



# Coil-Kile-Kyle Connections

## **Samuel and Pheobe Conrad Coil (1772-1834)**

Samuel Coil was born in Augusta County, VA in the year 1772 the fourth child of Gabriel and Rebecca Skidmore Coil, grandson to Valentine and Margaret Coil and Joseph and Agnes Caldwell Skidmore.

Samuel grew up in what is now called Pendleton County, WV along the South Branch of the Potomac River. He learned the skills of farming and horse breeding, at the knees of his father, Gabriel Sr., trades that served Samuel well, as an adult.

The first public record for Samuel appears in 1788. Gabriel COYL and his son Samuel are members of the Militia Vouchers in Captain Robert Harrison's Company, No. 5. All men on the list including servants and slaves are above the age of 16. This appears to be the first recorded activity of Samuel defending his country. Samuel was a young man of sixteen summers and very anxious to join in with the wars.

For his entire life Samuel had seen his grandfathers, father, and many uncles go off to defend their homes and families. Valentine's sons were now strong with their own "fighting aged" sons.

Samuel learned the art of ground war very early. He survived his tour in 1788 to become part of the Home Guard in 1794. Samuel is once again involved in defending his family and home along the side of his brothers Gabriel Jr., and Andrew. All three brothers are listed on Captain J. Hopkin's Company Roster, VA Militia.

Samuel has become a man by now and well skilled in many facets of life, but has yet to experience his own wife and family. A young woman by the name of Pheobe Conrad catches his fancy. Pheobe is the daughter of Jacob and Hannah Bogerd Conrad, grand daughter to Jacob and Frenah Lauk Conrad and Jacob and Sara Hooteling Bogerd.

Pheobe is the love of young Samuel's life and during Pheobe's 18th summer Samuel catches her eye. Samuel's family and the Conrad's live in the same community and share many of the same activities. It is obvious that Samuel had plenty of opportunities to sweep young Pheobe off her feet.

Samuel's brother Andrew Coil had already married Pheobe's older sister Frenah Conrad. Andrew and Frenah may have played a part in getting Samuel and Pheobe together. The countryside of the South Branch makes for a perfect setting for romance. Cool nights riding on the hay wagon and Sunday church.

Samuel and Pheobe married in 1797 and started their life together as a young couple in the South Branch. Apparently the marriage of Pheobe and Samuel made a perfect opportunity for Andrew and Samuel to purchase a building in Franklin, VA. They had the experience necessary for operating a business and knew they could be successful in the County Seat of Pendleton. They purchased a lot from Frances and Margaret Evick in May 1797 and began improvements on the lot. Spring was in the air and the trees and flowers blooming with promise of another year. Young Samuel and Andrew had great plans for the new store.

The newly weds began married life in the upstairs living quarters and shared their daily activities with each other. Andrew and Samuel tended the store, Franny and Andrew were waiting for the birth of her first child, Peter. Pheobe was anxious to start a family and soon became pregnant with her first born child, a daughter they would name Barbara.

Pheobe and Franny had so much in common, both married to Coil brothers, living together, and raising their young children. By 1799 Pheobe had given birth to their first son, Adam born October 20, 1799.

Franny and Andrew had three children and the living quarters were beginning to become cramped. Samuel and Andrew decided it was time to move the young family back to the South Branch area. On July 20, 1801 Samuel and Andrew bought two tracts of land on South Mill Creek. One tract included the Spring Lick and the Long Ridge. There were 300 acres for the children to play on and the crops to be grown.

Samuel set out to build his first home. The young family was finally on their own and settling into the daily routine of family life. There was much to do getting the fields ready for the winter and making sure the home was finished before the brisk winds blew and snow began to fall.

Samuel's parents Gabriel and Rebecca were getting itchy feet to move out of VA. Gabriel Sr. had seen the promised lands of the lower valleys in Ohio and

had great dreams of moving there. Stories abounded about the great hunting, fishing, farming and gentleness of the country in Ohio. Many of their friends were selling off their VA lands and making a new life for themselves in the great Ohio countryside. After all, much of the land was available for free, so the great migration to Ohio began between 1800-1810.

Samuel and Pheobe were not tempted with the aspirations of moving their family to Ohio and chose to remain in VA. However, all of Samuel's brothers including Andrew were tempted by his father's stories of Ohio.

In 1806 Samuel and Andrew sold the improved lot in Franklin. By this time they had settled into their new homes and the families had adjusted to the daily life in the community. Andrew was listed on the Ohio Tax lists, along with his brother Gabriel Jr., and his father Gabriel Sr., by 1806. But, Samuel did not succumb to the promise of a new home. Possibly due to the fact Pheobe was once again with child.

Samuel started procuring more land to farm and purchased an additional 185 acres 25 Sept 1806, land located on Reeds Creek consisting of two tracts purchased from John and Catherine Briggs. This was the home place of Pheobe and Samuel until their deaths.

