

Chapter Five

Esther Bitters

Esther Bitters

Born January 25, 1801 the fourth and youngest child of Arnold and Mary Bitters, was about 2 Years old when her father died. Never again would he scoop her up in his strong arms, her laughter ringing throughout their home.

There is no sign of Mary and her 3 younger children on the 1810 census. They are not listed with newly married John Bitters, eldest son of Arnold and Mary. The census for Lower Mount Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania shows John Bitters with a female age 16 - 18. Examination of Andrew Neigh, guardian of the Bitters children, in 1810 shows no trace of his sister or her children.

In 1820, we find the household of Esther's stepfather, Richard Merrill, living in Lower Mount Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. A female between 15 & 20 Years old was living in the household. At this time, Esther would have been approximately 19 Years of age. This could be Esther or one of Richard Merrill's daughters from a prior marriage.

No further trace of Esther has been found from that point in time. It was as if she just disappeared from the face of the earth....

Wendall and Jean Tombaugh, of Rochester, Indiana, have published many genealogy books to assist researchers to find their Fulton County roots. In his book, "Fulton County Indiana Newspaper Excerpts" the sharp eye of Marilyn Shoemaker spotted the first clue:

ROCHESTER UNION SPY, Friday, July 9, 1875

FAMILY REUNION AND BIRTHDAY PARTY. The annual reunion of the BITTERS family, on the 3d inst., held at the residence of JOHN and SALLIE A. BITTERS, near Akron, in this county, was not so largely attended as on the former occasion. ... inclemency of the weather...

AARON P. MAJOR, Esq., an uncle who is held in much esteem and who has not visited us for twenty seven Years, was present... reporting the whereabouts and general welfare of many relatives yet living in the eastern part of the old Keystone state. Mrs. SALLIE JOHNSON, of Schoolcraft, Michigan, a double cousin, was also present. Mrs. Johnson's maiden name was MAJOR, whose parents were brother and sister to our parents hence a double cousin... The number present on this occasion was about thirty five, a little more than half the number present one year ago....

All regretted the absence of Mrs. KAGGIE SNYDEY, of Wabash, Mrs. REBECCA DOANE, of Cromwell, and many other parties whose presence had been expected.

Did you spot it? It's easy to miss. Marilyn found it. "Whose parents were brother and sister to our parents".

A son of John D Bitters and Sarah Ann Major; Thomas Major Bitters was editor of the Rochester Union Spy.

Rebecca Bitters married Thomas Middaugh; there is no indication of another husband.

That leaves Esther to have married a Major who would be a brother to John's wife Sarah Ann Major. This union would produce the double cousin, Sallie Johnson.

In this article we also see Sarah Ann referred to as Sallie. Did her brother name his daughter after her?

With this thin lead, the search was once again in full swing.

From a search of the census records for Lower Mount Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania we find the following:

Edward Major 1800, 1810 & 1820. It is believed that Edward and his wife Catharine are the parents of Sarah Ann Major and her siblings.

Catharine Major 1830. Widowed Catherine appears with a male age 20 30 and a male 10 15. I believe these are her sons Aaron P. and Thomas C. Catherine is listed as head of household.

Susan Major 1810. Susan appears as head of household with one male under 10 Years old and another female age 16 26.

William Major 1830. Age 60 70, female age 50 60 and a female age 15 20 . This female would be too old to be Sallie Major Johnson who I would expect to be less than 10 Years old. Could William have been Edward's father?

William Major Jr. 1820. He does not fit as Esther's husband. He shows 4 children under 16 in his Household. We believe Esther was still at home with her mother and stepfather at this time.

James C. Major 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860. James is not likely to be the husband of Esther as in 1820 he shows age 18 26, female age 16 18, however their child is shown as a male under 10. It is not impossible to have a child's sex show incorrectly on a census but the ages progress correctly for this child for the next 2 census Years. I would assume over the course of 20 Years that this child would be correctly identified.

Aaron P. Major 1840, 1850. Aaron appears on the 1840 census age 30 40 with one male child age 510.

Probably widowed. 1850 shows Aaron P age 44, Elizabeth age 40, Peter age 16 and Emma G. age 2 Years. Elizabeth is obviously Aaron's second wife but a female child who could be Sallie Major Johnson is obviously missing. Aaron is the correct age to be the older male shown in 1830 with Catherine Major.

