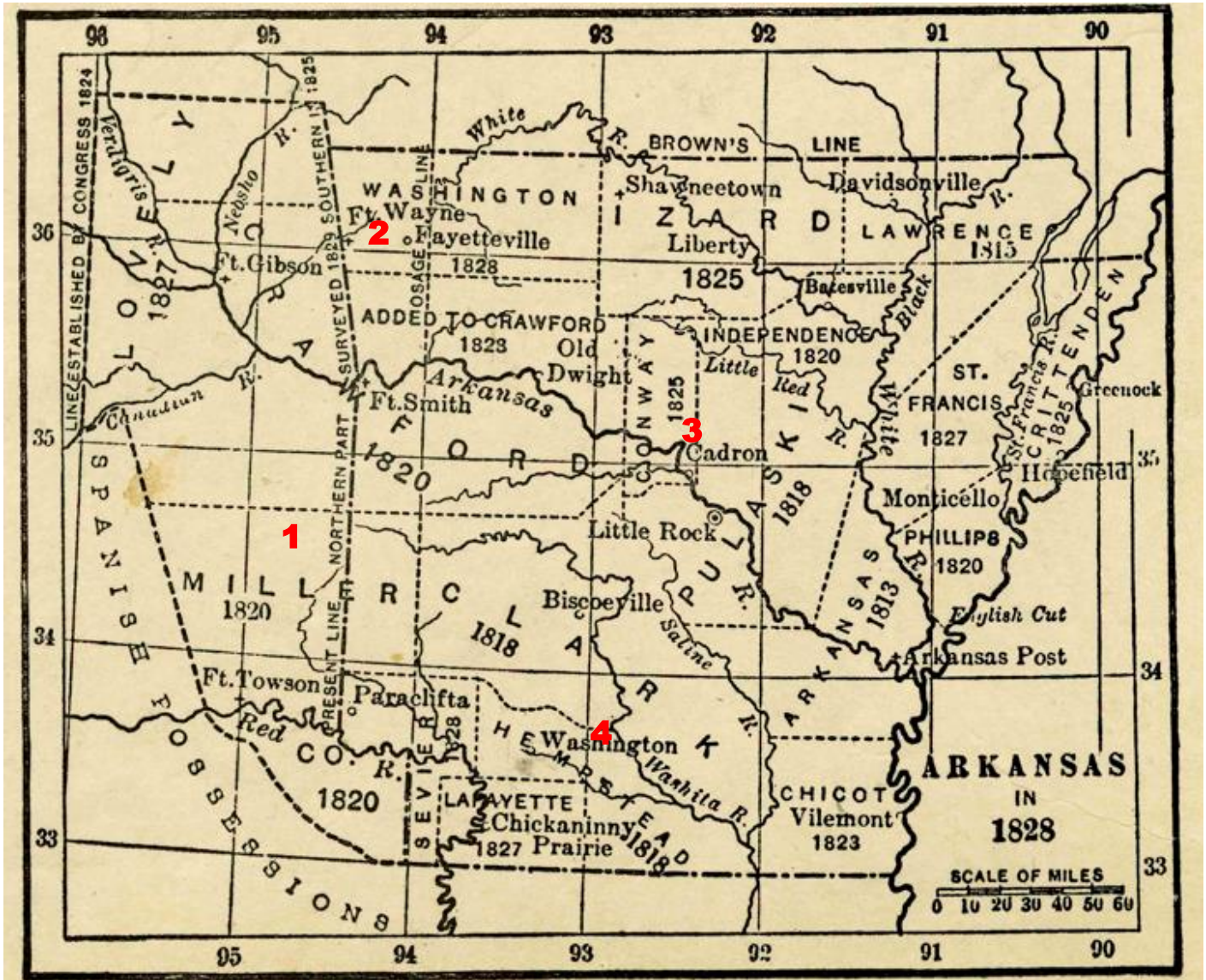


THE BLEVINS' HOUSE NEXT TO THE

in history where Sam Houston fomented the Texas revolution while sojourning in Hempstead County, Arkansas; that was about 1834.³⁵

Arkansas was the end of the journey for some of those who had traveled with the Shipmans. With the information discovered so far, we have a beginning of putting their story together. This map from 1828 gives an approximation of where the families stopped in Arkansas based on the previous information.

1. The Nidevers - stopped below Fort Smith signed petition 1825, in Miller County
2. The Harrells - Washington County -1830 census
3. The Mathers – Thomas Mathers and Margaret Kuykendall were living in Conway, Faulkner County-1820 census
4. The Blevins – Hempstead County – Architectural Survey document – 1820



For the Shipmans, the journey continued.

³⁵ *Log Cabin Tavern, State Highway, Blevins, Hempstead County, AR*, Library of Congress, Source of information: Lawson L. Delony, Mrs. Charlean Moss Williams, A. H. Carrigan, and Laura Bishop, Accessed August 21, 2024, <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/master/png/habshaer/ar/ar0000/ar0005/data/ar0005data.pdf>