



**Madison County
Genealogical Society,
Box 631, Edwardsville, IL
62025-0631**

DUES 2025:

Indiv/Fam.....\$25.00
Institutional\$25.00
Patron.....\$35.00
Life.....\$300.00
Checks (USA only) payable to
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SASE is enclosed with check.
Dues are due Dec. 31, delinquent
Jan. 31 each year.

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 45 Number 2 Spring 2025

DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!

Dues for 2025 are now being accepted. We would very much appreciate receiving your renewal checks ASAP. Send your renewal checks to:

***Ferne Ridenour, MCGS Treasurer
4814 Loop Road
Dorsey, IL 62021-1014***

Death of a Longtime Member – Wanda “Petie” Hunter



Wanda “Petie” Lee (Eihausen) Hunter passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois. Born on February 21, 1942, in East Alton, Illinois, she was the cherished daughter of the late Earl and Gayle (Kelley) Eihausen.

Petie is survived by her three loving children, Kelley Middleton and her husband David of Edwardsville, Illinois; Cole Hunter of Edwardsville, Illinois; and Erin Carpenter and her husband Daniel of St. Louis, Missouri. She was a proud grandmother to six grandchildren, Bradley Middleton and his wife Jennifer of San Antonio, Texas; Ryleigh Hunter of Edwardsville, Illinois; London Carpenter of St. Louis, Missouri; Quinn Middleton of Edwardsville, Illinois; Preston Carpenter of St. Louis, Missouri; and Marlie Hunter of Edwardsville, Illinois. Additionally, she

leaves behind three great-grandchildren, Noah, Ellie, and Gracyn; numerous beloved nieces and nephews; and her brother, Raymond Eihausen and his wife Leslie of San Antonio, Texas.

In addition to her parents, Petie was preceded in death by her sister, Earlene Harrison, and her husband, Don.

Petie was a vibrant presence in her community, actively participating in various organizations such as the Edwardsville Junior Service, Madison County Genealogical Society, Master Bridge Player, Girl Scouts, Room Mother, and Ala Teen. A talented seamstress and paint/chalk artist, Petie’s creative talents were well known. She loved exploring local attractions and was a devoted lifetime member of the St. Louis Art Museum.

Interment was at Liberty Prairie Cemetery in Edwardsville, Illinois. The family kindly requests that memorials be made to Liberty Prairie Cemetery.

Digitizing Family Memories

WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Edwardsville Public Library Large Meeting Room

The regularly scheduled date for the first meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society in 2025 should have been January 12th. However, the Edwardsville Public Library had a program on Wednesday, January 22, about digitizing family memories. It was decided that this would be a good program for our members to attend in lieu of a separate January MCGS meeting.

The program described the Edwardsville Public Library's newest effort called Edwardsville Memory — transferring old physical media - 8mm film, VHS tapes, etc., to new, usable digital files that you can save and share. Since it can be difficult to find some of the old equipment, the idea is to transfer the media to a format that can be used with current equipment. The library has most of the equipment and will instruct individuals in its use. Appointments will be required once the effort is underway.

The phone number of the Edwardsville Public Library is: (618) 692-7556.

The presentation was recorded and posted on the MCGS Facebook page: **Madison County Genealogical Society of Illinois**

History of John Powell and wife Elizabeth Coop of Madison Co Illinois

By

James V. Mardis, MCGS Member

My (James V. Mardis) Third-Great-Grandparents John Powell (1790–1859) and wife Elizabeth Coop (1800–1856) were early pioneers of the Madison County area. This is the history of these early pioneers who built our county, and where they went, and how they helped build America.

In 1787, this area became part of the Northwest Territory of the United States. On 1 March 1809, this area became the Territory of Illinois. On 14 September 1812, Madison County was formed from Randolph and St. Clair Counties, and extended north to the great lakes. On 3 December 1818, the southern part of the Territory of Illinois became the State of Illinois. On 17 January 1829, part of Madison County became Macoupin County. Make note of where you live today, because tomorrow it may be called something/somewhere else.