Thomas C. Major 1840, 1850, 1860. On the 1840 census we find a male age 20 30, a female age 20 30 and a female age 60 70. There are no young children at all. In 1850 we find Thomas age 37, Mary 35 John Neigh 21 born in Ireland, and Catherine Major age 74. Thomas is too young to be husband of Esther as he would have been about 7 Years old in 1820. He is however most likely the younger male listed with Catherine on the 1830 census. Catherine disappears after 1850 so she must have died before 1860. Marriage information for Thomas and Mary was found in "First Settlers of The Forks of The Delaware and Their Descendants 1760 1852" " Marriage Date July 3 1830 Thos. C. Major and Mary V. Sholl."

Mary age 76 on appears on the 1890 census without Thomas.

Conrad Major 1830 Upper Mount Bethel Twp One male 20 30, 1 female 20 30, 1 male

under 5 and one female 10 - 15. I don't know if Conrad is part of the same family or not.

Anthony K. Major 1830, 1840, 1850, 1880. My personal favorite (RW) to be Esther's husband. In 1830 we find Anthony age 20 - 30 in Lower Mount Bethel Twp. with a female between 30 - 40 and a female 5 - 10 Years old. This would fit if ... Anthony and Esther married shortly after the 1820 census. There would have been plenty of time for them to have several children and for Anthony to remarry before the 1840 Census. For this census year Esther would have been 29 if our information for her birthdate is correct. She could easily have been listed as 30.

The only other household where we find a female of that age in 1830 is James C. Major. James has older children that would seem to rule him out.

In 1840 Lower Mount Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Anthony 30 - 40 Years old, 1 female 40 - 50, 1 male under 5, 1 male 5 - 10, 1 female under 5, and 2 females 5 - 10 Years.

The 1850 Census began listing names of members of the household. It is here in Hamilton Twp, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, that we find Anthony age 45, Sophia age 42, Catherine 20 Years, Sallie Ann 18 Years, Edward 16 Years, Frederick 10 Years, Leroy 7 Years, Charles 5 Years and James 5 Years and little Martha Jane 5 months old.

It seems that Sophia was born about 1808, 5 Years after the death of Esther's father. Sophia must be the second wife.

It appears at this time, that Esther could be Anthony Major's first wife.

Now for the Children: The daughter on the 1830 census would have been between 25 and 30 in 1850. She most likely was married before 1850. Catharine would have been born about 1830, Sally Ann born about 1832, Edward about 1834, Frederick about 1840, Leroy about 1843, Charles and James seem to be twins born about 1845, and Little Martha Jane early 1850.

The oldest unknown daughter, Catharine, Sally Ann, and Edward are most likely Esther's children, while Frederick, Leroy, Charles, James and Martha Jane belong to Sophia.

If this is Esther's family, it appears she died sometime after 1834 and before 1839, probably in Lower Mount Bethel Twp, Northampton County.

Anthony and Sophia seem to have been free spirits with itchy feet. In 1870 they are in Middle Smithfield Twp., Monroe County, Pennsylvania. 62 year old Anthony, Sophia 61 and a three year old female named Georgeanna.

By 1880 they have moved yet again and are found in Jessup Twp. Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, we have Anthony K 73 Years and Sophia 71 Years.

In response to a query that Marilyn Shoemaker posted at www.ancestry.com she received the following information from Alice Parr.

Newspaper extracts and church records in the genealogyroom at Easton Library

contain the following information about the marriage of Anthony Major and Sophia Rosen (Rossin), December 27, 1828 in the First Presbyterian Church in Easton, Pennsylvania.

It appears that a beautiful theory has just gone up in smoke. There is a small chance that the information could be incorrect as it comes from a transcript and not the actual record. Small hope. This marriage date makes Catharine, Sally Ann, and Edward the children of Sophia.

Let's take another look at the research, James C. was the right age but his child was a male....

James C. Major married Louisa Emmins in 1835

In 1850 his household contains: James C. 49y, Louisa 33y, John 20y, Catherine 19 y, James 13y, Mary 10y, Eliza 8y.

John born	about	1830
Catharine	about	1831
James	about	1837
Mary	about	1840
Eliza	about	1842

From this Census record we can surmise that Louisa is at least the second wife and the mother of James, Mary and Eliza.

