

Joseph and Polly (Mary) Haven Tracy of Wood County, West Virginia

My Great Great Grandfather Joseph Tracy (1793 – cir.1858) is of particular family genealogical interest because it was his move from Ellisburg, Jefferson, New York to Wood County, Virginia¹ before 1850 that set the stage for the Tracy-Booth family line. Joseph is also of interest because he is purported to be the son of Solomon Jackson Tracy (1756-1849) who participated in the Revolutionary War.

I've been looking for documentation on Joseph's life in Virginia/West Virginia ever since a 1995 family reunion in San Francisco, California when my cousin, Bonnie Aloma Seto, provided the family with a well-researched chart and book *A Genealogy of the Tracy & Booth Families* prepared by Lineages, Inc. of Salt Lake City, Utah on March 6, 1995.² That research traces my Tracy family line from Lt. Thomas Tracy (1610-1685) to the three children of James Albert and Rita Booth Tracy: my father, James Albert Tracy, Jr. (1901-1985), and his two sisters: Bonnie Margherita Tracy (1899-2002) and Helen Francis Tracy (1909-2001).

The following helps to identify where Joseph fits in my paternal ancestry. The lineage is based on numerous documents that support Bonnie Aloma Seto's initial research.

Lt. Thomas Tracy (1610-1685) arrived in Old Saybrook, Connecticut in 1635 and is one of the founding fathers of Norwich, Connecticut. He is one of the primary primogenitors of the Tracy family in America.

Jonathan Tracy (1646-1711)

David Tracy, Sr. (1687-1752)

David Tracy, Jr. (1721-1777)

Solomon Jackson Tracy (1756-1849)

Joseph Tracy (1793-1857)

Otis Augustus Tracy (1836-1926)

James Albert Tracy, Sr. (1872-????) (Last seen in 1929 in San Francisco, California)

James Albert Tracy, Jr. (1901-1985)

Martin Booth Tracy (born 1940)

Joseph Tracy – Census Record, Wood County, Virginia (West Virginia)

The first evidence that Joseph and Polly Mary Haven Tracy (1797-1859) resided in Wood County, Virginia is an 1850 US Census record. It lists a Joseph Tracy who was born 1796 in Vermont, his wife Polly, and children: Mary (Janet), George (Oscar), Otis (Augustus), and John L. Mary, George, and Otis are shown as being born in New York [Ellisburg, Jefferson, NY]. The last child, John L., is shown as having been born in Pennsylvania.

Mary Janet (1832-1875) married and lived in Parkersburg, Wood, WV. George Oscar (1833-1914) married and moved to Barlow, Washington, Ohio. Otis Augustus (1836-1926) married and also moved to Barlow, Ohio. John L. (1839-1899) married and moved to Kansas.

¹ Wood County, Virginia became part of West Virginia when the new state was formed on June 20, 1863

² Bonnie Aloma Seto. March 6, 1995. *A Genealogy of the Tracy and Booth Families*. Salt Lake City, UT: Lineages, Inc.

Joseph and Polly were also parents of Louisa (1816-1859), Emily (1821-1859), Albert (1823-1905), Daniel E. (cir.1819), Harriet (1826-1827), and Alfred J. (1828-??). All of whom were born in Ellisburg, Jefferson, NY. Louisa married and remained in Ellisburg. Emily moved with the family to Wood County, WV where she married. Albert relocated to Michigan and married. Daniel moved to Batavia, NY. Harriet only lived a year or less. It is unknown what became of Alfred J.

Joseph and Polly Tracy Landowners in Wood County, WV

It is not known exactly when Joseph and Polly left Ellisburg, NY and came to Wood County, Virginia. Other than the 1850 census record, I had no solid evidence that the family lived there until March 23, 2015 when I received a package of material I had requested from Susan Scouras, Librarian/Library Manager, Archives and History Library, Charleston, WV. Enclosed in the package were nine Wood County Deeds dated from 1850 to 1861.³

The deeds relate property transactions regarding land purchases and sales on the Belleville road between Polly and Joseph Tracy and various individuals. Polly is also recorded as Mary Tracy. Most importantly, the deeds provide evidence of Joseph and Polly's residence and death in Wood County. Two deeds make specific reference to Polly's heirs. In particular, the deeds prove that Polly/Mary Tracy was living on January 11, 1859 and that Joseph Tracy was alive on December 23, 1856.⁴ They also show that both Polly and Joseph died before March 1, 1859. Wood County Deeds, Volume 20, 1859 lists "all the children and heirs of the said Joseph Tracy and Polly his wife both deceased:" Otis A. Tracy; George O. Tracy; John L. Tracy; Albert Tracy; Daniel E. Tracy; H.T. Davis and his late wife, Mary J. Tracy; Horace McKee and his late wife, Louisa Tracy; Elizabeth McKee, child of Louisa; Emily McKee, child of Louisa; William McKee, child of Louisa; John L. Smith and his late wife, Emily Tracy; F. H. Smith, child of Emily; Mary E. Smith, child of Emily; Milo J. Smith, child of Emily."⁵

DNA Corroboration

My relationship with Joseph and Polly Haven Tracy is also affirmed by a DNA match with descendants of my Great Aunt, Mary Janet Tracy (1832-1875).

In February 2015 I received a note from a Richard Davis (aka Richard McCaman) writing on behalf of his first cousin, Eudora Davis Zagya, who is not comfortable with computer technology. Eudora, her brother, Robert Davis, and first cousins, Richard Davis and Robert Bowman and I have a close DNA match based on DNA tests by "23andMe", a personal genomics and biotechnology company in California. The match makes sense as these cousins are

³ Wood County Deeds, December 25, 1850, Volume 16, page 293; Wood County Deeds, September 25, 1855, Volume 18, pages 107-08; Wood County Deeds, Volume 18, pages 548-49; Wood County Deeds, December 23, 1856, Volume 19, page 457; Wood County Deeds, November 27, 1858, Volume 19, pages 549-50; Wood County Deeds, March 1, 1859, Volume 20, page 165; Wood County Deeds, January 30, 1860, Volume 20, pages 225-26; Wood County Deeds, Volume 20, page 279; and Wood County Deeds, April 19, 1861, Volume 21, page 65.

⁴ Wood County Deeds, Volume 19, dated January 11, 1859, pages 549-50 and Wood County Deeds, Volume 20, of March 1, 1859, pages 225-26.

⁵ Wood County Deeds, March 1, 1859, Volume 20, page 165.

great grandchildren of my Great Aunt, Mary Janette Tracy. Mary Janette was born in Ellisburg, NY to Joseph and Polly Tracy. She died in Parkersburg, WV. She married Hezekiah Harp Davis (1829-1895) of Parkersburg.

If you would like to have more information about the Wood County Deeds or Joseph and his family, please let me know. I'm continuing to pursue the informational gaps, particularly, regarding Solomon Jackson Tracy of Ellisburg, NY.

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