History of Macoupin County, Illinois, 1879, by Brink, McDonough & Co, Philadelphia:

Page 24: The Coop family, who were of German extraction, consisted of David Coop, Sr, whose broken utterance betrayed surely his origin, his wife, and four sons – John, David Jr., William G (who was the first treasurer of the county), Ransom, and several daughters. It seems established that in the spring of 1815, they selected their home on the banks of the small stream which has been named after them, Coops Creek, not far from the center of Hilyard Township. Here they lived for about ten years, and in 1825 or 1826 removed to the mound thereafter to be known as Coops Mound, which lies nearly six miles northeast of the capital of the county. Here they remained for a few years, after which they again removed, this time to Iowa.

The same year, 1815, that saw the coming of the Coops, witnessed also the immigration of John Powell, a son-in-law of David Coop. He came in the fall of the year, and selected his home in the northeastern part of Hilyard Township. Powell was of Welsh origin. [This could mean he is from Wales or his parents are from Wales, or their immediate ancestors are from Wales.]

Page 27: John Powell and Abraham Wyatt were the two judges to supervise the 1829 elections.

Page 41: (About 1829) A grand jury list includes John Powell.

Page 66-67: The Black Hawk War was in 1831-1832. Most able-bodied frontiersmen served in the militia, for their own survival. Captain Harris' Company listed: William Coop, Lieutenant; John Coop, Ransom Coop, John Powell, Privates.

History of Macoupin Co, Illinois, by Charles A Walker, 1911, 2 Vols, S.J. Clarke Pubs, Chicago, pages 90-91. David Coop and his family were the first settlers of Macoupin Co; they set their stakes for a home at Coop's Creek, near the center of Hilyard Township in the spring of 1815. About 1825, they removed to Coops Mound, six miles northeast of Carlinville. Becoming restless and probably cramped for room by incoming settlers, they decamped and became pioneers of an Iowa settlement. They had four sons: John, David Jr., William G, and Ransom, plus several daughters [including *Sarepta, Selina/Celina, Betsey/Elizabeth*].

Page 91: John Powell, a son-in-law of David Coop, and Abram Fulk settled in the northeastern part of Hilyard Township in the fall of 1815.

Page 112: Coops mound was 40 feet high and was heavily forested.

Madison Co, Illinois [Territory], Marriage Vol 6, page 4, License #152 was issued on 17 Nov 1818 to John Powell and Betsey Coop; minister's return not recorded.

The southern part of the Territory of Illinois became the State of Illinois on 3 Dec 1818.

1820 Census, Illinois, Madison Co, Bounty Land, page 5: *[obviously a blended family on the early frontier]:* John Powell

1 male 26-44 (John), 1 male 16-25 (), 3 males 10-15 (), 3 males under 10 ()

1 female 26-44 (), 1 female 16-25 (Betsey)

Charles Powell was born 30 or 31 Aug 1825 in Madison (now Macoupin) Co, Illinois, to John Powell (1790 – 4 Oct 1859) and Elizabeth Coop (6 May 1800 – 20 March 1856).^{1 2 3}

Macoupin Co, Illinois, was formed on 17 January 1829 from Madison and Greene Counties. John Powell and Abraham Wyatt were the two judges to supervise the 1829 elections.

1830 Census, Illinois, Macoupin Co page 212, line 4: John Powell

1 male 30-40 (John), 2 females 50-60 ()

2 females 20-30 (Betsey,)

1 male 5-10 (David), 2 females 5-10 (Celina,)

3 males under 5 (Charles, William, Abel)

1840 Census, Illinois, Macoupin Co – John Powell family not found. They could be living with another family. The census taker could have bypassed them, or they could have not been home when the census taker came by. They could be in any other county enroute from Macoupin Co, Illinois, to Jefferson Co, Iowa in 1840.

They arrived in Iowa about 1843, as in the 1856 Iowa State Census, John Powell family members stated that they resided in Iowa 13 years; and John Powell first purchased land in Jefferson Co, Iowa in 1844.