Going back to 1840 we find:

James	30	40	Female	20	30 (Louisa)
1 male	15	20	Unknown male	from 1820?	
1 male	5	10	John	(10y)	
1 male	under 5		James	(3y)	
1 female	15	20	Born between	1820 & 1825 (Sallie?)	
2 females	5	10	Catharine (9y)	(Rebecca)	
1 female	under 5		Mary	(born 1840)	

In 1830:

James C.	30	40	Female	30	40 (Not Louisa)
1 male	5	10	Unknown male	from 1820?	
1 male	under 5		John	(born 1830)	
1 female	10	15	Born between	1815 & 1820 prob. just after the 1820 census	
1 female	5	10	Born between	1820 & 1825	

In 1820:

James	18	26	Female	16	18
1 male	under 10				

Marilyn sent out a call for help from the Major Family Researchers that she had been working with and explained our project and shared what little information that she had managed to collect.

Alice Parr responded with information located at the Easton Library two marriage records that are very interesting!

#1"Rebecca, daughter of James C. Major, to Jacob Johnson, 8/3/1850, Jacob of Warren County, New Jersey.

#2 "Sallie A. Major married Jacob Johnson 1/15/1873, of Schoolcraft, Michigan"

Now back to the Census Records. We had been unable to locate a Sallie Johnson in the Schoolcraft census. With this new information Marilyn located the family. It's so easy when you know what to look for.

1870 Census
Schoolcraft Village, Kalamazoo County, Michigan
Dwelling 34, Family 34

Johnson, Jacob 41 Cooper, born in New Jersey
Rebecca 37, born in Pennsylvania
Alvin, 14, born in Michigan
Harry 10, born in Michigan
Willis 8, born in Michigan
Millard 5, born in Michigan
Mary 68, born in New Jersey Probably Jacob's mother

A search in the LDS Family Search website for Sallie Johnson born in Pennsylvania, led us to Missouri.

1880 Census
Marion Twp, Jasper County, Missouri
Page 14
Dwelling 124 Family 122

Johnson, Jacob 51, Farmer, born New Jersey, both parents born New Jersey
Sallie 57?, Wife, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania
Harry, 21, son, Farmer, born Michigan, born Michigan, father born New Jersey, Mother born PA
Millard, son, 15, works on farm, born Michigan, father born New Jersey, Mother born PA
Mary, 82, (says daughter but must be mother), born New Jersey
Baron, Willard, 26, mary (by marriage?) Farmer, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania
Jennie, 24, stepdaughter, born Michigan, Father born Pennsylvania
Nettie, 6/12, granddaughter, born Michigan, Father born Pennsylvania, Mother born Michigan
Johnson, Willis, 18, son, works on farm, born Michigan, father born New Jersey, Mother born Michigan

1900
Marion Twp, Jasper County, Missouri
page 40

Johnson, Jacob 71, born Aug 1822, Farmer, born NJ, parents born NJ, can read & write
Sallie 70, born Sept 1824, born PA, parents born PA, can read & write
J. Harold, 41, born May 1859, born Michigan, Father born NJ, Mother born PA, can read & write

Census indicates Jacob and Sallie married 27 Years. # Children and # Children living for Sallie left blank.

Sallie A. Major

Born September 1824, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Her first husband was Samuel C. Barron. They were married about 1853 probably in Northampton County.

Samuel and Sallie were the parents of one child:

- Willard Major Barron born March 24, 1854.

A biographical sketch compiled by Fairbanks and Tuck about 1914 appears among those of the leading citizens of Greene County Missouri. Providing much of our information about this elusive family. Used with permission of The Springfield Greene County Library, Springfield, Missouri <http://thelibrary.springfield.missouri.org/lochist/history/paspres/barronw.html>.

Jonathan Fairbanks and Clyde Edwin Tuck
Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri
Early and Recent History and Genealogical Records of Many of the Representative Citizens

“WILLARD MAJOR BARRON. In placing the name of Willard Major Barron, of Republic, in the front rank of Greene county's business men, simple justice is done to a biographical fact, recognized throughout this section of the Ozark region by those at all familiar with his history, for he was the founder of the extensive manufacturing industry which bears his name. A man of wise discretion and business ability of a high order, he manages with tactful success an important enterprise and has so impressed his individuality upon the community as to gain recognition among its leading citizens and public spirited men of affairs. What of the man and what of his work? This is the dual query, which represents the interrogation at least nominally entertained whenever that discriminating, factor, the public, would pronounce on the true worth of the individual. The career of Mr. Barron indicates the clear cut, sane and distinct character, and in reviewing the same from an unbiased and unprejudiced standpoint, interpretation follows fact in a, straight line of derivation. In this publication it is consistent that such a review be entered, and that without the adulation of ornate praise.