The years of 1805 to 1808 held many changes for the son's of Gabriel and Rebecca Skidmore Coil. The young son's and their families were moving and gathering around the Reeds Creek area. Andrew and Samuel owned and farmed lands in the area. They were busy having more children, farming the lands and instructing their slaves on the daily chores. Andrew had not sold all his VA property, even though he was on the tax lists as early as 1806 in Ohio. It seems he wasn't completely committed to leaving the only home he had known. Franny and Pheobe seemed to be settled into their own home lives and not willing to move.

Even though Gabriel Sr. and Rebecca, sons: Gabriel Jr., Joseph, Jacob, James and Thomas, daughters: Elizabeth and Catherine Wilson were already living in Ohio. Eventually, all of Samuel's brothers did sell their farmlands and made their move to Ohio, leaving Samuel and his family the only descendants of Gabriel and Rebecca Skidmore Coil to remain in VA.

1808 proved to be a devastating year for many in the Coil family. The hard winter had passed and signs of spring were showing. The jonquils had starting peeking out of the ground even though the threat of freeze and snow had not completely passed. Samuel and Pheobe's family had grown to three boys and one daughter. Barbara was ten years old, far too young for the responsibilities that she would soon be facing. Her brothers were 11, 9, and less than 3 years old.

Pheobe's mother, Hannah Bogerd Conrad left this world on March 10, 1808. Pheobe Conrad Coil left this world on March 8<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, 1808. Almost too much to imagine, losing a wife and a mother within two days of each other. The sadness that must have been felt looking at the two pine coffins and knowing they were gone forever. Hannah Bogart Conrad had lived a long substantial life, but her daughter Pheobe had only begun to enjoy her family and was growing along with the children. Pheobe was only 29 when her life came to an end.

The promise of spring was surely forgotten in March 1808.

Samuel was now left with the children to raise alone and most of his family was living in Ohio. Andrew and Franny were still close by and undoubtedly supported Samuel through this tragedy and time of need. Andrew and Franny were raising six children of their own, Franny must have offered as much assistance as she could handle to Samuel.

Samuel had to be strong and move on with life. After all, now he had to support and raise the children alone making sure they would be well provided for in the event of his own death.

Andrew sold to Samuel on 7 February 1809 a mortgage he held on 114 acres, at North Mill Creek and 200 acres known as Little Thorner Meder. This land became the homestead of Samuel and Pheobe's daughter Barbara Coil Graham.

The years between 1808 and 1815 moved along with out incident for Samuel. He continued to farm and to raise the children with the assistance of Franny and Andrew, being the only immediate family still in Pendleton.

Samuel married Nancy Gamble in 1815. Not much is known about Nancy. It appears she was married prior to her marriage to Samuel and had at least one daughter, Cinthia Davis. Cinthia was the same age as Samuel and Pheobe's daughter Barbara, placing her birth about 1798. It appears from the census records of 1820 that Samuel and Nancy may have had a male child born in 1818. There is also a female child that appears to have been born about 1813, this daughter may have belonged to Nancy from a prior marriage. Nothing is known about the male born 1818 or the female born 1813.

Barbara Coil daughter of Samuel and Pheobe married Isaac Grayham in 1816 and moved from her father's home. More than likely she was pleased with her father's marriage and was ready to marry and start her own family. After all she had been raising a family for eight years already.

The son born in 1797-98 to Samuel and Pheobe remained in the home with Nancy and Samuel until after 1820. Nothing is known about this male child other than the approximate date of birth and that he was in the household of Samuel according to the 1810 and 1820 census of Pendleton Co., VA. This male is not mentioned in Samuel's will of 1834 and his name has never been referenced in any documents.

Adam Coil married Dorcas Morrow, 8 March 1827. This date certainly held a special sentiment for Adam. His mother, Pheobe Conrad Coil, had been deceased exactly 19 years to the day. What a wonderful way to erase the pain of that date without erasing the memory of his beloved mother Pheobe Conrad Coil. (There are two dates of death for Pheobe Coil, 8 March 1808 and 10 March 1808, however I tend to believe 8 March is correct)

The male that was born about 1808 is unknown. It is possible that Pheobe died while giving birth to this son. He is in Samuel's household on the 1810 and 1820 census, but there are no records of him after 1820.

Jacob Conrad Jr., died 26 January 1829, at the age of 85. He includes the children of his deceased daughter Pheobe Conrad, in his will dated September 1824 with the following:

I give to my daughter Pheobe Coil's children little bond on their father for the tract of land on which he lives and also three black children now in their fathers possession, but this bequeath to the Coil children is not to take effect until after the death of the said Samuel Coil, and sixty dollars to be paid by my executors out of my personal estate. (Will of Jacob Conrad Jr., Pendleton Co., VA)

Samuel Coil died in 1834 in Pendleton Co., VA at the age of 62. Samuel Coil was survived by Nancy Gamble Coil, his beloved wife, including eleven grandchildren by his known daughter; Barbara Coil Grayham and known son; Adam Coil, also a stepdaughter; as named Cinthia Davis.

Samuel Coil wrote his will 10 October 1834. This will was proved 7 January 1835, Pendleton Co., WB 4, page, 161.

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