Jefferson Co, Iowa Land Deeds:

1844-1852 John Powell 120 acres in Sections 22, 27, and 34, in Penn Township

1849 David C Powell 80 acres in section 27, in Penn Township

1849 Wm C. Powell 80 acres in section 26 & 27, in Penn Township

In 1848, Charles Powell, about age 22 and already big and strong, was offered a job as a riverboat engineer on a Missouri River – Mississippi River steamboat running from New Orleans to Dubuque. These were cargo boats, not showboats; it was hard, dirty work doing everything on the boat. His granddaughters stated that this was part-time steamboat engineer and part-time farming with his family in Jefferson Co, Iowa, depending on the seasonal needs of each. However, a paying job was a good supplement to subsistence farming.

1848 Presidential Election Voters in Jefferson Co, Iowa:

Samuel Beets, Locust Grove Township *[father of Sarah Elizabeth Beets]*

Charles Powell, Penn Township

David C Powell, Penn Township

John Powell, Penn Township

William C Powell, Penn Township

[There were George Powell, born about 1824 in Germany, living in Walnut Twp; and Enos C Powell, born about 1813 in Kentucky or Virginia, living in Cedar Township; both probably not our relatives.]

1 **Tombstones, Greencastle Cemetery, Greencastle, Sullivan Co, Missouri:**

Charles Powell, 31 Aug 1825 – 20 Nov 1913

Sarah E Powell, his wife, 4 January 1830 – 6 April 1915

2 **Missouri Death Certificate of Charles Powell:**

Charles Powell, male, married, retired, age 88, born 30 Aug 1825, Illinois.

Father: John Powell, birthplace not known. Mother's name not known.

Died 20 Nov 1913, Morrow Township, Adair Co, Missouri; of mitral insufficiency.

Buried 22 Nov 1913, Greencastle Cemetery, Greencastle, Sullivan Co, Missouri.

Informant: Mary Reed, Stahl, Missouri.

3 **Extract from Obituary of Charles Powell:** Charles Powell Dies. Charles Powell, an old pioneer of Adair County, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs James Reed, near Stahl, Nov 20th [1913]. ...

Mr. Powell was born in McGriffin [*sic. Macoupin*] County, Illinois, 31 August 1825, being 88 years, 2 months, and 20 days old. He was married 2 January 1851, to Sarah E Beets, who still survives him and is herself 84 years old.

Jefferson Co, Iowa, Marriages:

#572 David C Powell, age 23, and Nancy M Lawrence, age 23, married 4 Feb 1849 at the residence of John T. Rodgers, by Wm K Alexander, Justice of the Peace.

#609 William Hutchison, age 34, and Selina Powell, age not stated, married 14 June 1849, by Ransom Coop, Minister of the Gospel (Ransom Coop was a brother of the Elizabeth Coop who married John Powell on 17 Nov 1818.)

#618 William C Powell, age 23, and Elvina Mills, age 19, married 20 July 1849 at house of David K Minters, by Ransom Coop, Minister of the Gospel.

The marriage of Charles Powell and Sarah Elizabeth Beets on 2 or 3 January 1851 will be covered later.

#1449 A. J. Croy, and Sarepta Powell, married 22 Feb 1857, by Isaac Gibson, Justice of the Peace.

In 1850 and later, Jefferson County, Iowa, was surrounded by these seven counties:

Keokuk	Washington	
Wapello	Jefferson	Henry
Davis	Van Buren	Lee

Jefferson County was divided into 13 townships:

Polk	Black Hawk	Penn	Walnut
Locust Grove	Center North	Buchanan	Lockridge
Center South			
Des Moines	Liberty	Cedar	Round Prairie

In various censuses, some enumerators wrote "Fairfield To". Because there was no Fairfield Township, this was Fairfield Town, in the southeast corner of Center North Township.

1850 US Census, Iowa, Jefferson Co, Penn Twp, page 50B, on 28 Nov 1850: Family 91:

D. C. Powell, male, age 25, Blacksmith, born Illinois

Mary Powell, female, age 24, born Canada (Nancy M. Lawrence Powell)

John Powell, male, age 6, born Illinois (From a prior marriage? David C. Powell and Nancy M. [Mary] Lawrence married 4 Feb 1849.)