Mr. Barron was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, March 24, 1854. He is a son of Samuel C. and Sallie (Major) Barron. Samuel C. Barron was reared in Pennsylvania and received a good practical education, partly in the schools of Easton, that state, and later in life started in the retail cigar business for himself, which he continued until his death, in (igo6 1906?). He and his wife were both natives of, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and were reared and married there. The Major family was in the cooperage business in, that locality and were well known and highly respected, as were also the Barrons. During the war between the states Samuel C. Barron served three Years as a soldier in the Union army, as a member of a regiment from his native state. For some time after the close of the war he followed blacksmithing, but later took up the cigar business. Toward the latter part of his life his eyesight failed and he finally went blind.

Willard. M. Barron was the, only child of his parents. He grew to manhood in Pennsylvania, remaining there until he was nineteen Years of age, and there he was educated in the common schools. Leaving his native state he went to Michigan, locating twelve miles south of Kalamazoo, where he engaged in the grocery business for himself, later took in partners, the firm name becoming Barron, Frank Boner & Company, continuing for two Years. During those early Years in Michigan our subject learned the cooperage business; for which he seemed to have a natural bent. His grandfather had operated a cooper shop many Years at Martin's Creek, Pennsylvania, near the city of Easton, and there young Barron often visited and watched the workmen at their tasks, however he did not attempt the work himself at that time. He worked under John B. Major, an uncle, who was engaged in this line of endeavor in Michigan. Mr. Major

is now deceased. He was foreman of the cooperage plant owned by Jacob Johnson, who had married the mother of our subject and was therefore at that time our subject's, stepfather. When twenty two Years old Willard M. Barron went to Winona, Minnesota, where he worked at the cooper's trade three Years, then returned to Michigan and worked two Years for his stepfather, then located in Schoolcraft, that state, and started a grocery store, which he conducted two Years, then sold out and came to Missouri, buying a farm in Jasper county, in 1880. In 1887 he came to Springfield and worked for the Springfield Lumber and Cooperage Company about six Years, then went to Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, where he had charge of the Mammoth Spring Roller Mills cooper shop, which position he held seven Years, then went to Nashville, Tennessee, and took charge of the H. C. Mocker cooperage plant, which employed on an average of forty five men. After spending two Years there he returned to Springfield, Missouri, and took charge of the Wunderlich cooperage shop here, which he operated a year, which ended his work for other people. In all the above responsible positions he gave eminent satisfaction in every respect, being an exceptionally highly skilled workman, energetic, reliable and handled the men under him in a manner to get the best results possible and retain their good will at the same time. He continued learning the various ins and outs of the business until he felt eminently qualified to manage a plant of his own, and thus he went to Republic and began in the cooperage business for himself. He was successful from the first and his business grew by leaps and bounds under his able management and wise foresight until it has now reached enormous proportions and he has thriving factories in a number of other cities besides his main plant at Republic. Upon establishing his plant in the last named place he contracted to make the barrels for the Becker, Langerberger Milling Company of Republic, which, however, was even at that time owned by the R. C. Stone Milling Company. He has three other plants, one at Joplin, one at Carthage, one at Aurora and, formerly, he operated similar plants at Mt. Vernon and Marionville. His main plant and head office are at Republic, and the combined output of all his plants averages one hundred and fifty thousand barrels per year, all hand made and of a superior quality and workmanship. The Barron Cooperage Company has a splendid financial rating and has from the first stood high in the industrial circles of the Southwest. Each factory is modern in every detail, equipped with up to date machinery and only the most highly skilled artisans are employed and the best material used. The various plants give employment to a large number of men.

Mr. Barron was married, first, to Mary Tweedy, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah Tweedy. Mr. Tweedy was a native of Ireland from which country he immigrated to New York, where he married a native of that state. He was a tailor by trade. Mrs. Barron was born in Constantine, Michigan, and was one of five children. She died three Years after her marriage, without issue. Mr. Barron was married on January 5, 1879, to Sarah Jane Baldy, who was a daughter of Paul R. and Jane (Finley) Baldy, natives of Pennsylvania and Michigan, respectively. They were the parents of two children Frank Baldy, who lives in Flint, Michigan; and Sarah Jane, wife of Mr. Barron. The latter was quite small when her mother died, and when her father married again he took her into his new home, she having spent about four Years after her mother's death with an aunt in Pennsylvania. The mother of Mrs. Barron is living near Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri, where she owns about three quarters section of very valuable land.