Wm Powell, male, age 1, born Iowa

Abel Powell, male, age 21, Farmer, born Illinois

Rebecca Powell, female, age 18, born Illinois

Family 92, next door, page 50B on 28 Nov 1850:

John Powell, male, age 60, farmer, born North Carolina

Elizabeth Powell, female, age 50, born Virginia (Elizabeth Coop Powell)

Charles Powell, male, age 23, born Illinois (married 1 month, 5 days later)

John Powell, male, age 19, farmer, born Illinois

Elizabeth Powell, female, age 18, farmer, born Illinois

Serepta Powell, female, age 16, born Illinois

Ransom Powell, male, age 8, born Illinois

Nearby, on page 49, on 27 Nov 1850:

Wm son (sic. Wm C) Powell, male, age 27, farmer, born Illinois

Elvira Powell, female, age 20, born Iowa (Elvira or Elvina Mills Powell)

Nearby, on page 53, on 25 Nov 1850, family 120:

Ransom Coop, male, age 39, farmer, born Penn

Christina Coop, female, age 74, born Penn (census instructions were to enumerate as of 1 July 1850)

Charles Powell family Bible and his obituary⁴ state that Charles Powell and Sarah Elizabeth Beets married 2 January 1851, but do not state the place. *History of Adair County, Missouri, by E M Violette, Professor of History, State Normal School, Kirksville, Missouri; 1911, page 1115* gives their marriage date as 3 January 1851, but does not state the place.⁵

In the two months before the marriage of Charles Powell and Sarah Elizabeth Beets on 2/3 January 1851, the Powells lived in Penn Township, Jefferson Co, adjacent to Washington County. The Beets lived in Fairfield Town, Jefferson Co. So the most probable places for this marriage are in Jefferson and Washington Counties, Iowa.

I drove to and personally searched all marriage and marriage-related books for 1850-1854 in the courthouses and in genealogical departments of the city/county libraries in Jefferson, Washington, Henry, Lee, Van Buren, Keokuk, Lee, and Des Moines Counties; and indexes to marriages in Davis and Wapello Counties and other nearby counties in Iowa, and in the bordering counties in Missouri. No record of their marriage was found.

The Jefferson County Library, Genealogy Department, has microfilmed early newspapers of Fairfield:

--The Iowa Sentinel, Vol 1; actual dates on the film: 12 June 1847 – 13 July 1849

--The Ledger, Vol III; 24 March 1853 – 14 Aug 1856.

But newspapers for the years 1850-1852 are not there.

The County Recorders of Jefferson, Washington, Des Moines, and Lee counties told me some form of “the marriage records from the time period you requested are not as complete as they are today, and some marriages were not registered.” Comparing the number of records that were recorded to the number of families in those counties’ censuses, that is an understatement.

Here is a summary of this pioneer family:

John Powell,

--born 1790 North Carolina

--married 17 Nov 1818 in Madison Co, Illinois Territory to Elizabeth Coop

--died 4 Oct 1859 in Jefferson Co, Iowa

--buried Antioch Cemetery, Jefferson Co, Iowa

Elizabeth Coop, daughter of David Coop Sr and Christiana Stauffer/Stouffer

--born 6 May 1800 in Virginia

--died 20 March 1856 in Jefferson Co, Iowa

--buried Antioch Cemetery, Jefferson Co, Iowa

Their nine known children:

(1) Celina or Salina Powell,

--born 6 January 1821 in Madison (now Macoupin) Co, Illinois

--married William Hutchison on 14 June 1848 in Jefferson Co, Iowa

--died 16 January 1881 in Jefferson Co, Iowa

--buried Antioch Cemetery, Jefferson Co, Iowa

(2) David Coop Powell,

--born 29 June 1824 in Madison (now Macoupin) Co, Illinois

--married (1) Nancy Mary Lawrence on 4 Feb 1849 in Jefferson Co, Iowa

--married (2) Sarah Ellen McVicker on 14 January 1866 in Adair Co, Missouri

--died 30 Sept 1889

--buried in Avon Cemetery, Avon, Polk Co, Iowa

(3) Charles Powell,

4 *Extract from Obituary of Charles Powell:* Charles Powell Dies. Charles Powell, an old pioneer of Adair County, ... was born in McGriffin (sic. Macoupin) County, Illinois, 31 August 1825, being 88 years, 2 months, and 20 days old. He was married 2 January 1851, to Sarah E Beets, who still survives him and is herself 84 years old.