Four children have been born to Mr. Barron and his last wife, named as follows: Sallie Annette is the wife of, Edward Huckins and they live in Republic; Willard B. lives in Aurora, Missouri; Flora J. is the wife of J. C. McCleary, of Seattle, Washington; Lewis Whitfield lives in Joplin, Missouri.

These children all received good educational advantages and are well situated in life.

We quote the following paragraph from the leading newspaper of Aurora, this state, which article recently appeared, and we deem it in keeping with the rest of this chronicle:

"There may be some persons in Aurora and this section of the state who do not know that Willard M. Barron has one of his largest cooperage plants in this city, but everyone who is in the market for these goods has long since learned that Aurora supports one of the largest plants of this kind in southwest Missouri. The branch of the W. M. Barron Cooperage Company, which is established in Aurora is under, the personal direction of Willard B. Barron, who is a stockholder in the concern. He is the son of Willard M. Barron, who is known throughout this country as being the pioneer in cooperage works. The Barrons are a family of coopers. The father came to this country fourteen Years ago and located in Springfield. After remaining there for one year he saw an opening at Republic and moved there. He has been established in that town for thirteen Years, now. As he remained there he saw the development of the wonderful orchards throughout Missouri. It was at this time that Aurora became the center of large orchards and, knowing that great opportunities awaited him, he established his plant here. Willard B. Barron, who has been in charge of the plant for a number of Years, has long since demonstrated that he is one of the true, live ones of Aurora. He is for everything that will develop the city, and progress is the motto of plant, which he manages. With a number of young men of Mr. Barron's type in this city, Aurora would soon forge to the front ranks of the cities of Missouri.

"Lewis W. Barron, youngest son of Willard M. Barron, is soon to take charge of the cooperage plants in Joplin and Carthage. These plants were established in July 1913. The Barrons have been spreading out until they are now the 'barons' of the cooperage business in southwest Missouri. From twelve to fifteen men are employed at the plant here whose salaries run from eighteen to thirty dollars a week. The coopers work mostly by piece. As in the other Barron cooperage plants, the workmen in this city are highly skilled and are ranked among the high class laborers of the city. Despite the adverse conditions of last year, the plant here has done a very nice business the present season. Thirteen cars of material have been shipped into Aurora and fifteen cars of barrels and other products of the cooperage plants have been shipped to points throughout the country. The products are not confined to this territory, but are sent to many of the neighboring states. Only recently a carload of the products was sent to Oswego, Kansas. Aurora is fortunate in having a large branch of such a concern. It means much to the city. Men are employed and money is brought here. It is such establishments, as W. M. Barron Cooperage Company that have put Aurora on the map as a commercial center"

Politically, Willard M. Barron is a Republican and is well informed on current public matters. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of the Maccabees, Woodmen of the World and Woodmen's Circle. Mrs. Barron is a member of the Ladies of Maccabees and the Woodmen's Circle. Both belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they are active workers, he being president of the board of stewards and is also a trustee of the church. He was formerly leader in the Sunday school.

We close this article by quoting the last lines in an account of our subject and his large business interests, which appeared some time ago in a newspaper at Republic:

"Mr. Barron is a fervent Christian, being a member of the Hood Methodist Episcopal church. He has been Sunday school superintendent for four Years. He is a member of nearly all the lodges in Republic. No better neighbor or honest man lives today than Willard Barron, of the city of Republic."

Sallie and her second husband Jacob Johnson married January 15, 1873, Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

1880
Marion Twp, Jasper County, Missouri
Page 14

Dwelling 124

Family 122

Johnson, Jacob 51, Farmer, born New Jersey, both parents born New Jersey

Sallie 57, Wife, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania

Harry, 21, son, Farmer, born Michigan, born Michigan, father born New Jersey, Mother born PA

Millard, son, 15, works on farm, born Michigan, father born New Jersey, Mother born PA

Mary, 82, (says daughter but must be mother), born New Jersey

Baron, Willard, 26, mary (by marriage?) Farmer, born Pennsylvania, both parents born Pennsylvania

Jennie, 24, stepdaughter (Dtr in Law), born Michigan, Father born Pennsylvania

Nettie, 6/12, granddaughter, born Michigan, Father born Pennsylvania, Mother born Michigan

Johnson, Willis, 18, son, works on farm, born Michigan, father born New Jersey, Mother born Michigan

1900

Marion Twp, Jasper County, Missouri

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Johnson, Jacob 71, born Aug 1822, Farmer, born NJ, parents born NJ, can read & write

Sallie 70, born Sept 1824, born PA, parents born PA, can read & write

J. Harold, 41, born May 1859, born Michigan, Father born NJ, Mother born PA, can read & write

Census indicates Jacob and Sallie married 27 Years. # Children and # Children living for Sallie was left blank.