5 *History of Adair County, Missouri, by E M Violette, Professor of History, State Normal School, Kirksville, Missouri; 1911, page 1115:* Mary Powell, daughter of Charles and Sarah Powell, ... is a native of Adair County, and was born 15 March 1874. Her father and mother are both living, and make their home with her. Mr. Powell was born 30 August 1825 in Illinois, and came to Adair County in 1855. He was married to Sarah E Beets 3 January 1851. They had ten children, 9 of whom are living. Mrs Powell was a native of Ohio, and was born 4 January 1831 (conflict of birth year: Sarah was age 16 in the 1850 Census, 35 in 1870 census, 47 in 1880 Census, age 74, born January 1834 in 1900 Census, and 79 in 1910 Census).

-- born 30 or 31 Aug 1825 in Madison (now Macoupin) Co, Illinois
--married Sarah Elizabeth Beets on 2 January 1851, probably at or near Jefferson Co, Iowa.
--died 20 Nov 1913 at Stahl, Adair Co, Missouri
--buried 22 Nov 1913 in Green Castle Cemetery, Green Castle, Sullivan Co, Missouri

(4) William C Powell,
--born 1826/7 in Madison (now Macoupin) Co, Illinois
--married Elvira or Elvina Mills on 20 July 1849 in Jefferson Co, Iowa

(5) Frances Abel/Able Powell, (there were several with the same or very similar names)
--born 1829 in Macoupin Co, Illinois
--married Rebecca Ann Hatsell about 1850

(6) John Powell,
--born 1831 in Macoupin Co, Illinois (there were several with the same or very similar names)

(7) Elizabeth Powell,
--born 1832 in Macoupin Co, Illinois (there were several with the same or very similar names)

(8) Sarepta Powell,
--born 1834 in Macoupin Co, Illinois
--married Andrew J Croy on 22 Feb 1857 in Jefferson Co, Iowa
--probably died 1863-1870

(9) Ransom Powell
--born 1842 in Macoupin Co, Illinois
--married Mary Lancaster on 19 Sept 1865 in Macon Co, Missouri

[There could be two more children: Helen Powell and Samuel Powell]

James V. Mardis



Charles Powell and Sarah Elizabeth Beets Powell

John Powell's Estate 1861
By
James V. Mardis, MCGS Member

When you don't have a will, trust, legal records, inventory of your real and personal property in the hands of at least one close trusted relative, and instructions for them, here's what can happen:

In Jefferson County [Iowa] Court records:

18 Feb 1858 – David C. Powell signed a note (debt) for \$13.29 (plus 10% interest) to Craine & Cathcart.

3 Nov 1858 – John Powell, father of David C. Powell, assumed responsibility for payment of that note.

20 July 1859 – the note plus interest had grown to \$15.24. E.L. Craine, filed suit in Jefferson County Court against John Powell for collection of the debt.

27 July 1859 – John Powell, in poor health, did not appear; court ruled for E.L. Craine to collect the debt.

On 20 Sept 1859, John Powell of Jefferson Co., Iowa, [his wife Elizabeth had died 20 March 1856], sold the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 62, Range 17, (40 acres), in Adair County, Missouri, for \$110 cash in hand, to James Johnson. John Powell signed in Fairfield, Jefferson Co., Iowa before Robert A. F. Ratcliff, Clerk of the District Court of Jefferson County, Iowa. Filed for recording 15 Nov 1859 in Adair Co., Missouri, Deed Book H, page 521. There is no further record of the \$110.

Two weeks later, 4 Oct 1859 – John Powell died. He still owned 40 acres of land in Jefferson Co., Iowa, free and clear of mortgage. He still had family within range: his daughter Celina Powell Huchison [or Hutchison] lived nearby; the rest of John Powell's kids, who lived in Jefferson County and who recently moved 80 miles south to Adair Co, Missouri, were certainly known to former neighbors and friends. John Powell's son, Charles Powell, made frequent trips north from Adair County to Jefferson County for various purposes, as a cover for his transporting escaped slaves north in his large freight wagon as his part of the Underground Railroad. His granddaughters Selma and Helen Crawford said the family thought he had sold all of his land on 20 Sep 1859, and didn't have any more estate. For the next 16 months, none of the family filed any legal proceedings to have that land that they didn't know about transferred to his children.