Catherine M. Major

Fourth child of James C. Major and Esther Bitters, born about 1831.

Catherine married Thomas McFall McIlhaney August 15, 1846. Thomas was born May 12 1823 in Lower Mt. Bethel Twp, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Thomas and Catherine were the parents of six children:

- Georgianna McIlhaney born about 1847, date of death unknown
- Clara McIlhaney born about 1856, date of death unknown
- Flora McIlhaney born about 1857, date of death unknown
- Mary Ellen McIlhaney born about 1861, date of death unknown
- Fannie McIlhaney born about 1863, date of death unknown
- Augusta McIlhaney born about 1866, date of death unknown

1870 Census

Strudsborg Borough, Monroe County, Pennsylvania

Enumerated 24 July 1870

Page 7

Dwelling 48, Family 54

McIlhaney, Thos M., age 47, Clerk of Court, Value real estate 4510, Value Personal Property, born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Catherine, age 46, Keeping House, born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Clara, age 14, born Pennsylvania, School within Census Year

McIlhaney, Flora, age 13, born Pennsylvania, School within Census Year

McIlhaney, Ellen, age 9, born Pennsylvania, School within Census Year

McIlhaney, Fanny, age 7, born Pennsylvania, School within Census Year

McIlhaney, Augusta, age 4, born Pennsylvania

1880 Census

Strudsborg Borough, Monroe County, Pennsylvania

Enumerated 15 June 1880

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George Street, Dwelling 356, Family 356

McIlhaney, Thomas M. age 57, married, Attorney at Law, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Kate A., age 56, wife, at home, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

Smith, Georgianna, age 33, Daughter, at home, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Clara, age 24, Daughter, at home, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Flora, age 23, Daughter, at home, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Ella, age 19, Daughter, at home, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Fannie, age 17, Daughter, at home, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Augusta, age 14, Daughter, at School, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

McIlhaney, Abraham, age 12, Grandson, at School, Born Pennsylvania, Both Parents born Pennsylvania

Thank you to Geri Brennan for responding to Marilyn's query:

Thomas McFall McIlhany, of Monroe County, was born in Lower Mt. Bethel township May 13, 1823, s/o William. He Aug 15, 1846 to Catharine M. Major, and she died March 22, 1899. Children; Georgianna, who married Edward Baltz, Clara, who married Dr. William Wolfe of Chatham, NJ., Flora, wife of Walter Rafferty of Brooklyn, NY. Mary Ellen, married William H. Mudgett of Camden, NJ, Fannie married William Long of Williamsport, Augusta.

Mrs. McIlhaney was born in Lower Mt. Bethel, Dec 18, 1823. Her grandfather Edward Major and her father, James C. Major. James C., married Miss Hester Bitters, d/o John and Mary Ney, the former from Germany. Mrs. McIlhaney was one of six children, William who was drowned in early manhood, Edward, died at age 10, John a resident of Michigan, Sallie wife of Jacob Johnson of Carthage, MO, and Rebecca, the first wife of Jacob Johnson

Best Wishes, Geri

Rebecca Major

The fifth child of James C. Major and Esther Bitters was born about 1833 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Rebecca died between 1870 and 1873 probably in Michigan.

Rebecca married Jacob Johnson on August 3, 1850. Jacob was born August 1822 at Warren County, New Jersey.

After Rebecca's death Jacob married her sister Sallie, January 15, 1873, Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. . This was a common practice in the 19th century.

Jacob and Rebecca were the parents of 4 children:

- Alvin Johnson born about 1856 in Michigan, date of death unknown
- J. Harold "Harry" Johnson born about 1860 in Michigan, date of death unknown
- Willis S. Johnson, born August 1861 in Michigan, date of death unknown
- Millard Johnson born January 1866 in Michigan, date of death unknown

1870 Census

Schoolcraft Village, Kalamazoo County, Michigan
Dwelling 34, Family 34

Johnson, Jacob 41 Cooper, born New Jersey
Rebecca 37, born Pennsylvania
Alvin, 14, born Michigan
Harry 10, born Michigan
Willis 8, born Michigan
Millard 5, born Michigan
Mary 68, born New Jersey Probably Jacob's mother