After 16 months, sharks moved in. [This was not a rare case. Poorly-written deeds and wills were plundered.]

3 Feb 1861 – Isaac D. Jones was appointed Administrator of the Estate of John Powell.

18 March 1861 – Isaac D. Jones petitioned to the Jefferson County Court for orders (1) naming "all heirs at law of John Powell, names and residences unknown to him" [impossible!--JVM], as defendants, (2) to advertise for sale, (3) appraise and then (4) sell the forty acres of land in Jefferson Co, Iowa, owned by the Estate of John Powell, to pay for debts, costs, and fees, that had grown to \$21.20 plus more interest, costs, and fees.

The Administrator Isaac D. Jones didn't look very hard for any heirs who might slow down his selling the land and who might ask for some of the money as inheritance. There is no record of any of them, next door, or next county, being notified of intended legal actions against John Powell's 40 acres.

1 June 1861 – appraisers filed their appraisal of the forty acres at \$4 per acre, for a total value of \$160.

24 Aug 1861 – Isaac D. Jones sold the 40 acres, house, barn, and everything on it, at auction at the Jefferson County Courthouse door to James Frazier for \$59. [\$59 for land appraised at \$160 smells of collusion between the several parties involved. Read on.]

26 Aug 1861 – Judge Wm. K. Alexander approved the sale and payment of the original \$13.29 debt and all accrued interest and court, administrator's, appraisers, newspaper's publishers, recorders, transferor's, etc, fees and costs. The sharks took it all – there is no record of any of the proceeds going to his heirs.

Note: On the 20 Sept 1859 warranty deed, John Powell acknowledged receipt of the \$110 "cash in hand paid". What happened to that \$110? When John Powell died on 4 Oct 1859, apparently his \$15.24 debt to E. L. Craine, decreed 27 July 1859 by Jefferson County Court, had not been paid, because the attorneys, court, and associates took his lands that he owned free and clear, sold it for \$59 to one of them, and divided the money among them.

John Powell's son, Charles Powell, was busy with weightier matters. He is one of America's many fine, unsung heroes. Charles was very much like his father – big, powerful, gentle, and kind. Charles was a tall, strong blacksmith and a farmer who lived in Jefferson Co., Iowa, and moved to near Ringo Point in Adair County, Missouri about 1855. Local histories said "He was the only man who could plow a field in a day without a mule or horse".

Charles Powell, over 6 foot 3 inches tall, was asked to help hand-dig wells because his feet would be deeper when his hands were still throwing dirt out with a shovel. One day, when he sensed the sides of the well were soft and about to cave in, he quickly hopped out and said, "Time to quit – I can hear dogs barking in China." He was also peaceful and quiet, and his kids stated that he gave candy to neighborhood children. He was well loved, until the violent pro/anti-slavery conflict in Kansas bled into Missouri.

He had a large cargo wagon, and made about-weekly trips north to Fairfield, Jefferson Co., Iowa “for seed,” “to sell corn,” and other reasons. As tensions rose among pro-slavery and anti-slavery neighbors, Charles Powell remained quiet. Since he didn’t openly argue for or against, both sides weren’t happy with him. Most hostile to him were some of his Daniels cousins who were violent pro-slavery “Bushwhackers” who did vast damage to crops and fields, and blamed it openly on Charles Powell. The truth, found out later, is that Charles and Sarah Powell’s cellar was a Safe House, a stop on the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves northbound to Canada. Charles Powell had a fake bottom in his wagon, where from about 1855 onward, he transported escaped slaves north to other safe houses in Fairfield, Iowa, on his weekly cargo runs. From Iowa, they were transported north to Canada and freedom.

About late 1863, someone talked, and the Bushwhackers came after Charles Powell to kill him. Minutes counted. Sarah put Charles in that fake bottom of that same wagon, a big pile of supplies on top to cover the hatch, loaded their five small kids aged 2-10 on the pile, and headed north to Fairfield, Iowa, where they had relatives, for safety. Sarah sternly warned her children that, whatever happened, they must remain absolutely quiet and say nothing. The Bushwhackers, arriving at the farm and seeing the Powells were gone, burned the house and farm. On their (Sarah, Charles, and kids) way north, first Southern raiding parties and sympathizers stopped her, took whatever supplies they wanted from this “widow” and little children, and sent her on her way. A few miles north, Northern militia or sympathizers stopped her, also took what they wanted, and sent her on her way. If either side had detected Charles Powell, they would have killed him on the spot. Such was Missouri during the Civil War.

On a deed allegedly dated 5 August 1864, Charles Powell and wife Sarah E Powell, for \$145, sold the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 15, Township 62, Range 17, consisting of 40 acres, in Adair County, Missouri, to James Johnson of Adair Co. Filed for recording 19 Aug 1869 – a five year delay that raises questions about when and where the deed was truly signed, as they certainly would not have stopped on their fleeing to Iowa to do paperwork to transfer title to someone else. It is far more probable that this is a back-fill to transfer title to whoever got the land, after Charles and Sarah and their family returned to Missouri.

Charles Powell farmed and blacksmithed 1863-1867 with relatives in or near Fairfield, Iowa. In 1867, two years after the Civil War had ended, Charles and Sarah Powell and family returned to Adair County, Missouri, and started over, building a house and a farm from scratch near Pure Air.

Charles Powell at age 42 was still tall, powerful, and very formidable, so the Daniels and other southern sympathizers (20% of the county) didn’t attack him. But for the next 46 years, until he died on 20 Nov 1913, none of them would speak to him, look at him, or do any business with him – when he entered the room they got up and walked out. Such was much of rural Missouri and rural South 1865 through at least 1970-77 when we did our historical research there and met and interviewed their many grandkids. There’s an important lesson here: Charles Powell had love, peace and kindness in his heart – and he also had the muscle, strength, and alertness that he easily kept his shields up to protect himself and his family from harm by those who hate. Those who lived their next 50+ years with hate in their heart destroyed themselves and harmed their families and those weaker persons around them – that’s a terrible load to carry around. Choose the way taught by Jesus Christ: peace, kindness, and love, that brings a lightness and joy to life (and strength so you can stay alive).

James V. Mardis



The Island Connection
by
the late Carolyn Barkley

[This article originally appeared on a genealogy.com blog in July 2010]

I began writing articles for this blog in January 2008 and it is hard to imagine that almost 130 articles have been posted between then and now. In that inaugural article, I discussed the small world of the 1600s and mentioned how Stephen Hopkins, a passenger on the ill-fated *Sea Venture*, en route to Virginia with much needed supplies, was shipwrecked off Bermuda in 1609. Hopkins, although he finally arrived in Jamestown in 1610, returned to England two years later, and was a passenger on the *Mayflower*, landing at Plymouth in 1620.

I did not think about this Virginia/Bermuda connection until May of this year, when my husband and I took our first cruise, choosing Bermuda as our destination. On the last day of our stay in Hamilton, I (of course) sought out the local bookstore and, while I found very few genealogical titles, I did buy Lorri Glover and Daniel Blake Smith's ***The Shipwreck that Saved Jamestown: The Sea Venture Castaways and the Fate of America*** (Henry Holt, 2008). The title reminded me of my first blog article and prompted me to want to learn more about this island connection.

James VI of Scotland and I of England issued three sets of letters patent (1606, 1609, and 1612) for exploration and settlement of the eastern coast of North America in order to prevent or reduce Spanish, Dutch, and French colonization efforts. The first charter (10 April 1606) specifically mentioned the names of Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers and resulted in the establishment of Jamestown. The second charter (23 May 23 1609) added merchants to the earlier group of investors. These merchants were interested in keeping Atlantic shipping lanes free from a Spanish/Portuguese monopoly.

It was under this second patent that Sir George Somers was named Admiral of the Virginia Company's nine-vessel, third supply relief fleet (the *Diamond*, the *Blessing*, the *Falcon*, the *Unitie*, the *Lion*, the *Swallow*, the *Catch*, and the *Sea Venture*) that sailed from London, with a stop at Plymouth for supplies and additional settlers for Jamestown. Somers' ship was the newly-built *Sea Venture*. The ships had reached the Azores by late July 1609 when on the 25th, a strong hurricane struck, lasting for several days. The ships of the fleet were separated, and the *Sea Venture* was blown hundreds of miles off course. Miraculously, it wrecked on the reefs of modern-day Bermuda's Discovery Bay and those aboard gained the shore with no loss of life. Among these individuals was not only Sir George Somers, but also Governor-Elect of the Virginia Colony, Sir Thomas Gates, Christopher Newport, and John Rolfe. They named the island "*Virgineola*," in honor of the former Queen, Elizabeth I. Later, the King, perhaps not too well-disposed toward the Queen responsible for his mother's execution, sought a more fitting name. In honor of the bravery and leadership of Sir George Somers, the islands became known as Somers Isles. Word of their safe landing would not be known immediately, although seven of the original nine vessels would reach Virginia in August of 1609. The story of the perilous voyage of the *Sea Venture* would later provide Shakespeare with the basis for his play, *The Tempest*.

Stranded on the Somers Isles, the passengers, over the next ten months, set about ensuring their ability to reach Jamestown. William Strachey's diary recorded the details of their lives while they built the thirty-ton *Patience* and the eighty-ton *Deliverance*, using pieces salvaged from the *Sea Venture* as well as local cedar. They also built St. Peter's Church in St. George's Parish. Finally in May 1610, 142 survivors sailed from Bermuda headed for Jamestown, with several individuals volunteering to stay behind. Their arrival there, after a ten day voyage, was fortuitous for the Jamestown settlers whose numbers had been reduced to a mere sixty (down from 490) individuals due in large part to sickness and famine. The settlers had decided to abandon the colony, but the supplies that arrived on Somers' ships meant that the settlement could continue to survive, at least temporarily. Some of the food brought from Bermuda was new to Virginia and included hogs as well as the first onion, fig, and olive plants. In any case, the Jamestown colony was indeed saved by the arrival of the *Patience* and the *Deliverance*.

Jamestown's viability was not assured permanently and with food running short, settlers once again decided to abandon Jamestown. As they were leaving, however, they met ships, under the command of Lord de la Ware, bringing supplies enough for at least another month. Somers volunteered to return to Bermuda to collect additional food and fish. He arrived safely, but died on 9 November 1610. He left instructions for his nephew to remove his heart and bury it in Bermuda and to then return his body to Virginia. Instead, after burying his uncle's heart as requested, he returned the body to Somers's birthplace of Lyme Regis, Dorset, where he was buried in 1611.

King James' third charter (25 March 1612) extended the boundaries of Virginia to include "the bermoodies." The islands that make up Bermuda today, while retaining the Somers Isles as their alternate name, would later be named after the Spanish captain, Juan de Bermudez, who first sighted them in 1503.

Although Bermuda became a British colony in 1684, it would continue to play an important role in U.S. history. During the American Revolution, the islands, dependent on food from the American colonies, fell under the Continental Congress's embargo on trade with Britain and its loyal colonies. To ensure that they were able to continue receiving their food shipments, a group of Bermuda citizens stole gunpowder and sold it to the Americans and, as a result, the embargo was lifted. During the Civil War, Bermudians ferried supplies and munitions to the Confederates, often providing "safe harbors" for blockade runners. In early 1940, the United States leased a large portion of the island in order to construct military installations. This relationship would continue until the mid-1990s, when both America and the British closed their bases on the islands.

In addition to *The Shipwreck That Saved Jamestown*, mentioned earlier, Julia E. Mercer's *Bermuda Settlers of the 17th Century: Genealogical Notes from Bermuda* (1982, Clearfield, 2008) helps illustrate the island's connection to America. These notes were originally published in Tyler's Quarterly between 1942 and 1947, and represent the earliest known records of Bermuda settlers. As such they are a useful supplement to Hotten's *Original Lists of Persons of Quality* (1874, Clearfield, 2007) and Martha W. McCartney's more recent *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary*.

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Vetted by copyright attorney Karen Kreider Gaunt, *Carmack's Guide to Copyright & Contracts: A Primer for Genealogists, Writers & Researchers* is the first comprehensive guide of its kind written expressly for genealogists. Available at www.genealogical.com, it is the only book on copyright you are ever likely to need.